

News and Notes

October–December 2024



INSIDE

From the President’s Pen 2

Photos from San Antonio 4

Story of Fort Gregg-Adams namesake told in film 10

Dalton Scholarship application period begins in March ... 12

Lord Guard and Guide 13



Attendees at this year’s annual meeting pose in front of the K-9 Memorial at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, home of Air Force basic training. The memorial is adjacent to the parade field where all basic training graduations are held. (Photo by Dick Cole)

Meeting for 2025 delayed to Spring 2026

Successful annual membership meeting concludes in San Antonio

By Jim McGuire

The association's 28th annual meeting was held October 3-5, at the Wyndham LaQuinta San Antonio Riverwalk right by the world famous Riverwalk in beautiful San Antonio, Texas.

This year’s meeting was attended by 124 members, spouses and guests.

The Tex-Mex food was hot and the weather even hotter, and AFPAA members had the opportunity to both enjoy the great scenery and receive timely briefings and updates on Friday, Oct. 4, from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base’s 37th Training Wing, Col. Tony Wickman of the Air Force Public

Affairs Agency and Col. Beth Horine from the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (Public Affairs) — SAF/PA. There was even a visit from Miss America 2024 Air Force 2Lt. Madison Marsh.

Guest speakers at the Saturday, Oct. 5, re-blueing sessions included retired colonel and former Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Philip J “PJ” Crowley, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers, and 2023’s “Best of the Best” selectee Ken Raimondi.

Saturday evening’s banquet honored the 2024 inductees into the Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame — Art Forster, Jim Hart,

(cont’d on p. 3)



From the President's pen...



Tempus Fugit-Time Flies and as 2024 draws to a close, we can look back at a year highlighted by our annual Air Force Public Affairs Association meeting and a great reunion with our Public Affairs friends and colleagues in San Antonio, Tex. Thanks to board member Perry Nouis, who again led the planning and coordination team's effort to ensure those attending enjoyed the itinerary, social events and the chance to reconnect with fellow PA airmen.

Of the many highlights was honoring (Brig. Gen., Ret.) Jim Hart, (Brig. Gen., Ret.) Ron Rand, (Col., Ret.) Art Forster and the late famed WWII Army Air Forces band leader Maj. Glenn Miller with their induction into our Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame. (Col., Ret.) Jay DeFrank received the Brig. Gen. Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award as presented by its namesake and former Director of Air Force Public Affairs. Family members were on hand for their recognition before peers as their supporting roles were recognized and appreciated. What stood out to me was the awards dinner audience hearing the awardees personal stories, motivations and sharing their heartfelt appreciation for their wingmen teammates who've enabled their successes in advocating our Air Force mission areas.

These gatherings really demonstrate the bonds created over years of shared service to our nation and the enduring friendships rekindled as well as the new ones made each reunion. Mark your calendars now and pre-plan to join us in Fairfield, (Northern) Calif., near Napa Valley and Travis AFB as we are already starting on the itinerary and agenda for Springtime-possibly late April 2026. Yes, that is not a typo but one that allows plenty of advance planning time for Air Mobility Command's 60th Air Mobility Wing there to host us so we might witness how airmen serving there execute their challenging global mission.

As we enter the new year, let us think of new and creative ways to help grow our membership and attract currently serving Public Affairs, Bands, Broadcaster and Audiovisual Airmen. Our value proposition is strong, and we want to be inclusive of the Reserve components. As the AFPAA membership, we exist to be advocates of the Air Force Public Affairs operational mission. We also strive to recognize, help mentor and support the Airmen who serve in the limelight to proactively communicate with the American public. Their mission is to help create an informed understanding of Air and Space power as a force multiplier in keeping the peace and deterring aggression in an uncertain world.

Wishing you and yours a safe holiday season and look forward to 2025!

Flak

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Annual Meeting (cont'd from p. 1)

Glenn Miller and Ron Rand—and the 2024 recipient of the Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award Jay DeFrank. Outstanding musical entertainment was provided by Shavonne Conroy.

It was suggested during a Board of Directors meeting in August that the Association return to a springtime schedule for its annual meetings. After fall meetings in Tampa and San Antonio, there was discussion about moving the planned meeting in Fairfield, Calif., planned for October 2025, to a spring 2026 meeting instead. There was not a primary reason cited to make the move other than expressed preferences. Half of the board members present expressed a desire to return to a springtime meeting and the other half were indifferent.

