

# THUNDERROLLS



Fall 2009  
Volume 16

## A Tribute to Smokey



General Catledge (front/center) poses for a photo with the officers of the first Thunderbirds team in June 1953.

I just finished reading the memoirs of Maj. Gen. Richard “Smokey” Catledge. In light of his passing, we wanted to provide a tribute worthy of the First Boss – I hope I come close. I came away from his memoirs with a greater appreciation of his works – for the Thunderbirds and the greater Air Force.

He was a fighter pilot’s pilot – kicking ass and taking names in the air, and fighting the good fight against bureaucrats and politicians on the ground. He was a combat veteran of World War II and Vietnam. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private in 1942 and rose to the rank of major general before his retirement in 1973. In the tactical world, his influence was far-reaching. Instrumental in requiring a cannon be installed in the F-4E, he helped change the course of air combat for the next generation of fighters. All done with great courage, a lieutenant colonel and colonel arguing truth against political correctness with Air Staff generals, he held

his ground and his convictions – winning many arguments against great odds – to the warfighters’ benefit.

Is it any surprise he became the First Thunderbird, the Leader, the Boss of bosses, the original Thunderbird One? From the day he accepted the position until his first official demonstration, he had three weeks. Bear in mind, he was a team of one at that point. He had to recruit and hire all the squadron personnel – not the 140-odd folks we have today, but 29. He had to find his own building, design the paint scheme for the aircraft, get them painted, develop a routine, practice the routine – all in three weeks. Now I had the pleasure of rewriting the Maneuvers Manual, not once but twice – it took us 18 months – and, in comparison, did not constitute 20 percent of the first team’s task getting ready for that first show. No pressure though – the first show was for the Air Force Chief of Staff.

The rest is history – after 100 shows in 235 days. After three weeks as the Stardusters, the official name was changed to the Thunderbirds, and a tradition was born . . . because Once a Thunderbird, Always a Thunderbird. Boss Catledge set the stage for all who followed – how to man the squadron; how to lead the team; how to instill the pride of self, squadron and country that is so evident to this day.

As the current Thunderbirds Boss, our 30th, leads the team today, it’s a marvel how much we have grown, yet how much we remain the same. All that we are as Thunderbirds, all that we will be, has its roots in the words and deeds of that First Boss – Dick Catledge – who set the stage so ably and completely. . . shoes too big to fill. If you close your eyes, you can hear him . . . “Thunderbirds, Release Brakes . . . Ready, Now.”

Godspeed, Boss Catledge, you will be sorely missed by us all.

– Steve Andersen  
(Commander/Leader, 1994-95)  
TBAA Chairman

### Firsts for Boss Catledge

- First commander/leader
- Picked first team (Buck and Bill Patillo, Bob Kanaga)
- Choreographed first demonstration
- Designed first Thunderbird aircraft paint scheme
- Beddown at first base (Luke AFB)
- Led first aerial demonstration in continental U.S.
- Led first overseas deployment (Central and South America)
- Flew the first (and last) Cuban airshow

## From the Chairman

Greetings! It's been awhile since we've had a *Thunder Rolls* go to press, but with this issue we will get back on track of publishing three times per year and discontinue the long stretch between issues.

In this cyberworld of 24/7 news coverage, it's important to note that it takes close to two months to get an edition of *Thunder Rolls* to your doorstep from the time copy is submitted for layout. Our board has taken on the goal of keeping you informed of current Thunderbird alumni events in a more timely fashion, and I would like to highlight some initiatives we have instituted.

Thanks to Jason Haag, we introduced a monthly e-mail newsletter in 2008. Earlier this year, Jason also established a Twitter presence for the TBAA, and "Airshow AI" Eakle built an alumni-only Facebook group. I would ask that you follow, join or subscribe to these products. Information can be found in the credits section.

The 2007 reunion was a tremendous success – thanks to the Herculean efforts of our Reunion Committee chairpersons, Debbie Baer Becker and Brock McMahon. We have our work cut out for our 2009 reunion bash – but with our MC with the "Most-est" leading the effort, I feel confident we will have another reunion to talk about. The theme is Family – because we are one – and we hope to make it a closer family with your help. More information can be found in this issue, and we hope to see you in November.

