



ECHOES

September, 2007

Colorado Chapter Events 2007

RSVP to Jack Smith

303 428-1812 or email COAFTRMKT@AOL.COM

General Membership Breakfast 22 Sep 2007 08:30 Aurora Hills Golf Club
Club Dinner/Dance 10 Nov 2007 17:30 Aurora Hills Golf Club



World Wide Reunion - Denver

This past June we commemorated 60 Years of AFTAC. With over 170 members attending from all over, both the California and Florida chapters had sizable attendance and contributed to the overall success of the event.

The secret of organizing such an event is making it seem effortless in it's execution. There were many within the Colorado Chapter that contributed their time and skills to make it happen, with both the California and Florida Chapters helping to get the word out to their members. Detachment 45 led by Major Robertson and SMSgt Woodard helped in logistics, technical assistance to provide a backdrop slide show of AFTAC history, a mission briefing and the attendance of Col. Westergren the current Commander of AFTAC who spoke on the current importance of the mission and how current world conditions have led to the reorganization, expansion and refocusing of the role of AFTAC.

For the 'ole timers' the reunion was a time to reflect on our younger years and remember when. I doubt if any could have fast forwarded to today and imagined that the organization would continue to exist, ever changing in technology and continuing to provide a valuable asset to the nation.

In God we trust - all others we monitor.



AFTAC Breakfast

If you missed the reunion now is the time to catch up with the Alumni. There are some souvenirs still available for purchase on a first come basis send your request to Bill Schmied. He has a limited number of insulated coffee cups and the reunion 60 year commemorative coin available. The price for the cup is \$10.00 and \$7.00 for the coin or special for both \$15.00 Picking items up at the breakfast will save you a \$5.00 shipping charge. Checks to Bill Schmied. Both pictured above.

Yearly Membership dues

Are only \$5 per year. Please check your expiration date on your mail label. 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. Please make checks payable to Bill Schmied.

Reunion Memories

These are just some of pictures from the 2007 AFTAC reunion. Special thanks to Ed McKenna who took the time to try and catch everyone at the reunion. This included every table at the dinner. The following is just a sample and if you are receiving this by surface mail it's in black & white. If you would like a color copy of Echoes please send me an e-mail and I will forward you the color copy in PDF format.
E-mail bhdeffler@sudiweb.com.



Lonnie Gibbons & Rick Phillips - They *volunteered* to stay behind the bar at the hospitality sweet.



SMSGT Frank Woodard, Jack Smith, Major Robertson - Now that Jack's been softened up with a few drinks they're talking to him about re-enlisting.



Chuck Toner and Jack Smith - While Chuck tries to protect his fruit plate from Jack. Is the discussion about golf or is Jack trying to get the money Chuck owes him.



Jack congratulating SMSGT Frank Woodard



Ice breaker tales from then and now...



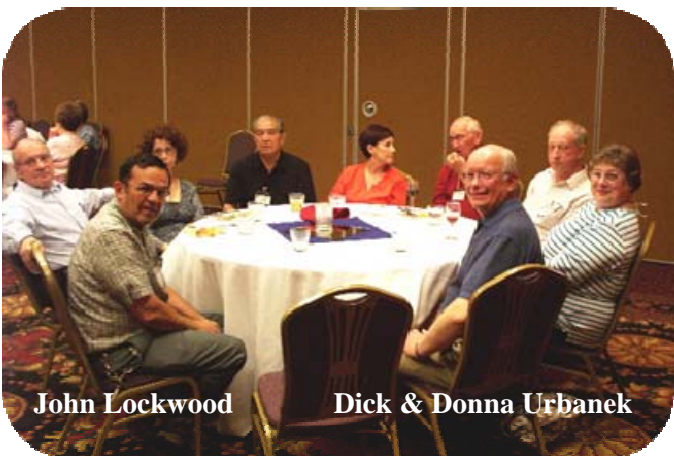
SMSgt Frank Woodard and Major Robertson setting up for mission briefing.



