

# THUNDER ROLLS



2012  
Volume 19 No. 3



*While wife Kelly looks on, Rick Dale explains to Master Sgt. Ryan Ulrich, team recruiter, and Tech. Sgt. “Biff” Graham, Quality Assurance, the work involved in restoring the Thunderbirds F-105 “Thunderchief” model. Dale and his company, Rick’s Restorations, are the stars of the History Channel program American Restorations and are restoring the model, stand and memorial plaque, funded by the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. (USAF Photo)*

## TBAA Funds Model Restoration Project

For more than four decades, a model of a Thunderbirds F-105 “Thunderchief” greeted people as they came through the main gate at Nellis. Several years ago, the model came down when the gate was redesigned – and the model has sat disassembled in outdoor storage ever since.

The Thunderchief model will get a new lease on life thanks to the efforts of a Thunderbirds noncommissioned officer, the Thunderbirds Alumni Association and a local restoration company.

Republic Aircraft, manufacturers of the Thunderchief, donated the model and stand to the Thunderbirds. The team flew the F-105 very briefly at the beginning of the 1964 demonstration season. A tragic accident during what was to be the seventh airshow that year ended that aircraft’s days with the squadron.

Arriving at Hamilton Air Force Base, Calif., the day prior to the airshow, the Thunderbirds were performing arrival maneuvers in their shiny Thunderchiefs. Thunderbird No. 1, piloted by then-Maj. Paul Kauttu, made a pitch up for the tactical-style landing. Following, in turn, would

be Thunderbird No. 2, piloted by Capt. Gene Devlin, the left wingman. However, as Captain Devlin pulled back on the controls, his aircraft broke up and disintegrated. Debris rained down on the runway. The control tower told them to divert, but Kauttu elected to land. The tower reconsidered and allowed them to land.

“At 50 feet and 400 knots, I pitched up,” Kauttu recalled, “then looked back over my shoulder to see a terrific conflagration billowing from the runway.”

An eyewitness on the ground said that Thunderbird No. 2 was on the left side of the three-plane formation, which had just executed a low pass over the runway. As Devlin’s aircraft approached a 45-degree climb, it disintegrated. The fuselage snapped in half, just above the weapons bay, and blew up.

A 40-member Air Force investigation team probed the crash and concluded that the fuselage spine structure of Devlin’s aircraft had failed. The defect was found to be a trapezoidal-shaped manufacturing

*Continued pg. 3*

## From the Chairman

Fellow Thunderbirds, I hope this issue of *ThunderRolls* finds you well rested after the summer. As for my family, we returned to the U.S. after four years in Germany and are now stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico (hurrah!), where I will teach at the Marine Corps War College until I retire from active duty next year.

Even though I have been in transition, your Thunderbirds Alumni Association has remained engaged on many projects. Let me briefly mention a few of these and you can also find additional info in this issue.

Restoration has begun on the F-105 memorial, and your TBAA is funding this. Once we have detailed information on the dedication ceremony, we will get the word out.

The Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame enshrinement of the Thunderbirds has been postponed until 2013 during the TBAA 60th Anniversary Reunion. More details will follow, but if your schedule permits, I encourage all alumni to add this to your calendar.

Our goal this year has been to produce three issues of *ThunderRolls*, and this is our last one for 2012 . . . the next issue will be out in 2013. We've heard from a number of members who asked to receive an electronic version and be taken off the mailing list. Anyone who would like to receive the electronic version only can send an email to our editor, Al Eakle, at [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com). This saves TBAA money both in printing and postage.

We're pleased to welcome a number of new annual and lifetime members. If you're in touch with alumni who are not members of TBAA, please encourage them to join.

I will keep making a plug for the reunion next year as it is never too early to start your planning. Once again, the TBAA secured the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., for the 60th Anniversary Reunion – the dates are Nov. 21–23, 2013. We're expecting a large turnout and hope you are among the attendees.

