

THUNDERROLLS



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Plans Firming Up for Thunderbirds Reunion Nov. 12-14

With less than six months to go plans are firming up as Thunderbirds alumni and current team members gather Nov. 12-14 to celebrate the Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron's 62nd anniversary.

"While specific times and prices still need to be worked out, the agenda is nearly complete," said Jeff Remington, chairman of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors. "We are planning a fun-filled couple of days for alumni to meet old teammates, friends and current team members and at the same time keep costs down."

To kick things off, a Las Vegas-area group of alumni have moved their monthly luncheon to Wednesday, Nov. 11 and invite all present and former Thunderbirds to meet for lunch at Boulder Station. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. For more details, email Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) at tbird13@cox.net.

The reunion registration desk will open Wednesday afternoon. That evening the hospitality suite will open and remain open each night through Saturday, Nov. 14.

Thursday (Nov. 12) activities will begin with golf at the Revere Golf Club. The



Bill Bogan (Crew Chief #1 and #3 1971-75) and Thunderbirds Maintenance Officer Maj. Lucas Buckley share a moment in the Thunderbirds hangar during the 2013 reunion. Plans call for alumni to visit the Thunderbirds hangar Friday (Nov. 13) during reunion. (Photo by TK Dudley)

registration desk will reopen that afternoon. The Perch Party will be held early Thursday evening.

Alumni will visit the Thunderbirds hangar Friday (Nov. 13). "We've asked the team to fly a demonstration for us,"

Remington said, "and Boss 'Reggie' Hammond assures me the team wants to do this for us. It will most likely be several months before we know if the request is approved and we'll get the word out as soon as we know."

Continued on page 3

10 Candidates Vie for Six TBAA Board of Director Positions

Ten candidates were certified as qualified and are running for six vacancies on the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Voting for new directors takes place in advance of the business meeting held during Reunion.

On Jan. 1, 2016, turnover of the TBAA Board will include Vice Chairman Kevin "Joker" Mastin (Solo 2000-01), Director Lennie Coleman (Right Wing 1991-92),

Director Shawn "Norm" Pederson (Solo 2001-02), Communications Chairman Eric "Flak" Schnaible (Public Affairs 1992-94) and Membership Chairman Carey "CB" Shoff (1994-97). Additionally, one vacant position on the Board will be filled.

Election results will be announced at Reunion so members can speak directly with outgoing, returning and new Directors.

To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members of TBAA and dues must be current. TBAA members can vote one of two ways, said Nominations/Elections Chairman Frank Howe. "You can email your six choices to me at tbaa2015vote@gmail.com and be sure to include your name in the text. The other option is to mail the ballot on Page 5 to TBAA Elections, c/o Frank Howe, 19621 E. Bellevue Place, Centennial CO 80015. Ballots must be received by July 15."

From the Chairman



Elections and reunion continue to be the main focus of the TBAA Board of Directors as we near the midway point of 2015.

I'm pleased to report we have 10 alumni who are certified as qualified and running for six positions on the Board. Thank you all for stepping forward and being willing to serve the Association. Information on the candi-

dates is available on Pages 4 and 5 of this issue of *ThunderRolls*. A ballot is located on Page 5.

Alumni can vote one of two ways: email six choices to tbaa2015vote@gmail.com and be sure to include your name in the text; or mail the ballot on Page 5 with your choices to TBAA Elections, c/o Frank Howe, 19621 E. Belleview Place, Centennial CO 80015. Ballots must be received by July 15. Only alumni who are current in their dues may vote.

With less than six months to go, plans are being finalized for Reunion 2015 at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa. We are working to put together a fun-filled couple of days reminiscing with friends, meeting the current team while keeping prices minimal.

Golfers will be pleased to know the golf outing will return to the Revere Golf Club Thursday (Nov. 12) morning. We've moved the Perch Party to Thursday night, which will leave Friday night open for mini-reunions or to just get together with friends.

We'll visit the Thunderbirds hangar Friday. I've asked Boss "Reggie" Hammond for a demonstration by the 2015 team. Boss Hammond assures me he and the 2015 team want to make it happen but operational requirements at Nellis and the unknowns of sequestration make it too early to get confirmation of a demonstration. Rest assured, once we get the word we will let everyone know.

