



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

28 November 2016 #3

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

### Christmas Social

Come enjoy our annual Heritage Trust sponsored special Christmas Luncheon & Social on Friday, 2 December 2016, 11:00 am, at the Charleston Club (formerly the NCO Club) This luncheon, a \$13.00 value, is free to all members, associate members, spouses and significant others. If you're not a member, you can sign up upon arrival. Dues are: \$5 per year - \$12 for 3 years - \$24 for 6 years.

Prior to the luncheon, our Alumni Board meeting will be held at 09:30 am. All Alumni members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This is always a special time of year for us when we gather around to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Christmas is in the air! It's our one big chance each year to see everyone. We really appreciate all those who travel a very long distance to be with us, especially those with medical issues. We're all highly motivated as we enjoy the good entertainment in a vibrant atmosphere, the camaraderie and the food is great! You don't want to miss this.

Lisa A. Sweatt, 315<sup>th</sup> AW Director, Airman & Family Readiness sends a special message: "Once again we offer support to our Airman in need within the Wing at this Christmas season. For those attending the luncheon, we ask that you donate an unwrapped gift, gift card or cash for children in great need this holiday season. If folks want to give a grocery store food card or gift card to Target or Wal-Mart, they would appreciate it. As always, we appreciate everyone's generosity." Thanks, Lisa

### Our last Alumni Board meeting at Crosswinds, Jim Wilson's private airport

Lt Colonels Jim and Eileen Wilson hosted our last Alumni Board meeting on 29 Oct 2016 at their place in Cross, SC. They have done this several times over the years. This time it was great like no other. Jim has a nice collection of WWI and WWII aircraft that he flies and maintains. This time he took several of us up in his WWII Piper L-4 aircraft. This was open cockpit flying! We had a great board meeting, with coffee and Eileen's pastry. We really appreciate their great hospitality.

### Final Fly-bye

CMSGT Wade "JW" Cheney, Chief Loadmaster of the 707<sup>th</sup> ALS, passed on 27 October 2016 at the age of 72. Wade is survived by his spouse Audrey Chinnors, and two sons, Joshua Wade, wife Jessica, and Matthew Hal, wife Evelyn, one sister and three grandchildren. Wade and Audrey are members of the 315<sup>th</sup> AW Alumni and they are strong supporters. About eight weeks ago I talked to Wade for about 45 minutes. We talked mostly how incredible our lives had been and we were in no hurry at all to end our conversation. It was great. There were 134 attending his wake, and the church was full with many standing at the funeral service. Wade had a full military funeral with the Air Force Honor Guard.

Online condolences may be sent to the family via: [www.dial-murrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.dial-murrayfuneralhome.com) Guestbook: [www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston)

Colonel Ronald L. Billmyer, 315<sup>th</sup> AW Support Group Commander, and past Vice President of the 315<sup>th</sup> AW Alumni Association, passed on 4 October 2016 at the age of 74, and he is survived by his loving wife Margaret of Spring Hill, TN. Prior to Colonel Billmyer's assignment to the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing, he was a Navigator assigned

to the 815<sup>th</sup> Weather Recon Storm Trackers (Hurricane Hunters) at Keesler AFB. He was assigned there when the movie "Hurricane" was produced starring Lee Majors who played the role as the C-130 pilot in command. Dick Fuller said that Ron was born on 22 October 1942, and he was born                      ber 1942. He said they talked about this over the years. Before Ron's passing, I talked to him almost every day on Facebook. He would tell the troops in the 315<sup>th</sup> about his numerous health issues. Then he posted a photo of himself                      harp looking sport coat and tie. After that, we no longer heard anything from him, until his daughter made a post that he was deceased. Our Benevolence Chairman of the Alumni Lt Col Eileen Wilson sent the family our condolences. You may send your condolences to:

<http://www.springhillfh.com/obituaries/ronald-billmyer-2/>

### Bob Hoover, one of history's greatest pilots, dead at 94

Bob Hoover was a fighter pilot in World War II. He was shot down and captured by the Germans. He escaped, stealing a German fighter plane and flew to safety. He was a test pilot on numerous aircraft for many years. He flew the chase plane for Col Chuck Yeager when the sound barrier was broken for the first time

MSG Jim McDonald, 300<sup>th</sup> Flt Engineer

There's one remaining air crew member of the Doolittle raiders still living, Col Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot Dick Cole. He is 93. We all remember the movie "Pearl Harbor" when we responded to this attack by bombing Japan with 16 of our B-25 bombers in December 1941. That was 75 years ago when I was 5 years old.

A concentrated effort has been made to remind everyone of the special Christmas luncheon next Friday, 2 December. Details have already been outlined in the 30 September newsletter, and it's on the social media. I have many of you on the reminder calling list making sure you get the message.

Many of you will be driving a very long distance to get here. Be safe.

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