Finally, the TBAA is only as good as the members it represents . . . so we need your input (positive or negative) so we can move in the direction that we all would like to go. Now we start the process of selecting the TBAA Board of Directors for next year. Look for Norm Peterson's article in this issue, and I ask you to consider your talents and time and see if they can be directed to the TBAA in the future.



Mike "Slam" Byrne (Advance Pilot/Narrator 1999-2000)  
Chairman



## From the Boss



Hello, Thunderbirds alumni!

It has been a great season so far for the squadron! We continue to execute our mission very well by recruiting, retaining and representing for our Air Force. We are nearing the end of the show season and have currently traveled to more than 25 locations and accomplished over 45 demonstrations with six nationally covered flybys. From Maine to California, the squadron has performed flawlessly and represented

the pride, precision and professionalism of our nearly 700,000 total force Airmen.

The squadron has been extremely busy, and we are beginning to welcome the team members who have been reporting in to the squadron since early September. We will replace our Left Wing Pilot, Slot Pilot, Solo Pilot, Director of Operations, Executive Officer,

Maintenance Officer and Public Affairs Officer. We also welcomed a new Chief to the team this summer. Chief Michael Martinez, coming from Luke AFB, has been actively recruiting our next generation of enlisted team members.

Our Air Force Airmen are doing amazing things around the world, away from their families and comforts of home. Their story deserves to be told, and Americans deserve to hear it. The Thunderbirds are proud to tell it!

We are looking forward to a great finish of the 2012 show season and to continuing the great legacy of the United States Thunderbirds. ABOVE ALL!



Lt. Col. Greg Moseley  
USAFADS (Commander/Leader 2012-13)

# Volunteers Needed for TBAA Board

Greetings, Thunderbirds! It is not too early to start thinking about how you can step up and devote your time, energy and talents to the success of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association by serving on the Board of Directors.

As I have written before in *ThunderRolls*, we are particularly interested in nominees willing to help with the immense efforts required to organize a great reunion, as well as folks who may have expertise in accounting and finance, fundraising, QuickBooks, Web design, social media, marketing and research to find our lost alumni.

On Jan. 1, 2014, turnover of the TBAA Board will include Mike "Slam" Byrne (Advance Pilot/Narrator 1999-2000), Chairman; Sarah Johnson-Robles (Administration 1974-76), Secretary; R. D. Evans (Solo 1979-81), Treasurer; Joe Barron (Sleeve 1995-98), Director; Al Eakle (Airshow Coordinator 1989-91), Director; and Bruce Voigt (Maintenance Superintendent 1997-2000), 2013 Reunion Chairman. The immense experience and

contributions from these folks will be hard to replace.

If you are thinking about running or even voting for those running for these positions, there are a few things you need to know. First, you must be current in TBAA dues or a lifetime member to be a nominee as well as to vote in the election. Second, individuals desiring to run for these positions can be nominated by a fellow Thunderbird, or they may self-nominate. Finally, the deadline for nominations is April 1, 2013.

All nominations should include full name and contact information for both the nominee and person making the nomination. Nominations can be emailed to me (*normf15e@gmail.com*) or mailed to: TBAA Nominations, c/o Shawn Pederson, 9208 Bexleywood Ct., Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

For those nominated, I will then confirm a desire to serve. Then we require the submission of a short biography which includes years and

positions held while on the Team and a statement of reasons for wanting to serve on the board.

Also, this year I will solicit questions and items of concern from the membership that will be posed to the nominees in the months leading up to the elections to help better inform those voting. Details on that process will be forthcoming.

As always, if you have suggestions for how to better reach out to the membership or to reach those long-lost Thunderbirds who would make great leaders for the TBAA, please send those ideas my way. This organization, and ultimately our support to the Team and its mission, depends on those willing to step up and give of their time and talents.

Once a Thunderbird . . .

Shawn "Norm" Pederson (Solo 2001-02)  
Nominating Committee Chairman

## Model, Memorial Get New Lease on Life

Continued from pg. 1

joint – a plate that was designed to strengthen the connection between the forward and aft fuselage.

Throughout the Air Force, the Thunderchiefs were grounded from operations for two months, pending repairs and modifications to their design and structure.

