

# 'Destination Destin' Promises A Great Program At Resort, Hurlburt & Eglin

The agenda for our 24th Annual Membership Meeting at the gorgeous Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in the Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida, area is looking great.

After our ice-breaker, Thursday evening, April 27, it will be off to the world of Air Force Special Operations at Hurlburt Field on Friday morning. We'll move to Eglin AFB for lunch, then an afternoon of updates on F-35 Lightning II operations and training, and a look at the base's R&D world of testing.

Saturday morning's program –still being developed – leads into the SAF/PA Director's luncheon with newly appointed Brigadier General Ed Thomas, followed by the general membership meeting. That evening



we will have our festive reception and banquet.

With this year's meeting earlier than usual, now is the time to look for

good airline reservations and book your hotel—details are on the registration form on page 5 and on our web site at: [www.afpaaa.org/annualmeet.html](http://www.afpaaa.org/annualmeet.html)

## ***Who Should Be Honored With The Next McRaney Award?***

Good question. The answer could be in the hands of anyone. But 'anyone' has to come forward with a nomination for AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award. This award, AFPAAA's highest honor, can be given to any member of the Association; it recognizes contributions to AFPAAA far beyond those normally expected of a member – a list of past recipients is in our membership directory and on the AFPAAA web site at [www.afpaaa.org/awards.html](http://www.afpaaa.org/awards.html)

Recipients of the McRaney Award are determined by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. The Award is not a going out of office award. In considering a nominee, neither service on the Board of Directors, chairing a committee, or holding an office, such as president or chairman of the board of directors, is required, conversely, nor do they exclude a member from the award.

Rank, accomplishments, positions, while on active duty or while working for a federal, state, or local government or non-profit entity or religious group or private corporation, will not be considered in determining award recipients. Neither will monetary contributions to AFPAAA in and of themselves be the sole reason for making the award.

While nominations can be made at any time and a presentation does not have to be made every year, to be considered for presentation at the 2017 Annual Membership meeting nominations need to be received by January 1. Submit nominations to AFPAAA's secretary: [tom.dolney@centurylink.net](mailto:tom.dolney@centurylink.net)

## ***. . . And For The Duffers***

*For those who enjoy a round of golf with old friends, the club house is just a short walk from your room at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Play will start at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 27. The green fees (\$65) include cart and use of the practice range.*

*Call Joe Purka at (850) 897-5601 for details and to reserve your spot, and be sure to indicate you intend to play when you submit your meeting registration form on page 5.*

## ***FIXED! Online Directory OK***

New software has ended several months of member's frustrations with AFPAAA's web site. "Our site provider updated its system and that caused our problem," said John Gura. "Our system used old database software that wasn't compatible with the update. We had to catch up."

The board of directors approved \$1700.00 to update our software. With the update completed, AFPAAA members can access the directory and other restricted

areas using their e-mail address and password at: [www.afpaaa.org/update.html](http://www.afpaaa.org/update.html)

If you have a problem, contact: [support@afpaaa.org](mailto:support@afpaaa.org)

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**News**  
**&**  
**Notes**

**Public Affairs**  
**Alumni**  
**Association™**

October 2016

# ***Don Gilleland's New Book Covers Extraordinary Changes Creating Conflicts In America Today***

A source for reflection would be a good way to describe AFPAAA member Don Gilleland's fourth book, *America: A Conflicted Nation*, a collection of articles and columns he has written.

His central theme is "Our society is undergoing extraordinary changes ideologically, culturally, morally, and religiously." that ". . . may take many years to smooth out . . ."

As he addresses a variety of topics, including race relations, increased dependence on the government, civility, the economy, our judicial system, technology, and national defense, how you reflect on them may well be governed by your age and life experiences, and be different than Don's.

By juxtaposing the prevailing attitudes and conduct in America one or more generations ago with the attitudes and conduct today he spotlights the conflicts that people and institutions face now. For example, in terms of civility Don posits that "We are becoming an extraordinarily crass, egocentric, cynical and confrontational

