



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

15 November 2021, # 1, Veterans Day / Thanksgiving Issue

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

You may view all back issues and more at this website.

Thanksgiving, Thursday, 25 Nov 2021

Thanksgiving Day will be coming up next week. Many of us have plans in place for where to meet and what to bring. The standard is Turkey with all the trimmings and pumpkin pie. We give our thanks, as the Pilgrims did at Plymouth Rock, where it all began.

Veterans Day celebrations on Thursday, 11 Nov 2021

Locally there was a list published where veterans could go to get all the free stuff, and it was the longest list we have ever seen. Free dinners, free haircuts, free t-shirts, and the list goes on. Many good citizens were out there thanking us for our service, and we appreciate their kind words.

Veterans Day began on 11 Nov 1921. President Warren G. Harding presided over the Soldier of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. The monument honored hundreds of fallen U. S. servicemen from WW1 whose remains were unidentified. The full military service will begin with a 21 gun salute, and end with a bugler playing taps. The top ranking military honor guard member will present the folded flag to a designated member of the family. For many of us this represents the end of an incredible life and one well lived.

Final Fly-By

Major (ret) Walter Goodson, Aero Med Tech on flight status and later a Medical Service Officer assigned to the 31st AES, passed on 30 Oct 2021 at the age of 74. Major Goodson is survived by the love of his life, Marilyn Deborah Melvin, enjoying a beautiful union of 53 years, and sons Terek Scott and Rodney Wayne, and five grandchildren. Walter graduated from Charleston Southern University and earned both his bachelor and master degrees in business administration. In 1966 he enlisted in the US Air Force and served in the Vietnam War and the Grenada Conflict. After entering the US Air Force Reserves, 31st AES, 315th Airlift Wing, he served in both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield.

Reflections: SMSGT (ret) Virginia Jamison, 315th AW Alumni Board Member and North Charleston City Council Member, District 3, and aero med tech in the AES. **MSGT (ret) Martin McKenzie**, 31st Aero Med Tech on flight status. Martin maintains a current listing of all those that served in the 31st /315th AES and keeps them all connected. Martin publishes a great obituary on all the med techs and flight nurses that have flown west.

Funeral Services were entrusted to the Low Country Mortuary, 1852 East Montague Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405 and they provided a wake on Friday, 5 November. Funeral services were held at the Old Fort Baptist Church at 10505 Dorchester Road, Summerville, SC on 6 Nov 2021, at 12:00 noon. This was the longest and the BEST funeral service I have ever witnessed and I was greatly inspired every minute. They were shouting, singing, praising the Lord and I was right in there with them big time every minute. I will never forget! The casket was rolled to the church foyer, and the funeral staff opened the lid for a few moments to make final preparations for burial at Dorchester Memory Gardens, 11000 Dorchester Road in Summerville. I came to attention, clicked my heels together, and rendered Major Goodson a last and final Salute.

Forever aloft on slivery swept back wings.

Christmas Luncheon Reminder, Friday, 3 Dec 2021

09:30 – 10:30, Board Meeting

10:30 – 11:00, Setup

11:00 – 12:30, Christmas Luncheon

Warmest wishes to everyone during this Special Season & please be safe.

Del Oxford, Communications