

THUNDERROLLS



2013
Volume 20 No. 1



Rick Dale, star of the History Channel program American Restorations, unveils the restored Thunderbirds F-105 model. The Thunderbirds Alumni Association funded restoration of the F-105 model and memorial. A rededication is now scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15, in front of the Thunderbirds hangar when alumni visit the squadron during the 60th Anniversary Reunion.

TBAA Starts 60-for-60 Membership Drive

60-for-60 is the theme for the Thunderbirds Alumni Association membership drive that began Jan. 1 and runs through July 31. The TBAA member who recruits the most individuals will receive a free banquet ticket for the 60th Anniversary Reunion Nov. 14-16.

“The TBAA Board of Directors has set a goal to get 60 new TBAA members signed up by July 31,” said “CB” Shoff, Membership Committee Chairman. “We are asking all

members to make an extra effort to recruit at least one new member in 2013.”

The TBAA has four categories of membership – alumni, team, honorary and associate.

Alumni membership is extended to all who served with the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds in the capacity of officer or enlisted, who wore the patch and have been certified as worthy by their commander/leader.

Team membership is extended to current team officers and enlisted who have satisfactorily completed their training period.

Honorary membership is extended to team-selected Honorary Thunderbirds and Honorary Crew Chiefs.

Associate membership may be extended to those who have been assigned to the team, such as chaplains or flight surgeons (prior to 1994). Associate membership may also be extended,

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April 1 Deadline Fast Approaching for Board Nominations

The April 1 deadline is fast approaching for those interested in running for the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors. Turnover of the TBAA Board Jan. 1, 2014, will include Mike “Slam” Byrne, Chairman; Sarah Johnson-Robles, Secretary; R. D. Evans, Treasurer; and Directors Joe Barron, Al Eakle and Bruce Voigt.

“We are particularly interested in nominees who are willing to help with the immense efforts required to run the organization,” said Shawn “Norm” Pederson, Nominating Committee Chairman. “We need someone to organize a great reunion in 2015 or folks who may have expertise in accounting and finance, fundraising, QuickBooks, web design, social

media, marketing and research to find our missing alumni.”

For those thinking about running, or even to vote for those running, there are a few things to know.

First, alumni must be current in TBAA dues or a lifetime member to be a nominee as well as to

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From the Chairman

All, welcome to the first of three editions of *ThunderRolls* that we'll print this year. There are a couple of items I want to bring to your attention.

First is the F-105 model/memorial restoration project that was completed in November. The model/memorial was on display for many years at the Nellis AFB main gate. It was taken down during a gate renovation, sat in a storage yard and almost ended up in the scrap heap.

Team members approached the TBAA Board of Directors about funding restoration of the model/memorial, which they agreed to do. The model was restored by Rick's Restorations, stars of the History Channel's *American Restorations*. Work on the project was filmed and featured on the program in November and January. A team-produced video is available at <http://afthunderbirds.com/site/2012/11/29/capt-gene-devlin-memorial-restoration/>.

The F-105 model/memorial's new home will be in front of the Thunderbird's hangar. A rededication ceremony to kick off the 60th Anniversary demonstration season is scheduled for Nov. 15.

Second, your new website/complete redesign launched on New Year's Day. As members, you can now build your own profiles and easily communicate with your TBAA Board of Directors as well as all alumni who also have profiles. Within profiles is a Make Contact button that allows you to send an email (without actually showing the email address being sent to) to individuals once they register. One of the first to build a profile was retired Gen. Tony McPeak (Solo 1967-68) . . . thank you, sir, for leading the charge!