Over the past year, we've seen some tremendous achievements – the 1987-88 team practically owns the Pacific Theater now with Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins (#2, 1987-89) commanding 11th AF/Alaskan Command and Lt. Gen. Jeff Remington (#5/6, 1987-89) commanding 7th AF and serving as deputy commander of U.S. Forces Korea. Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop recently returned from a one-year deployment as commander of the 332 Air Expeditionary Wing at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and will soon take up his new position on the joint staff in the Pentagon. Additionally, Maj. Nicole Malachowski (#3, 2006-07) and Lt. Col. Stacy Hawkins (#11, 2000-01) recently finished yearlong White House Fellowship stints. Hearty congratulations to them and all who continue to show the world what "Once a Thunderbird, Always a Thunderbird" really means.

On the sad side, we've also experienced the passing of many great alums – most notably our first commander/leader, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Richard "Smokey" Catledge, whose tribute can also be found in this issue, and Col. (ret.) Ralph "Hoot" Gibson, the team's fifth leader. Please keep thoughts of our fallen "Birds" and their families in your hearts and minds, and help us keep surviving family members a part of our extended family.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Thunder Rolls*.

Sincerely,



Steve Andersen (Commander/Leader, 1994-95)  
TBAA Chairman



# America Loses Favorite Son

Col. (ret.) **Ralph D. “Hoot” Gibson** (Leader, 1961-62) took his final flight west on Jan. 2, 2009. Hoot joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 and graduated from flight school in 1944. He flew P-51s after WWII in occupied Japan. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1946 and became America’s third jet ace, destroying five MiG 15s, claimed two probables and three damaged in 93 combat missions during the Korean War.

After tours in Europe, the Gibsons were stationed at Nellis Air Force Base and, in 1961, Hoot was selected to lead the Thunderbirds. During his two-year tour, the Team traveled 652 days and flew 180 demonstrations in 40 states and 14 Central and South American countries.

Following the Thunderbirds, Hoot held leadership positions at U.S. Air Forces in Europe, was commander of the 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron at Ubon AFB, Thailand, deputy commander for operations of the 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing, deputy Tactical Air Command inspector

general, and 9th Air Force deputy chief of staff for air operations. He retired in 1974 and returned to Tucson, Ariz., where he began a successful real estate career, forming his own company.

During his distinguished Air Force career, Hoot earned two Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star for Valor, Meritorious Service Medal and 14 Air Medals. He was also an Illinois Military Aviation Hall of Fame and Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame inductee.

Hoot passed suddenly, after a fall, doing what he loved to do, selling real estate. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years Donna, three sons, Scott, Craig, and Michael, four grandchildren, a sister, Opal Hamm, and brother, Will Gibson.



## Reunion 101

**Whether it’s your first reunion or your 20th, here are a few important items for all 2009 reunion attendees.**

**1. Book your room directly with the South Point Hotel.** To help keep 2009 reunion costs down, the South Point Hotel has very generously donated all of our event space. They are offering discounted room rates from Nov. 18-22 which range between \$79-\$89 per night (rate calculated by arrival/departure dates). To qualify for the discount, alumni need to book their room directly with the South Point Hotel by Oct. 18. (Discount is not available through online travel agencies.)

To book a reservation, visit [www.southpointcasino.com](http://www.southpointcasino.com) (reservation info is at the top of the site) and enter Group Code THU1118. Alumni may also call 1-866-796-7111 to make a reservation and should give the group code or let the reservations specialist know there is a group code under the Thunderbirds Alumni Association.

Please help us continue to provide affordable and fun reunions by booking with our sponsor hotel.

**2. Thunderbirds Lunch and Hangar Reception.** It’s so tempting to find your favorite brother birds and hang for the duration. Please make an

effort to meet the current team and spend some time with them, too. They are future TBAA members, and we want them to feel like they know us. Good first impressions will secure the future of our organization.

**3. Time in the hangar.** We are still ironing out all of the details with lunch at the hangar, airshow timing and then, hopefully, a bit more time to spend in the hangar and museum. We will send out our most precise timing as of the date we send invitations, and we will communicate updates and changes in several different ways.

**4. Thank our sponsors.** The Thunderbirds Alumni Association is very grateful to all of our sponsoring organizations and we ask that you meet and thank those who attend the reunion.

**5. Have questions?** If you are interested in finding out more on the reunion, please contact one of us or another board member.

