



## Plans in full swing for 2002 meeting

Plans are in full swing for the **Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association's ninth annual meeting** in San Antonio, Tex., May 30 through June 2, 2002.

Local meeting chair **David Smith** has held several planning sessions with AFPAAA members who have volunteered to help make this the best event yet.

Volunteers include:

**Linda Arnold, Adelina Carrillo, David Cole, Cary Deckard, Mike Gallagher, Frank and Lita Jennings, Ed Johnson, Art Jungwirth, Jim McGuire, Mynda McGuire, Doug Moore, Joe Panvini, Bob Rayfield, Tom Shumaker, Hal Smarkola, Reed Switzer and John Worthington.**

**Arnold and Panvini** will handle registrations.

**Jungwirth** will

handle transportation (with descriptive commentary provided by **Pete Hefler**, according to **Smith**).

**Cole** will be the meeting liaison.

**Johnson** will work with Lackland community relations advisor **Carrillo** and **Arnold** for the Lackland morning program.

**Smarkola** and **Worthington** will work the Lackland afternoon program at Air Intelligence Agency and AFNEWS.

**Shumaker**, with support from **Deckard, Jennings, Jungwirth** and **Moore** will work optional tours.

**Gallagher** and **Jim McGuire** will work the program.

**Smith** is still looking for some administrative help. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact him at 494-0022 or e-mail



*The Adams Mark hotel has opened the reservation book. Individuals can either use the 1-800-444-ADAM or call the direct dial number 210-354-2800 to make reservations to attend next year's annual meeting.*

at [smithde9@aol.com](mailto:smithde9@aol.com).

Several optional tours will be available to attendees Friday evening. They include:

Dinner at the Barn Door Steak House and a musical interlude provided by Geronimo Trevino and his Country Swing Band (an old fashioned Texas country music band.) at the Hangin'

Tree . Dress is very informal, with boots and hats welcome. **Jennings** is managing this event.

San Antonio River Cruise reception, followed by dinner on the RiverWalk. The reception includes hors d'oeuvres and bar, with guided tour of the famous

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*The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association rate is \$117.00 (usually to \$230) per night. Smoking and non-smoking rooms are available. Amenities in rooms includes cable, mini bar, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron & ironing board, safe, and data line.*

## Decorated Personnel officer made best decision, became PA

### Links

by **Chuck Lucas**

*EDITOR'S NOTE:*

*This column is a feature on stories from the Association's Oral History program.*

**Bill Helmantoler** received the Silver Star and seven Air Medals as an operations officer in the South Pacific during World War II.

He survived demobilization and in 1947 found himself at Keesler Field, Miss., still wearing brown shoes, as the Public Relations Officer.

"I didn't feel qualified there, and I asked to get out of it," said **Helmantoler**. "A lot of people don't realize what a responsible job it is. **Mickey Roth** succeeded me. He was a qualified guy."

The new Air Force emerged and an unknown Personnel officer made what was probably one of his best decisions.

**Helmantoler** was among the first to be enrolled at Boston University, School of Public Relations. He earned bachelor and master degrees.

"I came out feeling very qualified, he said."

For the next 19 years the Air Force and the nation reaped dividends from his public affairs professionalism. Four Legions of Merit document his accomplishments.

He was in Vietnam early.

"We had only a few dozen newsmen in country; this was the middle of '63; but the credibility had already been destroyed," said

**Helmantoler**.

"We could not confirm an aircraft being off-loaded from a ship; the response was, 'What airplane?'"

"The Kennedy Administration had said, 'You cannot confirm.'"

**Helmantoler** served at major command, Secretary of the Air Force, unified command and Department of Defense levels.

During his last three years on active duty he spent much of his time

with the White House Press Office.

He was **President Johnson's** choice to oversee press activities for the Paris Peace Talks in 1968.

Head negotiator **Averill Harriman** said, "I can't have an Air Force colonel as our chief spokesman."

**President Johnson** responded, "Hell, he ain't no colonel, he's a PIO."

The Illinois native worked on the return of the Pueblo crew and handled the news media following the B-52 crash in Thule, Greenland.

He was also a White House spokesman during the civil rights riots in 1968.

Riding with **Warren Christopher** through the streets of Chicago, all signs indicated things were going to get bad.