The Thunderbirds never again flew Thunderchiefs in their aerial demonstration routine. They switched to the F-100D "Super Sabre," an upgrade to the F-100C model they had flown the year before.



Then-Lt. Col. Dan Cherry (Commander/Leader 1977-78) accepts the Capt. Gene Devlin Memorial plaque from John Weeks (Honorary Crew Chief 1975) of Republic Aircraft.

Republic Aircraft shipped the large model of an F-105 to Nellis. It had the name of the only Thunderbirds commander/leader to fly the F-105, Paul Kauttu, on the canopy rail. He had his name replaced with that of his left wingman, Captain Devlin.

In 1977, John Weeks (Honorary Crew Chief 1975), of Republic Aircraft, presented the Devlin Memorial plaque to the Thunderbirds. The model and memorial plaque were displayed at the Nellis main gate for a number of decades, before being disassembled and placed in outside storage.

"As the noncommissioned officer of support, my scope included our storage area, the bunker," said Tech. Sgt. "Biff" Graham. "I asked what our plans were for the memorial; no one even knew it was at the bunker, so I decided to see what we could do to get it restored and bring it home."

Graham contacted Rick's Restorations and asked them to provide a cost estimate to restore the model, stand and memorial plaque. Owner Rick Dale jumped at the chance to bid on the project. He and his crew are the stars of the History Channel program *American Restorations*.

With a cost estimate in hand, Graham asked TBAA if they would be interested in the project.



The F-105 model sat outside the bunker disassembled for several years.

The TBAA Board of Directors met and voted to support the project. After undergoing a legal review at Nellis, the Weapons Center Commander accepted the TBAA offer to fund the project, and Dale and his crew picked up the model, stand and memorial Aug. 1.

"The project will require about 80 percent restoration," said Dale. "That will include paint, new fiberglass repairs, resurfacing of the plaque and also new support structure for the pedestal."

Once the restoration is complete, a concrete slab will need to be poured in front of the Thunderbirds hangar on the southwest corner in front of the museum.

A rededication ceremony is planned for later this year.



*Thunderbirds alumni gather for a group photo at the conclusion of ThunderFun 2012 held Sept. 6–9 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.*

## **Alumni, Family, Friends Gather for Mini-Reunion**

More than 35 Thunderbirds alumni, family members and friends gathered Sept. 6–9 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., for a mini-reunion. Alumni who attended came from four decades of Thunderbirds – from the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

Attendees gathered at the hotel’s tiki bar the first night to renew acquaintances and make new friends. During the day on Friday and Saturday, they lounged on the beach and at one of the two hotel pools. Friday night saw them gather inside for karaoke, and Saturday night, they concluded activities with a seafood dinner.

Those attending included:

- Mike Bilcik (Crew Chief #8, #7, #3 1968-1971)

- Bob Bosch (Crew Chief 1969-71)
- Paul and Barb Bowman (Maintenance Officer 1989-90)
- Chris and Sue Brown (Fuel Systems 1987-90)
- Jack and Rose Cheers (Pneudraulics 1963-1966)
- Keith Dawkins (Aircraft Maintenance 1986-90) and Angel Feedback
- Al Eakle (Airshow Coordinator 1989-91)
- Angela (Tassin) Gaspard (Administration 1987-90)
- Doug and Susan Grozier (Public Affairs Admin 1986-88)

- Bill Higginbotham (Right Wing 1963-64)
- Bob Holmes (Maintenance Administration/ ACC #6 1969-71)
- Jim Klimesh (Ground Communications 1969-73)
- Reed Lutz (Avionics Specialist 1969-74)
- Steven Markham (Crew Chief #7, #8/COSO 1986-89)
- Linda Mayfield (Aircraft Electrician/Asst Crew Chief #2, #3 1988-91) and Carla Moore
- Tina (White) McCormick (Operations 1986-88)
- Jim and Vicky McCraney (Line Chief 1987-92) and friends Peter and Jennifer Thompson
- Greg Overton (Personnel 1987-90) and daughter Kristen
- Dee Richmond (Operations 1989-92)
- Jody and J. R. Roberts (Administration 1988-91/Crew Chief #6, #7 1988-91)
- Dennis Tucker (Line Chief 1986-91)
- Beth Walter (Engines/Asst Crew Chief #2, #1 1981-84)
- John and Elvenia Zachem (Flight Chief 1972-75)



