

## 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association

### *315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years*

Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina

17 July 2014

<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

### **We welcome SMSgt (ret) Ray Ardis as our new Vice President of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association**

Most of you remember Ray when he was our **Newsletter Editor** for sixteen years. During that time he also took charge of numerous activities and was involved in almost everything in addition to publishing the newsletter. We don't know how he did it all that for such a long period of time. Ray finally had to take a time out from us and we certainly understand, by all means. We've missed him and we are very happy to have him back working with us again.

### **"20<sup>th</sup>" Anniversary of the 315AW Alumni Association**

Our organization began 20 years ago under the leadership of Colonel James Bankers, Commander, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, and now a retired Major General and past Commander, Twenety-Second Air Force. The first charter meeting of the Alumni Association began **9 July 1994**. During this meeting a set of By-Laws and election of Officers were established under the direction of **Public Affairs Officer Major Chris King** and the **JAG Officer Lt Colonel Andy Savage**. A copy of the documentation was filed on **8 September 1994** with the state of South Carolina IRS as a non-profit organization.

We began with **fifty-five (55) Charter Members**. Today, we have nearly 1,200 members and continue to grow. Currently our **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebration is still in the planning stages.

There will be no **45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebration of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing because of mission requirements and numerous other situations going on right now. Our **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary celebration will be in year **2019**.

### **Charleston's C-17s parked by the White House budget**

Currently a number of our C-17s are parked and regulated to "back-up inventory status" under President Obama's 2015 budget. Reduction figures were released saying the change would come if Congress approves the Air Force's proposal to convert the planes to secondary use. **Col Fontanella, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander**, at that time, said Charleston wouldn't change under the administration's proposal; they would still be on the Charleston ramp and would be included in maintenance, inspection and repairs.

### **Air Force History**

There are many books in circulation about the Air Force's history. I have several. You see all the changes in the history of aviation, new technology, our quality of life, changes in our culture in the military and our retirement benefits are changing, and we wonder why. It may help us to better understand change if we take a look at the way history changes the world.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations progress through the following sequence:

***From bondage to spiritual faith;***

***From spiritual faith to great courage;***

***From courage to liberty;***

***From liberty to abundance;***

***From abundance to complacency;***

***From complacency to apathy; (this is about where we are now)***

***From apathy to dependence;***

***From dependence back into bondage;***

*Alexander Tyler, Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, 1887*

**SMSgt (ret) John McDonagh, retired Flight Engineer Instructor, 701AS**, passed on April 8, 2014 at the age of 95. John has been an active participating member of the **315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association** for almost twenty years, and we believe he holds the distinction of being the oldest member in our history. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lucille Lilly Guidry McDonagh. Deborah

Baldwin, retired 315<sup>th</sup> AW PA and myself attended his wake on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Deborah has been a close friend of the family for many years. I've asked former members of the 701<sup>st</sup> if anyone remembers John, and CMSgt (ret) Louis Blackwell said he flew with him and they played golf for many years. Louis said John was in the 701<sup>st</sup> in the 70's – 80's time frame. His funeral service with military honors was held at Beaufort National Cemetery and Deborah attended the graveside service. A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com)

**MSgt (ret) Donald Boudinet**, former aircraft maintenance maintainer of the 315<sup>th</sup> Mx passed on 9 June 2014 at the age of 55. He is survived by his spouse Marsha Jean. Sgt Boudinet was later reassigned to Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio as a Flight Engineer and served 33 years of very outstanding service according to MSgt Lucia Greer who was a Flight Engineer in the 701AS and later reassigned to Wright-Patterson. She's still in active service, currently in her 35<sup>th</sup> year.

**SSgt Richard Spofford, 315<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group**, passed away 12 July 2014 during his UTA after his Air Force physical fitness test according to **Colonel Scott A. Sauter, 315<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander**. He passed away at the Trident Medical Center after he had collapsed.  
*Lt Col (ret) Stephen Avery/701AS*

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service for deceased 701 Airlift Squadron Aircrew Members when their C-141 crashed at Sigonella, Italy** This special Memorial Service will be held at the C-141 air park **Saturday, July 26, at 10:30 AM** during the 701AS UTA and will last for about 20 minutes. **MSgt (ret) Tommy Peters** said that if anyone would like to organize some kind of get together on Friday or Sunday, please feel free to do so. You can use the 701<sup>st</sup> page on Facebook to coordinate and I will be happy to pass this along to everyone via e-mail. *MSgt Tommy Peters, 701AS Reunion Planner & Webmaster*

**The Junior Officer Leadership Development (JOLD) Seminar** was held 9 July through 13 July 2014 on the Citadel campus. Officers from JB Charleston and the 315<sup>th</sup> AW that show extreme promise in becoming future leaders in the Air Force Reserve were selected. The 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association President CMSgt (ret) Dick Fuller gave a \$200 donation from the Alumni to cover expenses of providing a C-17 T-tail replica to each speaker.

Our next Alumni board meeting will be **Saturday, 23 August 2014 at 9:30 am**, and the next **Heritage Trust Luncheon will be Friday, 5 September, 11:00 am at the Charleston Club**.

**Late Entry: SMSgt (ret) Henry "Hank" Miro passed today 17 July 2014.** Arrangements are being made at this time. Hank was a Flight Engineer in the 701/300/707 Airlift Squadrons. Contact Dick Fuller, [chieffuller@comcast.net](mailto:chieffuller@comcast.net) or myself [ddoxford@aol.com](mailto:ddoxford@aol.com) for information.

*MSgt (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor*