"**Christopher** asked, 'Bill, do you know what the greatest communications device in the world is.'"

"He pulled out a dime,"

**Helmantoler** said, "we stopped at a pay phone and he called the Attorney General in Washington.

"I'll never forget that, and I'm never without 35 cents today.

It just shows you how inflation goes."

What's his secret to success?

"I think the most important thing in media relations is to serve their needs," he said.

"Look at what they need to get their story out.

Sometimes that's communications; sometimes it's logistics.

You have to have trust. You're a liability if they don't trust you."

Using Project Bluebook as an example, **Helmantoler** said, "I think it's a shame that we haven't carried forth an active truth campaign in the whole field of UFOs.

"There is so much crap out there that people just feed off of and make money off of and frighten other people with.

There is not yet one item of

evidence of anything from another planet."

Would he have done things any different as an Air Force PA?

"Probably," said **Helmantoler**. "I made some mistakes.

"I was usually fairly bold and straightforward.

"I prided myself on the trust I developed with the media and with my bosses.

"They let me handle their reputations and I tried my best to do a worthy job.

"I would lay it on the line to them that, if they did such and such, somebody up the line is going to fire their ass. It would get their attention."

**Helmantoler** is associated with another Air Force public affairs tradition – the familiar ISO Logo, which many old-timers still wear at reunions and conventions. It made its debut at a Fifth Air Force conference in 1958.

Sharing in the design were Lou Button and Bruce Eberhard.

"It has a typewriter, two martini glasses and a crossed quill pen and sword. ISO is printed on a Tampax, for your bloody 'arse' when you had been chewed out. And then the slogan, Last to Know, First to Go." A later version "flew" on the Challenger space shuttle in 1982.

Following his retirement as a colonel in 1969, **Helmantoler** became director of public relations for American Airlines. Two years later he headed public affairs for the Price Commission.

He moved on to hold executive positions with two large national PR agencies from 1973-1987 before establishing his own organization in Springfield, Va.

## From the President's Pen

With nearly 700 officer, enlisted and civilian members, both retired and active duty, AFPAAA is several times larger and more formally organized than our founders who met at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in the fall of 1993 could have envisioned.

Corporate support and a solid start on an endowment fund will help ensure that our association continues well into the future.

Those of you who heard the State of the Association Report, or read the summary in the summer newsletter, know that we are healthy and growing.

The association's start was a result of a small group of individuals willing to volunteer their time and effort to make things happen.

That is one aspect that has not changed – volunteers are what make our association.

I want to share with you what some of your association volunteers have contributed.

- **Pete Alexandrakos** – served as association treasurer since the beginning, taking on a time-consuming responsibility and building upon it.

- **Don Brownlee** – headed up association special projects for several years.

- **Neil Buttimer** – membership chair from day one, he maintains both the online and printed versions of the directory.

- **Ted Daniel** – original board member who authored the association's by-laws.

- **John Gulick** – secured permission to use Keith Ferris' painting for our membership certificates.

- **John Gura** – our current chairman has, for years, been our web site guru and oral history program manager.

- **Jim Hart** – after serving as

president and chairman, Jim continues to play a role in the future of the association as our new treasurer.

- **Tom Halbert** – compiled and maintained the original list of alumni used as the association's initial membership drive.

- **Ed Johnson** – chairing the effort to establish a PA Memorial in the Pentagon.

- **Kathy McCollum** – author of our jobs booklet, Kathy continues to serve as our elections chair.

- **Mike McRaney** – the association's president and chairman for six years, Mike continues to attend board meetings and advise the current board members.

- **Alice Price** – "Mom" continues to prepare and mail membership packages and certificates to all new members.

- **Dave Schillerstrom** – developed and managed the association's highly successful endowment fund.

- **Dave Shea** – the association's first vice president, Dave provides a conference room and conference call capabilities for all board meetings.

- **John Terino** – as communications chair for nearly seven years, John produced the quarterly newsletter that kept association members abreast of AFPAAA happenings.

The list can go on and on.

Many people chaired and served on committees that make our annual meetings successful and enjoyable affairs.

Others made significant out-of-pocket donations for annual meetings, merchandise for the association to sell and mementos for the association to present.