*Bob Bosch, Bob Holmes, Beth Walter, Jack Cheers and Mike Bilcik share a story during ThunderFun 2012.*

“What a fantastic get-together,” said Allen Trump (Inspection Dock/Dedicated Crew Chief #5 1986-89). “I had a great time at a wonderful location – can hardly wait for the next one.”

# Benchstock

## New TBAA life members

Welcome new Thunderbirds Alumni Association life members: **Kelvin R. Benson** (Aircraft Maintenance 1986-89), **Charles Blanchard** (Ops NCO/Airshow Coordinator 1974-78), **Joe Gallegos** (Operations 1989-92), **Bradley Paddock** (Engines 1987-89), **Christopher Pollitz** (Supply 1996-99) and **Morris L. Southern** (Flight Chief/Production Superintendent 2000-05).

## New TBAA annual members

Welcome new TBAA annual members: **Matthew E. Balls** (Crew Chief 1971-73), **Stanley J. Bycenski** (Crew Chief 1976-79), **Blaine Edinger** (Aircraft Maintenance 1999-2004), **Joel Fulmer** (Quality Assurance Inspections 1989-93), **L. Douglas Lang** (Avionics/Communications 1984-86), **David Meehan** (Aerospace Ground Equipment 1988-91), **Douglas Sampson** (Environmental Systems 1982-85), **William L. Strand** (Honorary Thunderbird 1975) and **Frank A. Werner** (Aircraft Electrician 2001-03).

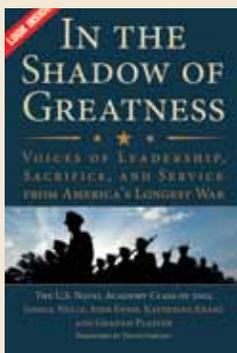
## Congratulations

Congratulations to Col. **Case Cunningham** (Commander/Leader 2010-11), who was promoted to his current rank and is vice commander, 451st Air Expeditionary Wing, Kandahar, Afghanistan; Col. **Russ Mack** (Right Wing 1999) is the director of the Executive Action Group for the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force; and Chief Master Sgt. **Bruce Kimball** (Sleeve 2010-12), who was promoted to his current rank Sept. 1 and at press time was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

## 2013 Thunderbirds officers

Congratulations to Capt. **Joshua Wild** who will become executive officer for the Thunderbirds 2013 and 2014 demonstration seasons. The other 2013-2014 Thunderbirds officer selections were announced in May, but the executive officer hiring process was delayed due to the deployment of one of the finalists. The other officers who will join the team for the 2013 and 2014 demonstration seasons are: Capt. **Joshua Beaudreaux**, Left Wing Pilot; Maj. **Curtis Dougherty**, Slot Pilot; Capt. **Jason Curtis**, Opposing Solo Pilot; Maj. **Tyler Ellison**, Operations Officer; Capt. **Lucas Buckley**, Maintenance Officer; and Maj. **Darrick Lee**, Public Affairs Officer. Returning for their second year on the team are: Boss Lt. Col. **Greg Moseley**; Maj. **Caroline Jensen**, Right Wing; Capt. **Blaine Jones**, Lead Solo; Capt. **Michael Fisher**, Advance Pilot/Narrator; and Maj. (Dr.) **Michael Carletti**, Flight Surgeon.

## New book



**Elizabeth Kreft** (Public Affairs Officer 2007-08) and her Naval Academy classmates have written a book about their last 10 years of service at war – *In the Shadow of Greatness*. They compiled some riveting stories of combat and touching stories of service at home – all in an effort to give back to military and veteran organizations. The book is nonprofit; ALL author proceeds go back to veteran organizations. Kreft wrote about the time she met Buzz Aldrin at her first Thunderbirds airshow (photo in the book,

photo!) and about her service in Afghanistan and work with military widows. Tom Brokaw called the book “a must-read for all Americans.”