I'm pleased Gen. Lori Robinson has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the Fitz banquet Saturday night.

Invitations and registrations will start six weeks earlier this year. We will mail out invitations around July 1. We'll begin accepting registrations July 15. Once again you can either register or pay online with a credit card; or mail in a registration form along with a check.

We continue to welcome a number of new annual and lifetime members. Your help is needed to recruit our teammates and convince them that the \$30 annual fee or \$300 lifetime membership is worth the money. The idea of continuing our belief that "Once a Thunderbird, Always a Thunderbird" is something to be proud of. In addition, we do have a lot of fun getting together as members of certain year teams, or collectively, at reunion.

Jeff Remington
Solo (1988-89) Chairman (2014-17)

From the Boss



Fellow Thunderbirds,

Last quarter the Team saw the kickoff of the 2015 show season! We successfully completed a safe training season leading to a double "thumbs up" from the Commander of Air Combat Command at our certification. You saw the meticulously kept jets soar over the Super Bowl, Daytona 500 and Kobalt 400. Then we hit the road to California and the Southeast before a hard-earned break.

Some of you may have also heard of our non-standard performance at Louisville, Ky., providing only a two-ship flyby presence due to an unsafe aerobatic box layout. While the change was unfortunate, it illustrated our commitment to doing things the right way . . . the Thunderbirds way!

The second quarter of 2015 finds the Team in full swing! One of the highlights associated with each airshow is the opportunity to meet and hear the stories of those who have built the foundation from which we now operate. To hear the stories of former Thunderbirds is awe-inspiring and renews our commitment to representing those who have gone before us. Those stories show that throughout decades of change in the Team and the USAF, one constant remains – Thunderbirds' pride and their undeniable commitment to excellence. I hope we have the opportunity to meet you either on the road, at the hangar or at November's Thunderbird Reunion so we may continue the dialogue.

The Thunderbirds mission has always been comprised of three main focus areas – recruit, retain and represent. While the Team strives to find better ways of doing business, an improvement we have made this season is an effort to more adequately represent the specialties and job opportunities available in the U. S. Air Force.

Traditionally, the focus has disproportionately been on the Thunderbirds that are most visible at the show sites, which are the demonstration pilots and the maintainers on the show line. However, we all know it takes much more to successfully train, deploy, support media flights and perform each weekend for nine months straight each year.

The pilot and maintainer specialties represent only a part of the Team composition and a much smaller part of what the Air Force needs to Fly, Fight and Win in air, space and cyberspace. Hence, the Team is making a strong push to advertise all of the Air Force Specialty Codes present on the Team through inclusion of those Airmen in our high school visits and introduction during the show sequence. Not only is it necessary that the Team represents all of the Airmen, veterans and their families as completely as possible, but more importantly, we need to fully advertise all the Air Force has to offer as we strive to recruit and inspire tomorrow's Airmen!

The 2015 show season is off to a strong start and has the potential to be a great season! We look forward to bridging the growing gap between the public and our military and inspiring future Airmen and Thunderbirds. Thank you for your continued support of the USAF Thunderbirds! See you on the road.

Lt. Col. Christopher B. "Reggie" Hammond
USAFADS Commander/Leader (2015-16)

Plans Firming Up for Thunderbirds Reunion Nov. 12-14

Continued from page 1

Friday (Nov. 13) evening is open as a time for mini-reunions by specific era or simply gathering with friends.

The TBAA business meeting will be Saturday (Nov. 14) morning, most of the afternoon free, and the banquet will begin early that evening. "Due to popularity in 2013 we will again offer a buffet meal," Remington said.

Gen. Lori J. Robinson has accepted the Thunderbirds Alumni Association's invitation to be the guest speaker at Saturday night's banquet. She is Commander, Pacific Air Forces; Air Component Commander for U.S. Pacific Command; and Executive Director, Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. General Robinson is no stranger to the Thunderbirds family. Her husband, retired Maj. Gen. Dave Robinson flew

left wing in 1987 and was the slot pilot and operations officer in 1988.

TBAA will be mailing reunion invitations around July 1 and

start accepting registrations beginning July 15, six weeks earlier than in the past. Once again, you'll have the opportunity to register for reunion

online (with a credit card payment) through the TBAA website (www.tbaa.org) or by mail (with a paper check).

