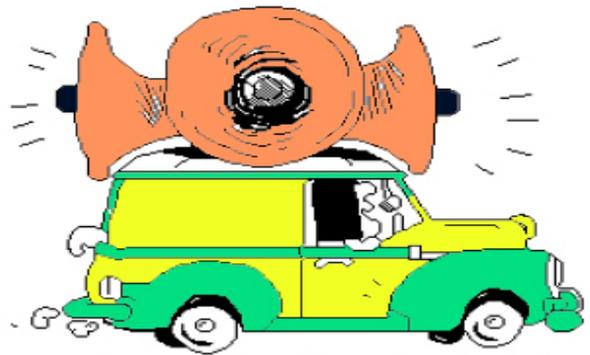


LAST CALL



For whatever reason, if you have been putting off doing all the things needed to ensure you're at our 23rd Annual Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs, May 12-14, now is the time to act.

Two key deadlines are at hand: Reduced rate reservations at the DoubleTree Hotel end on April 17, and meeting registrations without a late penalty are due by May 6. Complete hotel and registration information is on the form on page 7.

And, don't forget your travel arrangements – air fares go up the closer it is to your travel date.

From the welcome reception on Thursday evening to the banquet on Saturday evening there will be ample opportunity to chat and catch up with old friends. We'll find out what is going on in key portions

of today's Air Force when we visit Air Force Space Command and the Air Force Academy on Friday. After breakfast at the DoubleTree on Saturday we'll have briefings. Our business meeting will follow the Director's Luncheon, and the evening is reserved for our closing gala reception and banquet.

Tee It Up In The Springs Thurs!



If you are playing in the Annual Membership Meeting's optional golf outing on Thursday, May 12, you will probably need to arrive in Colorado Springs on Wednesday so you can be ready to leave the DoubleTree Hotel by 7 am the next day.

"We'll be playing at Peterson AFB's 18 hole, par 72, Silver Spruce Course at 8 am," said Perry Nouis, who made the arrangements. The green fee for 18 holes is \$28, carts rent for \$16, and club rental is \$25.

Those who take part will have to arrange their own transportation to the course. To get all the details and reserve a slot in the outing, as well as arranging transportation, contact Perry directly on his cell phone 320 493-7325, or send him an e-mail at perry.nouis@gmail.com

A:F

**Public Affairs
Alumni
Association™**

**News
&
Notes**

April 2016

Election To Fill Six Board Of Directors Slots

Six of the twelve elected seats on AFPAAA's board of directors are open this year.

With AFPAAA treasurer Jim Hart deciding not to run for another term, the names of five incumbent board members – Dick Abel, Judy Bivens, Larry Clavette, John Gura, and Johnny Whitaker – are on the ballot.

AFPAAA Life Member Connie Custer, who is seeking her first term,

is the sixth name on the ballot.

Biographies of the candidates accompany the ballot on page 5. Mailed ballots need to be received by Saturday, April 30. Those who prefer to vote electronically may do so via our web site <http://www.afpaaa.org/vote.html>

Voting is open to Full Members in good standing. Members who are eligible to vote and want to vote for someone whose name is not on the

ballot have the option of writing in the name of that person – but votes for only a max of six persons may be cast. Results will be announced May 14, at the Annual Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs.



25 Years Ago

USAF Shined In Desert Storm

When the American led multi-national coalition launched its air campaign and ultimate invasion of Kuwait to oust Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces, it gave the U.S. military a chance to display the combat skills it had honed and the advanced technology it had developed since the Vietnam conflict. The Air Force did just that.

Operation Desert Storm, from the preliminary air offensive that began on January 17, 1991 through the invasion of Kuwait which was launched on February 23, was the first full-scale employment of the Air Force's Total Force (Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve) in a major combat operation. More than 48,000 Reserve Airmen were recalled to assist CONUS-based missions and those directly supporting combat operations.

The USAF, its sister services, and the coalition's effectiveness in defeating the Iraqi forces was attested to by President George H. W. Bush. On February 28, just 100 hours after the invasion began, the President suspended offensive operations.

The rapid victory was achieved by the coalition's superior force, training, equipment, and technology. It was the first time that stealth and space systems support capabilities were used against a modern, integrated air defense.