All alumni can now complete a TBAA membership application online and pay annual or lifetime dues via credit card or PayPal. The site's home page also has links to our groups on Facebook, LinkedIn and the current team's website. Our website is available at www.thunderbirdsalumni.org.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the next Board of Directors whose terms will begin Jan. 1, 2014. Stepping down at the end of 2013 are Sarah Johnson-Robles, Secretary; R. D. Evans, Treasurer; Directors Joe Barron, Al Eakle and Bruce Voigt; and myself. Individuals who want to run for the board can be nominated by a fellow Thunderbirds alumnus, or they may self-nominate. The deadline for nominations is April 1. All nominations should include full name and contact information for both the nominee and nominator. Nominations can be emailed to Norm Pederson (normf15e@gmail.com) or mailed to: TBAA Nominations, c/o Shawn Pederson, 9208 Bexleywood Ct., Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

Finally, I want to congratulate Boss Moseley and all the men and women of his team on a very successful 2012 season, and we look forward to seeing all of them at the 60th Anniversary Reunion in November.



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



From the Boss



Hello, Thunderbirds! The 2012 Aviation Nation airshow marked the end of another fantastic Thunderbirds season. Since then, we bid farewell to some wonderful team members and their families and welcomed a talented group of new Thunderbirds (learn more about them at www.afthunderbirds.com).

As I write this, we are in the heart of our training syllabus and beginning the preparation for our 2013 60th Anniversary schedule. The schedule includes a PACAF

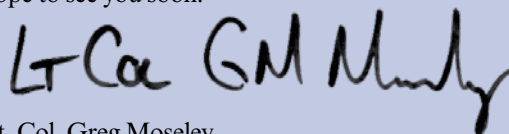
tour, five new show sites (including the Dominican Republic) and many other outstanding venues. We are honored to spread goodwill across the globe, proudly representing the red, white and blue of our great nation. We know that our successes are achieved by standing on the shoulders of those Thunderbirds who have gone before us.

In 1953, seven officers and 22 enlisted were selected to form the Air Force's first demonstration team, the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit,

activated at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Today we are humbled to continue the Thunderbirds legend by representing our Airmen during the team's 60th Anniversary. When we tell their story, we give the world an honest glimpse of our Air Force and the amazing Airmen who serve. As you have done, we will continue to do our best to honor those Airmen.

The team is very excited to see all of you at Nellis for the 2013 60th Anniversary Reunion. It is our honor to carry on the traditions and heritage of this great organization, and we look forward to the opportunity to show you that in person during your visit.

With only a few weeks left before our training season ends and the 2013 performance season begins, we look forward to the opportunity to meet many of you out on the road. All the best to all of you and hope to see you soon!



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

Redesigned Website Offers New Features

On New Year's Day, the TBAA debuted a redesigned website at www.thunderbirdsalumni.org that offers several new features.

"We've created a roster of all living alumni, associates, Honorary Thunderbirds and Honorary Crew Chiefs up to the end of 2011," said Al Eakle, TBAA Communications Chairman. "As soon as someone registers, they will be able to update their profile and to add two different portraits."

Everything posted on the site can be viewed by anyone; however, a username and password are required to update a portrait.

"Anyone in the roster who needs login directions should email me at al.eakle@gmail.com," Eakle said. "I'll be happy to send personalized instructions."

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." A request will be sent, and when approved, directions on how to log in will be sent by return email.

Another feature in the Member Profile is the Make Contact button. After registration, individuals can make contact with someone, without revealing the recipient's actual email address, using the Make Contact button.

Individuals can now join TBAA online with a fill-in-the-blank membership application or download the same form, fill it out and mail it in. TBAA dues can now be paid online with either a bank or credit card through PayPal.



A public photo gallery is available to everyone, along with a Members Only photo gallery on each profile.

Historical data about the Thunderbirds is also available, along with past issues of the newsletter *ThunderRolls* and team VIP books from 2010 (none were published in 2008, 2011 or 2012).

The site also features a News and Events feature on the home page that will be updated on a continual basis.

"We'll also be able to send out emails to all of those registered on the site," Eakle added.

60-for-60 Membership Drive

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by a majority vote of the TBAA Board of Directors, to spouses of deceased alumni members and key personnel or special friends who support the team or association.

