



# ECHOES

April, 2007

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## Colorado Chapter Events 2007

*RSVP to Jack Smith*

303 428-1812 or email COAFTRMKT@AOL.COM

General Membership Breakfast    22 Sep 0830    Aurora Hills Golf  
Club Dinner/Dance                    10 Nov 1730    Aurora Hills Golf Club

**World Wide Reunion - Denver June 7 - 11, 2007**

**AFTAC CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSITY 1947- 2007**

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*We're Going To Have A Blast!!!*

**World Wide Reunion** - The reunion is fast approaching and if you haven't already registered now is the time to get your registration into Bill Schmied. If you have misplaced your information packet it is available online at <http://www.aftacco.org> or you can contact us and we will get you another copy via mail. This is a special event celebrating 60 years that the organization and mission have existed. Unfortunately with the passage of time it may mean that some of our alumni may not be able to join us at our next Denver reunion in 2013. We have added room nights to our contract with the Double Tree Hotel and if you have special needs for lodging such as RV centers please contact us and we will get you the information.

The reunion golf outing has been finalized... SSGT Jason Gapinski has arranged an 18 hole shotgun start at Antelope Hills golf course, in Bennett (with a possible challenge by the active duty troops at Buckley AFB). The course is described as "user friendly," with wide open views of the Rocky Mountains to the West and the Great Plains to the East. The tournament will be held on Thursday the 7th of June. All are invited to ride a bus that will depart from the Double Tree Hotel on Quebec Street in Denver at 1200, or you may choose to provide your own transportation. Check in at the golf course will be between 1245-1330; free practice balls will also be available at this time from the driving range. Make sure to pick up your box lunch (included), board carts and travel to respective hole for shotgun start by 1330. Following the 18 hole tourney the bus will return to the Double Tree Hotel for Famous Dave's Pit BBQ and prizes in Hospitality Room 827. Spouses, dependents, friends are all invited to play and/or attend any part of the event. Cost is \$50 and includes dinner for yourself and a guest. Lastly, if you are interested in playing but need clubs, extra sets are available for use. Contact Jack Smith

The Hotel will have a hospitality suite available starting Thursday at 12:00 PM in room 827. Besides beverages and snacks. We will have a bulletin board for messages and it will serve as the gathering place for alumni.

Det 45 from Buckley AFB has the expertise and has volunteered to put together a continuous 'visual presentation' in our Hospitality Room. In order to do this, they need inputs (i.e. pictures) that they can scan and convert to a disc for presentation. If you have some 'favorite' pictures of Detachment/Headquarters/Depot/AFTAC life (slides, B&W or colored prints, etc) that you would like to share, please forward ASAP. This is

not to take away from the memorabilia table that will be set up in the Hospitality Room. Please provide sufficient ID so that what you send can be returned to you at the reunion. They will be packaged by individual name and given to the Det for scanning, then returned to me. If the photos sent are duplicates or copies that you don't need returned, please note this in your letter. For those who desire to share some photos for the 'visual presentation', please send to: Chuck Toner, 3218 Ursula St., Aurora, CO, 80011.

This issue of Echoes will be distributed both by e-mail and surface mail. For those of you who receive your copy via e-mail please take the time to forward this issue to any alumni who are not members of one of the chapters so they have an opportunity to participate in this years reunion. Hopefully, they will meet some old friends and share some memories.

As I mentioned earlier this may be the last chance for many to get together. Share a toast, a story, or remember a buddy.

### Yearly Membership dues

Are only \$5 per year. If you have not paid your dues, please send it in. MAIL TO: BILL SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010. Membership questions may be directed to Bill Schmied [Bilschmied@aol.com](mailto:Bilschmied@aol.com). Please make checks payable to Bill Schmied.

The picture below was in California's Post Monitor with a request to identify the Airman with no name in the caption. As I scanned the faces I came to the realization that the Airman was me! Ironically Dale Klug on my right also participates in publishing California's News Letter. Although he and I routinely pass e-mails back and forth, neither recognized the others name or that we posed in a picture together some 37 years ago. Interestingly I took a copy of the picture to our last alumni breakfast and no one at the breakfast could identify the Airman as me. They're still trying to come up with SSgt Wisely's first name. Although we both worked on the I system together I could remember the face, but not come up with his name. The picture was taken some time between April 1970 and June 1970 when I was discharged.