Det 426 - Marj & Austin Marshall, Don & Fran Dike, Margaret & Byron Peterson, and Don Humphries. Not in the photo are Frank and Edna Calenda.



Det 360 - Four of the ten man team of Detachment 360 from 1967 reunite 40 years later.
Russel Lillevoid Carl Birchard Jack Smith Dale Klug



Det 509
 L to R Rear Chet & Rosa Ogborn, Fred & Grace Duarte, Chuck Toner, Jim Pritchard



Major Robertson and SMSgt Frank Woodard giving a mission briefing.

Friday Night Ice Breaker



Event was well attended.



L-R Curt & Leona Riggs, Ann & Al Pavik, Bev & Frank Hall
Rose & Dale Klug, Dean & Carl Birchard



Buffet

Saturday Night Dinner



Clockwise L - R Major Robertson, Ray Brust,, Earl Pierce,
Marva Brust, Marianne Pierce, Helen & Jack Smith,
Colonel Westergren.



Saturday Dinner had a full house.



Clockwise L-R Greg & Mary Woods, Tom & Mary Riley,
Ken Borgmeyer, David & Jeanette Goebel.

Col Westergren's Speech at the CO Reunion

Provided by Captain Capps



Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. What a great time we've had already... thank you all for coming. First, I'd like to extend my heartfelt greetings to all the members of the Long-Range Detection Program (LRDP) and AFTAC "past and present" with us tonight. What a great honor and privilege it is for me to be here... sharing together in keeping and building upon our incredible tradition. Thank you so much for what you all had a part in making – now referred to as a "storied" past or legacy – and now continue to have a part in carrying forward the story of one of our nation's unknown treasures.

The LRDP and its successor programs have had a long, rich history that stretches back to 1947. At that time, senior members of our government decided that it was in the best interest of national security to monitor the developing nuclear programs of other nations around the globe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower assigned the Army Air Forces the responsibility for developing a capability to detect atomic explosions anywhere in the world – 60 years ago this September.

This need could not have been more apparent than when the first foreign nuclear test was detected by a modified B-29 in August of 1949. This is so "self-evident" now but the multiple technical/funding/manning issues almost cancelled the program in the early days. Fortunately, the Soviet Union's timing and our detection efforts sealed the deal – and we can proudly note that the LRDP was singularly critical in detailing this newly developed nuclear capability.

Since that time, we have provided significant contributions to worldwide nuclear detection and monitoring throughout the years. We have been the operational "tip of the spear," collecting and informing our nation on worldwide nuclear events and foreign nuclear tests. Through the 1960s and 1970s, our mission continued to grow and we had a front row seat to many of the defining moments in history. The end of the Cold War brought on efforts to drastically reduce our mission because, as peace was breaking out all over the world, there was no need for this cold war legacy. Just like in the early days of the program, the future appeared murky. Others saw through the "smoke screen" and realized that nothing could be further from the truth... our mission was as vital as ever. Threats, perception of threats, prestige, and strategic realpolitik all were and continue to be driving reasons for nuclear weapons developments in countries like India, Pakistan, and most recently, North Korea. We have again proven to be a national asset that can never "sleep" and must evolve to ensure monitoring of emerging nuclear players.

Today we use a large network of sensors strategically placed throughout the globe to detect and monitor nuclear events. Applying evolving technology to our systems, we now get data from this worldwide network in near real-time. We have not just 24/7 coverage, but we also have improved collection sensitivities and responsiveness in maintaining a global network. We can now monitor the status of these system/networks at all times, and respond to problems as soon as they arise. As a result, we now enable quick-turn decision making by our joint and national decisions makers... and the decisions are made with the most current and accurate information. These advances in technology have also allowed us to lower our overseas footprint-the number of detachments and personnel-we need to maintain this global network of sensors. We are not yours or even your son's or daughter's capability-we have evolved and have become more relevant than some thought possible.