“For logistical reasons, the annual meeting committee decided springtime 2026 would allow sufficient time to coordinate a meet-

(cont'd on p. 19)



Mike McRaney, left, presented Jay DeFrank with the AFPAA Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award at Saturday's banquet. The award recognizes an individual for distinguished service to the association and is determined by the association board. (Photo by Dick Cole)



Above: Former Air Force public affairs officer and former Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs P.J. Crowley's presentation was a follow up to his presentation at last year's annual meeting titled "Decisions to be Made." He again discussed current world affairs, concentrating on relations with China; U.S. support of Ukraine against Russia's incursion and the potential of China moving on Taiwan. Left: Miss America 2024, Air Force 2Lt. Madison Marsh, spoke briefly at the President's luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 5. Marsh graduated from the Air Force Academy in the spring of 2023 with a degree in physics. Upon her commissioning, she received a pilot's billet. After being selected as Miss America, her attendance at pilot training was postponed and she was assigned to public affairs/recruiting for the year she is Miss America. (Photos by Dick Cole)



PHOTOS FROM SAN ANTONIO



Art and Janet Forster speak with Mike McRaney at the Meet and Greet.



Left to right, Don Brownlee, Johnny Whitaker, Ron Rand and Hal Smarkola enjoy a libation at the Meet and Greet.



Annual meeting committee chair Perry Nouis greets the attendees at the Meet and Greet.



Clem Gaines admires his wife, Jean's AFPAA painted nails with Christine Queen.



Right: Immediately following the Meet and Greet, a number of attendees found their way to area Tex-Mex restaurants.





Above: Attendees enjoying breakfast and getting caught up before an activity-packed Friday. **Left:** Judy Bivens helps herself to scrambled eggs at the Friday morning breakfast buffet.



First stop on Friday's tour of Lackland was the Pfingston Reception Center where all "Rainbows" begin basic training. Attendees were briefed on the whole basic training process by NCOs from the 37th Training Wing.



J.T.L. "Combat HO" English, the 37th Training Wing Historian, met us at the Pfingston Reception Center and explained the purpose of the Pfingston Center and how it replaced the "green monster" warehouse where trainees used to get their initial uniform issue. Trainees also attend multiple classes at the center.



Following the Pfingston Center, attendees toured the Lackland Museum.



Posing for a shot on the Parade Ground next to a C-47.



Lackland tour participants pose for a group photo at the Military Working Dog Monument adjacent to the parade ground.



2Lt. Madison Marsh, the 2024 Miss America, spoke briefly at the President's Luncheon at the Lackland Gateway Club. She has been detailed to Public Affairs for the duration of her Miss America reign.



All of the ladies present for the President's Luncheon posed with 2Lt. Marsh at the end of the luncheon.



Col. Tony Wickman, commander of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency, gave a briefing about the organization and their mission and activities.



Several attendees participated in the Riverwalk cruise of Friday evening.



AFPAA President Eric "Flak" Schnaible and Chairman of the Board John Dorrian watch the cruise from the shore.



Retired Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas spoke about recruiting challenges.



Above: Retired Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers spoke about the current Air Force budgetary environment. Left: P.J. Crowley discussed U. S. foreign policy following the election.



Art Forster brought the clan with him to celebrate his induction into the Hall of Fame. They are (l. to r.): son Col. (Dr.) Chris Forster, U. S. Army; Art's wife Janet; Art, granddaughter Jillian; daughter-in-law Kelly, son Rob; granddaughter Olivia and granddaughter Sydney.



Shavonne Conroy, a guest of Hal Smarkola, serenades Terry "Doc" Holliday during her music performance at the award banquet and Hall of Fame induction.



Shavonne and her husband, civilian flight instructor Ray Hoese, attended the annual meeting as Hal Smarkola's guests and he proudly introduced them to everyone at the banquet.



Photos 1 and 2: Winner of the Brig. Gen. James W. Hart Best of the Best Award, SSgt Rachel Van Zale, accepts her awards from AFPAA Chairman of the Board John Dorrian at the banquet. Photo 3: Art Forster accepts his Hall of Fame Award from President Eric Schnaible. Photo 4: Ron Rand accepts his Hall of Fame Award from President Eric Schnaible. Photo 5: Mike McRaney presented Jay DeFrank with the AFPAA Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award at Saturday's banquet.



Kerry Washington portrays Army Maj. Charity Adams, commander of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in the Tyler Perry written and directed film, *The Six Triple Eight*, released on Netflix over the Christmas holiday. (Photo via Netflix)

[The Six Triple Eight featured on Netflix](#)

Story of Fort Gregg-Adams namesake told in film

By Dick Cole
Editor

Over the holidays, Netflix released a film written and directed by Tyler Perry about the all-Black woman Army unit, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion that served in Europe during the waning days of World War II. I must admit that I had never heard of the unit until Fort Lee adjacent to my home in Chester, Va., was renamed Fort Gregg-Adams. The Adams in the fort's new name is Lt. Col. Charity Adams, the commander of the 6888th, referred to as the "Six Triple Eight." So, I was looking forward to the film to learn more about Adams and her contributions to the Army.