"Only alumni, honorary and associate membership will count in the competition," said Shoff. "Rules for the competition are simple," he added. They are:

- New applicants must indicate who recruited them on the top of their membership form; forms can be downloaded from the TBAA website at www.thunderbirdsalumni.org
- A minimum of two new applicants is required

to be considered in the competition; in the event of a tie, the winner will be the individual who traveled the farthest to attend the reunion

- The winner will be announced at the 2013 reunion banquet

Shoff also offered suggestions when talking to prospective members. He said, "As you talk to someone about becoming a member, remind them of recent TBAA accomplishments." These accomplishments include:

- \$10,000 donation to fund the restoration of the Thunderbirds F-105 model and the Capt. Gene Devlin Memorial

- \$2,000 donation toward hangar and Perch renovations
- Lunch for the entire team and families at the 2009 and 2011 reunions
- A television and new bar stools for the Perch
- Shelving for the Public Affairs office
- A new Fitzgerald trophy

Shoff urged members to reach out to those who have been hesitant to join. "Convey to them all of the great things the TBAA has done," he added, "and with their help by joining TBAA, we can continue to do great things!"

Board Nominations

Continued from pg. 1

vote in the election. Second, individuals desiring to run for these positions can be nominated by a fellow Thunderbirds alumnus, or they may self-nominate. And last, nominations must be received by the April 1 deadline.

All nominations should include full name and contact information for both the nominee and the nominator. Nominations can be emailed to

Pederson at normf15e@gmail.com or mailed to: TBAA Nominations, c/o Shawn Pederson, 9208 Bexleywood Ct., Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

For those nominated, Pederson will first confirm their desire to serve. Then he will ask for a short biography that includes years and positions held while on the team and a statement of why they want 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 better inform those voting," said Pederson. "Details on that process will be coming soon."

2013 Thunderbirds Officers



Lt. Col. Greg Moseley is in his second season as the commander/leader (Thunderbird #1). Colonel Moseley entered the Air Force in 1998 as a graduate of Virginia Military Institute. He has logged more than 2,000 flight hours in the F-15C and F-22 with more than 50 hours of combat experience in the F-15C. He hails from Seguin, Texas.



Maj. Tyler Ellison is in his first season as the operations officer (Thunderbird #7). He is a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Before joining the team, Major Ellison was aide-de-camp to the commander, Air Combat Command, at Langley AFB, Va. He has logged more than 900 flight hours. Major Ellison hails from Layton, Utah.



Maj. Joshua Boudreaux is in his first season with the team as the left wing pilot (Thunderbird #2). A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he was an F-16 instructor pilot and flight commander for the 555th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. He has logged more than 2,300 flight hours, including more than 400 combat hours in the F-16C. Major Boudreaux hails from Covington, La.



Maj. Michael Fisher is in his second season as the advance pilot/narrator (Thunderbird #8). He is a 2002 graduate of Washington State University. Before joining the team, he served as an F-16 instructor pilot and flight commander for the 310th Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz. He has logged more than 1,600 flight hours, with more than 430 combat hours in the F-16C/D. Major Fisher hails from Vancouver, Wash.



Maj. Caroline Jensen is in her second season as the right wing pilot (Thunderbird #3). She is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Before joining the team, Major Jensen served as a T-38 instructor pilot and assistant flight commander for Air Force Reserve Command's 340th Flying Training Group, 80th Flying Training Wing, at Sheppard AFB, Texas. She has logged more than 2,500 flight hours, including 200 combat hours in the F-16C. Major Jensen hails from River Falls, Wis.



Maj. (Dr.) Michael Carletti is in his second season with the team as the flight surgeon (Thunderbird #9). He is responsible for providing medical care for more than 120 team members. Doctor Carletti is a 2002 graduate of Texas Christian University. Before joining the team, he was the flight surgeon for the 72nd Medical Group, Tinker AFB, Okla. He has logged more than 650 flight hours. Doctor Carletti hails from San Antonio, Texas.



Maj. Curtis Dougherty is in his first season as the slot pilot (Thunderbird #4). He is a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Before joining the team, Major Dougherty served as Chief of Wing Weapons for the 4th Fighter Wing, at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. He has logged more than 2,200 flight hours, including more than 800 combat hours in the F-15E. Major Dougherty hails from Downingtown, Pa.