Despite these changing environments, the scientific underpinnings of our mission remain the same. AFTAC is working hard to improve across its mission areas along several thrusts – technology, techniques, timing, and thresholds – to stay well in front of these changes. We must also not forget the vast change to that environment

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on September 11th. On that day, our focus broadened to meet the demands of a new enemy to our freedom. With the rise of terrorism, the fear of nuclear proliferation becomes even more apparent. Rogue states that sponsor these terrorist activities are also a problem we must address, making the precision and responsiveness of our monitoring mission even more vital. I assure you that AFTAC is ever-vigilant... and, by taking a page out of the history of the LRDP, we have postured ourselves to meet this new threat in support of our national decision makers, joint service partners, and combatant commanders.

The most recent example of continuing excellence was the Center's success in detecting the recent nuclear test by North Korea. Just like the first Soviet test, an airborne asset – the WC-135 – supplied the critical collection confirming the nuclear nature of the test. The information provided by AFTAC on this event aided national decision makers and enabled the United Nations to invoke sanctions on the North Korean regime. In this new post 9-11 environment and the developing nuclear nations of North Korea and Iran, the US government has instituted new guidelines for inter-agency cooperation and information sharing. This new dynamic opened up the interactions with AFTAC and increased our role in these cross-cutting efforts. AFTAC's global mission is one that is becoming well known and highly sought after by the government community.

To get more "bang for the buck" and improve synergy across the AF, the AF has recently decided to realign many of its surveillance assets. AFTAC will be deactivated as a Field Operating Agency and realigned under the new Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. Bringing AFTAC's persistent surveillance mission to the new organization, AFTAC will be combined into this new AF ISR Agency and into one cohesive AF-wide FOA. The long term vision is to transform this new Air Force structure into a pre-eminent military organization with the most capable personnel and the most valued ISR capability. Though the organizational charts have changed and we have a new patch on our uniform, AFTAC and the core of its mission has not changed.

We are as vital to our national security as ever and our commitment to it remains unwavering. You all have laid the foundation upon which all our current successes were built. It is through hard work over the years that we have ensured our country's readiness to challenges, and we are prepared to respond now and into the future. As the Commander, I continue to be amazed and humbled by the importance of AFTAC's mission and unparalleled quality of its

people both past and present. I am extremely proud to be part of this great organization and excited that we can help write a chapter in our rich history. I want to thank you all again for each of your individual contributions that, when summed up together over time, have become historical accomplishments. Thank you for your support to AFTAC over the years and for this opportunity to share with you in your sensational alumni get-together. Let's get on with the festivities!

Thank you, Sir, for permitting this to be reprinted in the Post-Monitor. And, we reiterate appreciation for Capt. Capps efforts; he had to re-type the speech for our use because of the way it had been produced.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association member Bill Schmied selected as AFTAC "ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR" 2007. Normally the selection is made late in the year (DEC) just before the 'Center Annual Awards'

Banquet Feb-Mar time frame. The selection was made earlier to recognize a deserving individual at an event with a large and varied audience.



The 60th anniversary of AFTAC along with the World wide reunion being held in Denver, CO Jun 7-11 would make a great venue. What a complete surprise to Bill when Colonel Westergren announced the Alumnus of The Year (AOY) and presented Bill with the traditional T shirt at the reunion dinner.

John Horsch gave a brief history of the AOY prior to the presentation. In 1995 then CC, Col Shaffer, asked the Florida Chapter Alumni to select annually an 'Alumni Association Supporter' to be recognized at the annual 'Center Awards Banquet.' The AOY is considered a 'Center' award and intended to include alumni supporters from the three (CA, CO, and FL) associations. Bill has been invited to attend and be recognized at the 'Center Annual Awards' SnowBall Banquet Jan 26, 2008 at Patrick AFB, Florida. CONGRATULATIONS Bill !!!! Thanks for all your time and dedication to and for the AFTAC alumni.

