

THUNDERROLLS



2014
Volume 21 No. 1



Thunderbirds alumni join retired Gen. John Jumper (center) on stage during the reunion banquet. Representing the national USA Vietnam War Commemoration, the former Air Force Chief of Staff and 1988 Honorary Thunderbird recognized both the current team and TBAA for becoming commemorative partners. General Jumper then asked all Vietnam War-era veterans in the audience to join him on stage for a group photo. Look for more on the team's and TBAA's partnership in future issues of ThunderRolls. (Photo by TK Dudley)

Leadership Changes as New Board Takes Office

Leadership of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association changed Jan. 1 when a new Board of Directors took office.

Kati Grabham (Public Affairs 2002-07), Frank Howe (Public Affairs Administrator 1995-98), Brian Plache (Crew Chief #7, #1 and #8 2001-05), Jeff Remington (Solo 1988-89 and Operations Officer 1989) and Shellie Vaught (Personnel Specialist 1998-2000) are the newest members of the Board of Directors.

They succeed Joe Barron (Sleeve 1995-98), Mike "Slam" Byrne (Advance Pilot/Narrator 1999-2000), Al Eakle (Airshow Coordinator 1989-91), R. D. Evans (Solo 1979-81), Sarah Johnson-Robles (Administration 1974-76) and Bruce Voigt (Maintenance Superintendent 1997-2000), who have completed their four-year terms.

Returning board members include Lennie Coleman (Right Wing 1991-92), Kevin "Joker" Mastin (Solo 2000-01), Shawn "Norm" Pederson (Solo 2001-02), Eric W. "Flak" Schnaible (Public Affairs Officer 1992-94) and Carey B. "CB" Shoff (Assistant Crew Chief #1 and Electrical Systems Specialist 1994-97).

Doe Wilson, the TBAA administrative assistant, is a non-voting member of the board as well.

The officers of the TBAA are Remington, chairman; Mastin, vice chairman; Vaught, secretary; and Plache, treasurer.

Committee assignments for the 2014-15 board are currently being decided.

"I want to extend my deepest thanks to all the 2012-13 board members who recently completed their terms," said Remington. "Their dedication and service to TBAA create the fuel that drives us and the glue that binds us."

Remington welcomed the new board members, adding "You have big shoes to fill as we prepare for the team's 62nd anniversary celebration at reunion in 2015."



From the Chairman

The beginning of the 2014 season is finally here! After a lot of political infighting in Washington, D.C., and tough decisions from our Air Force leadership, the team will be back on the road with a full-up schedule in 2014. I know they are just as excited about the opportunity to perform as we are to cheer them on. I hope you can make it a point to join the team somewhere in the country this year and support them – loud and often.

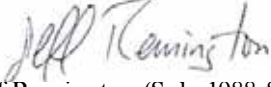
We were fortunate to get both General Jumper and General Newton to join us at the 60th Anniversary Reunion. General Jumper provided some great remarks, but the most memorable moment was the picture of all the alumni Vietnam vets up on stage. General Newton represented all alumni and had the honor of presenting Maureen Walker with the Lifetime Allegiant Award. Thanks to you both for honoring the Thunderbirds traditions!

My thanks to outgoing Chairman “Slam” Byrne, along with Secretary Sarah Johnson-Robles, Treasurer R. D. Evans, Director Joe Barron, Communications Chairman Al Eakle and Reunion Chairman Bruce Voigt for their hard work and dedication as they depart the board. They, and the rest of the board members, have left the TBAA in great shape. Now the current board needs to step in and fill their shoes and move the TBAA in the same positive direction. I know we all look forward to the challenge.

The 60th Anniversary Reunion was a huge success. In addition to Slam, Sarah, R. D., Joe, Al and Bruce, a special thank-you goes out to “Joker” Mastin, Lennie Coleman, “Norm” Pederson, “Flak” Schnaible, “CB” Shoff, Doe Wilson and Jerry Jones for all their time and effort putting on a great show. No doubt we had a lot of others that put time, effort and money into the affair, so I apologize for any names I missed.