Maj. Joshua Wild is in his first season as the executive officer (Thunderbird #10). He leads an executive support staff responsible for Thunderbirds' cyber/knowledge operations, budget, training and force support actions for the commander/leader. Major Wild enlisted in the Air Force in 1998, serving as a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration specialist before his commission through the Air Force Officer Training School in 2002. Before joining the team, he was the operations flight commander for the AFROTC detachment at Sanford University in Birmingham, Ala. Major Wild hails from Warwick, R.I.



Maj. Blaine Jones is in his second season with the team and is the lead solo pilot (Thunderbird #5). He is a 1996 graduate of Kansas State University. Before joining the team, Major Jones served as an F-22 instructor pilot and assistant director of operations for the 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va. He has logged more than 1,300 flight hours. Major Jones hails from Kingman, Kan.



Capt. Lucas Buckley is in his first season with the team as the maintenance officer (Thunderbird #11). He is responsible for 90 personnel and the maintenance of 11 Block 52 F-16 aircraft. Captain Buckley is a 2004 graduate of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. Before joining the team, he served as an instructor for the Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Officer School at Nellis AFB, Nev. Captain Buckley hails from Rosemount, Minn.



Capt. Jason Curtis is in his first season as the opposing solo pilot (Thunderbird #6). He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Before joining the team, Captain Curtis was an F-16 instructor pilot and flight commander for the 308th Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz. He has logged more than 1,200 flight hours, with more than 280 combat hours in the F-16. Captain Curtis hails from Kalispell, Mont.



Maj. Darrick Lee is in his first season with the team as the public affairs officer (Thunderbird #12). He manages the team's extensive marketing, recruiting and publicity programs. Major Lee enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1990 and served as a combat photographer before being commissioned through the Air Force Officer Training School in 2002. Before joining the team, he was the Chief of Public Affairs for the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa AB, Japan. Major Lee hails from Denver, Colo.



Team Announces Showline for 2013 Season

The Thunderbirds have announced the showline for the 2013 demonstration season.

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★ LC ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Line Chiefs are Tech. Sgts. **Richard Connell**, Las Vegas, Nev., and **Dwayne Fuller**, Akron, Ohio.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 1 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Dedicated Crew Chief (DCC) and Assistant DCC for #1 are Tech. Sgts. **Jonathan Gerlach**, Albuquerque, N.M., and **Andrew Hartman**, Columbia, Mo.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 2 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCC and ADCC for #2 are Staff Sgt. **William Rotroff**, Fort Mohave, Ariz., and Tech. Sgt. **Ryan Birk**, Gaylord, Mich.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 3 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCC and ADCC for #3 are Staff Sgt. **Stephen Leonardi**, Byron, Ga., and Senior Airman **Chastin Peterson**, Wahiawa, Hawaii.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 4 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCC and ADCC for #4 are Staff Sgts. **Stanley Weaver**, Slidell, La., and **Chai Trepte**, Kea'au, Hawaii.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 5 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCC and ADCC for #5 are Staff Sgts. **Brian Kay**, Evansville, Ind., and **John Mantanona**, Chalan Pago, Guam.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 6 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCC and ADCC for #6 are Staff Sgts. **Daniel Nightingale**, Sacramento, Calif., and **Jacob Worthen**, Gunnison, Utah.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 7 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCCs for #7 are Staff Sgts. **Benjamin Ayivorh**, Burke, Va.; **Ryan Lopes**, Hillside, N.J.; and **Alexander Reed**, Burlington, N.J. The ADCCs are Staff Sgts. **Richard Ingram**, Charlotte, N.C.; **Adam Latta**, New Orleans, La.; and **Joel Semling**, Grover Beach, Calif.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ 8 ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The DCCs for #8 are Staff Sgts. **Joseph Khodabakhshian**, Glendale, Calif., and **Mark Mira**, Dededo, Guam. The ADCCs are Staff Sgt. **Michael Hayes**, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Tech. Sgt. **Ryan Schenkel**, Carson, Calif.