You can order the book at [www.shadowofgreatness.com](http://www.shadowofgreatness.com).



TBAA member Keith Ferris (Honorary Thunderbird 1969) was enshrined into the National Aviation Hall of Fame Oct. 6. Ferris, known worldwide as the “Dean of American Aviation Art,” founded the American Society of Aviation Artists. He is also an expert and inventor of aircraft paint systems for military camouflage and high-visibility purposes. His mural of the Thunderbirds F-100 “SuperSabre” formation takeoff hangs at the end of the Pentagon corridor, just outside the “Chief’s” office.

## 60th anniversary reunion

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association has secured the South Point Hotel for the 2013 60th Anniversary Reunion – the dates are Nov. 21–23, 2013. Golf will kick things off Thursday, and Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communication Technician 1965-69) has agreed to again head that effort. Activities for Friday and Saturday are still in the planning stages. Bruce Voigt (Maintenance Superintendent 1997-2000) is the reunion chairman and Al Eakle (Airshow Coordinator 1989-91) is the co-chair. Volunteers, particularly those who live in the Las Vegas area, are needed. Anyone interested in helping out with reunion can contact Bruce ([bavoigt77@gmail.com](mailto:bavoigt77@gmail.com)) or Al ([al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com)). Look for more reunion details in future issues of *ThunderRolls*.



## Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame enshrinement

This year’s enshrinement of the Thunderbirds into the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame has been postponed, and the banquet has been cancelled. The award will now be presented at the Thunderbirds Alumni Association reunion in 2013 during the banquet Saturday night. Look for more details in an upcoming issue of *ThunderRolls*.

## Annual dues payment

As a reminder to those who pay annual dues, the new year starts Jan. 1, and payments are due no later than March 31, for you to be considered a current member. Individuals who wish to run for the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors or attend reunion must be current in their annual dues. The cost of annual dues is \$30, or \$300 for a lifetime membership (payable at once or in \$50 increments throughout the calendar year). Checks should be made payable to Thunderbirds Alumni Association and sent to Doe Wilson, TBAA Administrative Secretary, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Dues can also be renewed through the TBAA website at [www.thunderbirdsalumni.org](http://www.thunderbirdsalumni.org).

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## Benchstock continued

### Nevada Thunderbirds license plate

The Nevada Legislature's Commission on Special License Plates approved the manufacture and sale of a special Thunderbirds license plate during a meeting earlier this year. This is one of 30 special plates available to Nevada residents. The project started in 2007 through the efforts of Thunderbirds alumni Josh Clendenen (Public Affairs 2004-07). Anyone registering a car or truck in Nevada can purchase the special license plate. A portion of the money generated through the sale of these plates will go to the Nevada Veterans Home. According to Thunderbirds Executive Officer Capt. Josh Hawkins, the team is still working out the graphics finalization with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. Estimates at this point indicate the special license plate will be released by the Nevada DMV sometime in spring 2013. Check the Nevada DMV website at [www.dmvv.com](http://www.dmvv.com) for availability of the new plates.

### Thunderbirds cruise in 2014

Save the date – April 5, 2014. Alumnus Jeff Mielke (Public Affairs Officer 1988-90), wife Hillary and their company, “Living the Dream Cruises,” are organizing a Thunderbirds alumni mini-reunion cruise in 2014. Plans are for a seven-day Western Caribbean cruise onboard the Caribbean Princess, sailing from Galveston, Texas. Stops include Costa Maya where visitors can explore the great Mayan ruins of Kohnunlich; Island of Cozumel where people can head to the Mayan ruins of Tulum, swim with dolphins or snorkel at Palancar Reef; and Island of Roatan where guests can scuba dive with dolphins. Cost starts at \$759+ per person, based on double occupancy. “Your deposit reserves your cabin and locks in the price,” said Mielke. Final payment on the fare isn't due until Jan. 20, 2014. Deposits are also fully refundable up to that date as well. Look for more details at [www.ltdcruises.com/thunderbirdalum.html](http://www.ltdcruises.com/thunderbirdalum.html).