As I mentioned above, we had a chance to recognize a very special person we all love – Maureen Walker. Her 37 years with the team speaks volumes to her love of the Thunderbirds and TBAA. I encourage you all to use Maureen as your conduit to supporting the team on the road. She can work to hook you up with airshow tickets when you want to support the team.

Our TBAA Board of Directors will maintain the same simple goal we had before – to enable the success of the current and future Thunderbird teams, ensuring that our traditions and rich history continue. We heard Boss Moseley address the TBAA at the reunion. Given the tough circumstances they have been through, the team needs our support now more than ever. Let’s be there for them – loud and often!



Jeff Remington (Solo 1988-89 and Operations Officer 1989)
Chairman



From the Boss



Fellow Thunderbirds,

We had a blast celebrating our 60-year history with you during the November reunion. Many thanks to Col. Slam Byrne, the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors, Jerry Jones and so many others who helped make it a success. Reconnecting with our history (and you, the Airmen who’ve shaped it) really helped set the tone for a happy holiday season. We hope you enjoyed the holidays as well.

Since then, we’ve wasted no time jumping back into training and preparing for our 2014 season. The fans in Pasadena enjoyed seeing the Thunderbirds over the Tournament of Roses Parade, and we’re already planning to put on a great display at the Daytona 500 next month. In the meantime we’re flying as much as we can, usually twice a day, ensuring we’re ready to put on a safe demonstration on the road.

We’ve had to scale back our community relations effort a bit now that we’re flying again, but we haven’t eliminated it entirely. We’ve developed a strong bond with the Las Vegas community during the past few months; going forward, the Thunderbirds will work to keep that bond strong while performing on the road. Every Airman on the team is doing his or her part (and then some!). You should be proud of your squadron . . . I certainly am.

In an October memo clarifying the importance of military demonstration teams, the Secretary of Defense cited a critical need to connect the American people to its military. As we tell the Air Force story, the stories of the Thunderbirds who served before us play a big part in making that connection. Know that you are with us as we hit the road, and we thank you for your continued support.

We’re fired up!

Above all,



Lt. Col. Greg Moseley
USAFADS Commander/Leader (2012-14)

Meet the 2014 Thunderbirds Officers, Showline



Lt. Col. Greg Moseley is in his third season as the commander/leader (Thunderbird #1). He has logged more than 2,800 flight hours in the F-15C and F-22 with more than 50 hours of combat experience in the F-15C. The dedicated crew chief (DCC) and assistant DCC (ADCC) for #1 are Staff. Sgt. William Rotroff and Tech. Sgt. Nathan Santiago.



Maj. Blaine Jones is in his third season with the team and is the lead solo pilot (Thunderbird #5). He has logged more than 2,000 flight hours. The DCC and ADCC for #5 are Staff Sgts. Benjamin Ayivorh and Francisco Garrigas.



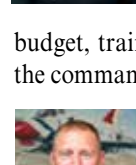
Maj. (Dr.) Michael Carletti is in his third season with the team as the flight surgeon (Thunderbird #9). He has logged more than 750 flight hours.



Maj. Joshua Boudreaux is in his second season with the team as the left wing pilot (Thunderbird #2). He has logged more than 2,800 flight hours, including more than 400 combat hours in the F-16C. The DCC and ADCC for #2 are Staff Sgt. Justen Outlaw and Tech. Sgt. Chai Trepte.



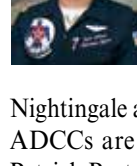
Capt. Jason Curtis is in his second season as the opposing solo pilot (Thunderbird #6). He has logged more than 1,750 flight hours, with more than 280 combat hours in the F-16. The DCC and ADCC for #6 are Staff Sgts. Christopher Collins and Jacob Worthen.



Maj. Joshua Wild is in his second 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.



Maj. Caroline Jensen is in her third season as the right wing pilot (Thunderbird #3). She has logged more than 3,100 flight hours, including 200 combat hours in the F-16C. The DCC and ADCC for #3 are Staff Sgts. Alexander Reed and Matthew Denney.