South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa

Room Rates

Sunday through Thursday nights – \$55. Room tax is additional.

Friday and Saturday nights – \$80. Room tax is additional.

Junior suite (one-bedroom) – \$175 per night

One-bedroom suite – \$250 per night

Two-bedroom suite – \$350 per night

Luxury one-bedroom suite – \$600 per night

Luxury two-bedroom suite – \$900 per night

Resort Fee

\$14 per night fee waived. Complimentary in-room Wi-Fi/internet; fitness center access; airport shuttle; free local/toll-free phone calls; printing of boarding passes; parking and valet.

Room Reservations

Online: www.southpointcasino.com and use the group code: THU1110

Phone: Call the hotel at 1-866-791-7626 and identify as being with the Thunderbirds Alumni Association reunion.

Free Airport Shuttle

Call toll-free 1-866-791-7626 to make reservations at least 24 hours in advance.

Revere Golf Club Hosts Reunion Golf Outing

The Lexington Course at the Revere Golf Club will again host the Thunderbirds Alumni Association reunion golf outing with a shotgun start Thursday morning Nov. 12.

The Revere Golf Club offers unending, awe-inspiring views of the Las Vegas Skyline and mountains beyond.

The Lexington's stunning 7,143-yard, par-72 layout will test shot-making capabilities with classic risk/reward scenarios.



The Revere Golf Club will again host the reunion golf outing Thursday morning Nov. 12. (Courtesy Photo)

The driving range provides unlimited range balls with complimentary tees.

New Callaway rental clubs will also be available for \$35.

"The Peoria scoring system will be used," said organizer Frank Howe, "which is a combination of skill and luck. It is a format whereby no team can 'stack the deck' and win on skill alone."

The course is located a short drive from the South Point.

23 Show Sites Remain in Thunderbirds 2015 Season

Twenty-three sites remain on the Thunderbirds show schedule through early November. They include:

June 6-7: Waco, Texas
June 13-14: Whiteman AFB, Mo.
June 20-21: Dayton, Ohio
June 27-28: Mankato, Minn.

July 4-5: Traverse City, Mich.
July 11-12: Gary, Ind.

July 18-19: Niagara Falls, N.Y.
July 22: Cheyenne, Wyo.
July 25-26: Milwaukee, Wis.
July 28–August 2: Break

Aug. 8-9: La Crosse, Wis.
Aug. 15-16: Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
Aug. 22-23: Minden, Nev.
Aug. 29-30: Midland, Texas

Sept. 5-7: Cleveland, Ohio
Sept. 12-13: Owensboro, Ky.

Sept. 19-20: JB Andrews, Md.
Sept. 26-27: Millington, Tenn.

Oct. 3-4: Mather (Sacramento), Calif.
Oct. 10-11: Grand Junction, Colo.
Oct. 17-18: Houston, Texas
Oct. 24-25: Lake Charles, La.
Oct. 31-Nov. 1: JBSA Randolph, Texas

Nov. 7-8: Moody AFB, Ga.

NOTE TO ALUMNI – If interested in Thunderbirds airshow tickets, contact Maureen Walker, the commander/leader's secretary, at maureen.walker@us.af.mil. Please request tickets no later than one month prior to the event.

Meet the Candidates

10 People Vie for Six Positions on Board of Directors

Retired Col. Michael O. “Mo” Beale served as the Solo Pilot from 1990-91. He is currently Air System Analyst in the F-35 Program Office.

“I’m an enthusiastic volunteer to serve in any capacity on the TBAA,” said Beale. “I’m proud of my time on the team and the legacy that past Thunderbirds share. My goal would be to help keep the alumni association growing. I’ve appreciated all that past TBAA board members have done to set up reunions and other alumni events and it’s time for me to give back.”



Retired Master Sgt. DeAnn “D” Denzer was the NCOIC, Commander’s Support Staff from 1998-2001. She is currently Executive Assistant at Ingersoll Rand, Davidson, N.C.