I am sad to say that I was disappointed in the film. Having been a military historian and an advisor to motion picture production companies during the making of three military movies, there was much to find wrong with Perry's *The Six Triple Eight*.

To Perry's credit, he was clearly trying to create a film like *Hidden Figures*, the untold story of three Black woman mathematicians and their work at NASA during the Space Race of the 1960s. Both *The Six Triple Eight* and *Hidden Figures* cover similar themes, with Black women working in a previously all-male field and succeeding while contending with both sexism and racism. Despite the many layers of injustice the women face, *Hidden Figures* has an uplifting tone. It was nominated for the Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay Academy Awards, and Octavia Spencer was nominated for Best Actress during 2016.

Unfortunately, *The Six Triple Eight* falls well short of that level of tone, authenticity and historical truth.

The film opens in December 1943 at San Pietro, Italy. A white soldier winding through trenches, (there was no trench warfare in WWII like that depicted in the film, particularly in Italy) then storms the broken landscape with his battalion only to narrowly miss being struck by a P-51D fighter crashing to the

ground. The soldier pulls the pilot from the wreckage, taking a bloody letter from his flight suit pocket that'll sit, undelivered, in an Army warehouse for years.

From the battlefield, Perry leaps backward to 1942 in Bloomfield, Pa., where Lena Derriecott King (Ebony Obsidian) is bidding adieu to her white Jewish boyfriend Abram David (Gregg Sulkin). Never mind that there were anti-miscegenation laws in all but one state in 1942 prohibiting mixed-race relationships. (These laws weren't overturned until 1964 when the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that laws banning interracial relationships violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.) King also attends a non-segregated school which did not exist in 1942.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not defending racism or segregation, but including these untruths in a period drama makes the true racism that the women face in the film less important than it should be and easier to disregard. Had Perry been true to history, he would have increased the importance of what the 6888th achieved 80 years ago.

The best scenes in the film were the women working together to determine how to get 17 million pieces of mail delivered to their intended recipients.

Abram's sudden death during the war pushes us forward to 1944, at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., where a newly enlisted King falls under the command of Maj. Charity Adams (Kerry Washington). Adams tells her battalion that they were not born with the luxury of being White and, therefore, must bear the burden of being better. This is the moment you realize what Perry's film is really about. The "mail" crisis was just a task. The real conflict is at home. Before waging a war against Hitler, these women of color had to first win a battle against the oppression and racial discrimination of their own country.

Actor Dean Norris' fictional character, Lt. Gen. Halt, is just there to remind us of the kind of evil

forces they were up against. In real life, Adams did work under the command of someone named Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee. In 1944, she was working as a training center control officer at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, (not Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.), and I doubt the environment there was as Perry depicts it in the "racist South." She and her unit deployed from Iowa to Birmingham, England, to handle the mail delivery operation. Halt (Norris) represents all the racist military men that the 6888th came across during their time in the Army.

Each and every bad white person in the movie—all with heavy Southern accents—is so cartoonishly awful that it's almost funny at times. And it shouldn't be! These women dealt with a lot of racism and nothing about that is funny.

One other item I noticed in the movie was that most of the women were privates or PFCs. There wasn't a non-commissioned officer any-

where! In Perry's film, the women were privates or officers. He completely neglected the importance of and contributions of NCOs to the accomplishment of the mission.

The film also appears to have been made without Army or DoD assistance.

Kerry Washington was able to provide a performance that, in my opinion, saved the premise of the movie. Only her scenes as Adams seemed to drive home what *The Six Triple*

Eight should've been all about—the feat of sorting through a backlog of correspondence between American soldiers and their loved ones while a racist military expects and awaits their failure.

My biggest issue, though, was that Perry stereotypically portrays the misogyny the women face at every turn. In fact, Perry seems more concerned with showing those degrading and minimizing moments than the exceptional achievement of the 6888th. The 855 members of the unit accomplished their daunting six-month task in just three months, much to the surprise and resentment of Army leaders who weren't keen on desegregation in the armed forces.





Dalton Scholarship application period begins in March!

Chuck Merlo
Dalton Scholarship Committee Chair

The Air Force Public Affairs Association will be accepting applications for the Brig. Gen. H.J. Dalton Jr. Scholarship program from March 1 to May 31, 2025. All active, Reserve and Guard 3NXX or 35X members and Air Force civilians in a core public affairs occupational series or assigned to a public affairs office are eligible to apply.

The program is not limited to just traditional public affairs members but also band members, Combat Camera and audiovisual Air Force personnel and employees.