Maj. Tyler Ellison is in his second season as the operations officer (Thunderbird #7). He has logged more than 1,000 flight hours. The DCCs for #7 are Tech. Sgt. Sean Barrow, Staff Sgt. Daniel Nightingale and Staff Sgt. Matthew Welter. The ADCCs are Staff Sgts. McGarry Lansiquot, Patrick Bertrand and Kyle Balajadia.



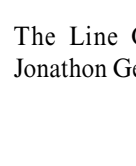
Capt. Lucas Buckley is in his second season with the team as the maintenance officer (Thunderbird #11). He is responsible for 90 personnel and the maintenance of 11 Block 52 F-16 aircraft.



Maj. Curtis Dougherty is in his second season as the slot pilot (Thunderbird #4). He has logged more than 2,900 flight hours, including more than 800 combat hours in the F-15E. The DCC and ADCC for #4 are Staff Sgts. Stanley Weaver and Jessica Rivers.



Maj. Michael Fisher is in his third season as the advance pilot/narrator (Thunderbird #8). He has logged more than 2,000 flight hours, with more than 430 combat hours in the F-16C/D. The DCCs for #8 are Tech. Sgt. Joseph Khodabakhshian and Staff Sgt. Mark Mira. The ADCCs are Staff Sgts. Jake Kretsch and Sean Gilbert.



Maj. Darrick Lee is in his second season with the team as the public affairs officer (Thunderbird #12). He manages the team's extensive marketing, recruiting and publicity programs.

The Line Chiefs for 2014 are Tech. Sgts. Jonathon Gerlach and Amanda Geray.

Thunderbirds Release 2014 Show Schedule

February

23 Daytona 500

March

5 COMACC Approval Show

9 Las Vegas Speedway

11 Creech Appreciation Show

15-16 Luke AFB, Ariz.

22-23 MacDill AFB, Fla.

29-30 Punta Gorda, Fla.

April

5-6 Columbus AFB, Miss.

12-13 Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

26-27 Barksdale AFB, La.

May

3-4 Travis AFB, Calif.

10-11 JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

17-18 Youngstown ARB, Ohio

May (cont)

24-25 Cannon AFB, N.M.

28 USAF Academy, Colo.

31 Fairchild AFB, Wash.

June

1 Fairchild AFB, Wash.

7-8 Rockford, Ill.

14-15 Ocean City, Md.

21-22 Tinker AFB, Okla.

28-29 Hill AFB, Utah

July

5-6 Battle Creek, Mich.

12-13 Fair Oaks (Gary), Ind.

15 MLB All-Star Game, Minneapolis, Minn.

23 Cheyenne, Wyo.

26-27 JB Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska

August

2-3 Oshkosh, Wis.

9-10 Ypsilanti, Mich.

13 Atlantic City, N.J.

16-17 Rochester, N.Y.

23-24 Waterloo, Iowa

30-31 Kalispell, Mont.

September

13-14 Altus AFB, Okla.

20-21 Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

27-28 Salinas, Calif.

October

4-5 Melbourne, Fla.

11-12 Daytona Beach, Fla.

18-19 Rome, Ga.

25-26 Fort Worth, Texas

November

1-2 Santa Teresa, N.M.

8-9 Nellis AFB, Nev.

NOTE TO ALUMNI: If interested in Thunderbirds airshow tickets, contact Maureen Walker, the commander/leader's secretary, at 702-679-0428 or maureen.walker@us.af.mil. Please request tickets no later than one month prior to the event.

Team, Alumni Gather for “60 Years of Thunder”

More than 600 alumni, associates, honoraries and family members gathered in Las Vegas to attend the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Reunion, Nov. 14–16, at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa.

For some, reunion activities began Thursday morning with the golf outing at Revere Golf Club in Henderson, Nev. According to organizer Jerry Jones, the 2013 reunion golf outing was one of the greatest overall – considering participation, great weather, course condition and individual enjoyment.

“We had 60 players that formed 15 teams,” said Jones. “The Peoria scoring system was used to prevent a team from forming ‘a ringer’ by having all great players.

“And this year was a definite success,” he added, “in that the winning team was made up of one lady, one guest and two former solo pilots.” The winning team included Pete and Gerry Lynn McCaffrey, Steve Dwelle and Bill Freitag.