Board members over the life of the association absorbed the travel and lodging expenses in connection with quarterly board meetings.

And many continue to lobby for and provide corporate support for

annual meetings, directory publication and other association needs.

Our next generation of board members, who took office July 1, continue this tradition of volunteerism.

- **Al Eakle** - has taken over the communications chair and production of our quarterly newsletter.

- **Rick Fuller** - as secretary, he entered the first level of succession, ultimately leading to president and chairman of the board.

- **Mike Gannon** – volunteered to help bring in new members as our recruiting chair.

- **Larry Greer** – serves on the committee to establish a PA Memorial to recognize those of our career field who were killed in the line of duty.

- **Jim McGuire** - in his second term on the board, is our special events chair.

- **Dave Smith** - vice president who will become president next year, is leading our annual meeting/reunion efforts in San Antonio in 2002.

- **Joe Wojtecki** - heads up a new development committee.

When our Winter newsletter comes out, we'll be looking for nominations for the Spring elections.

Three of our board positions will be up for election.

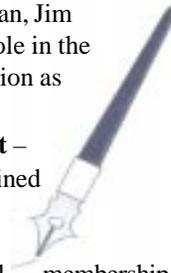
It's not too early to start wandering if you are willing to devote the time and energy to serve on our board and serve the needs of our members.

These are some of the people who have and will continue to make this association a success.

We are now moving into a new era and the prospects for growth and service are assured by the next generation of volunteers – people willing to devote time, energy and money because they believe our association serves an important need of its members.

The standards have been set. Are you ready to step up?

*Joe Purka*



The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Association. Online subscriptions are available at [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Individuals who have ever served, or are currently serving, in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, or as an Air Force Broadcaster, military or civilian, on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

Full members- former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, retired or separated. Associate members- current or former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, still in service. Adjunct members- spouses, widows or widowers of those eligible to be Full or Associate members. Affiliate members- a limited number of persons not eligible for membership under any of the above categories may become a member upon favorable recommendation by the Membership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors (U.S. Citizens only).

**CHANGING CATEGORIES:**

Members may change categories at any time as circumstances permit. They must notify the Membership Committee of their new status.

**MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

\$300 for life membership (payable in four monthly \$75 installments). \$25 for one-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$50 for three-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$10 for one-year membership (associate). \$20 for three-year membership (associate).

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:**

Available at [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)  
Completed forms and check or money order should be sent to: **Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22030-0540.**

**Board of Directors**

- Chairman** John Gura
- President:** Joe Purka
- Vice President:** Dave Smith
- Secretary:** Rick Fuller
- Members:** Linda Arnold, Al Eakle, Mike Gannon, Larry Greer, Jim McGuire, Dave Shea, Joe Wojtecki
- Editor:** Al Eakle



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San Antonio River. Dress is very informal. **Jungwirth** is managing this event.

The Adams Mark hotel has opened the reservation book. Individuals can either use the 1-800-444-ADAM or call the direct dial number 210-354-2800.

The AFPAAA rate is \$117.00 (usually to \$230) per night. Smoking and non-smoking rooms are available.

Amenities in rooms includes cable, mini bar, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron & ironing board, safe, and data line.

There is a restaurant, pool, 24-

hour room service, valet/laundry, fitness center, sauna, whirlpool and child care.

The group reference when making reservations is Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association. If there are any problems with making reservations at the hotel, individuals should ask for Kathy Squadrille. "I recommend making reservations early if you can, especially if you want to get there a day or two early or stay a day or two longer," said local chairman **Dave Smith**. Any ideas or suggestions should be directed to **Smith**.

**Thursday, May 30**

**Afternoon:**

Noon-5 p.m.: Registration at Adam's Mark Hotel

**Evening:**

5 p.m.-7 p.m.: Ice Breaker (No Host) at Hotel  
7 p.m. - ? : Free (Optional tours being planned)

**Friday, May 31**

**Morning:**

8 a.m.: Depart by bus for Lackland AFB  
8:30-9:45 a.m.: Basic Training Graduation Parade and Swearing-in Ceremony  
9:45-10:15 a.m.: View air park  
10:15-10:30 a.m.: Windshield tour of Lackland AFB  
10:30 -11:45 a.m.: 37th Training Group mission briefing and tour.  
Noon-12:45 p.m.: Lunch