The USAF flew more than 69,000 sorties using 30 types of



aircraft – including the A-10, B-52, C-12, C-130, C-141, F-15, F-16, and F-117A.* Air supremacy was quickly gained by coalition aircraft that quickly downed more than 39 Iraqi aircraft. Of 220,00 bombs dropped, 9,300 were laser-guided.

The most rapid airlift in history moved 472,800 people and 465,000 tons of cargo to the Persian Gulf in eight months. Space assets, including military and commercial GPS receivers, assisted forces on land, at sea, and in the air.

*USAF had 134 combat-coded fighter squadrons in 1991, today there are 54+1.

Group IO To Kentucky Adjutant General: Ed Tonini Completes Lengthy Air Guard Career

Talk about going from the bottom to the top and you are talking about Ed Tonini.

An AFPAAA member, Ed retired December 7 as a major general and Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard, completing nearly four decades in uniform.

Almost 26 years of Ed's career, which began in 1970 as the Information Officer for Kentucky's 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, were as a Public Affairs officer.

With the exception of a brief stint as a base fuels management officer in 1972, his various Public Affairs positions included chief of the Kentucky ANG Public Affairs Office from 1983-1996 when he became chief of staff of Kentucky's Air National Guard.

He was called to active duty and served

from 2001-2003 in the Pentagon as Director of the National Guard's Your Guardians of Freedom—an outreach program designed to build and sustain public support for America's airmen in the global war on terror.

Governor Steve Beshear appointed Ed the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2007. In addition to directing the day-to-day operations of Air and Army guard units, during his tenure he oversaw the largest guard call-up in the state's history to respond to a catastrophic ice storm and the construction of a new emergency operations center.

Among the many who honored Ed in retirement ceremonies in Louisville on November 21, was Lieutenant General Joseph Lengyel, Vice Chief of the National



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt Brandy Mort

Guard Bureau, who said "On behalf of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the other adjutants general not in attendance, we owe you a great deal of gratitude. We thank you for your distinguished service, both in the state and at the national level."

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P. O. Box 447, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447. On-line subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, as an Air Force Broadcaster, or in the multimedia career fields, as either military or civilian, are eligible for *Full Membership*. Current or former members of those career fields, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for *Associate Membership*. **Membership Rates:** Lifetime \$300 (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments); Full Membership, one-year \$25 or three years \$50. Associate Membership, one-year \$10 or three years \$20. Membership applications are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Clem Gaines; President, Larry Clavette; Vice President, Judy Bivens; Secretary, Art Forster; Treasurer, Jim Hart; Dick Abel, Jay DeFrank, Tom Dolney, John Gura, Perry Nouis, Phil Ratliff, John Terino and Johnny Whitaker. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Jim Hart; Membership, Neil Buttimer; Oral History & Web site, John Gura; SAF/PA Liaison, Art Forster.

From The President's Pen —



Wow, where does time go? There are only three months left of my year as your President! And we're only a month away from our Annual Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs. The on-site planning committee, led by Barry Grossman, working with our meeting coordinator, Perry Nouis, has done a superb job setting up a great meeting.

I've had great support from everyone and appreciate your ideas on how to make our association better. AFPAAA is the best of the many veterans' alumni groups that I know about. The membership's commitment to keeping it the best is noteworthy.

While the association was created for retired military and civilian members of the PA family, I believe we need to focus on today's airmen, officers and civilians so they will join AFPAAA and lead this association when they become eligible for full membership. In the last newsletter, I asked for your ideas or suggestions that can make the association more interesting to the younger generations. If you want to hear more about the suggestions and comments, please ask me when we are in Colorado Springs. I am happy to discuss in general what was said about ways to increase associate member interest in AFPAAA.

Most of you know that we already provide Public Affairs badges to Airmen at the Defense Information School. In years' past an AFPAAA member would pass out the badges and spend a few minutes discussing the association with the graduates. I hope to rekindle that practice and have received permission from DINFOS to have one of us attend the graduation ceremony when the badges are presented. More details to come once I work them out.

If you have not registered for our gathering in Colorado Springs, now is the time to do so. We have a dynamic program (see story on page 1 and registration form on page 7) that includes visits to Peterson AFB, the Air Force Academy, and much more.