Jack Smith
AFTAC Alumni Colorado

Mailbag

Frank Hall writes:

Jack,

Congratulations to you and your Colorado team for the outstanding AFTAC Alumni Worldwide Reunion. As I mentioned prior to leaving, Colorado has set the bar extremely high for Florida and California chapters. In two years, Florida will host the Reunion and you have made it virtually impossible for us to meet the standards that you established with the 2007 Reunion.

From what I saw, everything that was planned went off like clockwork. Needless to say, it took me a little while to thaw out, but the golfing experience will remain with me the remainder of my life. I don't think you ever remember the beautiful days of golf, but you certainly will remember the day when half of the teams quit and the other half played and froze. Jack, I will be talking about the Colorado golf outing for years to come. We did not win, but had lots of fun.

The Hospitality room and the Ice Breaker afforded Beverly and me the opportunity to meet new friends and to catch up what was occurring in the lives of many of our old friends.

The Banquet was very special. Needless to say, the food was superb and I think that the AFTAC Commander's speech was enjoyed by everyone. However, the best part of the night to me was the surprise that Chief Schmied got when he was named as the AFTAC Alumni of the Year. He deserved the recognition and I think everyone agreed with the selection.

Presentation of the coins to all AFTAC attendees was a nice touch and a fitting conclusion to an outstanding reunion.

Hope to see you in 2009 at the Worldwide Reunion in Florida.

Sincerely,
Frank Hall

Al Pavik writes:

Jack,

Ann & I want to thank you and all the "Denver" personnel for your work in putting on a great reunion, we truly enjoyed meeting so many of our friends and fellow AFTACers from the past. Again thanks for your work.

It was also great for us because we did get to visit with three of our daughters and grandkids.

Al & Ann Pavik

Waymond James writes:

"Bill, Thanks for what you are doing for the gang. Sign me up for four (4) years. I will be 80 by that time (if the Lord permits). 1960 to 1971 were undoubtedly the most challenging, interesting and unique years in my life. Many memories. Many friends."

Bill Schmied replies:

Thank you for the kind words and your check. There are many chapter members involved in putting it all together and keeping things going. The alumni reunions are great examples of this and provide wonderful opportunities for all of us to relive some of those memories while revisiting with some of those friends. Hope to see you in Florida in 2009.

The AFTAC Reunion Golf Tournament was played at Antelope Hills Golf Course in Bennett, Colorado, on an extremely blustery Thursday afternoon on June 7, 2007. There were 20 plus hardy souls there to try their skills in some of the worst weather (wind and cold) you can imagine. This was a scramble, best ball tournament. Golf carts, box lunches, and water were provided to all golfers.

Some golfers could not tolerate the windy (40 to 50 MPH) conditions and retired early to the club bar. Among the brave souls who played the entire 18 holes, the winners were: Team of Earl Pierce, SSgt Gapinski (Det 45), and Ken Kurziel won the tournament with a one under par. Longest drive - Lonnie Gibbons, Closest to the pin - Lonnie Gibbons, Earl Pierce, SSgt Gapinski and Frank Hall.

After the tournament completion, everyone proceeded to the bar for beer, coffee, etc and good conversation, before heading back to the Doubletree Hotel in Denver where a great barbecue dinner was waiting in the Hospitality Suite. Thanks to Ginny Gibbons for preparing such a tasty meal. Golf towels and sleeves of golf balls from Antelope Hills were presented to the winners.

Detachment 45 Change of Command

Col Mark Westergren, AFTAC commander, officiated at the Det 45 Change of Command Ceremony on 11 July passing the flag from Maj Gerald Robertson to the new detachment commander, Capt Brian Chellgren. Jack Smith and Bill Schmied attended the ceremony representing our alumni association and welcoming Capt Chellgren, a Major selectee, to our area. We invited him to continue the relationship and detachment participation with the alumni during his tenure as commander. We also thanked Maj Robertson for his support while he was the commander and look forward to keeping him in the loop since he is remaining at Buckley as the base IG.