**Afternoon:**

1-2:45 p.m.: AIA Briefings and tour  
2:45 p.m.: Board Buses and Depart for AFNEWS  
3-4:15 p.m.: AFNEWS Briefings and tour  
5 p.m.: Depart for Adam's Mark Hotel :  
**Evening:** Free (Optional tours being planned)

**Saturday, June 1**

**Morning**

8:30-9:15 a.m.: SAF/PA Update  
9:15-10:15 a.m.: AETC Briefing  
10:15-11:15 a.m.: Panel - Evolution of Public Affairs  
11-Noon: 37 TRW/CC and PA discussing media challenges  
Noon-1:30 p.m.: Director's Luncheon

**Afternoon:**

1:30-2:30 p.m.: Annual Membership Meeting (afternoon free following meeting)  
3-4 p.m.: Board of Directors Executive meeting :

**Evening:**

6:30 p.m.: Membership Reception  
7 p.m.: Dinner with music by Air Force Band of the West

**Sunday, June 2**

**All Day** - Depart

NOTE: Listed activities and times subject to change. Keep checking back. We'll update this schedule as things develop.

## Son's commitment inspires father to rejoin Air Force

by A1C Vincent Tufariello  
17th Training Wing  
Public Affairs Office

The 44-year-old president of a successful multimedia production company and member of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association rejoined the Air Force after an 18-year break in service after watching his son graduate from basic training.

**Staff Sgt. Tom Kimball** came back in the Air Force just five days after he witnessed his son, **Ben**, graduate from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The elder **Kimball** serves as a public affairs journeyman with the 302nd Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit based at Peterson AFB, Colo.

**Ben's** commitment inspired him to give back to an organization that helped him many years ago.

During the nine-month period **Kimball's** son was in the delayed enlistment program, **Tom** started to tell **Ben** all of his stories about boot camp and his experiences in Europe.

"I hadn't realized, until I started conveying these stories (to **Ben**), how important those four years of my life were," **Tom** said. "So, I got to thinking, 'I wonder if I can get back in?'"

**Tom** initially enlisted in November 1979 when he was bored with college and didn't want to wait to get his degree.

He wanted to travel but didn't want to pay for it, and he wanted to learn something that was going to be immediately useful to him.

With the influence of a few family members who were already serving in the military, he opted to join the Air Force.

The elder **Kimball** spent most of his enlistment as a public affairs specialist at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, with the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing.

**Ben** was born there in 1982.

After **Tom's** enlistment was up, he separated and started freelancing in fields similar to public affairs such as public speaking, theater, and on-camera activities like movies, commercials and more.

Eventually, **Tom** began producing and writing commercials.

This slowly evolved into **Tom's** current production company, the Light Group. **Tom** attributes much of his success to a foundation that was laid a long time ago.

His motivation for joining the Air Force is a bit different today than it was in 1979.

"I'm not in it for the money. I'm in it to serve," **Tom** said.

"My business is successful because of my Air Force foundation. Generally speaking, people of my experience don't come back in.



*Tom Kimball gets a hand straightening his tie from his son, Ben. At 44 and president of a successful multimedia production company, Ben's commitment to the Air Force inspired the elder Kimball to rejoin the Air Force after an 18-year break in service. (Courtesy photo)*

What I could do, perhaps, is set a trend and get people to return to the service and give back a little."

"The Air Force is definitely a big part of my life right now," **Ben** said. "I feel, in a way, that the Air Force is serving me because it's paying for me to go to school, and I love every minute of it."

Just as **Ben** is enjoying the Air Force today, so did **Tom** almost two decades ago. **Tom** said he is filled with nostalgia to see his son growing into a man and sharing experiences he had in the past.

"To see (**Ben**) make such a significant change since he left in a pair of blue jeans and T-shirt to standing tall and marching makes me very proud," **Tom** said.

"When I saw him at basic training, I wept. It was the culmination of this 'That's my boy' feeling. I hadn't sworn in at that point, and it was though divine providence was sending me a message saying, 'This is the right thing to do.'"

After swearing in, **Tom** remembered he suddenly had more than one family.

Both father and son now shared two common bonds.