“I made a promise to myself that when I was at a place in my life where giving back to my military family could be a top priority I would be there in whatever way needed for the team alumni and current members,” said Denzer. “There is a current team schedule hanging in my area at work . . . engaging and encouraging people to go and see a show (happy to say I’ve stayed in contact with Maureen). My goal is to share that pride and sense of service EVERY time whether it’s being a veteran mentor at work or striving to make our Alumni a strong and viable network of members for the past and the present.”



Retired CMSgt. Jim Dye was NCOIC of Aerospace Ground Equipment, Assistant Crew Chief #7 and Assistant Specialist Flight Chief when he served on the team from 1995-99. He is currently Superintendent of Maintenance for Denver Water.

“First and foremost I would like to help the TBAA preserve our heritage without impeding current and future team’s ability to adjust to a changing Air Force and society,” said Dye. “The team is still the highlight of my Air Force career and I would love the opportunity to pay a little back for the great memories by volunteering to be part of the TBAA Board of Directors.”



Col. Glen K. “Lunar” Lawson was the Operations Officer from 2001-02. He is currently Deputy Chief, Regional Affairs, Air Force International Affairs at the Pentagon.

“The Thunderbird Alumni Association ties all Thunderbirds to a very special time in their careers,” said Lawson. “The team remains THE squadron combining all career fields into the face of the United States Air Force. The TBAA is the unifying organization once members leave the team. It is my goal to further that unifying force for all active and retired team members, encouraging and enabling all team members to participate and enjoy the past, present and future of the USAF Thunderbirds!”



Retired Tech. Sgt. Eli Lessing was the Lead Engine Technician and Dedicated Crew Chief #2 when he served on the team from 1994-97. He is currently General Electric’s Aviation Senior Program Manager.

“As a Thunderbird alumnus we have a duty to give back in whatever capacity to ensure the legacy of the USAF THUNDERBIRDS never diminishes,” said Lessing. “My vision and efforts as a board member would focus on reinvigorating the spirit and passion that once drove us during our active time with the team to support the current team and mission of the TBAA.”



Retired Senior Master Sgt. Chuck “Bam-Bam” Lombardo was an Aircraft Maintenance Technician and Crew Chief #8 when he served on the team from 1971-75. He is currently retired.

“In order to move forward it is important to remember the past, having served with the USAF Thunderbirds over 40 years ago, I feel I can help with this,” said Lombardo. “The Air Force is changing with the times and I am for change but I do feel past traditions should not be forgotten. I would be honored to still be part of the Team and the changing times.”



Retired Tech. Sgt. Leland “Lee” Palonen was NCOIC AGE from 1984-87. He is currently Engineering and Maintenance Manager for Mars Chocolate at their Ethel M. plant in Henderson, Nev.

“The phrase ‘Once a Thunderbird, Always a Thunderbird’ means a lot to me and I know it means a lot to my fellow Thunderbirds,” said Palonen. “There is a bond that stays with you forever, everywhere you go. I have moved away and now I am back in the Vegas valley. The desire to give back and serve my fellow Thunderbirds is stronger now than ever. I would be honored to serve as a member on the TBAA Board of Directors.”



Retired Master Sgt. Bobby Purtiman was NCOIC of Media Relations in Public Affairs from 1997-2001. He is currently Chief of Public Affairs for the DOD Dependents Schools in Europe. In August 2015, he will assume the duties as Director of Public Affairs for the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga.

“I believe it is time for me to become involved with the organization that is responsible for much of the personal and professional success I’ve enjoyed,” said Purtiman. “From the current team to alumni, we are surrounded by true professionals and I would be honored to represent in any way possible. I believe the organization is headed in the right direction and would like to see it expand to include building a capacity for collaborative personal and business interactions.”



Candidates Run for Board Positions

Continued from page 4

Retired Master Sgt. Mark Thome was Assistant Crew Chief #2 and Pneudraulics when he served on the team from 1987-91. He will retire as an Air Force Junior ROTC instructor at the end of the 2015 school year.



“I love the team and I am so proud to have been a part of it,” said Thome. “I want to serve on the Board to support the current team in whatever they need, so that they feel the value in joining the association when they leave. I want the association to promote events that bring alumni together throughout the year, so we can reconnect with those who have not been involved to support each other and the team.”

Retired Lt. Col. Costa “Chachi” Tzavaras was the Narrator and Operations Officer from 1998-99. He is currently an Airlines Captain.