Don Leeworthy    Jerry Harper    Jim Zell    Lonnie Mouser    \_\_\_\_\_    Dale Klug    Guy Long    Ed Arvin    Dennis Wiest    Burt Feller

Robert Haase    Ed Chase    Al Koscheski    \_\_\_\_\_    Don Wisely    Don Watwood    Ed Thompson    Art Dahlgren    Steve Zedney    Gordon Ayers

Robert Summers

## Mail Bag

It is exciting to know that Dets 360 Iceland, 426 Australia, 509 South America and possibly others are having a reunion during the 7-11 Jun 2007, AFTAC 60th anniversary reunion. We understand some may have 15 -25 participants at the 2007 reunion. Many of these people have not seen each other in over 35 years. It is not too late to contact some old friends and generate a "reunion" during our 60th anniversary celebration this June.

From: JJC8HEARTH

To Jack Smith;

I am interested in knowing more about the worldwide reunion scheduled for Denver in June. I was with 1009th Swho would potentially WS in 1951 for the Buster-Jangle Test series and subsequently operated a seismic station in Korea. Some of our group who are still with us had previous reunions in Las Vegas and Biloxi. Meeting again in Denver seems to have some possibilities to me. We have about 30 people, including wives, who, I am Certain, would attend your reunion. I am primarily interested in knowing what you have planned for the wives as they have heard our "War stories" Several times. Among our buddies who you might know are Bill Braukman (deceased) and Joe Johnson.ny Any information you can provide would be appreciated. Thanks

Jerry Collins, email  
JJC8HEARTH@AOL.COM

JACK; I have contacted all the Buster-Jangle buddies both by the Internet and snail mail, furnishing them with the AFTAC information so we will see how many we can muster for Denver. Keep in touch.  
Jerry

Mail Bag Continued on next page...

## February Alumni Breakfast



Tom Ware presents Outback Gift Card to Det 45 Airman of the Year SRA Freeman. Airman Freeman was promoted to SSgt shortly after the breakfast.

Chuck Toner presenting Outback Gift card to Det 45 NCO of the Year SSgt Gapinski. SSgt Gapinski is continuing his Air Force career with acceptance to OCS.



Breakfast Buffet



Lonnie Gibbons (Left)

Front to back:

Bill Rogers  
Glen Feakes  
Helen Smith



Ssgt Gapinski                      Jennifer Blomstedt                      SMSgt Woodard  
Wife Cheyenne & Madison TSgt Blomstedt  
& Augustine  
Everyone enjoying the get together...



## Mail Bag

Hi Ron,  
Just a note about the reunion in Jun. Do you know if any of your group will attend?  
For more info WWW.AFTACCO.ORG

Jack Smith,  
AFTAC Alumni Colorado Chapter  
I don't think so.. We're thinking that Team 154 might try for a reunion in Burlington. Vt. this summer. At least those which we can find so far... Thanks for the e-mail...  
Ron

Hello Jack,  
So far i don't know of any of our Buster-Jangle 1009ers who have made any reservations for the Reunion. Several, including me, have to await doctors visits to determine if we can travel to Denver. In my case, my wife has a few medical issues that must be attended to before we can commit. I'll keep you updated on our efforts to get our group together again. Jerry