The first career Public Affairs officer to make brigadier general and head SAF/PA, Jerry Dalton worked tirelessly throughout his

military and civilian careers to promote the advancement of the public affairs profession.

Dalton was well known for his commitment to mentoring and encouraging the professional development of Public Affairs personnel. He strongly promoted the value of PAs of taking advantage of educational opportunities provided by programs like Education With Industry, the Air

This is the fourth year of the program. It offers recipients up to \$1,000 to fund not just college courses but also seminars, workshops, music lessons and courses provided by professional organizations (e.g., PRSA) specifically aimed at enhancing skills related to the PA career field.

Force Institute of Technology and the Air Force Short Course in Communications. He also advocated PAs achieving professional accreditation from organizations like the Public Relations Society

of America (PRSA).

This is the fourth year of the program. It offers recipients up to \$1,000 to fund not just college courses but also seminars, workshops, music lessons and courses provided by professional organizations (e.g., PRSA) specifically aimed at enhancing skills related to the PA career field. AFPAA encourages PAs to first maximize their use of Air Force tuition assistance before applying for a Dalton Scholarship. This provides more Dalton Scholarships to be available for professional development opportunities for which Air Force funding is not available.

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships can be awarded each year. More scholarships may be awarded in a year depending on the funds required to meet the cost of selected applicants' training and education.

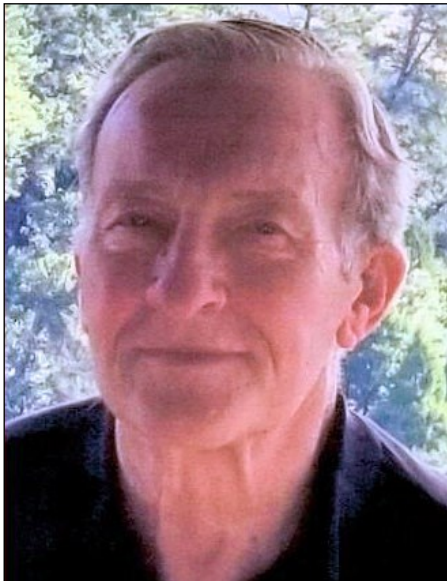
Payment will be made to the scholarship recipients upon successful completion of the approved course work. Recipients can apply for additional scholar-

ships in successive years if they have successfully completed their previous course work.

Those wishing to apply should visit the Dalton Scholarship page on the AFPAA website ([https://](https://afpaaa.org/scholarship.html)

afpaaa.org/scholarship.html) for a full description of the program. You can click on the link in the "How To Apply" section of that page to access an application form.

LORD GUARD AND GUIDE



LARRY E. JOHNSON

Larry passed peacefully on April 18, 2024, at home. He was born to Virgil and Leona (Suttee) Johnson at their farm near Greenfield, Mo., November 18, 1931. Larry received elementary and high school education in a one room schoolhouse in Greenfield. He went through ROTC to help with his tuition costs at University of Missouri.

He graduated from U of M School of Journalism with a bachelor degree in 1954 and later went to Pepperdine University where he received an MBA in 1975.

Larry met June (Burge) while attending U of M. They were

married in 1955.

Following graduation from U of M, he served in the U.S. Air Force in West Germany for three years. Upon returning to the United States where he remained in the Air Force Reserves until 1985 retiring as a colonel in Public Affairs. He was assigned duties in Los Angeles, San Francisco and the Pentagon.

Daughter Laura and son Brian were born while living in Shawnee, Kan. Larry was hired as a reporter for the *Kansas City Star*. He became an editor for the *Financial Publications* magazine. He later worked for Pacific Bell in public relations and moved the young family to California where daughter Vicky was born in San Jose.

Larry retired at 55 from AT&T when his passion for travel enticed him to become a travel agent. Larry and June moved to Napa and spent many years traveling and enjoying the valley. June passed in 2005.

Larry later met Karen Scaruffi on a blind date and they were married in 2007. Larry and Karen together enjoyed his passion for travel and were able to see many famous sites around the world.

Additional interests included tennis, cross country skiing, music, reading, bocce ball, photog-

raphy and being a wine enthusiast. He was also a member and past President of the Military Order of Wine Tasters. He was a member of Branch 149 SIRS Napa, Divine Diners, Friends of the Napa Library, MOAA, AFPAA, and Napa Valley Lutheran Church.

Larry enjoyed being with his family the most and telling his long tales from his life's adventures. He was a kind, gentle and compassionate man who filled our lives with love and laughter. Larry was predeceased by his brother Leon and daughter Laura Tryon. He is survived by his wife Karen, daughter Vicky Bright (David) of Abilene Tex., son Brian Johnson (Tammy) of Chandler, Ariz., son-in-law Grant Tryon, Sacramento, Calif., and sister Doris Jones (Murl) of South Greenfield, Mo. Larry is also survived by eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren and his extended family with Karen.