“I would like to contribute to the continued membership growth and success of the TBAA while maintaining the sacred trust and honor of our membership,” said Tzavaras. “Through our valued alumni, and wherever the team may land, I would like to foster and magnify a perpetuating pride from our distinguished Thunderbird heritage into all the communities in which we live.”

Check Six

Email six choices to tbaa2015vote@gmail.com and be sure to include your name in the text.

Or

Mail this ballot to TBAA Elections, c/o Frank Howe, 19621 E. Belleview Place, Centennial CO 80015. Ballots must be received by July 15.



Leland Palonen
NCOIC AGE
1984-87



Michael O. “Mo” Beale
Solo Pilot
1990-91



Glen K. “Lunar” Lawson
Operations Officer
2001-02



Bobby Purtiman
NCOIC
Media Relations
1997-2001



DeAnn “D” Denzer
NCOIC
Commander’s
Support Staff
1998-2001



Eli Lessing
Lead Engine
Technician and
DCC #2
1994-97



Mark Thome
ACC #2 and
Pneudraulics
1987-91



Jim Dye
NCOIC AGE/ACC
#7/Asst. Specialist
Flight Chief
1995-99



Chuck “Bam-Bam” Lombardo
Aircraft Maint.
Tech and
Crew Chief #8
1971-75



Costa “Chachi” Tzavaras
Narrator and
Operations
Officer
1998-99

Benchstock



air force for U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command.

Congratulations to **Lt. Gen. Darryl L. Roberson** (Left Wing 1994-95) who has been selected for reassignment as Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. He is presently Commander, 3rd Air Force and 17th Expeditionary Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Third Air Force is U.S. Air Forces in Europe's and 17th Expeditionary Air Force is Air Forces Africa's numbered



Congratulations to **Maj. Gen. Brian T. Bishop** (Commander/Leader 1998-99) who is retiring effective July 1. He is currently Commander, Carl A. Spaatz Center for Officer Education, and Commandant, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Retired Brig. Gen. Dan Cherry (Commander/Leader 1977-78) was among the three Georgia aviation luminaries inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame April 18. During his nearly 30-year military career he flew 295 combat missions during the Vietnam War, shooting down a North Vietnamese MiG-21. He served as Inspector General of the Pacific Air Forces; Commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing and Commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service. General Cherry's military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with nine oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with thirty four oak leaf clusters. He is Director Emeritus of Aviation Heritage Park, an educational facility in Bowling Green, Ky. General Cherry was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in October 2000 and the Western Kentucky University Hall of Distinguished Alumni in October 2013. He also authored the book, *My Enemy . . . My Friend, A Story of Reconciliation from the Vietnam War*. The book chronicles an intense 1972 dogfight between his F-4 Phantom and a North Vietnamese MiG-21 and his subsequent meeting and friendship with the MiG pilot, Nguyen Hong My.



The Thunderbirds Alumni Association welcomes the following new members: **George Aguigui** (Phase Dock, Crew Chief #6, Maintenance Operations Center, Aircraft Flight Night Shift 1984-87); **Peter Bushnell** (Assistant Crew Chief #1, Avionics, Debrief, Quality Assurance 1999-2001); **Ted Byerly** (Aerospace Ground Equipment/Assistant Dedicated Crew Chief #4 1998-2002); **Charles Cline** (Non-Destructive Inspection / Assistant Crew Chief #6 1995-98); **Rex Dillon** (Crew Chief #5 1980-82); Scott Frost (Unit Training Manager 1986-89); **Steve Gilliland** (Engines Technician 1983-85); Timothy Grunst (Crew Chief #5 1995-96); **Guy Hunneyman** (Public Affairs Officer 1999-2000); **Jason Koltjes** (Operations Officer 2010-12); **Doug Lang** (Avionics/Communications 1984-86); **Phil Leonard**