I look forward to seeing all of you at AFPAAA's Annual Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs.

— Larry Clavette

Lord Guard & Guide

Candice Adams Ismirle

Candice Ismirle, who became a symbol of the battle against breast and other cancers for the Air Force and nationally, succumbed to the disease in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on February 12. She was 34.



She was born at Travis AFB, California, and was commissioned through AFROTC at Wilkes University. Her initial assignment was as a Public Affairs officer at the Air Force Sustainment Center, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. She went to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and then to DINFOS as an instructor. Her final assignment was at the Air Force Press Desk in the Pentagon. She was medically retired in July as a major.



She was medically retired in July as a major.

Candice battled cancer three times - in 2010, 2013, and last year, when she was unable to overcome the disease. Throughout she was optimistic, upbeat, and offering others with cancer encouragement. Her struggle was documented in *The Washington Post*.

Candice is survived by her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Ismirle, an F-15 pilot; twin sons, Rafe and Ryder; parents Michael and Sandra Adams, and her brother, Michael Andrew Adams II. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association (RRVA) and the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF) have established 529 college savings plans for tax-deductible contributions for the twins. Send checks to the RRVA, P.O. Box 1553, Front Royal, VA. 22630-0033; write "In Memory of Candice Ismirle" on the check.

To donate online via credit/debit card, go to the <http://www.river-rats.org/> click the 'Give Direct' button, fill in the blanks, and put "In Memory of Candice Ismirle" in the comments block. To help offset immediate expenses, tax-deductible donations can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/rememberingcandice>. Remembrances can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Candice had a unique ability to inspire both trust and affection in those around her. While a lieutenant, she filled in as the senior public affairs advisor to a three-star general and thrived. The general kept Candice close during

all public engagements and sought her advice despite her youth and minimal experience. She also inspired those below her to give their best at all times. The public affairs office she directed was named best in Pacific Air Forces under her leadership. And while Candice put together an impressive resume of military accomplishments, it was the relationships she developed that meant more to her. At each of these assignments, everyone around her grew to love and respect her as a superb officer and an even better human being.

– Lieutenant Colonel Allen Herriage, AU/AWC

Candice was always there to share anything she had – her time, her knowledge, a contact who could help, a joke to cheer you up or the hat off her head in a pinch. She shared all of these with me even in the short time we worked together. As an Airman, she was professional, creative and dedicated. As a friend, she was thoughtful, generous and fun. Our small community is richer for the time she spent in uniform, and her friends are richer for the time she spent with us.

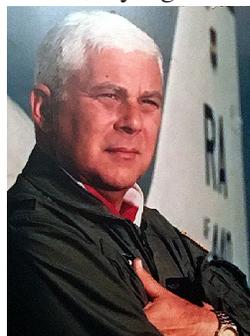
– Major Erika Yepsen, SAF/PA

Joseph S. Panvini

Joe Panvini, who served 29-years in the Air Force, died after a long battle with cancer on January 8 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 70.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1967 from Adelphi University. He also had a master's degree from Troy State University.

Joe was commissioned in 1968 from OTS. He completed pilot training and was assigned to Osan AB, Korea, flying C-47s. He then flew KC-135s at Grissom AFB, Indiana.



At NATO's Air South, Naples, Italy, he was aide to three general officers before he resumed flying KC-135s at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan. Assigned to the Pentagon as the KC-135 program element monitor, Joe's Public Affairs career began when he moved to SAF/PA as chief of the

Special Events Branch in the Community Relations Division.

He served at USAFE as Deputy Director of Public Affairs and in Panama as SOUTHCOM Director of Public Affairs.

Joe headed SAF/PA's New York Office from 1992 until August 1994 when he began his last assignment as commander of AFNEWS, San Antonio, Texas. He retired in 1997 as a colonel.

He is survived by his wife, Kirsten, son Josef, daughter-in-law Lydia Jones Panvini, and granddaughter Lily. Remembrances in Joe's name can be made to the American Cancer Society.