Ford Country offered a 2014 Mustang as a hole-in-one prize, however no one claimed it. UBS Financial Services provided lunch, and Nevada Beverage provided drinks. Each player was also presented with a limited-edition 60th Anniversary commemorative hit clip ball marker.

A crowd of more than 400 people gathered at the Thunderbirds hangar early Friday afternoon for lunch catered by Memphis Barbecue. After touring the Thunderbirds museum and visiting with current team members, they gathered outside the hangar for the rededication of the F-105 model/memorial. On hand to help unveil the restored memorial plaque were Shirley (Devlin) Buckley, widow of Capt. Gene Devlin, whose name is painted on the side of the model; sons Bill, Greg and Mark Devlin; and Rick Dale, star of the History Channel’s *American Restorations* program, who restored the model/memorial.

Several hundred attendees gathered early that evening back at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa for the Perch Party. It was an opportunity to eat and visit with longtime friends.

The TBAA business meeting was held Saturday morning. A synopsis of the business meeting minutes is printed on page 6. The actual minutes are posted on the TBAA website at www.tbaa.org.

Alumni, associates and guests were joined by the current team for the banquet Saturday night, the final event of the 2013 reunion.

TBAA Vice Chairman “Joker” Mastin served as master of



Rick Dale and Shirley (Devlin) Buckley and sons Bill, Mark and Greg Devlin stand next to the F-105 model/memorial at the conclusion of the rededication ceremony. (Photo by TK Dudley)

ceremonies. The colors were presented by the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard and the National Anthem was sung by Maj. Damon Toczykowski. Thunderbirds Chaplain (Capt.) Jason Klodnicki gave the invocation.

Attendees then enjoyed the Southern Shores dinner buffet.

After dinner, retired Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, representing all alumni, took the stage to present the TBAA Lifetime Allegiant Award to Maureen Walker. She was recognized for her service and dedication to both the team and TBAA, having served as the commander/leader’s secretary for more than 37 years.

A video was produced by Thunderbirds Public Affairs highlighting the team’s 60-year history. The video is available at <http://lafthunderbirds.com/site/2013/11/21/2013-fitzgerald-banquet-60th-anniversary-tribute-video/>.

Robert Friedrichs, director of the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame, presented Mike Byrne, then-chairman of the TBAA, the declaration enshrining Thunderbirds teams from 1953 to 2013 into the Nevada Aerospace

Hall of Fame. Byrne then gave the declaration to Lt. Col. Greg Moseley, current Thunderbirds commander/leader, for display in the Thunderbirds museum.

Boss Moseley remained on stage to present the team’s annual awards for 2013.

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hartman received the Honorary Public Affairs Award.

The Leo Marquez Maintenance Awards went to Tech. Sgt. Amanda Geray in the Noncommissioned Officer category and Senior Master Sgt. Chris Roehm in the Senior NCO category.

Senior Amn. John Silvi was named Airman of the Year; Tech. Sgt. James Pearson, NCO of the Year; Master Sgt. Javier Sarinana, Senior NCO of the Year; and Maj. Joshua Wild, Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Brig. Gen. Charles Moore, 57th Wing commander, was named an Honorary Thunderbird.

The 2013 Fitzgerald Award went to the 2013 Thunderbirds Team.

Representing the national USA Vietnam War Commemoration, former Air Force Chief of Staff and 1988 Honorary Thunderbird,



The winning team at this year’s golf outing included Pete and Gerry Lynn McCaffrey, Steve Dwelle and Bill Freitag. A record 60 players formed 15 teams at the reunion event.



Mr. Robert Friedrichs (center), director of the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame, shows Lt. Col. Greg Moseley (left), current Thunderbirds commander/leader, and Mike Byrne (right), chairman of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association, the declaration enshrining Thunderbirds teams from 1953 to the present into the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame. (Photo by TK Dudley)



retired Gen. John Jumper asked Boss Moseley and TBAA Chairman Byrne to join him on stage to recognize both the current team and TBAA for becoming commemorative partners. He then asked all Vietnam War-era veterans in the audience to join him on stage for a group photo. To applause and shouts of “welcome home,” nearly half of the alumni in the audience joined him on stage.