### Veterans History Project

Donna (Garland) Dassen (Maintenance 1991-94) reports the Veterans History Project of the American Folk Life Center collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars: World War II (1939-46); Korean War (1950-55); Vietnam War (1961-75); Persian Gulf War (1990-95); and Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). Anyone interested in participating can go to their website at <http://www.loc.gov/vetsl>.

### Apple product discount

Apple has a special program for Federal, state and local government and military employees and retirees. It offers special prices to those who want to purchase Apple products for personal use. For more information, go to [www.apple.com/rlstore/government/](http://www.apple.com/rlstore/government/).



*A Las Vegas-area group of Thunderbirds alumni meet for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. During a recent meeting, retired Navy Capt. and former NASA astronaut Donald Edward Williams addressed the group. Williams flew more than 5,700 hours in jets and has 745 carrier landings. He also logged a total of 287 hours and 35 minutes in space. Pictured (from left to right) are: Ron Coble (Night Shift Support 1982-85), John Maultsbly (Administration 1967-69), Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69), Captain Williams, George Curtis (Crew Chief #6 1962-64), John Eastwood (Crew Chief 1966-68), Chuck Lombardo (Crew Chief #8 1971-75) and Tom Serres (Public Affairs Superintendent 1966-68). Meetings start at 11:30 a.m., and all alumni are invited to attend. For more details, email Jerry Jones at [tbird13@cox.net](mailto:tbird13@cox.net).*



*Hank Bruggeman (Crew Chief #2 1969-73) and Richard Wiebers (Aircraft Maintenance 1973-76) stand by F-84F (s/n 52-6782 was painted as s/n 52-6779 of the Thunderbirds), which is on display at Luke AFB, Ariz.*

## Old Aircraft Never Die; Become Static Displays

Alumni traveling around the country may be interested in knowing a number of Thunderbirds aircraft are now on static display at locations around the United States.

F-84F (s/n 52-6782 was painted as s/n 52-6779) is on display at Luke AFB, Ariz. F-84F, in Thunderbirds colors (tail number 26456), is on display at VFW Post 6791 in West Chicago, Ill. An F-84F (tail number 1776) is on display in a park in Indian Springs, Nev.

F-4E (66-0289) is on display at Castle Air Museum in Atwater, Calif. 66-0294 is on display at American Legion Post 109 in Vail, Ariz. 66-0315 is on display in a park in Monnett, Mo. 66-0319 is on display at a VFW Post in Athens, Tenn. 66-0329 sits on display at Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Ariz.

The March Field Air Museum in Riverside, Calif., has a T-38A on display in Thunderbirds markings (not actually assigned to the team). T-38 in Thunderbirds scheme is on display at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Three T-38As in Thunderbirds scheme (with #1, #2 and #3 on tails) are on display in bomb-burst formation at Owatonna Degner Regional Airport, Minn.

F-16A (81-0663) is on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. 81-0676 is on display at The Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB, Ga. 81-0670 is pending preservation at the March Air Reserve Base (Calif.) Museum. 81-0678 is on display at Sheppard AFB, Texas. F-16C (87-0323) is on display in front of the Thunderbirds hangar at Nellis AFB, Nev.

## Gone But Not Forgotten

*EDITOR'S NOTE: There may be some time between an individual's death and when we print an obituary in ThunderRolls. They are printed in the next edition after they are received.*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and friends of these cherished members of the Thunderbirds family.

Master Sgt. (Ret.) **Jess Doris** (Crew Chief 1966-68) died Sept. 13 after a short battle with liver and lung cancer. Survivors include his wife, Charlene; son Ted; two grandsons; stepdad; brother; and sister. Graveside services with full military honors were held at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery, Anchorage, Alaska.