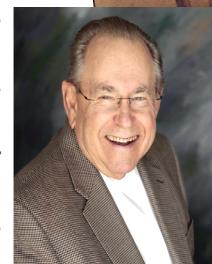
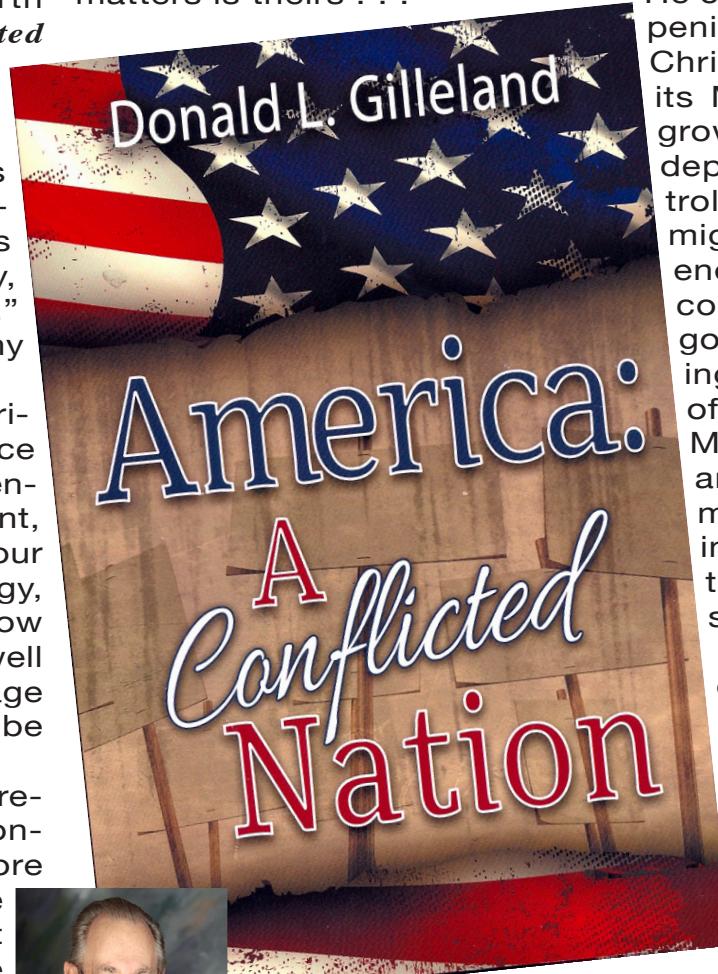
society in which many citizens seem to honestly believe the only opinion that matters is theirs . . ."

sions/confrontations.

Don does not shy away from controversial subjects. He covers what is happening in a mostly Christian America as its Muslim population grows; the nation's dependence on petroleum and what might be its future energy solution; the constant increase in government spending and the growth of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid; and the effect of military cutbacks, including sequestration, on national security.

Don has strong opinions on the topics he covers, but that should not be a deterrent to a reader as they are well stated and don't detract from a stimulating and good read.

— John Terino



Among the things he cites to support that contention are how people behave in a movie theater or in face-to-face discus-

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## **UFOs & Little Green Men Were A Big AF PR Problem**

In his article *UFOs are Real! The Air Force Doesn't Exist* AFPAAA founder Dave Shea covers one of the most controversial subjects in AF Public Affairs history. And he should know. Dave was SAF/OI's prime media spokesman for UFOs from 1967 to 1970. In 1969 he shepherded the release of the "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects," better known as The Condon Report. The report was to close project Blue Book and "More than 20 years of bitter experience with the highly emotional sub-

ject of UFOs . . ." during which the Air Force was subjected to charges of cover up and manipulation.

Dave's article is based on his University of Denver Master's thesis "The UFO Phenomenon: A Study in Public Relations," When first written in 1972 the article was denied clearance by the Air Force as being "unduly critical about the Air Force's handling of the situation." Now updated, AFPAAA members may request a copy of the article from Dave at [davidjshea@gmail.com](mailto:davidjshea@gmail.com)

### **Save Money And Help AFPAAA**

Get Don's book from AFPAAA's bookstore & save up to 30%! Go to: [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org) Click on PA Store. Click on AFPAAA Bookstore. Follow the instructions & click 'SEARCH' to order. AFPAAA earns a small commission for each book or any item ordered from Amazon through our web site.

# From The President's Pen —



*As summer quickly slipped past most of us, the new Air Force Chief of Staff, General David Goldfein, and the new Director of Public Affairs, Brigadier General Ed Thomas, got right to work. It will be exciting to see what changes they have in store for the world's greatest Air Force.*

*Just as we have seen several changes of Air Force and Public Affairs leadership in the past decade, so too has the make-up and work of the Public Affairs community changed. Today, all those now included in Public Affairs – traditional PA practitioners, photojournalists, broadcasters, videographers, bandsmen – are unsurpassed in their ability to tell the stories of what their fellow airmen are accomplishing. Now it's time we heard about these PAs themselves – their deployments, memorable missions, and day-to-day activities.*

*AFPAAA's latest web site endeavor is "In Their Own Words," Through it we are providing a platform to gather the stories of today's PAs. It will be a repository of blogs, videos and the individual's stories that will keep us connected to Air Force PAs across the various specialties in the career field.*