In brief remarks as the event’s guest speaker, General Jumper also thanked all of the spouses for their support. In concluding, he challenged those in attendance to not forget the lessons of teamwork they learned while active Thunderbirds and the importance of thinking of the group in everything they do.

“I have never felt more welcome, and it was sincere,” said Scott Krantz (Aerospace Ground

Equipment 1972-77). “The team was genuine in their interest in what we did and how we did it back in the dark ages. I must admit that their eyes got pretty big when we explained some of what we did, and when we told them how many airshows we did and how many people we had to do it with, they were gasping for air.”

Mike Cook (Corrosion Control Specialist/Specialist Flight Chief 1976-80, 1983-85) said, “As society has changed, the Air Force has changed. And as the Air Force has changed, the Thunderbirds have changed. Whether we old heads think that change is for better or worse really doesn’t matter. It’s done. The current team has its own path to follow, its own solidarity to forge, its own fame to earn, its own glory to add to that of the previous 60 years of precision and professionalism.”



Representing all Thunderbirds alumni, retired Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton presents the Lifetime Allegiant Award to Maureen Walker. She was recognized for her service and dedication to both the team and Thunderbirds Alumni Association, having served as the commander/leader’s secretary for more than 37 years. (Photo by TK Dudley)

Thunderbirds Alumni Thank Sponsors for Generous Reunion Support

Thunderbirds alumni could not enjoy memorable reunion events without the generous support of these sponsors:

- Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Southern Wine and Spirits
- Pratt & Whitney
- Northrop Grumman Corporation

- Flightline America (Mike and Diane Cooney)
- AirBus America
- Airshow Network
- Ford Country Motors
- GEICO
- Nevada Beverage Company
- UBS Financial Services

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the following:

- The South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa (Rich Niederman and Sheryl Duits)
- Trophies of Las Vegas

TBAA Board Addresses State of Association at Business Meeting



Members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association listen attentively to the briefing on the state of the organization during the business meeting held Nov. 16 during reunion. (Photo by TK Dudley)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a synopsis of topics discussed at the Thunderbirds Alumni Association business meeting held Nov. 16 during reunion. Minutes from the meeting are available for viewing on the TBAA website at www.tbaa.org.

TBAA Chairman Mike Byrne called the meeting to order and welcomed all members present and Thunderbirds Commander/Leader Lt. Col. Greg Moseley. He then turned the floor over to Boss Moseley who explained how the past year has been a very strenuous year since the sequestration became effective in April.

"The Thunderbirds performed their last airshow March 23–24 in Titusville, Fla.," said Boss Moseley. "Since then, the team has been busy with work on the ground. The pilots started their week in a simulator when they are available, then doing mock drills and going through on-ground checklists, but stopping short of takeoff."

They also visited schools, Reserve Officer Training Corps programs and hospitals. "The goal," he said, "was to expand the Thunderbirds community outreach within the (Las Vegas) Valley, something they've never previously been able to do.

The enlisted contingent, he said, used the opportunity to take Air Force classes to move up through the ranks.

Around Aug. 1 the team received 140 flight hours, enough hours for two flights each week for each pilot to maintain proficiency, but not enough to return to flying shows.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shortly after reunion, it was announced the team would fly in 2014. Their schedule was released Dec. 6 (see page 3).

Byrne thanked Boss Moseley for the update, then gave a brief overview of the state of the association, saying TBAA continues to be a strong association, and the financial situation is good.

"We've entered the digital age with a state-of-the-art website," said Byrne. "Through PayPal, we're now able to offer sales online, along with the purchase of memberships and reunion registrations with a credit card. We also funded the restoration of the F-105 model/memorial, which was rededicated yesterday in front of the Thunderbirds hangar."

Take an E to Dinner has received more than \$13,000 in donations from alumni since 2008. Donations have allowed the 2009, 2011 and 2013 enlisted complement to attend the banquet free of charge. Byrne thanked the membership for their support of this effort.