2013 60th Anniversary Demonstration Schedule

Feb. 24	Daytona 500 NASCAR Race Flyover	May 11-12	Martinsburg, WV.	Aug. 10-11	Burlington, Vt.
Mar. 6	Approval Show	May 18-19	Fairchild AFB, Wash.	Aug. 17-18	Chicago, Ill.
Mar. 10	Kobalt Tools 400 NASCAR Race Flyover	May 25-26	Wantagh (Jones Beach), N.Y.	Aug. 22-Sept. 30	Pacific Tour
Mar. 12	Creech AFB, Nev., Appreciation Show	May 29	USAF Academy Graduation	Oct. 1-6	Post-Deployment Break
Mar. 16-17	Luke AFB, Ariz.	June 1-2	Rochester, N.Y.	Oct. 12-13	Rome, Ga.
Mar. 23-24	Titusville, Fla.	June 8	Joint Base Charleston, S.C.	Oct. 19-20	Cocoa Beach, Fla.
Mar. 26-31	Easter Break	June 15-16	Ypsilanti, Mich.	Oct. 26-27	Houston, Texas
Apr. 6-7	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	June 22-23	Dayton, Ohio	Nov. 2-3	Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
Apr. 13-14	Lakeland, Fla.	June 29-30	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Nov. 9-10	Nellis AFB, Nev.
Apr. 20-21	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	July 6-7	Battle Creek, Mich.	NOTE TO ALUMNI: If interested in Thunderbirds airshow tickets, contact Maureen Walker, the commander/leader's secretary, at 702-652-2277 or maureen.walker@nellis.af.mil . Please request tickets no later than one month prior to the event.	
Apr. 27-28	Latrobe, Pa.	July 10-15	Mid-Season Break		
May 4-5	Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.	July 20-21	Kalispell, Mont.		
		July 24	Cheyenne, Wyo.		
		July 31	Oshkosh, Wis.		
		Aug. 3-4	Milwaukee, Wis.		

Benchstock

We welcome **Scott Frost** (Training NCO 1986-89), **Kati Graham** (Public Affairs 2002-06) and **Thomas Morgan** (Pneudraulics Mechanic and ACC #4 0000-00), new annual members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association.

Retired **Lt. Gen. Dan Darnell** (Commander/Leader 1992-93) is vice president of Strategic Initiatives for Raytheon's Space and Airborne Systems business. As a business development leader, Darnell is responsible for strategically aligning SAS to support current and future U.S. government security and defense requirements. He retired from active duty March 1, 2012, as the deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Retired **Lt. Gen. Jeff Remington** (Solo 1988-89) is vice president and corporate lead executive for the Northrop Grumman Corporation in Honolulu. He is the senior executive for the Honolulu region, representing all business activities for the company. He retired from active duty March 1, 2012, as the deputy commander, U.N. Command Korea; deputy commander, U.S. Forces Korea; commander, Air Component Command, Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command; and commander, 7th Air Force.

The **Thunderbirds Alumni Association** has secured the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., for the 2013 60th Anniversary Reunion – the dates are Nov. 14–16. Golf will kick things off Thursday, and Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) has agreed to again head that effort. Activities for Friday include a visit to the Thunderbirds hangar that afternoon and a Perch Party at the hotel early that evening. The TBAA business meeting will be Saturday morning, with activities concluding with a banquet Saturday night. Activities at the banquet will include enshrinement of the Thunderbirds (1953 to present) into the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame. 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) or Al (al.eakle@gmail.com). Look for more reunion details in future issues of *ThunderRolls*.



Maj. Michael Fisher, advance pilot/narrator (Thunderbird 8), presents Barb Haluska (Honorary Thunderbird 1996), executive director of the Battle Creek Field of Flight Airshow and Balloon Festival, with a team award during the International Council of Airshows convention Dec. 11. The Thunderbirds named Battle Creek the best civilian show site for 2012.