### Doubletree Hotel Denver



## Reunion Guest List - So Far... Here's your chance to meet up with old friends.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY	ST
Balentine	Tony & Alyson	San Antonio	TX
Brust	Ray & Marva	Bella Vista	AR
Burke	W. Patrick	Sunnyvale	CA
Burroughs	Bill & Denise	Aurora	CO
		Indian Harbor	
Calenda	Frank & Edna	Beach	FL
Cauda	Jerry	Ocala	FL
Cronin	George & Sherry	Ames	IA
Dalton	Dick	Denver	CO
Dike	Don	Dunlap	IL
Britton	Frances	(D. Dyke Guest)	
Doughty	Al & Margaret	Lakewood	CO
Fritts	Steve & Donna	Citrus Heights	CA
Gardiner	Ed	Aurora	CO
Gibbons	Lonnie & Ginny	Aurora	CO
Harris	Thomas & Sally	Aurora	CO
Hopkins	Richard	Knoxville	TN
Horsch	John & Christel	Satellite Beach	FL
Humphries	Don	Springfield	VA
Iske	Margaret	Sacramento	CA
Duplissis	Diane	Colorado Springs	CO
Johnson	Joe & Gayle	Roseville	CA
Jones	Max & Nancy Anne	Anderson	IN
Klug	Dale & Rose	Sacramento	CA
Lanigan	John & Dorothy	Yuba City	CA
Marshall	Austin & Marjorie	Richmond	KY
McKenna	Ed	Lakewood	CO
Metcalf	Norm	Boulder	CO
Mosley	Don & Verna	Joplin	MO
Phillips	Rick	Aurora	CO
Pierce	Earl & Marianne	Aurora	CO
Pritchard	James	Madison	AL
Richardson	Jon & Vi	Deer River	MN
Robinson	Connie & Dennie	Lady Lake	FL
Rogers	Bill & Helen	Centennial	CO
Schmied	Bill & Sue	Aurora	CO
Smith	Jack F. & Helen	Westminster	CO
Tasto	Dennis & Doris	New Braunfels	TX
Thompson	George J.	Clearlake	CA
Toner	Chuck & Jerri	Aurora	CO
Ware	Tom & Barbara	Aurora	CO
Wirtz	Ed	Wabasha	MN
Richardson	Catharine	(E. Wirtz Guest)	
Winter	Frank & Monai	Big Rapids	MI
Woods	Greg & Mary	LaVeta	CO



## Buckley AFB

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### For your convenience, here are some contact numbers:

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Air Force Aid	720-847-6708	Legal Office	720-847-6444
American Red Cross	303-343-1294	Operator	720-847-9011
Auto Registration	720-847-9381	Outdoor Recreation	720-847-6101
Base Exchange	720-847-9628	Pharmacy	720-847-7455
Casualty Assistance	720-847-6123	Retiree Activity Office	720-847-6693
Chapel	720-847-6411	Ticket/Tour Information	720-847-6853
Commissary	720-847-7100	Tri Care for Life	888-363-5433
ID Cards/Deers	720-847-9159	Veterans Administration	800-827-1000
		Visitors Center	720-847-9381

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### *Lest We Forget*

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Edmund, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.)

A member of the greatest generation passed away on February 9th at the age of 85. Bart was a veteran of World War II, the Berlin Airlift, Korean War where he served with the Black Jack Squadron, and the Vietnam War. Bart was the loving husband and best friend of Virginia "Gin" Carter who preceded him in death in October, 2002. Father to Douglas Carter (Jean); Virginia Lee Rose (Doug) and Lori Simmons (Bryan). Grandfather to Joshua Rose, Craig Simmons, Sean Simmons, Zachary Rose (Karen) and Brad Rose (Laurie) and great grandfather to Orion, Chase, Taylor, Dylan and Lauren. Bart's brother George "Bud" Carter and his sister-in-law Shirley reside in Odessa, Texas. He was preceded in death by his father Cyril Carter, mother Lorraine Carter and his sister Peggy Carter. Friends and family are invited to a memorial service and reception at the Pleasant Grove Community Church in Roseville, CA on March 17, 2007 at 11:00 am. Donations may be made to the National Federation of the Blind or the American Cancer Society Sacramento Bee, 3/13/2007.

William John Auth, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret) answered the Last Roll Call from his home in Citrus Heights on 3 March 2007.