(Assistant Crew Chief #5/Aircraft Fuel Systems 1990-93); **Karyn Cooper Mazzaro** (Honorary Crew Chief 2002); **Martin McGuire** (Inspection section/Crew Chief #7/Support 1984-86); **Jason Owens** (Swing Shift/Crew Chief #7, #3, #6/Phase 1998-2003); **Leland Palonen** (Noncommissioned Officer in Charge Ground Support Equipment 1984-87); **Bob Purtiman** (Public Affairs 1997-2001); **Mark Reid** (Support Administration 1993-96); **Phillip Shatsar** (Maintenance Superintendent/Chief Enlisted Manager 2002-04); **Bradley Schirmer** (Weapons 1984-86); **Mark Short** (Supply 1969-71); **Janet Harris-Weltch** (Associate); **James Wiley** (Crew Chief 1978-80); **Jason Wilson** (Aerospace Ground Equipment, Assistant Dedicated Crew Chief #1, #2, #7 2008-12); and **Don Yeats** (Ground Radio Communications 2002-05).



D.C. Pederson pushes son **Shawn "Norm" Pederson** (Solo 2001-02) in the Richmond (Va.) McGuire VA Medical Cen. Norm suffered a serious illness late last year which will require months of recovery in the VA facility. The "Shawn Pederson Benefit Account" was established to ensure Norm's parents can stay with him as long as necessary. Donations can be sent electronically to: Central Bank – Lake of the Ozarks, Routing #081509070, Account #125077552 or a check, made payable to "Shawn Pederson Benefit Account," can be mailed to: Central Bank – Lake of the Ozarks, Attention: KK Branch – Brandi, P.O. Box 207, Osage Beach, MO 65065. (Courtesy photo)



Kirk Alexander (ACC #8, CC #7) has been selected to be a contestant on NBC's American Ninja Warriors. The show follows competitors as they tackle a series of challenging obstacle courses in both city qualifying and city finals rounds across the country. Those who successfully complete the finals course in their designated region move on to the national finals round in Las Vegas. The winner will take home a grand prize of \$1 million. He will compete in Long Beach in June, with the episode airing in July. Check local listings for date and time.

A Las Vegas-area group of Thunderbirds alumni invite all present and former Thunderbirds meet for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. For more details, email Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) at tbird13@cox.net.

Gone But Not Forgotten

NOTE: There may be some time between an individual's death and when we print an obituary. They are printed after the Thunderbirds Alumni Association receives them. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and friends of these cherished members of the Thunderbirds family.

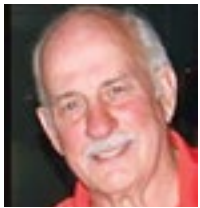
Leroy Albert "Dave" Davis (Aircraft Maintenance 1959-60) died Sept. 10, 2005. Survivors include sons Glen, Bob (Kelly) and Patrick Davis; four grandchildren; sisters Marie (Carl) Ripp and Rosie (Harold) Kaiser; and brothers Robert Davis and Charles Kirkpatrick. Interment was in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Mo.



Retired Tech. Sgt. William Oral Davenport (Left Wing Crew Chief 1958-61), 80, died March 6. After retiring from the Air Force he worked as aircraft maintenance supervisor for BAE Flight Systems. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Price Davenport; daughter Tamela (Steve) McCormick and son Lt. Col. Eddie (Patty) Davenport; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Funeral services with full military honors were held March 12 in Morristown, Tenn. Burial was March 18 at Paradise Memorial Gardens in Las Vegas.



Retired Col. William Gordon "Higgy" Higginbotham, Jr. (Right Wing 1963-64) died Feb. 18. During the 1963 and 1964 air show seasons, he flew air shows in all 50 states, Canada, Caribbean islands, North Africa and 12 European countries. Higgy volunteered for combat duty and flew 240 combat missions, including 100 missions over heavily defended North Vietnam. His decorations included five Distinguished Flying Crosses and 19 Air Medals. After retiring from the Air Force he served 24 years on the Lafayette, La., Airport Commission. He is survived by his sister, Ann Macfee. Burial with military honors was Feb. 27 at Barrancas National Cemetery at NAS Pensacola, Fla.



Retired Master Sgt. Jerry L. Petrick (Jet Engine Mechanic 1975-79) died Jan. 28, 2015. He is survived by wife Antoinette "Toni" (nee Zingale); daughter Jill (Ralph) Castenir; sons Jerry Petrick and Bryon Wright (Bunny Callahan); five grandchildren; sister Janice Bucheli; and brother Jack (Paulette) Petrick. Jerry will be buried at 10 a.m., June 8 (which is also his birthday), at Arlington National Cemetery.

