

Anonymous Donor Funds Badges For

New Entrants To Public Affairs Field

Thanks to the generosity of an AFPAAA member, new members of the Broadcasting, and Public Affairs career fields will soon be receiving their first specialty badge courtesy of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association.

The decision to provide the badges came from a suggestion by SAF/PA Director Colonel Ron Rand at the Annual Membership Meeting in Dayton. The AFPAAA Board of Directors viewed the suggestion favorably. At that point the anonymous donor came forward with an offer to provide the initial funding for the badges.

"One of our life members, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave the Association a check for \$600 to provide an AFPAAA-sponsored badge to each Air Force DINFOS student when they graduate," AFPAAA Board Chairman Mike McRaney said.

Board member Sally Davidson, who was Chief of Corporate Communications for the Army and

Air Force Exchange Service while on active duty, handled the purchase of the badges. The \$600 donation let AFPAAA buy 200 badges, enough for up to five years of new accessions, based on current graduation rates, to the Broadcasting and Public Affairs fields.

"We intend to have a member of the Association at DINFOS to

present the badges," McRaney explained. "At the same time, each graduate will be given a one-year membership in the Association to acquaint them with AFPAAA as the Association for the Public Affairs community, both retired and active."

"We have two goals: to help SAF/PA make entering the Public Affairs career field a significant moment for each individual, and to make a positive impression for AFPAAA that will result in membership throughout their careers and into their post military lives," McRaney said.



Public Affairs

Time To Renew

YOUR

Membership?

Membership dues will expire for about one third of AFPAAA's members on December 31.

Those of you due for renewal should be receiving an invoice shortly. If you do not get one by December 10th and feel you may be due for renewal, contact Neil Buttimer, co-chair of the Membership Committee. He can be reached by phone, (540) 972-0083, or by e-mail at: nbuttimer@compuserve.com

Putting off renewal means you could miss the next newsletter and annual membership directory. In addition, if you have availed yourself of access to secure areas of AFPAAA's web site that will also be lost by failing to renew.

Whether you are a Full or an Associate member, act now to ensure



your AFPAAA benefits and services continue uninterrupted.

If you've been renewing your membership one year at a time, save some money by renewing for three years. Three-year memberships are real bargains at \$50 and \$20.

Never want to bother with paying dues again? Consider a Lifetime Membership at \$300, payable in four installments.

And, once you've taken care of yourself, is there someone you know who should belong? Why not give them a one-year gift membership so they can get acquainted with AFPAAA. They'll be reminded of you thoughtfulness year-round and you will be helping build the Association's membership base.

Use the form on page 3 to renew your membership or give a gift.

Endowment Fund Gift Can Ease Year-End Tax Burdens

Giving can be enriching in a number of ways. It makes you feel good and it helps worthy causes. But there is another plus for giving, it can solve tax problems. Really.

Stocks and mutual fund shares - even property or collectibles such as coins and stamps - that have grown substantially in value can present a large capital gain tax liability.

There is a way to reduce that liability. Instead of selling the stocks, mutual fund shares, property, or collectibles, donate some or all of them to the AFPAAA Endowment \$300,000 drive.

That makes them a charitable deduction. Better yet, the amount of that deduction is calculated at the current higher market price, rather than the original, low price you paid for them.

AFPAAA members who have contributed to the Endowment

\$300,000 drive will take advantage of that benefit on their '98 tax return.

In one instance, an AFPAAA member transferred 100 shares of General Electric stock to the Endowment. It had been bought for \$2,975. In a real win-win for the member and the Association, on the day of the transfer AFPAAA got stock worth \$7,712.50 and the member got a charitable deduction for the same amount.

You can give the Endowment Fund - now at \$45,000 - a real boost toward its goal with a year-end donation. Even if you don't feel inclined to give stocks, mutual fund shares, property, or collectibles, a check is just as good, and it too counts as a charitable deduction.

If you want to gain a tax deduction while helping AFPAAA solidify its financial future, or if you need more information, use the form on page 5.

LINKS

Stories From The AFPAAA
Oral History Project

Maston Jacks: From WW II To Project Bluebook And POWs - A Consummate Pro

by Chuck Lucas

Air Force public affairs people are known for resourcefulness. Get three Alumni members together and the conversation will soon become a "can you top this session." Maston Jacks is seldom topped.

As he spins anecdotes from 26 years of active duty, including 36 months as an Information officer in the South Pacific during World War II, he'll tell you how the Air Corps paid for his wedding day and an extended honeymoon.