Treasurer R. D. Evans stated the TBAA is very sound financially. He is working with several accounts and reported these statistics – a checking account that handles annual dues, merchandise sold and contributions is \$78,000; and a checking account funded by lifetime dues is \$8,000.

Evans also reported that the association's UBS investment account is \$221,000, as of Oct. 15, 2013. TBAA combined funds, as of Oct. 15, 2013, are \$307,000.

He went on to explain a request made to the Internal Revenue Service which would change the tax status and have a huge impact on TBAA.

"We're currently considered a 'social club,'" said Evans, "which exempts us from federal income tax. Contributions outside the membership are NOT tax-deductible. We've asked to become a 'veterans organization' which will continue to exempt us from federal income tax. However, as a veterans organization, contributions outside the membership are tax-deductible."

Communications Chairman Al Eakle reported the TBAA newsletter is on track, and membership in the popular social networking site Facebook has grown to more than 730 alumni, associates, honoraries and family members. He then talked about the redesigned TBAA website which debuted Jan. 1, 2013.

"Everyone issued a password prior to Jan. 1, 2013, needs to re-register for the site – they can do so by contacting me (al.eakle@gmail.com) for instructions on how to do so," Eakle said.

Membership Committee Chairman CB Shoff reviewed the membership status and stated annual and lifetime memberships have increased each year since 2008. He briefed total membership had grown by 16 people to 926 since 2011. There are still 1,109 inactive members of TBAA.

Nominating Committee Chairman Shawn "Norm" Pederson reviewed elections. "We began solicitations for nominations in October 2012," said Pederson, "and ultimately had five people running for six vacancies. There wasn't enough time to reopen nominations and mail out ballots."

Nominations were asked for from the floor and none were made. Dan Cherry made a motion the 2014-16 Board of Directors be approved as presented since there were no new nominations from the floor. The motion was approved by the membership present.

Lloyd "Fig" Newton concluded the meeting by thanking the current team, the 2012–13 Board and encouraged other alumni to step up and keep this great organization going.

Gone But Not Forgotten

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

Retired Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Ashcraft

Retired Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Ashcraft (Crew Chief/Flight Engineer 1959-61) died Jan. 3. He is survived by wife, Barbara; daughter, Tricia; son, Craig; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons Michael Jr. and Steven. Interment was Jan. 10 at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

William E. "Bill" Feeney

William E. "Bill" Feeney (Lifetime Associate Member) died Aug. 15, 2013. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he is survived by wife, Belinda Crane Feeney; daughter, Alicia Feeney Pasqualotto; son, Brendan Feeney; two granddaughters; sister, Marie Feeney; and brother, James Feeney.

Retired Maj. Clarence I. Langerud

Retired Maj. Clarence I. Langerud (Solo 1963-66) died Aug. 28, 2013. Burial with military honors was in the Bakersfield (Calif.) National Cemetery.

Retired Col. Robert McCutchen, Sr.

Retired Col. Robert "Cutch" McCutchen Sr. (Solo 1954-55) passed away Dec. 8, 2013. A memorial service was held Dec. 13. Services and burial were Dec. 20 at the West Point Cemetery. Survivors include wife, Valerie E. McCutchen; three daughters, Catherine E. Embry, Jean Ann Stewart and Nancy Lee Murdock; one son, Robert K. McCutchen, Jr.; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Retired Col. Robert H. McIntosh

Retired Col. Robert H. McIntosh (Solo/Left Wing 1957-58) died Dec. 2, 2013, in West Hills, Calif.

Nicholas J. Nowicki

Nicholas J. Nowicki (Honorary Crew Chief 2005) died May 19, 2013. An Army veteran, he is survived by wife, Mary Anne; four children; and three grandchildren.