E. CARLTON JONES

Carlton Jones, 74, died on December 20, 2020. A dedicated public servant, he spent over 20 years as a communications professional first in the U.S. Air Force, and then at the

(cont'd on next page)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Department of Homeland Security.

While in the Air Force, he was assigned to Vietnam, and assisted with Operation Homecoming—service he valued highly the rest of his life.

He was the editor of the *Coosa County News* in Rockford, Ala., where he met Ann, his wife of 26 years. He could make friends wherever he went and enjoyed meeting new people, even if only to have new ears for the stories he told.

While employed at NASA he was involved in the distribution information after the Challenger disaster in 1986, and also contributed to shuttle missions involving Discovery and Columbia. Later, he began working at the Border Patrol. His work with the organization took him to Washington D.C. to assist in early efforts standing up the Department of Homeland Security.

In his personal life he continued writing and self-published a novel. Jones was preceded in death by his parents Charlotte and Eldred, and sister Sue. He is survived by his wife, Ann, son, Waid, and beloved sister, Amy.

A memorial service was not held. He was interred in the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.



GERALD M. FRY

Gerry Fry passed away peacefully on December 7, 2022, at his home in Thousand Oaks at the age of 89, following one year of medical challenges.

He was born March 20, 1933, in Spokane, Wash., the son of William and Pearl Fry. He was preceded in death by his brother Kenneth Fry and his sister Beulah Kuhlman Luck. He developed an intense interest in radio broadcasting from his early childhood, which served him well throughout his lifetime.

He attended North Central High School in Spokane. He actively participated in the school newspaper, drama department, as well as the high school band.

Gerry is a graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., class of 1954, with a B.A. in Speech and Dramatic Arts. While at Whitman, he established a campus radio station, produced and announced weekly classical pipe organ concerts, was active in dramatic produc-

tions, announced for KUJ, and was a charter member of the Whitman Radio Guild. He was selected for *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. He served as president of his Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and in 1954, the national fraternity named him "Top TKE of the Year."

He is a graduate of the NBC Radio and Television Institute at Stanford University, including broadcasting experience at KNBC and KPIX in San Francisco. After graduation, he announced, produced and directed commercials at TV stations, KFBB in Great Falls, Mont., KIDO-TV in Boise, Idaho, KHSL-TV in Chico, and KCRA-TV in Sacramento, Calif.

In the Army he served two years as Chief, Radio & TV Branch, 10th Infantry Division Public Information Office at Wuerzburg, Germany. It was in Sacramento that he met his future wife, who was employed at KOVR-TV (ABC). Gerry married Martha "Marty" Metzler on December 22, 1963.

In 1964, he was named civilian Program Director of the Southern Command Network in the former Panama Canal Zone, a position he held for the next 12 years. During those years in Panama, two daughters joined the family, Malena and Alison. In 1976, Gerry became Assistant Director of the Navy Broadcasting Service in the Pentagon. In 1982, he became Director of Programming for Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) in Hollywood, where he helped produce and distribute programming for 400 radio and some 40 TV outlets in coun-

tries around the world.

He was awarded both the Navy Superior Civilian Services Medal, the second highest civilian honor given by the Navy, and the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

After 32 years with AFRTS, Gerry retired, but remained active in the broadcast community as a member of the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters. Since 1982, Gerry has served on its board of directors, as audio historian, and as its website manager. He served on the Thousand Oaks' Citizens Advisory Cable Television Committee, and for ten years he was as a background actor in film, TV shows, commercials and music videos.

In 2013, Gerry was honored by Whitman College with the Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement, for his "remarkable career in radio and television that exemplifies the benefits of a liberal arts education." Gerry and his family have resided in Thousand Oaks since 1982. His prime focus was always his immediate family, all of whom live nearby.

Gerry left behind his wife of 59 years, Marty, daughters Malena Murray and Alison Bahr, son-in-law Roger Murray, granddaughters Makenna Murray and Madison Murray, grandsons Mason Bahr, Clayton Murray, and Dylan Bahr, and great-granddaughter Ryann Bishop.

Cremation services were provided by Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks in Westlake Village following a private celebration of life.



JOHN P. MEYER

John Peter Meyer passed away July 17, 2024, at the age of 84. Born July 2, 1940, in Dyersville, Iowa, he spent most of his life in San Mateo, Calif.