"I know the Air Force family," **Tom** said. "I know that everyone takes care of each other. As a father, that's very comforting to me.

"I remember being in **Ben's** situation — not knowing what I was doing. But, people made me feel comfortable.

As a parent, you're always worried about your kids, no matter how old they are. But, I know for a fact, he's in good hands."

## Prop Wash and Jet Blasts

The AFPAAA Board of Directors will expand from nine to 12 members in a move unanimously approved by the Board of Directors during its Oct. 8 meeting.

"The increase of the size of the board is designed to broaden representation and provide more leadership opportunities," according to board Chair **John Gura**.

Two of the new members are voting members, while the third will be a non-voting

associate member.

**Dave Shea**, the association's first vice president, agreed to serve a one-year term on the board and **Linda Arnold** was appointed to serve a two-year term. Brig. Gen. **Ron Rand** will appoint the non-voting associate member, subject to board confirmation.

"The board felt it was important to have our associate members represented on the board, and **Rand** agreed to our request" **Gura** said.

The new board members will begin serving their terms immediately.

Members of the AFPAAA and their families are invited to join their SAF/PA friends for their annual Holiday Ball on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Fort Belvoir Officer's Club Potomac Room.

"As you'll recall the Air Force turned 54 years old in September," said **Brig. Gen. Ron Rand**, SAF/PA. "But there were no celebrations, no songs, no cakes. Instead, all across our Air Force, and all across America, we were focused on the tragedy of Sept. 11, and on the job ahead. Let us use Dec. 8 as a day to rejoice, celebrate life, have fun, and let freedom ring."

Activities will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. with light hors d'oeuvres, followed by a bountiful "buffet." For dessert, members of SAF/PA are bringing special treats for our "Dessert Fantasia."

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Air Force Band's "High Flight" performing their exciting costumed and choreographed show.

"As a thank you for all you do for America's Air Force, you'll receive a complimentary 5x7 photo and a chance to receive incredible door prizes, said **Rand**. "I hope to see you there!"

Coat and tie for me or holiday dress is the attire for the event. Costs are \$15 for TSgts and below and civilian equivalents; \$20 for MSgts. and SMSgts and their civilian equivalents; and \$25 for Chiefs, officers and equivalents.

RSVP to Maj. Rene Stockwell by Nov. 30 at: (703) 588-1005; email: rene.stockwell@pentagon.af.mil; mail to: SAF/PAN (Maj Rene' Stockwell); 901 N. Stuart Street, Suite 605; Arlington, VA 22203

Checks should be made payable to SAF/PA Morale Fund.

Air Force Reserve Brig. Gen. **Mark Rosenker** became the mobilization assistant to Secretary of the Air Force Secretary **James Roche** Oct. 1. His full-time job is Deputy Assistant to **President Bush** and director of the White House Military Office.

**Cecily Christian** was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

**Kelly Ann Thompson** was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

**Almarah K. Belk** was selected for promotion to major and is an intermediate service school candidate.

**Sabra J. Brown** was selected for promotion to staff sergeant. She has also been selected to trade in her stripes for gold bars and -- even better -- come into the PA career field.

**Jennifer Spears** was selected for promotion to major in the Air Force Reserve.

**SSgt. Chuck Widener** has been selected for entry into Air Force ROTC for the Two-Year Professional Officer Course. Widener works at AETC Public Affairs as the newspaper consultant.

**Mark Foutch** and **Janet Charles** were married June 3 at their historic home in Olympia, WA. Many AF/PAAA members met Janet when she accompanied Mark to the annual meetings in Florida and California. "I gave her two clear opportunities to see me interacting with my quiet and dignified professional colleagues," Mark says, "and she said 'Yes' anyway."

As a volunteer at the U.S. Air Force Museum, **Nick Apple** recently was recognized as the Public Affairs Division Volunteer of the Year. He has been helping out there since he retired in 1994 as chief of the Museum's operations division.

**Walt Werner**, SAF/PA chief of Security Review, retired Aug. 1 after 33 years of service in the Air Force as an active duty, reserve and civilian PA professional.

He has decided to answer another calling — to enter the ministry full time.

**Werner's** Air Force career (only one percent of the civilian GS force reaches GS-15) began as an E-3 systems procurement officer at Hanscom AFB.