He'll also relate while escorting a reporter on a B-24 bombing mission on Tarawa, he survived a ditching and earned a Purple Heart. During a TDY to Washington in 1944, Jacks pulled his wedding coup. He had been corresponding with Elizabeth Adams, who worked with him on a Tucson newspaper before the war. She was now a Navy ensign in Washington. They wed, November

24, 1944, with the Air Corps' chief chaplain performing the ceremony. "I was on per diem all the time, something like \$10 per day . . . My wife and I had maybe a month together . . . before I flew back to Guam." The couple shared 48 years together before Elizabeth died in 1992.

After island-hopping in the early months of the war, Jacks went to Pearl Harbor as Air Corps Liaison Officer on Adm. Chester Nimitz' Public Information staff. The Navy controlled communication from the Pacific and the other services felt they got short shrift in press reports. Air Corps action was usually described as ". . . a bomber strike was also conducted," Jacks said, "I was able to get a little relaxation on some of the stuff we sent out."

In July 1945 Major Jacks and Ward Ingram were sent to 4th Air Force Headquarters in San

Francisco to establish a hometown news release center. Those plans were tabled when the Enola Gay hit Hiroshima.

Back in civilian life, Jacks was a magazine editor before joining the San Francisco Examiner as a reporter and rewrite man. He returned to active duty as a PIO during the Korean War, with stops at Yokota AB, Japan, and Andersen AFB, Guam. After assignments with SAC, he was named chief of SAFOI's Photo Branch in 1963.

"I'm the guy most responsible for killing Bluebook," Jacks claims. "It was one of those, 'God, we got to do this assignments' . . . the only excuse we had to be in it was that there was a period when the Air Force was charged with investigating these things (UFOs) in case there could be a threat to the United States . . . obviously, there wasn't any threat."



Scientists at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, sought to keep Bluebook alive, but Jacks was just as adamant to get the Air Force out of the project.

He convinced SAFOI Director Major General Ben LeBailley that an impartial authority was needed to conduct an investigation. Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans agreed. A meteorologist was chosen.

"I think they paid him \$6 million . . . It went on about 18 months and he came back with a recommendation to cancel it. And, that stopped it," Jacks said. "That's one of the best things I ever did for the Air Force."

Maston retired from the Air Force in 1967 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He joined Fairchild Republic as the company's Air Force Liaison and Press Relations man in Washington.

When Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird went public with the

mistreatment of the POWs by North Vietnam, Jacks went into action.

Fairchild had special concern for the POWs because many of the pilots flew F-105. Maston briefed Fairchild's staff, noting one abuse was mail was withheld from POWs.

"We devoted a copy of the company newspaper almost exclusively to it and urged people

to write letters." The idea was to force the North Vietnamese to react. Millions of letters were sent and the campaign succeeded. "I also had a major part in getting the company to put the first seed money into the POW wives' organization," Jacks said. He retired from Fairchild in 1979 and in 1985 moved to Williamsburg, Virginia.

A Personal Remembrance

As this issue was being prepared for publication we learned that Maston Jacks had died on Sunday, October 11, 1998, at his home. He was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, November 4th.

Maston Jacks was a friend of mine. That's not surprising because everyone Maston met became his friend.

He was someone I looked up to. We were not contemporaries. He'd been a newspaperman and magazine writer before I was born. But, he was a pro and I wanted to be like him!

As you can tell from the story on this page, Maston had quite a career, indeed, quite a life.

But, I'm not going to dwell on any "official" stuff about his life or career. Instead, I have a decidedly "unofficial" picture in mind - of Maston standing on a busy San Francisco street corner holding a huge, wooden tub.

One side was covered with elegant oriental characters, on the other side were the crudely hand lettered words, "Outstanding Tour Guide."

It was 1966. A group of young USAF officers (in S.F. to support AFA's annual convention) drafted Maston to show them the town. (He'd worked there for the Examiner years before, we hadn't.)

He led us on an unconventional tour of North Beach "cultural" establishments. Flower power was in full swing, so you can imagine the "education" our band of short-haired, straight arrows received.

In appreciation for his leadership and not getting any of us arrested, we presented him with this "trophy" -- actually an empty restaurant-sized Sake barrel.

Sounds silly now, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. Maston proudly carried that thing around all night. He even took it back to his hotel!

Whenever our paths would cross, we'd recall his trophy. His eyes would twinkle and we'd chuckle at the memories. That was something else I liked about him.

Maston always had time to talk. Even when he was so busy with the POW letters project, he'd make time to talk about business, the Air Force, possible assignments, whatever I wanted to bounce off him.

Like I said, Maston was someone to emulate . . . a consummate pro, kind, full of good humor, and always a gentleman. He was also a wonderful story teller.