*If you have a blog, video, or a story on the web that tells your or another PA's story, we'd like to link to it. E-mail me at me at [judybivens@afpaaa.org](mailto:judybivens@afpaaa.org) While we're still working out the details, from what we have so far, we know you'll be interested to hear these stories in the individual's own words. We'll let you know when "In Their Own Words" is launched.*

*It's not too early to make your plans for our 24th Annual Membership Meeting, April 27-29 in Destin, Florida! We'll be there after the spring break crowds but before the temps get too hot. Take advantage of our limited number of special rate rooms at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort by making your reservations now (see registration form on page 5 for details). It should be a great get together with visits to Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base, and the chance to hear the latest from SAF/PA Director Brigadier General Ed Thomas.*

*If you have comments, ideas, or concerns to share, please feel free to e-mail or call me at (731) 610-0730.*

*— Judy Bivens*

# Lord Guard & Guide

## Thomas E. LaRock

Tom LaRock, who served 25-years in the Air Force, died June 19. He was 62.

Tom was born in Rochester, New York. He graduated from Bishop Flaget High School in Chillicothe, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University in 1976 and a master's degree in communications from Webster University in 1985.

His Air Force career began in 1977 as chief of internal information and media relations at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Subsequent assignments included working on the return of the American embassy hostages from Iran, serving in Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield, and as chief of media for NATO's Allied Forces Southern Europe.

Tom's final assignment was as Deputy Director of Public Affairs for Air Mobility Command. He retired in 2002 as a lieutenant colonel.

He was then employed as a communications specialist for the Boeing Company in St. Louis.

In 2006 he joined the Defense Finance and Accounting Services. As DFAS Director of Corporate Communications, Tom directed internal and external communication activities at 13 locations throughout the United States, Europe and the Pacific, as well as the legislative liaison function and Freedom of Information Act program.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Jan, and sons, Anthony and Alfredo Parris. Memorial contributions in Tom's name can be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Tom's passing was a shock to those of us who served with him in the air mobility community. There are probably less than a handful of public affairs members who were as knowledgeable about air mobility and global reach as Tom.

Knowing Tom's unquestioned capabilities and that the Desert Shield story of the early transport buildup of troops and equipment by air, land, and sea, needed to be told, I deployed him to Saudi Arabia to serve as the PA point man for the relatively newly formed US Transportation Command. He was quickly commandeered to CENTCOM commander General Schwarzkopf's media team.

Tom was a tireless, unpretentious team player who left us way too early. He is very much missed!

- Bud Ross



*So sad. When I arrived at Andrews AFB, April 3, 1981, I met Tom as part of the 89th Airlift Wing PA team. He was funny (dry sense of humour), kind, great to work with, a good mentor, and a great PA. Way too young - I'm 63, it makes my mortality closer. Rest in Peace, Sir. You will be missed.*

*- Ellen Louise Hatfield*

Tom and I worked together at a couple of assignments over the years, and he was my deputy at AMC. He was a gifted officer and a fine person. And he was just plain fun to be around. This is such sad news!

*- Linda Garlitz Leong*

*Lord, what a terrible shock. Tom and I worked together at Air Mobility Command and I could not have asked for a better partner to work tough issues. A superb officer and a great man. He will be missed. Will keep Maria in my prayers.*

*- Chuck Merlo*

Proud to say Tom was my friend. Sad that he passed so young.

*- Dave Thurston*

*This makes me sad. One of the first guys I worked with on my first duty assignment. I didn't know squat and he was so nice and patient.*

*- Jenny Lovett*

## Lawrence Orluskie

Larry Orluskie, served 24-years in the Air Force and was the Department of Homeland Security Deputy Director of Communications and Public Affairs when he died May 12 at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. He was 56.

Larry was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, and entered the Air Force after high school graduation. He had many Public Affairs assignments including NCOIC of Public Affairs at McGuire AFB, Public Relations Superintendent for the 436th Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, and the 51st Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem AB. His last assignment was in the Pentagon as a Media Operations Action Officer. He retired in 2001 as a master sergeant.

He held a number of positions at DHS until being selected as the Deputy Director of Communications and Public Affairs in January 2014. Before joining DHS in 2004, he worked for WBOC-TV in Baltimore and the Internal Revenue Service.



Larry is survived by his wife, Michelle Walczak; three daughters, Sophie, Emilee, and Lydia; his former wife, Christine Griffin Orluskie, and four grandchildren. Remembrances in his name may be made be made to the American Heart Association.

Rest in peace my friend. It was an honor to serve with you in the Air Force. Thoughts and prayers to Larry's family.