– Matt “Mods” Modleski, [matt@sgbci.com](mailto:matt@sgbci.com) or 630-222-2837  
– Scar Scarbrough, [scars4qr@gmail.com](mailto:scars4qr@gmail.com) or 419-796-0012

Reunion co-chairs

## Discounted Reunion Air/Rental Rates

The TBAA is proud to announce American Airlines and Avis are providing discounted rates for the reunion.

### American Airlines

TBAA members can go to [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) and use authorization number 18N9AK for an additional 10 percent off the lowest applicable eligible published airfare to the reunion. Discounted rates are good for round-trip travel on American Airlines and American Eagle flights between Nov. 13 and Nov. 25.



The discounted rate may also be reserved via phone by calling the American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at 1-800-433-1790 from anywhere in the United States or Canada. (Please note: A \$20 per ticket charge applies for tickets purchased by phone.)

### Avis

Members can use Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number G027999 to receive the best available rate from Avis. The discounted rate includes unlimited mileage and is available from seven days before to seven days after the event.

Reservations should be made by calling Avis directly at 1-888-754-8878 or by using the following link:

[https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservationReservationsInitializer?&AWD\\_NUMBER=G027999](https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservationReservationsInitializer?&AWD_NUMBER=G027999)

### Airline Ticket Raffle/Auction

Bring your piggy bank to the reunion because we are going to raffle or auction off several American Airlines round-trip tickets. All proceeds will benefit the TBAA.





# Thunderbirds Reunion 2009

## A Preview of Upcoming Reunion Events

When I was given the honor of leading this year's Reunion Committee, I asked how you felt about a "family" theme. I wasn't talking about our families at home (though, certainly, they are an integral part of everything Thunderbirds); I was talking about our Thunderbird family. I was talking about the familial connection between the current Thunderbird Team and the Alumni Association. Your responses were overwhelmingly supportive of this Thunderbird family theme, and it is with this in mind that we gather to celebrate with some of the best friends in our lives. Welcome to the Thunderbirds Reunion 2009; here are the events we have planned. We will have a fantastic time together!

### Thunderbirds Reunion Golf Tournament

Sunrise Vista Golf Course, Nellis Air Force Base  
Nov. 20, 8 a.m. – Tee-Off



Our weekend kicks off with a shotgun start as the Reunion Golf Tournament begins the formal events. Dan Cooley (#11, 1982-84) is once again our golf chairman. Dan is a terrific guy and the key to the success of this reunion event. Thanks, Dan! Nellis AFB has a great, highly maintained, 27-hole golf course, and you won't want to miss the chance to get a foursome together to challenge for prizes and the recognition of being the

best! As in years past, transportation to the golf event is on your own, but remember there will be buses leaving the base at the end of the day's activities.

### Thunderbirds Reunion Hangar Lunch and Reception

Thunderbirds Hangar, Nellis Air Force Base  
Nov. 20, Noon–1 p.m. – Lunch;  
3:45 p.m.\* – Post-Airshow Hangar Reception

This year we are trying something a bit unique with our time in the hangar, and it takes our legacy of precision timing to a whole new level. In an effort to keep costs down this year, we have combined all of our reunion events into two days. The time in the hangar will be split into two parts – during the first hour, we will have lunch before the airshow. And after we watch our 2009 Thunderbirds Team fly (more on that later), we will have a chance to spend more time



in the hangar and museum, reconnecting with that wonderful feeling that this very special place gives to all of us. Spend some time touring the Thunderbirds Museum and take some pictures beside a Thunderbirds F-16. Enjoy your time in the hangar, enjoy your time with your friends; this is why we all come back every couple of years and, yes, it is special! Please use our bus service so you can relax and enjoy the moment rather than worry about Las Vegas traffic.



### The 2009 Thunderbirds Airshow

Thunderbirds Flightline, Nellis Air Force Base  
Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m.\*

Friday afternoon is airshow day, and we will board the buses (if you choose to travel stress-free) to Nellis AFB to enjoy the 2009 Team's performance. Commander/Leader Lt. Col. Gregory "Charger" Thomas and his amazing 2009 Thunderbirds team will demonstrate their finely honed skill, and you'll be front and center to hear the thunder. You won't want to miss the new Block 52 F-16s as Boss Thomas opens the show with a Diamond Loop on takeoff!