That's why, in 1994, he was the second interview, after Barney Oldfield, we did for AFPAAA's Oral History Program. Maston's eyes twinkled a lot over those four hours as he recalled the many incredible events he'd been part of in his colorful career.

Since that interview, we kept in touch by occasional phone calls or e-mails. That's how I first learned of his illness and later surgery. And, that is why I was so surprised - and delighted - to see Maston at our Annual Meeting in Dayton this past June. It must have taken a tremendous effort for him to get there. Yet, he didn't complain. He seemed frail, but still there was that twinkle in his eye.

We talked about family and mutual friends and, at one point he asked if I remembered the "trophy" he'd sent me. I replied, "Yeah, but the bottle was kind of dinky."

His eyes twinkled and he said, "But, at least it was full!"

Not long ago, when what turned out to be our last phone conversation was over, I said, "Take care."

With a chuckle, and I'm sure a twinkle in his eye, he said softly, "Ya know, that's getting harder to do."

I guess it finally got too hard. Anyway, Maston was my friend. He was a helluva guide.

— John Gura

Barney, Vada Oldfield In AF Museum Display

Barney and Vada Oldfield have become part of the Air Force Museum's Celebrities in Uniform exhibit. Barney's USAF Blouse is on display (right).



Barney, a paratrooper and reservist from Nebraska, went on active duty in 1940. Vada, who took over his newspaper column and radio show, followed later as a member of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, the forerunner of the WAC. She was a teletype operator with 12th AF Headquarters in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

The exhibit notes Barney's role in getting artifacts of Glenn Miller, Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, and Ronald Reagan for

the museum. It recounts the couples' experiences during and after the war, including Vada's battle with Alzheimer's disease.



Gregory S. Rodgers

Gregory Rodgers, who served in and conducted Air Force bands from 1951 until 1975, died of pneumonia in Gloucester, Virginia August 17.

Rodgers, from Dallas, had a master's degree in music education from North Texas State University, taught music in Sherman, Texas public schools, and performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra before entering the Air Force.

Best remembered as director of the Strolling Strings and the Air Force Strings Orchestra, he commanded and directed bands in England and

Germany, as well as at Lackland and Wright-Patterson Air Force Bases.

After his retirement from the Air Force as a Chief Warrant Officer, he performed with chamber music groups, was the Virginia Chamber Orchestra librarian, and taught viola and violin.

Rodgers lived in the Washington D.C. area for 32 years until he moved to Gloucester last year. His wife of 45 years, Carol DeWitt Rodgers, died in 1993. He is survived by a brother and his daughter, Christiana Rodgers, who resides in Gloucester.



AFPAAA Enrollment/Renewal/Gift Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ My fax number is: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ My fax number is: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Send AFPAAA correspondence to: my home my business.

I am currently retired currently part of the active duty, guard, or reserve.

The last/current Public Affairs/Air Force Broadcasting Service/Band position I held/hold was/is: _____

At (base): _____ My grade/rank/GS/GM then/now was/is: _____

That was in (month & year): _____

I retired/separated/transferred from the Air Force in the grade/rank/GS/GM of _____ in _____

I'm enclosing a check payable to *AF Public Affairs Alumni Association* for:

- \$ 300 – Lifetime Membership - payable in four installments
- \$ 25 – 1-year Full Membership (retired/separated people)
- \$ 50 – 3-year Full Membership (retired/separated people)
- \$ 10 – 1-year active duty Associate Membership (including Guard & Reserve)
- \$ 20 – 3-year active duty Associate Membership (including Guard & Reserve)

This is a gift from _____

Mail To



P.O. Box 540
Fairfax, VA. 22030-0540

From The Chairman's Pen



In almost every conversation I have with members across the country the subject of the future of our Association comes up. There are the usual comments about how the Association has grown, how much fun the annual meetings are and the programs and projects we sponsor, but the real serious conversations center around the future of the Association. The future, as I see it, hinges on three critical factors – Membership, Money, and Member Support – all of which have been discussed at length in nearly every board meeting. What makes each of these factors critical?

Membership: The most critical factor, for without members we don't exist. Membership has leveled off at around 600. As we gain a few members we also lose a few members each year. Why do we lose them? Sadly, some pass away; others don't renew because they either forget or lose interest for some reason. New member gains about equal annual losses, but it is a struggle. To counter our losses, new board member Joe Purka has reviewed and is restructuring our recruiting efforts. He has drafted new recruiting letters to go after those whose have yet to join. It is a tough and tedious job, but someone has to do it and Joe volunteered to take it on. He deserves our intense support, encouragement and direct involvement. It is absolutely critical we keep a healthy, energetic and growing membership.