*- Bob Williams*

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**Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Larry Clavette; President, Judy Bivens; Vice President, Art Forster; Secretary, Tom Dolney, Treasurer, Phil Ratliff, Dick Abel, Connie Custer, Jay DeFrank, John Gura, Perry Nouis, John Terino and Johnny Whitaker. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff, Membership, Neil Buttmer; Oral History & Web site, John Gura; SAF/PA Liaison, Art Forster.

# Registration Form



24th Annual Membership Meeting  
April 27-30, 2017  
Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do you receive text messages at this number? Yes  No )

Guest(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want your name/guest name(s) to appear on name badges: \_\_\_\_\_

## Full Registration

**Includes all events, except golf, on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday.**

Please indicate the number of meal choice(s) for the Saturday banquet:

NY Strip Steak  Pan Seared Red Snapper  Vegetarian

How many in your party will go by bus to Hurlburt Field & Eglin AFB on Friday, April 28? \_\_\_\_\_

## Individual Event Registration

**Icebreaker Reception - Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort,  
Thursday, April 27, 5-7 p.m.**

**Breakfast - Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Friday, April 28.**

**President's Luncheon - Eglin AFB, Friday, April 28.**

*(Includes bus transportation from Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort to Hurlburt Field to Eglin AFB)*

**President's Luncheon Only – Eglin AFB, Friday, April 28.**

**Breakfast - Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Saturday, April 29.**

**SAF/PA Director's Luncheon, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort,  
Saturday, April 29.**

**AFPAAA Annual Reception and Banquet, Saturday, April 29, 6-10 p.m.**

Please indicate number of meal choice(s) for the banquet:

NY Strip Steak  Pan Seared Red Snapper  Vegetarian

**Please make your check or money order payable to: AFPAAA**

**Mail form and check/money order to: Phil Ratliff, Treasurer  
868 Trevino Terrace  
Lady Lake, FL 32159**

**To pay by credit card & register on line go to: <http://www.afpaaa.org/AnnMeet-Reg16.html>**

## Golf Outing

**Thursday, April 27, 8 a.m.** How many in your party will golf on April 27?

Make your golf reservation and get details, greens fees, and other costs from Joe Purka by April 24, via e-mail: [jwpurka@cox.net](mailto:jwpurka@cox.net) or phone: **(850) 897-5601**.

**Hotel:** AFPAAA has a block of rooms at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort at the rate of **\$139.00+11% tax** per night (single or double). This rate is valid from Monday, April 24 through Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Make reservations online at <http://www.sandestin.com/23L3Q3> or by calling **1 800 320-8115** and ask for group code **23L3Q3**. Reservations for this rate must be made by **April 7, 2017**. A one night room rate deposit is required to secure the reservation; the deposit is refundable if the reservation is cancelled at least 7 days prior to the scheduled arrival date.

**For the latest meeting information check AFPAAA's web site: <http://www.AFPAAA.org/annualmeet.html>**

**Registrations Are Due By  
April 20, 2017  
Registrations Received  
After This Date Will Be  
Charged A \$25 Per  
Person Late Fee**



P. O. Box 447  
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447  
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



**Welcome Aboard To . . .** new members  
*Michael L. Berman, Glenn A, Bethany,  
Beatrice M. Brown, Jake Chappelle,  
Chester Curtis, Elizabeth Gilbert, Carl  
P. Grusnick, Bill Harrison, Oshawn  
Jefferson, Dick Larsen, Dean Miller.  
Anthony January Mottola Jr., Catherine  
J. Scantlan, Anna Sullivan, Ed Thomas.*

**New Lifers . . .** congratulations to *Belinda  
Bazinet, Kathleen Cook, Wes Davis,  
David S. Naden* who have upgraded to  
Life Membership and to new Life Member  
*Anthony D. Roake.*

**Sayōnara Unit Public Affairs Representatives . . .** "The requirement to designate a Unit Public Affairs Representative to liaise with the Wing and higher headquarters will be eliminated across the Air Force. Instead, the Wing Public Affairs Office will work with unit leadership, as required, in our mission to communicate with the media and the public." This came about as part of new CSAF General David L. Goldfein's effort to have Airmen at the squadron and wing level focus on the Air Force's core missions to increase combat readiness; to that end the 61 additional duties under Air Force Instruction 38-206, "Additional Duty Management", were reviewed and 29 were either reassigned(11), reduced(10), or eliminated(8).

**Coming Technology . . .** the military implications of brain-machine interfaces, genetic modification, and new medical treatments as weapons are just some of the subjects in the Fall Strategic Studies Quarterly at: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/>