Congratulations to **Chief Master Sgt. Rob Spaulding** (Materiel Control 1989-92), who was selected for Chief during the June 2012 Senior NCO Supplemental Board and was retroactively promoted for cycle 10E9 with a Date of Rank backdated to Jan. 1, 2011 [yes, 2011]. His selection during the Supplemental Board came after the U.S. Army upgraded his medal to the Bronze Star during a yearlong deployment with the 41st Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan from 2006-07. He is a division chief at the Air Force Senior NCO Academy.

Congratulations to **Brandy Petzel** (Personnel 2000-03) and **Jason Tiek** (Electro/Environmental 1998-2001), who were promoted to chief master sergeants, and **Ryan Dudgeon** (Air Trans 1999-2002), who was promoted to senior master sergeant.

Congratulations to **John Maultsby** (Administration 1967-69), who placed first in the age 70–74 category in the Chicago Marathon Oct. 7. He had a finishing time of 3:49:30.

The TBAA welcomes the following individuals to the ranks of team alumni: **Joel A. Banks** (2009-12), **Darren R. Baum** (2009-12), **Nathaniel A. Bettisworth** (2009-12), **Vaughn M. Copeland** (2008-12), **Wendell L. Davis** (2009-12), **Zachary K. French** (2009-12), **Kristin Haley** (2010-12), **Joshua Hawkins** (2010-12), **Jose M. Hidalgo** (2005-12), **David S. Hutchins** (2009-12), **Sang H. Lee** (2009-12), **Thomas Mical** (2008-12), **Jason P. Moore** (2010-12), **Derric J. Richardson** (2008-12), **Ryan X. Riley** (2010-12), **Richard W. Rose Jr.** (2008-12), **John M. Schaub** (2009-12), **Eduardo Sibaja** (2009-12), **Bryan E. Spangler** (2010-12), **Christian E. Suarez** (2007-12), **Derrick A. Trimmell** (2008-12), **John R. Williams III** (2010-12), **Mark A. Williams** (2009-12) and **Jason A. Wilson** (2008-12).

Tim Jaccarino (Crew Chief #4 1986-89) wrote: “I just received *ThunderRolls* (2012 Quarter 3) and read the story about old Thunderbirds aircraft on permanent display around the country [“Old Aircraft Never Die; Become Static Displays”]. I’d like to add to the list F-16A 81-0687 that sits on display here at Luke Air Force Base outside the wing headquarters building. The plaques at the aircraft (however) make no mention that this aircraft served on the Thunderbirds.”

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Congratulations to Ms. Heller Da, the Honorary Crew Chief for 2012. Most will remember her as the lady who sewed on stripes and patches at the Nellis base exchange.

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.

Retired **Master Sgt. Richard Ditomasso** (NCOIC COSO 1984-86), 65, of Las Vegas, passed away Oct. 3. He is survived by his sister, Diane Butler. Services were held Oct. 31 at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Chapel in Boulder City, Nev. Family requests in lieu of flowers that gifts and donations be sent to the Veterans Relief Fund, VFW Post 10047, 4337 Las Vegas Blvd. N., Las Vegas, NV 89115.



Retired **Master Sgt. Jess Doris** (Crew Chief 1966-68), 71, died Sept. 13 after a short battle with liver and lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Charlene; son, Ted; two grandsons; stepdad; a brother, sister and brother-in-law. A graveside service was held at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery Sept. 20, and his ashes were interred with full military honors. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 3851 Piper Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.



Retired **Tech. Sgt. Rufus Lee Farmer** (Aircraft Maintenance 1957-59), 77, of Marion, Texas, passed away Nov. 4. He is survived by his wife, Katherine; daughters, Nadine and Cheryl; and two grandchildren. A graveside service was held Nov. 13 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer Research Foundation at: Fisher Center Foundation, One Intrepid Square, West 46th Street and 12th Ave., New York, NY 10036.