Merchandise Offered On TBAA Website

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association continues to expand merchandise offered for sale through the TBAA website (www.tbaa.org).

The latest addition is two different poster prints measuring 16x20 inches. One poster shows the world, flag panel and different jets flown by the team over the past 62 years. The other shows the F-16 with familiar Las Vegas landmarks in the background.

Posters are \$30 each with an additional \$5 for shipping, whether you buy one or more.

There are also limited quantities of 60th Anniversary Challenge Coin Sets still available. Costs for the coin set are \$100 plus \$5.80 for Priority Mail shipping.

TBAA, along with Josten's, continues to offer a special Thunderbirds ring for alumni as well as current team members in men's and women's sizes. The ring indicates the wearer was or is a member of the Thunderbirds. It



has the Thunderbirds emblem on one side and the Air Force coat of arms on the other, and across the top, "USAF Thunderbirds." For a \$15 additional fee, the Thunderbirds patch can be encrusted in the stone (only available on men's smooth stone rings – women's rings are too small for this feature).

Individuals can order any of these items one of two ways: online and pay with a credit card; or download an order form and mail it in with a paper check. Look for the Merchandise tab on the homepage of the TBAA website.

ThunderRolls

This is the second issue of *ThunderRolls* to be printed in 2015 for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The next issue will be Quarter 3 (July-September) 2015. Submissions (including high resolution photos in jpeg format) may be emailed to: al.eakle@gmail.com. Submission does not guarantee publication and editorial staff may edit for style and content.

Change of address should be submitted to: Doe Wilson, TBAA Administrative Secretary, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas NV 89117. Phone: 702-871-7197. Email: DoeWilson@aol.com

Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Jeff Remington (1988-89)

Vice Chairman

Kevin "Joker" Mastin (2000-01)

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Shellie Vaught (1998-2000)

Treasurer

Brian Plauche (2000-05)

Director

Lennie Coleman (1991-92)

Director

Kati Grabham (2002-07)

Director

Frank Howe (1995-98)

Director (Nominations Chairman)

Shawn "Norm" Pederson (2001-02)

Director (Communications Chairman)

Eric "Flak" Schnaible (1992-94)

Director (Membership Chairman)

Carey "CB" Shoff (1994-97)

Administrative Secretary

Doe Wilson

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Al Eakle

Historian

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The Thunderbirds Alumni Association would like to thank Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *ThunderRolls* and the TBAA.

Graphic Design and Printing

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Fort Worth, Texas

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Registrations Sought On TBAA Website

It's been more than two years since the Thunderbirds Alumni Association website (www.tbaa.org) was revised with several hundred alumni having registered, however there's still quite a few people who still need to do so.

"The Roster was created so all living alumni, TBAA associates members, Honorary Thunderbirds and Honorary Crew Chiefs had a means to get in touch – that being by email," said Al Eakle, webmaster. "As soon as someone registers, the Make Contact function on their profile becomes operational."

Members have asked for it and TBAA is currently in the process of creating an on-line membership directory.

"The print version of the membership directory was frequently out-of-date by the time it was printed because people move or change email addresses," Eakle said. "Plus



it was a costly product, between printing and postage costs."

When complete the new on-line roster will be behind a firewall and only accessible to individuals registered on the site. Individuals will need a username and password to access it and will have the capability to update their own contact information.

"Individuals can put as much or as little personal information in their profile," Eakle said. "It's important to upload a picture, be it a current one or team 'hero' shot so others know you have registered."

Some will notice they are not listed because the database was initially created using names TBAA had collected up to 2011.

Anyone who is NOT listed on the roster can go into the Member Login section and click the tab "Name not in ROSTER? Join Us." tab. A new window will open, information needs to be filled in then an email is sent to verify status. Once that is completed, instructions are then emailed on how to proceed.

Besides the Roster, the website features several new options.

Individuals who wish to join or renew dues and pay with a credit card can now do so through the website.

A link will be activated July 15 so individuals can register for reunion online and pay registration fees through the site with a credit card. A number of people used this feature to register and pay for reunion in 2013.

Anyone in the roster who needs login directions should email al.eakle@gmail.com.