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DRAKE, William Franklin (this notice, with a picture, is available at the 'Need To Know, Now' link at the alumni association website) Son of Arthur Thomas Drake and Iva Louella LeGore; brother to Thelma Bollinger; and uncle to Robert Bollinger passed away peacefully the 28th of February 2007 at home due to complications from Lymphoma. His wife Lori was, as she had been most of Bill's life, with him in his final moments. Bill was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on April 20, 1936. In 1954, he entered into the United States Air Force and was posted at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, CA with the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron. While on leave during the spring of 1960 in Sacramento, Bill met and fell in love with Loretta Towner. In April of 1961, they were wed. In 1964, Bill retired after 10 years of service from the U.S.A.F. with the rank Staff Sergeant Supervisor and began his 31-year career at Campbell Soup that culminated in his becoming Area Manager-Can Plant. During this time, Bill and Lori had two children, son Donald and daughter Cheryl. Both of his children afforded him the opportunity to discover his next great happiness, that of grandfather. Bill witnessed his granddaughter Neala graduate high school. Bill spent many hours playing chess, discussing airplanes and history with his grandson Liam.

Bill's love of history drew him into a lifelong fascination with Civil War history. Through the years, Bill's personable, inquisitive, and caring character earned him many friendships, which he was able to carry over into his work with Sons in Retirement Inc. (SIRS). In his retirement, Bill also loved the outdoors and especially playing golf. Plans are pending for a Celebration of Life in April of 2007.

For further information, please e-mail [duckspondcelebrate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duckspondcelebrate@sbcglobal.net).

Services Entrusted to:  
Lind Brothers  
Mortuary  
916-482-8080

Published in the Sacramento Bee from 3/4/2007 - 3/5/2007.

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From Bruce Wheeler in Albuquerque:

I regret to inform you that Marianne Wheeler, wife of Col. Bruce H. Wheeler, died in her home on 17 December 2006 from pulmonary failure. She was born January 6, 1930 in Helena MT and grew up on the family ranch in Wolf Creek MT. Marianne was a professional Registered Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner for more than 50 years. She loved Western history and delighted in wearing her period costumes at annual history meetings. I've never known any one like her. She was truly a free spirit !

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CMSgt. Arthur Donald Gash, USAF, Retired, age 79, of Universal City passed away January 6, 2007. Mr. Gash was a World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veteran. He was also a member of The Kiwanis Club of the Greater Randolph Area, VFW Post 8315 in Schertz and Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister. He is survived by his wife, Mary P. Gash; daughters, Pamela Gash Venturi and her husband Michael and Melanie Gash Mueller and her husband Mark; grandsons, Ryan Venturi and Ethan Mueller; granddaughters, Kim Venturi and Emily Mueller; sisters, Esther Stone and Audrey Butler. A visitation will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2007 from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, 16245 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. Anyone so desiring may make memorials to Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church. Arrangements under the direction of: Colonial Funeral Home.

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Received in response to Jim Hall's obituary in the January issue of Echoes...

Dear Mr. Deffler

I thank your association for the recent newsletter. It is addressed to Jim and Minnie Mae Hall. Jim passed away Oct 16, 2006 and I suppose I failed to notify you. In the issue I received, in the "Lest We Forget" there is an account of Jim's obituary from the Fort Worth Star Telegram Paper - I appreciate that - BUT - in reading this, his combat missions in B-29's does not sound at all impressive "3". He and his crew flew the "City of Flatbush" - a B-29 from Guam over Japan through 35 missions - the airplane sustained many Japanese fighter and anti-aircraft flak holes - but all were repaired and they continued to fly their scheduled missions. None of his crew was ever injured. Jim wrote a "Reminiscing with Jim" account of all of the many choices he had to make during his life time. Pointed out how those decisions patterned his career and life.

He volunteered so often I wondered sometimes if he didn't like me - But I guess he did (*joke*) - We knew each other 66 years and were very happily married for 64.

Hope you will correct the 3 into the correct 35.

Thank you so much!

Minnie Mae Hall

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### Good Health Wishes

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**TO EVERYONE** - May your spirits be high, and you and your families stay healthy and safe...

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AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado is a non-profit organization.

President:	Jack Smith	COAFTRMKT@aol.com
Vice President:	Earl Pierce	emxanadu@msn.com
Treasurer:	Bill Schmied	bilschmied@aol.com
Webmaster:	Bill Harris	billharris@ix.netcom.com
Newsletter:	Bruce Deffler	bhdeffler@sudiweb.com