After cross-training into PA, he served at Eglin, Thule, Hanscom and Wright-Patterson AFBs as an active-duty PAO.

In his civilian career, he served as Chief of Security Review, Deputy Director and Acting Director of PA at HQ Air Force Systems Command until it merged with Air Force Logistics Command. He then made the Pentagon move to lead the SAF/PA Community Relations Division for six years before moving over to manage our critical Security Review function.

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**Traudl Karolyi-Halbert** died of cancer Sept. 3 at St. Johannis Hospital in Landstuhl following a lengthy illness.

She was born Dec. 14, 1925 in Franzensbad, Egerland, Czechoslovakia and completed her education at the university level in Eger.

Shortly after WWII she was smuggled into Bavaria in 1945 by American soldiers who hid her under blankets in a jeep, after it was learned she would be taken from her home to a forced labor farm work in central Czechoslovakia.

Once in Bavaria she was placed as a refugee in Seon, near Lake Chiemsee and was later reunited with her mother and grandmother in Munich.

Because she had Shakespeare English in school she was able to find work with the military government at McGraw Kaserne in Munich and later with the 86th Fighter Wing at Neubiberg.

She came to the Kaiserslautern area as a pioneer in the advanced cadre of the 86th Fighter Wing that moved to Landstuhl AB (now Ramstein AB) in 1952.

**Karolyi-Halbert** served 35 years with the U.S. Air Force, including 28 years at Ramstein as Host Nation/Community relations advisor at Landstuhl and Ramstein AB, the final six years as Host Nation/Community relations advisor for HQ US Air Forces in Europe and Allied Air Forces Central Europe.

She was responsible for government relations with mayors, county officials and state government officials throughout Rheinland Pfalz and the Saarland.

While at Ramstein Air Base she was at the forefront of arranging for Air Force support to widely dispersed community in the West Pfalz and along the Weinstrasse which including the first paved road in the Village of Ramstein and the construction of numerous soccer fields still in use today which assisted the Air Force in meeting training requirements.

She was the official hostess at the annual International Woodlawn Golf Club Tournament in the pre-MWR period in the 1960-1970s, an event that saw big name golf professionals and dignitaries from the United States and Europe participate, including the **King of Belgium**.

She was at the forefront with all senior commanders, first at Ramstein and



then at HQ U.S. Air Forces in Europe, serving as translator at formal receptions and official meetings between commander's and government officials, including visits by German **Chancellor Willy Brant** and **Helmut Schmidt**.

At USAFE her responsibilities included coordinating Host Nation/Community Relations advisor support at 26 bases stretching from England to Iran.

She retired in 1980 to follow her husband to Vienna, Va. The family returned to the Kaiserslautern area in 1987.

She was a long time member and treasurer of the German-American Press Club and the Egerlander G'Moi in Kaiserslautern and was a founding member of German-American Friends of Weilerbach.

Funeral services were Sept. 6 in Kaiserslautern.

She is survived by her husband, retired **Lt. Col. John T. Halbert** and her mother, **Maria Fritsch**, both of Weilerbach.

Retired **Chief Master Sgt. Alton C. "Al" Stromwall**, 64, died Sept. 20 in his home in Satellite Beach, Fla.

**Stromwall** was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, and came to Satellite Beach in 1992.

He retired from the Air Force after 30 years of service in the United States, Europe, North Africa and the Republic of Vietnam.

**Stromwall** was a member of Air Force Sergeants Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the NCOA.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, **Agustina "Tina" Stromwall**; son, Air Force **Maj. Charles Stromwall**, of Springfield, VA; daughter **Diana Nye** of Satellite Beach; brother **Robert Stromwall** of Rochester, NY; step-brothers **Norman Wellington** of Palm Harbor, FL; and **Arthur Berry** of Mechanic Falls, ME; and step-sister **Lona Oros** of St. Cloud, FL.

Burial with full military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 17.

The family requests donations be made to American Cancer Society, 4356

Fortune Place, West Melbourne, FL 32904.

Retired **Col. Paul M. Covell**, 85, died July 15, following a lengthy illness.

In 1943, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Air Corps and assigned to Roswell AFB, N.M. as an instructor pilot in B-17 and B-29 bombers.