After we spend a bit more time digesting our food, the airshow and a walk through the hangar, the buses will return to the South Point Hotel. You'll want to freshen up and get comfortable for a very casual evening with your friends as we grab a bite to eat and drink together at the Thunderbirds Reunion 2009 Perch Party.

*\*Times are subject to change slightly to accommodate airspace limitations for the airshow. We will update you at the registration desk on final times.*



# Thunderbirds 2009 Reunion Perch Party

## South Point Hotel

Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m.

(Dress as casually as you'd like!)

This is a place to have dinner with your friends, while visiting and catching up on the past couple of years . . . and it should feel as casual as The Perch used to feel for all of us. This year's event will have some food and all-you-can-drink draft beer included in the price (as well as a pay-as-you-go bar). We want everyone to use this as your dinner stop and hang out as long as you'd like. TVs will be showing looped Thunderbird videos, as well as other possibilities (key sporting event if there's one). We'll announce the winners of the Golf Tournament as well. Our goal with this event is to make this the place to hang out with friends from your Team instead of having to find another place for that casual time together. Please join us; we think you'll like the feel of The Perch!

## Thunderbirds 2009 Reunion Alumni Business Meeting

South Point Hotel

Nov. 21, 9 a.m.

The TBAA board will present an overview of the most current TBAA information and discuss old as well as new business. The time for this meeting will be limited to accommodate reunion guests who wish to spend the afternoon on the Las Vegas strip before the evening events.



## Thunderbirds 2009 Reunion Banquet Featuring Mark Wills

South Point Hotel

Nov. 21, 5 p.m.

The evening's events begin at 6 p.m., following an hour for cocktails and reconnecting with friends. Our Thunderbird family, past and present, celebrates our Thunderbirds legacy and the legacy being created by our 2009 brothers and sisters. We will honor some old traditions and celebrate some new ones, such as the naming of the 2010 Showline as they themselves learn for the first time who will have that honor. And of course, we will celebrate the 2009 Fitzgerald Award Winner. We've added 20 minutes for table-hopping before our world-famous country star, Mark Wills, performs a private show for us! Mark is a true patriot who performs internationally for our troops serving in harm's way. You will enjoy him immensely.



When the curtain falls, we will all linger for a while, delaying the inevitable good-byes as we always do. Our Thunderbird Family, Alumni and Active Team will share a night to remember to culminate a weekend to remember, and we truly want you to come out and be a part of this reunion. Make your reunion plans early. You don't want to miss the 2009 event!

## Original Artwork To Be Raffled

An oil painting created and donated by alumni Thomas Smith (1996-2001) will be raffled off during reunion week, with first tickets sold at the registration desk. The painting depicts the delta flying over the Statue of Liberty at sunset. The painting won a Par Excellence award in 2003 at the EAA Aviation Art Contest.



Matt "Mods" Modleski (1996-97)  
2009 Reunion Chairman



# Gone, But Not Forgotten

Maj. Gen. (ret.) **Richard C. “Smokey” Catledge** (Commander/Leader, 1953-55) passed away from complications of pneumonia Aug. 12, 2007. A memorial service and interment of his ashes took place at Arlington National Cemetery. General Catledge is survived by his wife, Linda; sons, Chris and Clay; daughter, Peggy Wagnitz; stepson, Mike Major; stepdaughter, Dana Hyland; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Address: 2432 Rock Shores Drive, Niceville, FL 32578.

Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) **Steven T. Hebert** (Corrosion Control, 1982-85) passed away in San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 14, 2007. Funeral services were held at Sunset Memorial Park and Funeral Home in San Antonio, followed by interment at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Steven is survived by his wife, Lori. Address: 17338 Wayland Run, San Antonio, TX 78247-5821.

Army Lt. Col. (ret.) **James “Mr. Jim” Ransbotham** (Honorary Crew Chief, 1997) passed away Aug. 21, 2007. Funeral services were held at Butler Funeral Home in Stedman, N.C., followed by burial at Pleasant Union Baptist Church Cemetery. Jim is survived by his wife, Janie; son, Jack; three daughters, Diane Walter, Karen Ruffin and Candy Ransbotham; two stepdaughters, Kaye Malvarez and Lynn Stone; 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Address: 1646 Greenock Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28304.

Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) **Charles A. “Chuck” Neuwohner** (Aircraft/Weapons, 1969-72) passed away Sept. 26, 2007, after a long illness. Services were held at the Boulder City (Nev.) Veterans Cemetery. Chuck is survived by his wife, Penny; and three sons, Charles, Billy and David. Address: 4920 Nettie Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89110.