Retired Tech. Sgt. Herbert A. Riley

Retired Tech. Sgt. Herbert Andrew Riley (Crew Chief #8 1962-64) died Feb. 9, 2012. Burial with military honors was in the Lakeside Cemetery in Biwabik, Minn. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942. Following World War II, he was employed by Republic Aircraft as a technical representative to the Yugoslavian Air Force in Belgrade. He re-enlisted with the Air Force and served for 25 years during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Survivors include sister, Colleen Klessig of Biwabik; brothers, Bernard Riley of Longview, Wash., and Nicholas (Ann) Riley of Wickenburg, Ariz.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Robert "Bert" Spalding, Jr.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Robert "Bert" Spalding, Jr. (Left Wing 1954-55) passed away Oct. 20, 2013, at his home in Monument, Colo. A Memorial Mass was celebrated Dec. 6 at the Air Force Academy Community Center Chapel. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and graduated from Navigation School in 1944 as a Second Lieutenant with an assignment to B-24 bombers. He entered pilot training and received his wings in 1949. During the Korean War, he flew 100 F-86 combat missions and shot down a Mig 15. As commander of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing during the Vietnam War, he flew 163 combat missions in North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He was a Command Pilot and Navigator with 6,000 flying hours. He is survived by wife, Elizabeth "Liz" of Monument, Colo.; son, Larry (Linda); and daughter, Trena Lee (Jeff) Stewart; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

ThunderRolls

This is the first issue of *ThunderRolls* to be printed in 2014 for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The next issue will be Quarter 2 (April-June) 2014. 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.

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

Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors

Jeff Remington (1988-89), Chairman

Kevin "Joker" Mastin (2000-01), Vice Chairman

Shellie Vaught (1998-2000), Secretary

Brian Plauche (2000-05), Treasurer

Lennie Coleman (1991-92), Director

Kati Grabham (2002-07), Director

Frank Howe (1995-98), Director

Shawn "Norm" Pederson (2001-02), Director/
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Eric "Flak" Schnaible (1992-94), Director/
Communications Chairman

Corey "CB" Shoff (1994-97), Director/
Membership Chairman

Doe Wilson, Administrative Secretary

Al Eakle (1989-91), ThunderRolls Editor

Carol Knotts, Historian

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association thanks Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *ThunderRolls* and the TBAA.

Graphic Design

Lyndy Benson

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
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THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Benchstock

Dues Reminder

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. The cost of annual dues is \$30, or \$300 for a lifetime membership (payable at one time or in six \$50 monthly increments). 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. An additional option is to renew and pay with a credit card online at www.tbaa.org.

Monthly Meeting

A Las Vegas-area group of Thunderbirds alumni invite all present and former Thunderbirds to join them for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. For more details, email Jerry Jones (Ground Radio

Communications Technician 1965-69) at tbird13@cox.net.

Coins Still Available

Thunderbirds Alumni Association still has limited quantities of 60th Anniversary commemorative coin sets, F-16 commemorative coins and T-shirts. Cost for the coin set is \$100 plus \$5.80 for Priority Mail shipping; the F-16 coin is \$15 each or \$25 for two coins plus \$5.80 for Priority Mail shipping; and \$15 for T-shirts plus \$5.80 for Priority Mail shipping. Order forms are available online at www.tbaa.org. Profits from the sale of coins as well as a portion of polo and outerwear sales benefit TBAA.

ThunderFun 2014

ThunderFun 2014 is scheduled for Sept. 4-6, 2014, at the Four Points by Sheraton Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Four Points is situated on a nine-acre beachfront site on Florida's Emerald Coast.



Daily room rates for our group are \$120 for King or Courtyard; \$145 for Beachfront; or \$195 for a Suite. Rates are based on single occupancy; add \$10 for each additional person. The special room rate is good three days prior and three days after our mini-reunion.

Four Points has put together a website for ThunderFun 2014. You can access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify or cancel a reservation from now to Sept. 9, 2014. The link is <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1312117447&key=2558C>.

The mini-reunion committee will select a number of optional activities for attendees. Past activities have included golf, deep-sea fishing, parasailing and jet skiing. The Four Points also has two outdoor pools and is on the beach for just lounging.

Activities kick off with a no-host mixer at the Tiki Bar Thursday night and end with dinner at a surf-and-turf restaurant Saturday night. The committee is also looking into karaoke for Friday night.

Contact Al Eakle at 850-316-1475 or al.eakle@gmail.com.