Retired **Maj. Gen. Stanton R. Musser** (Right Wing/Slot 1967-69) passed away Oct. 8, in Blacksburg, Va. General Musser was a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours in the F-4, F-15 and F-100. His military decorations and awards included the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters and Air Force Commendation Medal. After retiring from the Air Force, he became Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets for 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Dawn; son, retired Lt. Col. Scott L. Musser; daughters, Shari Musser Jones and Kristin Musser Asbury and their spouses; and six grandsons. Funeral services were held Oct. 20, with interment at Arlington National Cemetery March 14 at 1 p.m. Contributions can be made in memory of Maj. Gen. Stan Musser to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Scholarship Fund, University Development (0336), Blacksburg, VA 24061, Attention: Corps of Cadets or the Wounded Warrior Project.

Retired **Senior Master Sgt. Frank E. Sampson** (Structural Repair 1968-71) passed away Jan. 29, 2012. He is survived by his sons, Michael and Ronald; daughters, Debra and Kristina; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Retired **Col. Douglas C. Roach** (Logistics Officer/Right Wing/Slot 1973-75), 70, passed away Jan. 11 from complications due to cancer. He flew 516 combat missions during several tours in Vietnam between 1969 and 1972. After a successful Air Force career, he continued his career of public service on Capitol Hill, most recently as the longtime staff director for the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Annual Dues Year Starts Jan. 1

As a reminder to those who pay annual dues, the new year started Jan. 1, and payments are due no later than March 31 to be considered a current member.

Individuals who wish to run for the TBAA 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 one time or in \$50 increments throughout the calendar year). Checks should be payable to Thunderbirds Alumni Association and sent to: Doe Wilson, TBAA Administrative Secretary, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117.

ThunderRolls

ThunderRolls will also be printed in May and August 2013 for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The deadlines for submissions are April 1 for the May issue and July 1 for the August issue. Submissions (including high resolution photos in .jpg format) may be emailed to al.eakle@gmail.com. Submission does not guarantee publication, and editorial staff may edit for style and content.

Submit change of address to: Doe Wilson, TBAA Administrative Secretary, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Phone: 702-871-7079. Email: 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 (1974-1976), Secretary
R. D. Evans (1979-81), Treasurer
Joe Barron (1995-98), Director
Lennie Coleman (1991-92), Director
Al Eakle (1989-91), Communications Chairman
Shawn "Norm" Pederson (2001-02),
Nominations Chairman
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

Facebook Page

Thunderbird Alumni
(TBAA emblem on opening page)

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7661 Angel Crest Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220



THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Benchstock Continued from pg. 6

Dean Helmick (Avionics 1987-90) has written a new book titled *The Regenerative American Fabric*. It is a story about how one family successfully passed America's torch of freedom from one generation to the next. It demonstrates how America's fabric is truly capable of continually regenerating. Published by Trafford Publishing, the book can be ordered online from Trafford, Barnes & Noble, Amazon or Google Books. For more information, visit http://mksvdatabase.com/OB_WD1425045/book.html.



A Las Vegas-area group of **Thunderbirds alumni** meet for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. Meetings start at 11:30 a.m., and all alumni are invited to attend. For more details, email Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) at tbird13@cox.net.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Thunderbirds, the TBAA, along with Josten's, is offering a special Thunderbirds ring for alumni as well as current team members. The ring is available in men's and women's sizes. It joins the traditional ring which indicates the wearer was or is a member of the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron. The traditional ring 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). Similar to the current

ring, the special ring has the 60th logo in place of the Air Force coat of arms. Prices for either ring remain the same. A portion of sales benefits TBAA. A brochure featuring photos of the rings and pricing is available on the TBAA website at www.thunderbirds alumni.org. For order forms, email Al Eakle at al.eakle@gmail.com.

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 Houston, 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. Costs 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. All active duty, retirees and veterans who book with Princess can also get a \$100 onboard credit. Details are available at http://www.princess.com/military_benefit_program/index.html#UO2gQ-y9KSM.

Look for more cruise details on the website www.ltdcruises.com/thunderbirdalum.html.