Tech. Sgt. (ret.) **Robert R. “Bob” Ehlke** (Photographer, 1963-66) passed away in Las Vegas Jan. 22, 2008. Bob’s ashes were interred during a private family service in Wisconsin. Condolences to the family may be sent to Mrs. Judy Smith, 21621 Sandia Road, Space 142, Apple Valley, CA 92308.

Master Sgt. (ret.) **Philip Paulos** (Administration, 1980-82) passed away Feb. 27, 2008. Funeral services were held at the Roby Funeral Home Chapel in Plattsmouth, Neb., followed by interment at the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Plattsmouth. Philip is survived by his wife, Mary; son, John Gordon; daughters, Ina Paulos and Sally Gordon; and six grandchildren. Address: 625 Sixth Avenue, Plattsmouth, NE 68048-2128.

Col. (ret.) **Walter A. “Walt” Parker** (Narrator/Right Wing, 1976-78) took his final flight at home surrounded by family and loved ones March 13, 2008. Family and friends celebrated Walt’s life at his home. Walt is survived by his wife and best friend, Kay; daughter, Ashley Nichols; and two grandchildren. Address: 240 Brooks Street, A-401, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

Col. (ret.) **Maurice “Maury” G. Long** (Honorary Thunderbird, 1968) passed away peacefully March 31, 2008, in Apple Valley, Calif. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Catherine’s Church, in Riverside, Calif., and was followed by graveside services with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery. Colonel Long was

preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Mary Jo. The couple had two sons, six daughters, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Jeanne Long, 18006 NE 138th Place, Redmond, WA 98052.

Tech. Sgt. (ret.) **John F. “Beef” Bourguignon** (Maintenance Control, 1975-77) passed away April 12, 2008. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the St. George Catholic Church in Bourbonnais, Ill., followed by burial at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill. John is survived by his wife, Cecile; two daughters, Jeanette Brady and Marie Early; and four grandchildren. Address: 1925 Claire Drive, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) **Jackie W. Armstrong** (Aircraft Maintenance, 1967-69) passed away after losing a battle with brain cancer May 11, 2008. Funeral services were conducted at Higgins Funeral Home in Kelso, Tenn., followed by burial at the Kelso Cemetery. Jackie is survived by his wife, Ginger. Address: 13 Teal Hollow Road, Kelso, TN 37348.

Master Sgt. (ret.) **Ray Mathes** (Line Chief, 1955-58) passed away June 6, 2008. A memorial was held at College Park Baptist Church in Las Vegas. Ray is survived by his son, Ronald Ray Mathes; daughter, Brenda H. Mathes; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Condolences to the family may be sent to Tim Carlton, 2071 Highway 95, Ste. 3, Bullhead City, AZ 86442.

Lt. Col. (ret.) **Martin O. “Mo” Detlie** (Slot, USAF Skyblazers, 1952-53) took his last adventurous flight on July 2, 2008. A memorial service was held July 11 at Parklawn-Wood Funeral Home in Hampton, Va., with interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Mo is survived by his wife, Wivi; three children and grandchildren. Address: The Salt Ponds, 1024 Porte Harbour Arch, No. 202, Hampton, VA 23664.

Staff Sgt. **Wayne E. Bolton** (Environmental, 1964-68) passed away Aug. 7, 2008, of kidney cancer. He is survived by his wife, Toni. Address: 3983 South Xenia Drive, Enon, OH 45323.

Col. (ret.) **Robert D. “Bob” Anderson** (Solo/Left Wing, 1955-57) passed away in Oklahoma City Sept. 9, 2008. Services were held at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City, followed by interment at Memorial Park Cemetery. Bob leaves behind his wife, Helene; two sons, John and Fred; and six grandchildren. Address: 13517 Pinehurst Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

The Honorable **Verne Orr** (Honorary Thunderbird, 1983, and 14th Secretary of the Air Force) passed away Nov. 27, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Sarah. Address: 1444 Hillcrest Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106.