In 1945, he was transferred to the 20th Air Force in Guam and the Philippines.

Returning to the United States, he served tours at Castle AFB, Calif., Maxwell AFB, Ala., as well as Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., where he served as chief of training for the 303rd Bombardment Wing and later as operations officer for the 43rd Bombardment Wing.

In 1963, he was assigned to Elmendorf AFB, AK as commander of Strategic Air Command Tanker Operations.

From there, he went to the 813th Strategic Aerospace Division at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., as director of operations and later served as deputy commander for operations of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing.

His next assignment was deputy director of information at SAC headquarters at Offutt AFB, Neb.

He then became Director of Information for 8th Air Force and 15th Air Force.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Marge**; sons, **Robert and Michael**; daughters, **Kathleen, Mary Jo, Patty, Norma Jean and Ruth**; 16 grandchildren; and 7 great grandchildren.

**Dottie Flanagan** died Oct. 6 at her sister's home in Nevada City, Calif., after a long battle with cancer.

After more than 35 years of service, she retired from the Air Force Association in 1994 as Director of Protocol. Prior to her AFA service she worked in various positions for the Air Force.

She was the recipient of numerous awards, including a Jimmy Doolittle Fellowship and the Air Force's Exceptional Service Award.

A funeral mass was held in Otisco, N.Y., on Oct. 15. Interment followed the Mass at the family plot near St. Patrick's Church.

**Flanagan** is survived by two sisters and several nieces and nephews. For contributions in her memory, the family has designated the Church of the Annunciation, 3125 39th St NW, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association  
 P.O. Box 540  
 Fairfax, VA 22030-0540.

## Prop Wash and Jet Blasts

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He also served in SAF/PA's Internal Information, Resources and Security Review Divisions as an Air Force Reserve officer, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1990.

EDITOR'S NOTE:  
 We received the following email requesting information about ex-PA **Marion Lee Ray IV** via our web site. If you have any information please pass it directly to [craig.andsam@gateway.net](mailto:craig.andsam@gateway.net)

I was pointed to your site wanted to inform you of the passing of my father, who was in the Department of Public Affairs while in the Air Force.

He left us on Dec. 31, 1999, after suffering from emphysema. He was only 57.

I am currently researching his time in the USAF and particularly his time in Vietnam.

I know that he was a Sgt. in Vietnam and wrote for the *The Airlifter*

He was also stationed in Riverside, CA, Eglin AFB, FL, Homestead AFB, FL, Patrick AFB, FL, Zaragoza Spain, Wiesbaden,

Germany, and Alconbury England.

I would appreciate any help that you can give me in finding info about my father's military career. I am putting an album together so that my kids will know about my father.

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**Mike Bergman** writes, "I was in my room on the 9th floor of the Marriott World Trade hotel at 8:50 a.m. Sept. 11.

I was "TDY" on official U.S. Census Bureau business attending the annual conference of the National Association for Business Economics.

"I escaped (barefoot) with the shirt on my back and a pair of shorts, navigating through the debris and broken glass.

"I can honestly say I've experienced hell.

"I pray for the souls who never had a chance.

"God Bless America!"

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**Brig. Gen. Ron Rand**, SAF/PA, writes:

"If you haven't seen it yet, please take a look at our new web site, Responding to Tragedy (<http://www.af.mil/news/tragedy>).

"It has the latest Air Force-related news on the events of Sept, 11, as well as links to FAQs for AF people assigned to the Pentagon, hero stories, letters we're getting, photos,

and base news.

We'll keep the site up to date with the latest information, and we solicit your story ideas and input (the "Heroes" page has a 'click here' that links you to a special e-mail address).

"Please help get the word out about the site to others."

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Two members of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association were among the 21 new members elected to The College of Fellows of the Public Relations Society of America.

Among the new members were **Sam Giammo**, APR, director of public affairs, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, N.M.; and **Charles A. Wood**, APR, director of public relations, Omaha World-Herald Company, Omaha, Neb.

Election to the College, which was established in 1989, is a professional honor based on lifetime achievement. They will be inducted in late October.

The PRSA is the world's largest professional organization for public relations practitioners. The Society's members represent business and industry, counseling firms, government, associations, hospitals, schools, professional services firms and nonprofit organizations.