He graduated from Xavier High School in 1958 and earned his bachelor's degree from Marquette University in 1962. Upon graduation, he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he achieved the rank of major during a 20-year career encompassing both active duty and reserves as a public affairs officer. His service included the Vietnam War and the completion of his MBA from Golden Gate University. One of the pearls of wisdom he shared from this time was to provide, "maximum disclosure, with minimum delay," in times of crisis or uncertainty.

John worked for Atlas Heating and Ventilating Co, the family business, for more than 40 years, where he provided top-notch customer service as a sales and

service representative.

Though an only child, John had a large, close-knit extended family and then married into an even larger, close-knit family. He became a central figure, often manning the grill for Friday night barbecues and hosting festive gatherings where he had a unique ability to bring people together in laughter and song.

Those who knew John remember him for his love of sharing puns, belting out karaoke (especially Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline"), and his passion for San Francisco Giants baseball. He served as writer and editor of the popular "SF Giants Booster Club" newspaper. He coached many of his kids' soccer teams and was a willing volunteer at their schools and at his parish.

Most importantly, he cherished his family and created lasting memories with them both in Iowa and California.

John is survived by his wife of 56 years, Theresa (Terry) Meyer; children Peter, Robert, Jenny (Corey) Rosen, and Joan (Matt) Nessier; grandchildren Henry, Noli, Collin, and Audrey; along with countless cousins, godchildren, tennis buddies, breakfast club members, schoolmates, and lifelong friends. John was predeceased by his parents, Elmer and Marie.

All the way to the end, John experienced joy and greatly relished the company and support of his family, playing cards, telling stories, and singing along to his favorite 1950s tunes. He loved returning to Dyersville for high school reunions and to visit the Field of Dreams.

A ceremony honoring John was held at St. Catherine of Siena Par-

(cont'd on next page)

ish, Burlingame, Calif., Aug. 13, 2024.



WARREN T. LEE

Senior Master Sergeant Warren T. Lee, USAF (Ret.), 80, of Fredericksburg, Va., passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on October 29, 2024.

Born in Florida on July 28, 1944, Warren led an extraordinary life of dedication, service, and love that took him all over the world.

A graduate of Sebring High School, Sebring, Fla., in 1961, Warren continued his education at the Community College of the Air Force.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966, embarking on a distinguished career spanning over two decades. His service took him across the globe, including postings in Pakistan, Germany, Greenland, Turkey, and various bases within the United States. Among his notable assignments were two tours at the De-

fense Information School, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN, and a final post at the Pentagon from which he retired in 1988. He started as a military police officer and quickly found his true calling with Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS).

Following his retirement from active duty, Warren continued to serve his country as a civilian employee with AFRTS in the Washington D.C. area, retiring in 2008. In his 40 years with AFRTS he had many memorable experiences including being in the Oval Office with President Reagan, flying on Air Force One with President Clinton, interviewing President George W. Bush as well as multiple Secretaries of Defense, Laura Bush and Arthur Ashe. He served many roles including DJ, news anchor, station manager and instructor. He mentored many broadcasters who he continued to hear from over the years.

During his retirement years he became a licensed amateur radio operator and instructor. He was very active with the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club, assisting with events, teaching classes, testing, and serving as club president. He was also a lifetime member of the Virginia Fone Net (VFN). He enjoyed traveling in his Chinook motor coach with his wife and golden retriever visiting new places and his family.

He was a life long learner, skill woodworker, and could fix almost anything.

In his last few years, Warren

lived in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he received wonderful care from the doctors, nurses, and staff at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Warren is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 59 years, Bonnie Lee; daughter, Heidi Imes, and her husband, Steve Imes of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; son, Kristiaan Lee, and his wife, Amy Lee of McKinney, Tex.; and cherished grandchildren, Jackson Lee, Holland Imes, and Toby Lee.

A service was held on December 17, 2024 at Quantico National Cemetery in Quantico, Va, where Warren was interred

I worked with Warren when I was the AFSINC/AFBS (now AFPAA) liaison to Headquarters AFIS in the late 80s. We worked together on budgeting issues and on several production projects for the Radio/TV Production Office (RTPO). He had a fantastic sense of humor and was a real pro! He will be missed.

— Dick Cole

Warren was a true gentleman, knowledgeable senior NCO who could be counted on for competent advice but also superb leadership. I first got acquainted with Warren when he was station manager at Incirlik AB, Turkey, in '84 and got reacquainted during our time together at AFIS in the '90s. A great example for everyone.

— Glen Brady



MACK D. SECORD

Mack Donaldson Secord, 92, died July 3, 2024 at Rock Hill, S.C..