Master Sgt. (Ret.) **Meekie Edwards** (Inspection Flight Chief/Crew Chief #1 1993-97) died Sept. 12 of cancer. Cards may be sent to Victoria Edwards, 20453 Elkhart, Harperwoods, MI 48225.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) **Peter T. Kempf** (Honorary Thunderbird 1987) passed away June 15, after a six-year battle with melanoma.

**Larry Sprague** (Honorary Crew Chief 1988) passed away June 22. Cards may be sent to his wife, Myra (also Honorary Crew Chief 1988), at 3424 Frontier Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

## ThunderRolls

*ThunderRolls* is printed for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The next issue will be printed in March 2013. The deadlines for submissions is Feb. 1, 2013. Submissions (including high-resolution photos in .jpg format) may be emailed to [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto: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: 702-871-7079. Email: [DoeWilson@aol.com](mailto:DoeWilson@aol.com)

### Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors

- Mike "Slam" Byrne (1999-2000), Chairman
  - Kevin "Joker" Mastin (2000-01), Vice Chairman
  - Sarah Johnson-Robles (1974-76), Secretary
  - R. D. Evans (1979-81), Treasurer
  - Joe Barron (1995-98), Director
  - Lennie Coleman (1991-91), Director
  - Al Eakle (1989-91), Communications Chairman/  
*ThunderRolls* Editor
  - Shawn "Norm" Pederson (2001-02),  
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  - Eric "Flak" Schnaible (1992-94), Director
  - Corey "CB" Shoff (1994-97), Membership  
Chairman
  - Bruce Voigt (1997-2000), 2013 Reunion  
Chairman
  - Doe Wilson, Administrative Secretary
  - Carol Knotts, Historian
- The Thunderbirds Alumni Association thanks Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *ThunderRolls* and the TBAA.

### Graphic Design

Kevin Gray, Lockheed Martin,  
Fort Worth, Texas

### LOOK FOR...

#### Official TBAA website

[www.thunderbirdsalumni.org](http://www.thunderbirdsalumni.org)

#### eNewsletter

Subscribe via link on TBAA website

#### Facebook Page

Thunderbird Alumni (TBAA emblem on the opening page)

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7661 Angel Crest Circle  
Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220



# THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Rings Available to Current Team and Alumni

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association joined forces with Josten's jewelers earlier this year to offer the Thunderbirds ring, after an absence of more than 10 years. Ring prices increased Aug. 1, when the cost of gold rose as well.

The Thunderbirds ring, available to current team members and alumni only, is offered in men's and women's sizes.

In honor of the Thunderbirds' 60th anniversary next year, a 60th anniversary Thunderbirds ring is available for a limited time in addition to the traditional ring.

The traditional ring has the Thunderbirds emblem on one side and the Air Force coat of arms on the other side, with "USAF Thunderbirds" across the top. 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).

Similar to the current ring, the special anniversary ring has the 60th logo in place of the Air Force coat of arms. Prices for either ring are the same.

Josten's offers a variety of metal choices including:

Lustrium is a nonprecious metal alloy that is silver in color. It is a hard and durable metal. Men's and women's Lustrium rings are \$189.

Questra has the same characteristics as Lustrium, but is yellow in color because of a coating with 22K yellow gold. Men's and women's Questra rings are \$239.



Silver Elite is a precious metal alloy composed of 77 percent silver, 3 percent platinum and 20 percent other metal alloys. This metal quality is coated with rhodium plating, which helps prevent tarnish and scratches. Men's Silver Elite rings are \$385 and women's Silver Elite rings are \$290.

Men's 10K white or yellow gold rings are \$699 and women's 10K white or yellow gold rings are \$469.

Men's 14K white or yellow gold rings are \$999 and women's 14K white or yellow gold rings are \$629.

Men's 18K white or yellow gold rings are \$1,499 and women's 18K white or yellow gold rings are \$829.

Options available at \$15 each include full name engraving, encrusting and protected emblems (men's rings only) and sunburst stones.

A portion of the sales benefits TBAA. For an order form, email Al Eakle at [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com).