Continued on page 7

# Gone But Not Forgotten

Continued from page 6

**Charles E. "Chuck" Benham** (Honorary Crew Chief, 1972) died Dec. 20, 2008, in Cantonment, Fla. A retired McDonnell Douglas Senior Field Service Engineer, Chuck provided technical support to the Thunderbirds from 1969 to 1974. He is survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Joanna and Bill Barker; nephew and spouse, Charles Joseph and Karen Barker; and great-niece, Sara Barker, all of Albany, Ore. Funeral services were held in his hometown of Enfield, Ill., followed by interment at Enfield Cemetery. Condolences may be given online at [www.kittinger-fairfuneralhome.com](http://www.kittinger-fairfuneralhome.com).

Col. (ret.) **Ralph D. "Hoot" Gibson** (Leader, 1961-62) died Jan. 2, 2009, after striking his head during a fall. Funeral services were held at Christ Community Church in Tucson, Ariz., followed by interment in East Lawn Palms Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Donna; three sons, Scott, Duane and Craig; and four grandchildren. Address: 18536 East Cactus Hill Road, X9 Ranch, Vail, AZ 85641.

Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) **Wilton H. "Buck" Buchanan, Jr.** (Maintenance Supt., 1965-67) died Jan. 14, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marge; two daughters and their husbands, Vickie and Lynn Wilson of Surprise, Ariz., and Cathy and Mike Scarbrough of Forest Hill, Calif.; and three granddaughters. At his request, Buck was cremated, and there were no funeral services. Address: 3 Karen Street, Washington, WV 26181.

Master Sgt. (ret.) **Thomas P. "Tom" Jordan, Jr.** (AGE, 1961-63) passed away Feb. 13, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Doreatha. A memorial service was held at the Boulder City (Nev.) Veterans Cemetery. Address: 1640 Angel Falls Street, Las Vegas, NV 89122.

**Glenn Neely** (Honorary Crew Chief, 1969) peacefully passed away Feb. 24, 2009, with his beloved wife, Joan, near his bedside. They had seven children, Karry, Lindsay, Dane, Terry, Ann, Todd and Melisa; 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Private funeral services were held in Reno, Nev., and a celebration of his life was held in Bullion, Nev. Address: 1570 View Crest Court, Reno, NV 89511.

Staff Sgt. **Jeffrey D. Mann** (Airframe Structural Repair, 1973-75) passed away Feb. 27, 2009. Jeff was a firefighter with the City of Henderson Fire Department for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Patrice; sons, Jeffrey and Brian Mann; daughters, Tiffany and Lacey Mann and Tonya Aghas; stepdaughter, Amie Griffie; stepsons, Russell and Eric Chandler and Branden Petersen; and 24 grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Arrowhead LDS Chapel in Henderson, Nev., followed by interment at Palm Memorial Park in Henderson. Address: P.O. Box 90879, Henderson, NV 89009.

Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) **Thomas H. "Tom" Nellist** (Crew Chief, Maintenance Flight Chief, 1953-55) passed away April 6, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Angela; son, Scott; stepchildren, Christine, John and Steven; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. Address: 2093-A Northshore Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91913.

# Thunder Rolls

## Credits

The USAF Thunderbirds Alumni Association publishes *Thunder Rolls*.

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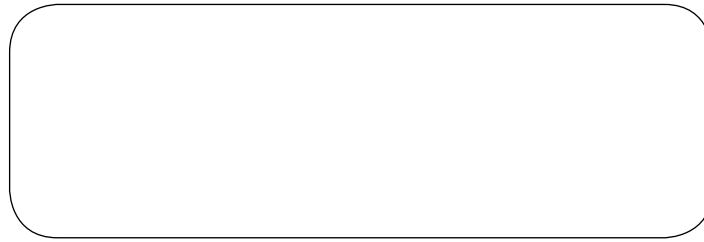
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Publication inquiries and submissions may be submitted by e-mail to: [ThunderRolls@thunderbirdsalumni.org](mailto:ThunderRolls@thunderbirdsalumni.org) or by mail to: *Thunder Rolls*, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117

The TBAA would like to thank Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *Thunder Rolls*.

Please send our TBAA super secretary, Doe Wilson, your newest e-mail address, so she can update our alumni membership directory: [doewilson@aol.com](mailto:doewilson@aol.com)



7661 Angel Crest Circle  
Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220



# THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

U. S. A. F.

Testament to Teamwork

Legacy of Service

Destiny of Dominance

Foundation of Family

THUNDERBIRDS  
REUNION  
2009

## Save the Date Nov. 20-21, 2009