Secord was born September 24, 1931 in Montgomery, Ala., the only child of the late Gladys Donaldson Secord and Malcolm Munroe Secord. He was known as “Don” to his family, “Daddy Don” to his grandchildren and “Mack” to most other people. He grew up in Birmingham, and graduated from Phillips High School in 1948. He and his mother spent their summers in her hometown of Pontotoc, Miss., with his grandparents.

Mack received his undergraduate degree in broadcasting from the University of Alabama in 1952. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and for the next 22 years, served in a variety of pilot, flight instructor, and spokesman positions for the Air Force.

Among his many military honors, he received the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying

Cross for the mission to rescue missionaries from the Belgian Congo in 1964. He also earned a master’s degree in management systems from the University of Southern California in 1971.

He was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame in 2014.

Don was married to Lorene Abney on March 9, 1957 in Marianna, Florida. They lived in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Itazuke AB in Fukuoka, Japan; Fayetteville, N.C.; and Alexandria, Va., where he ended his military career as spokesman for the Air Force at the Pentagon.

Retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1974, he became Special Services Manager for Georgia Power Co. in Atlanta, and in 1977 he joined the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) as vice president of public relations. He retired from this position in 1994.

An avid pilot, he owned a Cessna single-engine airplane. After his retirement, he volunteered with Angel Flight to provide transportation at no cost to for patients who cannot use or afford commercial airlines. For this, he was awarded the Atlanta 11 Alive Community Service Award.

He also taught Public Relations at Georgia State University and was inducted into the Order of the Phoenix, the honor society for the Georgia Public Relations Society of America. He enjoyed volunteering with the USO at the Atlanta airport, greeting returning military personnel and serving on the 1996 Atlanta

Olympics Committee.

He was an active member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, serving as an elder, on the Food Pantry Committee, and later a member of First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

In 2015, Don and Lorie moved to Summit Hills in Spartanburg, SC to be near their daughter and her family. They moved in late 2023 to Harborchase of Riverwalk in Rock Hill, SC.

Don was a long-time active member of Kiwanis Club, serving as president of the Atlanta Chapter and member of the Spartanburg Club.

Mack always had a twinkle in his eye and was known for his outgoing personality, his ability to make friends, his love of family, and his tireless energy in volunteerism.

He is survived by his wife, Lorie; daughter, Susan Secord Marion and her husband Douglas of Chester, S.C.; and three grandchildren: Sarah Whitfield Marion of Rock Hill, S.C.; Laura Douglass Marion Tibbetts and her husband Bowen of St. Augustine, Fla.; and Peyton Donaldson Marion and his wife Kaileigh of Charlotte, N.C.

A memorial service was held July 19, 2024 in the chapel of First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, S.C. A private committal was held at First Presbyterian Church Columbarium.

I first knew Mack at Pope AFB when he was a C-130 pilot. He was one of the heroes who saved hostages in the Congo in 1964. Fly high now Mack.

— Don Hessenflow



THOMAS J. PFEIFFER

Thomas John Pfeiffer, colonel, U. S. Air Force (Retired), of Kansas City, Mo., passed away Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Kansas City Hospice House.

He was born in Racine, Wisc., on March 16, 1940, the son of the late John G. Pfeiffer Jr. and Magdalena M. (née Langenfeld) Pfeiffer.

He graduated from St. Joseph Elementary School in 1954 and from St. Francis Minor Seminary, Milwaukee, in 1958. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dominican College, Racine, in 1962 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force in 1963.

He married Charlotte Ann Schatzley of Racine in 1964. He earned a Master of Arts degree at Michigan State University and was a graduate of the United States Air Force Air War College. During his 26-year Air Force ca-

reer, he served in a variety of command and staff positions, most of them in Strategic Air Command.

He retired in 1989 after serving as Base Commander at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Pfeiffer was a Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, he worked a variety of jobs including Administrator of the Missouri Driver License Bureau, Deputy Director of the Division of Motor Vehicle and Driver Licensing and as Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

His wife, Charlotte, died of Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS) in 2007. In 2010, he married his present wife,

Annemarie (née Schulte) Pfeiffer.

He was a member of the Air Force Public Affairs Association, the Association of Air Force Mis-sileers, MOAA, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church, Liberty, Mo., and St. Joseph Catholic Church, Racine.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 6, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, followed by entombment at Holy Cross Cemetery.



International Association of Business Communicators

To earn the trust and confidence of the American people, the Air Force needs talented public affairs professionals who have the knowledge and expertise required in today’s information environment. Programs offered by the [Public Relations Society of America \(PRSA\)](#) or the [International Association of Business Communicators \(IABC\)](#) can help Air Force PAs develop the advanced public relations skills that will enable them to provide expert communications counsel to commanders at all levels.