Money: Funding is another very critical factor because if we don't have the bucks over the long haul AFPAAA will fail for lack of money. It costs about \$25K to \$30K per year to run the Association and that includes projected printing and mailing costs of our newsletter, directory, ongoing program costs, and recruiting efforts. The generous help that Jim Hart arranged through Duke Energy runs out soon, but we are fortunate that Marv Braman and the Sanders Company have offered to take up some of the printing slack, which is greatly appreciated. Of course salaries for the officers of an organization like ours are \$0, nothing, nada. All the time and effort is donated and at times it is considerable. We closely watch every nickel we spend and are exceptionally frugal (we assume the members want it that way) when it comes to spending Association funds.

There are too many recent examples of other organizations that warn us of the pitfalls of going broke. How can we address the funding factor? The answer is the Association's Endowment Fund. There has been a lot of information in earlier editions as well as this newsletter. We have increased efforts to obtain contributions to the Fund and have already reached the \$45,000 commitment level before the campaign is really into high gear. At our Dayton meeting we recognized several major contributors who help us kick off the campaign with tremendous generosity and commitment. While their contributions are greatly appreciated those are only the first step in reaching our goal of \$300,000 in five years.

When the request for contributions comes in the mail and when you get a follow up phone call asking for your help, please be as generous as you can with either donations, stock transfers, or long term commitments to help us remain fiscally healthy. If each member can find a way to commit to a \$100 per year tax deductible contribution for five years our financial future will be secured. That's about \$8.33 cents per month per person. Not a lot to ask for what you will get over those and future years. We know every member won't be able to do that, yet many members have already committed to 10 to 15 times that amount. If you can give more please do so; if not, do what you can. Help us reach \$300K and keep AFPAAA healthy.

Member Support: The third critical element for future success is being actively involved. For every twenty ideas and suggestions for the Association to take on this or that project or event we have about one quarter of a member who actually volunteers to help with such suggestions . . . and we appreciate even that small offer. The fact remains there are about 20 very active people who keep the Association alive and kicking – board members, officers, the committee chairpersons and volunteers, the annual meeting planners and doers, and the occasional helper who takes on a project and sees it through. The bottom line: We need more active support, involvement and participation to keep the Association vital, energetic and moving forward.

How can you help? There are a number of ways. First of all, you can open your billfolds, checkbooks, or stock portfolios and contribute to the Endowment Fund. We need the financial help just as we need the physical help. Second, you can be sure your membership is up to date and even consider upgrading to a three year or Life Membership status. Third, you can become an active and help with a project, run with an event, manage a program, or contribute to the newsletter. And, finally, you can help us recruit new members from your friends and colleagues who have yet to join.

It's members, money, and your participative support that will keep our future healthy and only you can help in all three categories. When we ask, please find a way to say "Yes, I will contribute; and yes, I will reup my membership; and yes, I will help any way I can." After all your Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association belongs to you, the members.

– Mike McRaney

Reserve Early To Ensure Your Room For Annual Meeting

The headquarters for AFPAAA's Sixth Annual Membership Meeting is the Ramada Oceanfront Resort, Satellite Beach, Florida. A group rate of \$74 oceanview and \$64 cityview, plus tax is available. Call (800) 345-1782. Lodging reservations and expenses are the responsibility of attendees. Appropriate casual attire – no shorts, t-shirts, or tank tops, please - is the dress for all daytime activities; coat and tie please for the Friday reception and dinner. The schedule for the meeting is:

Thursday, April 29

Registration opens at the Ramada Oceanfront Resort - 3:00 PM
No-host icebreaker in Ramada Oceanfront Resort - 4:00 PM to ?
Evening free

Friday, April 30

8:30 AM - Buses to Patrick AFB
9:00 AM - Welcome & Briefings - Commander, 45th Space Wing
10:00 AM- Tour Air Force Space Museum
12:30 PM - Lunch at Patrick AFB Officers' Club
1:30 PM - The State of Air Force Public Affairs
- Colonel Ron Rand, SAF/PA Director
2:00 PM - Report From The Hot Spots - Bosnia & Middle East
2:30 PM - Panel - AF Space Program, A Historical Perspective
3:00 PM - Buses Return to Ramada Oceanfront Hotel

6:00 PM - Reception, dinner, entertainment Ramada Oceanfront Hotel
Saturday, May 1

8:00 AM - Continental breakfast Ramada Oceanfront Meeting Room

8:30 AM - Sixth Annual Membership Meeting

11:00 AM - Remainder of the day/evening - members choice: golf, sight-seeing, visit friends

Sunday, May 2

Depart Satellite Beach

Advance registration fee for members is \$85 (includes lunch at Patrick AFB, reception & dinner, continental breakfast, memento, and registration package); advance registration for nonmembers is \$110 (includes a one-year Full membership or three-year Associate membership, as appropriate). On-site registration is \$110 for members and nonmembers. Spouse/guest registration either in advance or on-site is \$60.