MAIL ONLY THIS BALLOT - DO NOT ENCLOSE REGISTRATION FORMS, CHECKS, OR OTHER ITEMS

Election - Vote Below For Six Board Members

The AFPAAA Board of Directors has 12 elected members who serve overlapping two-year terms. Six positions are open this year for terms beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2018. Only Full Members in good standing may vote. To be counted, all ballots must reach the Election Committee by Saturday, April 30, 2016. The candidates are below. Provision is made for a write-in vote but ballots may only be cast for six persons. Those wishing to vote electronically may do so by going to <http://www.afpaaa.org/vote.html>



Dick Abel has served three terms on the board. An internationally known speaker on family values, military affairs, and moral leadership and author of Leadership Is ALL About People, he is president of the instructional program of the same title, a seminar for people who desire to impact the lives of others. He is also ambassador at large and executive director emeritus of Military Ministry, a division of Campus Crusade International. A retired Air Force brigadier general and jet pilot, during his 30-year military career, he led an Air Force acrobatic team, was an assistant football coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy, escorted home five flights of returning POWs from Vietnam, served as special assistant to three four-star Navy admirals and one chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was director of Air Force Public Affairs.



Judy Bivens is a Life Member of AFPAAA and has been the Veterans Service Officer for McNairy County, Tennessee since 2004. She joined the Air Force in 1975, retrained into public affairs as a first-termer in 1980, and subsequently served in all areas of the career field. Her assignments included Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Reese AFB, Texas; Ankara Air Station, Turkey; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Headquarters, Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, Texas. Judy was promoted to chief master sergeant in 1994, and became the public affairs resource manager for Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill. In 1998, she became the chief of enlisted public affairs assignments at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB. Judy retired from the Air Force in 2001. She has a master's degree in management.



Larry Clavette is a Life Member of AFPAAA and is the Association's President. He's been in Air Force Public Affairs nearly 41 years. He is the director of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency in San Antonio, prior to that he was SAF/PA assistant deputy director of public affairs. Larry retired from active duty in 1993 after serving in various public affairs assignments and as an instructor and training development specialist at DINFOS. His Air Force civilian career began in 1993 at Griffiss AFB as chief of media relations and chief of public affairs. He was chief of public affairs for DFAS-Rome before moving to Offutt AFB as chief of community relations and deputy chief of public affairs. Larry was the chief of public affairs for the 14FTW, Columbus AFB, Mississippi, before moving to the Pentagon. He has a bachelor's degree in leadership and management.



Connie Custer is a Life Member of AFPAAA. She was commissioned through ROTC in 1977 as an Air Weapons Controller. After assignments at Luke AFB, AZ and Osan AB, Korea, she cross-trained into Public Affairs in 1980 and served at Brooks and Lackland AFBs; Tempelhof AB, Berlin, Germany; Andrews AFB; the Pentagon, and Robins AFB. After retiring she joined a DC executive communications training firm, then moved to Boeing and SAIC in public affairs. She helped with SAIC's Initial Public Offering on the NYSE in 2006, then became the vice president of Communications and Public Affairs at CNA, a nonprofit research organization. Connie owns Custer Communications, an executive communications coaching company. Her master's degree is in Management and Human Relations.



John Gura is a Lifetime Founder who served as AFPAAA's 3rd President and Board Chairman. In 1997 He created and continues to provide support for the AFPAAA web site and Oral History Program. He has also chaired four Annual Meetings. John spent 21 years as a USAF Public Affairs Officer, holding wing, MAJCOM, SAF/PA and Joint jobs, including stints as Chief of the Chicago field office and Department Director and Deputy Commander of DINFOS. He retired in 1983. Subsequently, he worked in corporate marketing and production positions until 2000 when he helped found HomeSafe Environmental, Inc., a California environmental training and testing firm where he serves as President.



Johnny Whitaker is a Life Member and on AFPAAA's Board. He is Director of Communications for the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company's Marietta, Georgia, operations (AF Plant #6). He joined Lockheed Martin in 2008 after nearly 35 years as an Air Force Public Affairs officer and senior civilian. A 1973 US Air Force Academy graduate, he has an MA in communications from the University of Oklahoma. He retired from active duty as a colonel in 2003 as Director of Public Affairs for Air Combat Command. He was also Director of Public Affairs, Air Education and Training Command; SAF/PA Deputy Director, and Commander, 14th Support Group, Columbus AFB, Mississippi. He was the first civilian Director of Communications at the USAF Academy for five tumultuous years that included high-visibility sexual assault, Honor Code and religious respect issues.