Summary of the 2007 Worldwide Reunion

It's hard to believe that three months have elapsed since our very successful worldwide reunion on June 7 - 11 June 2007. The efforts of so many who took part in the planning and preparation, and who worked the various committees is the very essence of what made this reunion a very special, enjoyable, and rewarding event. We want to extend a very special thanks to those who attended and to those who helped make this a very great and special reunion that will long be remembered. We know that without your attendance, the efforts of so many would be for naught. Your presence and the assistance of many made it all happen!!! Many may not be aware that planning for this reunion started in late August 2006---just one year ago. This was necessary to obtain a reunion site of our choosing to lock in the desired dates of 7 - 11 June 2007.

There were over 170 in attendance and they represented 23 different states---a tribute to the strength and understanding as to what AFTAC is all about.

The reunion actually started a little early!! On Wednesday evening while the committee was prepping the 'Hospitality Room', some early arrivals came to visit, to register, and have an early toast to the coming four days. It was a work evening for some, but a fun evening for all, for it was well after midnight when the doors were closed. A great beginning for a great reunion.

Thursday began where Wednesday left off. Registration and welcome started early in the day and extended into the evening. Thursday was also the scheduled golf outing (see article in this issue). For those who participated, it will be an outing long remembered. The temperature at the hotel at departure time (12:30 PM) was a balmy 70 degrees. But that pleasantness was not to be as the day turned windy and very cool (49 degrees). Who knows what happened, isn't this supposed to be Colorado in June? Bottom line, there were some great sports who participated in the golf event.

The golf outing terminated in the 'Hospitality Room' on Thursday evening with a great BBQ feed (thanks to Ginny Gibbons). This was open to all, so it was a great mixer and the evening moved on with a lot of food, drink, conversation and laughter in living the present and reliving the past.

During the day on both Friday and Saturday, scheduled bus tours were assembled for those interested in reliving some of the old 'haunts' they were familiar with during those days they were stationed at Lowry AFB. The tours encompassed: (1) Rocky Mountain Arsenal (now a wildlife refuge), (2) Fitzsimons Army Hospital (now the new University Hospital Campus), and (3) Lowry AFB (now a rather large housing development called Lowry Campus). Feedback from those who took one or all three tours was very positive and a very rewarding tribute to those who put the tours together.



The finale of this great reunion was the Friday night social and the Saturday night banquet. I don't think one can put into words the beauty of the two evenings. The setting was superb and the participants were elegant. A great reward to those who were able to attend and to those who put the 'show' together. The 'Memorial Table' was a focal point in recognition of those who couldn't attend this reunion and in fond memory to those who are no longer with us (see photo in this issue of Echoes).

Thanks once again to all of you who participated in this great and memorable AFTAC reunion.

Special thank you to Colonel Westergren Commander AFTAC our Keynote Speaker and Deacon Ray Brust our Master of Ceremonies Saturday night.

Jack Smith and Chuck Toner
Chairman and Co Chairman
AFTAC Alumni Reunion 2007

Lest We Forget

LOLITA P. MEHARG SATELLITE BEACH Lolita P. Meharg, 80, died peacefully Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at her home in Satellite Beach, FL. Lolita was born on November 7, 1926 to J.C. and Ima Lolita Peel in Sarasota, FL. She graduated from Florida Southern in Lakeland with honors in 1948. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, William Bryan Meharg; her sister, Bobbie Lar die; her daughters, Toogie McIntosh, Pam Meharg, and Lisa Kirchner; and her grand children, Michael-John Sever, Brittany Sever, and Katie Kirchner. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, June 28, 2007, at Beach Funeral Home in Indian Harbour Beach. In lieu of Flowers, donations may be made to Vitas Hospice, 4450 West Eau Gallie Boulevard Suite 280, Melbourne, FL 32934. Local arrangements by Beach Funeral Home East Chapel. Condolences may be sent to www.beachfuneralhome.com