Advance registration for the meeting must be received NLT April 9.

Note: The Ramada Oceanfront Resort is a small hotel. If there is a normal AFPAAA turnout, we will almost fill the whole hotel. Reserve your room early to avoid losing it to people going to Cape Canaveral for other events. Please call the Ramada Oceanfront Resort directly for room reservations.

AFPAAA Endowment Fund Pledge/Donation Transmittal Form

I want to make a pledge/donation to help ensure the future of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association. All gifts to AFPAAA should qualify for a tax deduction; other tax benefits may accrue on gifts that have appreciated in value - consult your tax advisor for specifics. My gift is:

Pledge. I am pledging \$ _____ to the AFPAAA Endowment Fund over the next ____ years. Enclosed is a check for my 1998 gift in the amount of \$ _____ (please make the check payable to AFPAAA and write 'Endowment Fund in the 'For' or 'Memo' space; mail with this form to AFPAAA, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22030-0540 – if your first pledge payment is a transfer of securities please complete the next section also).

Transfer of Securities (stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares). Please call J. P. Phaup, Wheat First Union, (800) 925-3308 or (703) 761-4752, to discuss the transfer to AFPAAA Account # 1046-9386 using Depository Transfer Company (DTC) # 141. The estimated value of my gift dependent on price on the date of transfer is \$ _____. After talking with Mr. Phaup, please mail this form to AFPAAA, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22030-0540.

One-Time Cash Gift. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (please make the check payable to AFPAAA and write 'Endowment Fund in the 'For' or 'Memo' space; mail with this form to AFPAAA, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22030-0540).

Donation of Real Estate, Antiques, Collectibles. Please call Pete Alexandrakos, (703) 352-4113, to discuss your proposed gift.

Corporate In-kind Gift of Goods/Services. Please call Jim Hart, (850) 592-4740, to discuss your offer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone:(____) _____

New Lifer . . .

Congrats to Tom Fitzpatrick who has upgraded to Lifetime Membership.

Welcome Aboard To . . .

<i>Deborah Bosick</i>	<i>Elaine Mayo</i>
<i>Norm Caisee</i>	<i>Raymond Padgett</i>
<i>Victoria Cerino</i>	<i>Dixie Porter</i>
<i>Charlie Hall</i>	<i>Eric Schnaible</i>

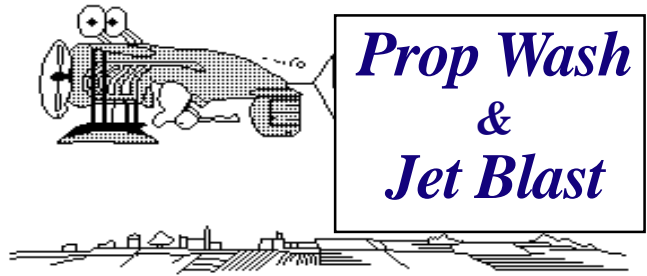
Thomas Utts

Movin' Up, Movin' On . . .

Kathy McCollom to Bradson Corporation in Crystal City as a management consultant . . . Guy Brown retired from his Houston PR agency to the woods of Fayetteville, Arkansas . . . Colonel Johnny Whitaker to SAF/PA as Deputy Director . . . Colonel Mike Perini to PA Director at ACC.

If You Were There . . .

Tom Utts has a web page with photos of Clark AB and surrounding community prior to Mount Pinatubo's eruption and parts of an "anecdotal history" he's working on. It can be found at: www.freeyellow.com/members2/zcap/clark.htm



Author, Author . . .

John Terino covered Avionics '98 and NDIA's UAVs, Targets, & Ranges symposia for Aerospace Daily.

Got A Web Site? Link With Us . . .

Now you can add your web site listing to AFPAAA's new Home Page Member's Web Site Links at: www.afpaaa.org/sites.html

Standing Out . . .

TSgt Elaine Mayo DINFOS Honor Graduate . . . John Terino helping Navy's Best Manufacturing Practices Program win \$100,000 Innovations in American Government Award from Ford Foundation.

Note: In printed version of this newsletter, this space contained the Registration form for our 1999 Annual Meeting in Satellite Beach, FL. On the web the form and more meeting info is available at: www.afpaaa.org/99meet.html