Ballot – AFPAAA Board of Directors Candidates – 2016

Instructions

Only Full Members in good standing (dues paid) of AFPAAA are eligible to vote; if you do not meet this criteria do not submit a ballot. Select or write in only six names.

Dick Abel **Judy Bivens** **Larry Clavette** **Connie Custer** **John Gura** **Johnny Whitaker**

Other _____

Print Your Name _____ Signature _____

Remove entire page, fold in half so address on reverse shows, TAPE Shut - Do Not Staple, affix stamp, and mail to arrive not later than Saturday, April 30, 2016.



Place
Stamp
Here

Kathy McCollom
AFPAAA Elections Chairman
5009 Donovan Drive
Alexandria VA 22304-8620

Kathy McCollom
AFPAAA Elections Chairman
5009 Donovan Drive
Alexandria VA 22304-8620



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 total number of meal choice(s) for the Saturday banquet:
 Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

How many in your party will go by bus to Peterson AFB & the Air Force Academy on Friday, May 13? _____

Members Attending ___ x \$200 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$175 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$300 = \$ _____

Individual Event Registration

Icebreaker Reception - DoubleTree Hotel, Thursday, May 12, 5-7 p.m.

Members Attending ___ x \$20 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$20 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$25 = \$ _____

Breakfast - DoubleTree Hotel, Friday, May 13.

Members Attending ___ x \$25 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$25 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$30 = \$ _____

Peterson AFB, President's Luncheon, Friday, May 13.
 (Includes bus transportation to Peterson AFB)

Members Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$85 = \$ _____

President's Luncheon Only – Peterson AFB, Friday, May 13.

Members Attending ___ x \$35 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$35 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$45 = \$ _____

Breakfast - DoubleTree Hotel, Saturday, May 14.

Members Attending ___ x \$25 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$25 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$30 = \$ _____

Director's Luncheon, Saturday, May 14.

Members Attending ___ x \$60 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$60 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$70 = \$ _____

Director's Luncheon Only, DoubleTree Hotel, Saturday, May 14.

Members Attending ___ x \$50 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$50 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$60 = \$ _____

AFPAAA Annual Reception and Banquet, Saturday, May 14, 6-10 p.m.

Please indicate number of meal choice(s) for the banquet:
 Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Members Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
 Guests Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
 Non Members ___ x \$85 = \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to: AFPAAA

Total Remitted \$ _____

Mail form and check/money order to: **Jim Hart, Treasurer**
 7371 Cox Road
 Bascom FL 32423

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

**Registrations Are Due By
 May 6, 2016
 Registrations Received
 After This Date Will Be
 Charged A \$25 Per
 Person Late Fee**

Hotel: AFPAAA has a block of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton Colorado Springs at \$109.00+tax per night (single or double). Make reservations by calling 1 800 774-1500 or 719 576-8900 and ask for discount code **AFP**. Reservations for this rate must be made by **April 17, 2016**.

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



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



**Prop Wash
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Welcome Aboard To . . . *new members Robert B. Chambers, Tom Garcia, and Robert Palmer.*

New Lifers . . . *Congratulations to Linda Chick Haseloff and Greg Smith on signing on for the long haul.*

She's Got A New Gig . . . *AFPAAA Lifetime Founder, Donna Christian Stratford, has joined Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) Corporate Communications to develop communication plans and products to tell the VBA story. She returns to civil service from private industry, recently retiring from Northrop Grumman.*

Congratulations . . . *to Air Force and airpower supporter, the Air Force Association. This year marks its 70th Anniversary. Looking back, AFA proudly states "Feb. 4, 2016, marked the 70th Anniversary of the Air Force Association, which publishes Air Force Magazine. In 1946, AFA was created by aviation pioneers Gen. James "Jimmy" Doolittle and Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold with the express purpose of establishing the Air Force as a separate service. One year later, after a nationwide grassroots advocacy campaign, the Air Force was established . . . Everything AFA does advocates for a dominant Air Force."*

Keep up with AFA's efforts and what is going on in the Air Force through free access to Air Force Magazine and its archived Daily Reports by going to www.airforcemag.com