That’s why AFPAA strongly supports membership in PRSA or IABC and urges PAs to earn the credentials these organizations offer. As part of its commitment to support the active force, AFPAA has established a stipend program to help PAs offset the costs involved in applying for accreditation by PRSA or certification by IABC.

Up to four stipends of \$250 each per fiscal year are available to Air Force personnel who successfully complete one of the PRSA or IABC credentialing programs. For more information, go to <https://afpaaa.org/prsa.html>. If you have any questions, contact us at scholarship@afpaaa.org.

Annual Meeting (cont'd from p. 3)

ing," said Perry Nouis, annual meeting committee chairman.. The new dates are being coordinated and have yet to be determined. We are looking at April/May 2026. The Association went four-and-a-half years without a meeting between Charleston and Tampa. Delaying the Fairfield meeting six months was deemed more appropriate than attempting to move it up to next spring."

Attendees at this year's event included: Bill, Cherie and Mark Austin; John and Kathy Banusiewicz; Judy and Jerry Bivens; Don and Joyce Black; Miconna and Ernie Boaldin; Julie and Mike Briggs; Don Brownlee and Penny Taylor; Tom and Sharon Christie; Dick Cole; Janice and Mark Conner; J.C. Corcoran; Tammy Cournoyer; Mike and Shirley Cox; Annette Crawford; P.J. Crowley; Cindy Dalton; Alan and Marcia DeFend; Jay and Elise DeFrank; Art and Ja-

net Forster with several family members; Rob and Bridgette Fortenberry; Clem and Janet Gaines; Eric Grill; Terry "Doc" Holiday; Beth Horine; Hank and Anita Hufnagel; Betsy Johnson; Valerie and Bruce Johnson; Mike Kelly; Mike Kinchen; Jim McGuire and Carla Sylvester; Mike McRaney; Ed and Christine Merri; Chuck Merlo; Cal Miller; John Moscatelli; Rick Nollenberger; Perry and Jean Nouis; Mike Paoli; Joe and Dee Purka; Christine Queen; Jim and Amanda Ragan; Ron, Berni, and Emily Rand and Chris Saxon; Ken Raimondi; Phil and Linda Ratliff; Eric Schnaible; Hal Smarkola and guests; David and Carolyn Smith; Vicki Stein; Anna Sullivan; Becky Teasdale and Linda Arnold; Carolyn and Marshall Terrill; Ed Thomas; Rachel and Bryce Van Zale; Johnny and Nancy Whitaker; Tim White; Bob Williams; Janice Witt; Ed and Becky Worley and John and Jackie

Worthington.

Jim Hart and Julian DeSimone were scheduled to attend so that Jim could accept his Hall of Fame award, but he was unable to attend due to illness.



We Want YOU!
To Recruit a
New Member

Input for next issue due March 1!

Read a good book lately that your colleagues should read?
Feel free to submit a review for publication in News and Notes! Send your submissions to editor Dick Cole at dickcole1853@verizon.net. Ideally, reviews should be 500 to 700 words.

The News and Notes is your publication!

We encourage your submissions! Tell us your professional news, share a professional book review, express your thoughts and comments. Got an interesting career story? Share! Have interesting photos from your PA days? Share! Send submissions to Dick Cole, editor, at dickcole1853@verizon.net!



P. O. Box 2446
East Peoria IL 61611-2446
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Welcome to the following new members in AFPAA!

Annual Members

- SrA Christopher Ornelas, Jr.
- Lt. Olushino A. "Luther" Bolden, Jr.
- SMSgt Miguel Lara III
- Jake Chappelle
- Jonathan Cotto
- Peggy Comstock Durrett
- Deborah "Didi" VanNierop

Life Member

- Kristi Beckman
- James Devine
- Christopher Freeze
- Kirk E. Faryniasz
- Arthur C. Haubold
- April Lapetoda

- Miconna Boaldin

Life Member (Payment Plan)

- Andrew Bourland
- Brandon Lingle
- 2 Lt. Daniel Condit
- Jennifer Lovett

Our membership as of this publication is 472. This is comprised of:

- 59 Lifetime Founders
- 242 Life Members
- 31 Best of the Best Life Members
- 2 Payment Plan Life Member
- 134 Annual Members
- 2 Adjunct Life Members

- 1 Adjunct Member
- 1 Affiliate Member

Did you know we have a father and daughter who are AFPAA members? Lifetime member Lt. Col. Claudia Foss is the daughter of Lifetime Founder MSgt. Dennis Sweatt. Dennis worked with Dave Smith when Dave was a staff sergeant and with P.J. Crowley when P.J. was a second lieutenant.

Association email blasts and other emails sent to .mil, .gov and some corporate addresses are being rejected! Please update your email address to a personal email