In Memory of Suzanne Marie Doberstein

What God ordains is always good, This truth remains unshaken. On Tuesday evening, April 10, 2007, God, in his infinite love and wisdom, chose to swiftly and gracefully call his true and faithful servant, Suzanne Marie Doberstein, home. Sue, as she was known to most, was born March 31, 1946 in Ann Arbor, MI to John and Janet Covach. She was baptized into the Christian faith as an infant, and was a lifelong member of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. Sue graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in 1964 and went on to Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. In 1967, Sue took an emergency call to teach at Grace Lutheran School in Eau Claire, MI and it was there that she met her husband John. They married November 29, 1969, and most recently celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary together. At the time of their wedding, John was a member of the United States Air Force. Sue and her family spent time in the Washington D.C. area, as well as Merritt Island, Florida, Sonseca Spain and Saginaw, MI. Sue and John retired officially to their "up north" home in Prescott, MI in 2005

NOTE: This is an extract from a complete obituary which is available at the 'Need To Know, Now' link on the alumni website, 'aftacalumni.org' OR at the posting website, <http://www.casefuneralhome.com/>

The following was received from Jerry LaBarre:

I am sending you this notice that Charlie Heckman's widow Pat passed away in a nursing home in Oregon on Aug 4th. Pat had cancer but passed away peacefully according to her youngest daughter Terry.

Terry notified us by phone and asked if we

could notify as many friends of Pat and Charlie as possible. She would also like to have as many of your addresses as possible to mail you info on the funeral to be held at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 Aug. Pat is to be buried alongside of Charlie.

To provide address information write/call: Teresa Usher, 921 Todd Road, BelAir, MD, 21014. 410-638-8345 or, 443-752-1321.

Or, you may contact Jerry LaBarre - 813-505-7442; email, jerryterr2@juno.com.

Mr Bill Wettstein of Prince George, Va. passed away yesterday (4/17/07) at his home.

Bill was just shy of 75 years of age and had been in a battle with cancer for a few years. Bill was my maintenance technician at 3XX from 1966 through 1968. He was a class act.

Leon E. Nargoski, 77, of West Ashley passed away Wednesday morning at his home.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Georgianna Rumer, on May 11, 1994.

Born and raised in Ashley, he was the son of the late Theodore and Adeline Nartowicz Nargoski. He was a 1947 graduate of Ashley High School.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, he served his country for 28 years, retiring as a chief master sergeant.

He was a member of Holy Rosary Church, Ashley. He was also a member of the American Legion, Ashley; the Catholic War Veterans, Post 274, Ashley; and the Disabled American Veterans Post 32, Plymouth.

He is survived by a daughter, Roxie McCann, Jacksonville, Fla.; son, Leonard Brock, California; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Doris Nargoski, Ashley.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral Wednesday at 9 from Joseph L. Wroblewski Funeral Home, 56 Ashley St., Ashley, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 in St. Leo's/Holy Rosary Church, 60 Charles St., Ashley, with the Rev. Thomas J. O'Malley officiating. Interment will be in Fort Indiantown Gap VA National Cemetery, Annville. Friends may call Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m., at the funeral home.

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Jack Smith advises:

With sadness I am forwarding the only information I have about losing one of AFTAC's great pioneers. Another good man has left our house.

George Waters sends:

I regret that I will not be able to attend the AFTAC reunion. AFTAC lost one of its finest alumni last Wednesday, April 4th, when Leon Nargoski died of a heart attack at his home in Pennsylvania. He and I had discussed attending just a few weeks ago. He served with me at two detachments, Dets 142 and 415.

He was my friend and I will miss him deeply. It is as if part of my life has been torn from me. He was one of the best technicians I knew in AFTAC. He was the first outstanding airman of the year selected by AFTAC back in, as I recall, 1964. He was always there for me whether it be personal or professional. He never tolerated mediocrity and I was proud to know that he tolerated me. He and I shared birthdays and we stayed in touch over the years. In fact last year we renewed our tradition of having a pig roast on our birthday; June 3rd will not be celebrated this year. It will be a sad day. I salute him as a friend and an equal. I loved him.

