



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

1 April 2020

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

Coronavirus

Coronavirus is making all the world headlines at this time. We have been directed to stay home. The base is closed at this time to all military retirees except on Saturday and Sunday weekends. I was grocery shopping in the commissary last Saturday expecting it to be packed. I have never seen that few people in the commissary in over forty years and many of the prices were marked down very low. And yes, they had plenty of toilet tissue. In view of the world situation, I will be publishing special news bulletins frequently from hereon. We need to stay connected and be informed and I will make sure this happens. As far as we know, none of us who served in the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group and the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing have contacted the virus. Prescriptions will no longer be filled at the pharmacy on base as you will need to get them filled at the Navy facility in Goose Creek where they have a safer environment.

We had planned our next Alumni board meeting at the Charleston Club on base at 09:00 am on Friday 20 January. I had planned to attend as I was on base getting a prescription filled. I found the Club closed and all the windows were covered from the inside with craft paper. Linda Skillman said our next Alumni board meeting is still on from the month of June at this time. Several of you have been asking about the Heritage Trust Sponsored Quarterly Luncheons that are scheduled one year in advance and that schedule was published in the January 2020 newsletter. The management at the club has been telling us for one year that they can't support this because of kitchen renovations but yet we see people in the dining room having dinner. Jim Roberts thinks that maybe they are just not up to putting out a

seafood buffet as they have for us over the past years. That's the feeling we're getting. The big question now is where to have this quarterly luncheon if not the club? We don't have any answers at this time except we would need to have this near the base.

## The New Decade of 2020

This decade will bring us many changes like we have never seen before, in the Alumni association, the country and the world. Those in my age group have seen World War II and 9/11 and now we have the virus epidemic. We have experienced life and once again it will pass. We will get through this but life will never be the same again as we are being affected financially like never before. Many of us in the Alumni are retired and most of you have several retirement incomes coming your way as I have so we are probably financially secure and comfortable.

The new decade will bring a different slant to the newsletter. The Alumni has been around 25 years and I have been publishing the newsletter for over 21 years. I have kept up with the troops and always make a monumental effort to keep us all connected, but we have always had one big ongoing problem and that is getting the newsletter delivered to each and every member. In the past that has never been possible as we have several hundred on our membership listing. Jim Roberts is currently investigating ways we can get the newsletter out to each of you and his investigation is ongoing. We may need to hire an agency or an individual to post all the names on the membership listing in a system. No one would ever do this on a voluntary basis on their own time for free. I have asked for volunteers to do this over the years and I have had absolutely no takers.

Many years back Chief Tom Clemmons set up a perfect website for us which is shown above. Tommy Peters, a retired 701<sup>st</sup> Flight Engineer, has been posting the newsletter on Facebook under each of the flying squadrons and the wing for many years and we get several hundred responses back almost immediately. I send out as many as possible by email message but can never cover all of them.

Our team is making this monumental effort to keep all of us as connected as much as possible but we will never get them all and here's why: Many change their email address and they forget to notify us which we understand; not everyone is on Facebook and many never remember to go to our website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> to retrieve the newsletter. Others are dealing with health issues and they may forget to renew their membership. However, our membership chair and secretary Linda Skillman sends everyone a renewal form before their membership expires and she follows up a second time when there is no response. I send the newsletter to many of those with expired membership in an effort to get them back. Lives continue to get busier and far more complex than ever before but we do our best to notify everyone.

## ***Final Fly-Bye***

**SMSGT James M. Redmon, 315 MXS, passed suddenly on 17 February 2020. We were notified by his spouse Rebekah. James has been a long time active member of the Alumni and always kept his dues up to date.**

**Karen Lee (rank unknown) of the 315AES, passed on 21 March 2020 at the age of 58. Arrangements are being provided to the family by Simplicity. No other information has been provided at this time.**

## **Looking Back at the Past 943<sup>rd</sup> Group & 315<sup>th</sup> Wing History**

I have published numerous histories about us over the years that dates back to 50 years ago. In future newsletters I will be publishing some, but not all of it, as I don't have the time to publish it all and you don't have the time to read it all. It's too much. I will pick out some of the best parts that I think everyone would enjoy.

In my first newsletter I talked about Major Talmadge P. Callison, Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> MASS which was under our 943<sup>rd</sup> Group. Major Callison was a B-24 Liberator pilot in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WWII. Nose art was very popular at the time and he named his aircraft **Calamity Jane**. My father was in his group flying fighter escort in a P-51 Mustang that was named **Aces High**. Calamity Jane was a pioneer woman, a sharp shooter that cussed and chewed tobacco. At the end of Callison's retirement he was promoted to the rank of colonel. He published a really great book about his life, "Hit the Silk." The Alumni has been selling copies of his book for many years and I have my copy here in front of me. I believe our Alumni board member Chief Sam Brock has a few more copies left if anyone should be interested.

## **The Future of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association**

When Col Jim Roberts took the reins as our President of the Alumni, my first question for him was "how long do you think the Alumni Association will last?" He came back with the correct answer, "we don't know." Jim said he would enjoy it as long as it lasts. That's the way it goes with any reunion organization. You never know if the younger generation will continue to be interested the way we are now. We have a very professional staff with a maximum of life experiences that greatly enhance our organization.

At this time our country and the world is in a lot of trouble like we have never seen. In the meantime the newsletter will be coming frequently, keeping us closely connected. Please be safe everyone as we want to keep you around.

***Del Oxford, Communications***