John and Christel Horsch add:

This is very sad for us. I went to 'Special Instruments' training with Ski and he was very important in guiding us 'youngsters' as we made our way thru the classes, and life. We did not get to be classmates in seismic 'sets' as AFTAC beckoned him back to work, in what I recall was his specialty at that time, generators. He did return later to finish the school and become a proud 99125.

He took me home one year for Thanksgiving and met my family. While he was at Encampment, WY, my 'girlfriend,' Christel Carmichael, and I stopped to visit him when we were returning to Pinedale from a trip to Cheyenne. While there, and having a nip of the brown, we discussed getting married. Ski asked us 'what are you waiting for?' Later, after we had left Ski's house, I proposed to my girlfriend and we will have been married 47 years this September.

Ski never failed to support AFTAC, and the alumni, in every way he could. He was at every World Wide reunion his health would allow. I recall, at one of the Florida Chapter Reunions, he presented the current AFTAC Airman Of The Year with a monetary awards. Ski did this to pass on the baton of being the first Airman Of The Year to the current selectee. I am sure he intended to do this more often if his health would have allowed.

Goodbye Chief, and we appreciate that you are helping get things ready for us in another place.

In Memory of Hobart "Bart" Carter

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.

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

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Buckley AFB

For your convenience, here are some contact numbers:

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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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 email: duckspondcelebrate@sbcglobal.net.
Services Entrusted to:
Lind Brothers Mortuary
916-482-8080

In Memory of Marianne Wheeler

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 !

2007.08.31 John McGettigan passes along the following information:

Robin, daughter of Richard Charles called me yesterday to advise me that Rich (Nick) as we called him through the years, had passed away peacefully on August 30, 2007 at his home in North Highlands CA.

I know he has had a rough go for some time. She advised me that funeral services were planned for Wednesday September 5, 2007. I do not have other details.

Good Health Wishes

TO EVERYONE - Take care of yourselves we want to see you at the next reunion.

Last Minute News

Ed McKenna will have album from reunion dinner with pictures from all of the tables. Please plan to attend the breakfast to help Ed identify everyone at the tables. The album will be added to the alumni memorabilia for future reunions.

ALERT(S):

LONG RANGE DETECTION PROGRAM 60TH ANNIVERSARY, OCT 11-12TH

(posted, 07.04) **Alert Update, 08.21 Pat Snyder,**

Alumni Assn 'Insider,' provided additional details about hotel reservations: Email: 'Imperialshotel.com' (hotel is being renovated and will probably be a 'Holiday Inn' by the time the 60th rolls around) or call 1-800-554-5188. Standard (king/double) \$69, Suite \$89. When making reservations, tell them you're with the LRD 60th Anniversary.

The Open House (HQ's Building) is on 11 Oct from 1300-1600. Dinner is at the Imperial hotel (see above). Cocktails from 1800-1845 with dinner at 1900. It's a sit-down dinner for \$25 and the meal is both chicken & beef (no other choices). Contact Gloria Jones, 321-494-7684, for attending either, or both, of these events.

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

MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime)

**TO: AFTAC Alumni Association
P.O. Box 254892
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892**

MAIL WEST COAST DUES (\$5 PER YEAR or \$50 Lifetime)

**TO: AFTAC Alumni Association
West Coast Chapter
161 Southcreek Circle
Folsom, CA 95630-1510**

**FOR COLORADO DUES SUBMISSION
OR ADDRESS CHANGE**

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, ZIP: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email _____

Unless advised to the contrary, personal information listed above is releasable to other AFTAC members.

DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12-MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE DURING EXPIRATION MONTH. (SEE ADDRESS LABEL FOR INDIVIDUAL EXPIRATION MONTH).

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BILL SCHMIED.
MAIL TO: BILL SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010.
Membership questions may be directed to
BillSchmied at**

email BillSchmied@aol.com

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

**c/o Bruce Deffler
2840 Del Sol Way
Parker, Co 80138**

