

# AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

TUCSON ARIZONA  
REVIEW



Pandemic Edition

June 2020

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**2020  
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## President's Notes

**The Beach in October!** Fort Walton, that is. That was supposed to be the intro this newsletter. Well it will still be the beach but not this year. As with so many other events being disrupted by the Wuhan virus, your board has decided not to risk the lives of our most esteemed members, the target environment of this bug. So, after 44 years of gathering, this band of Rescue vagabonds will sit this one out. We will shift to the right and have booked the Island in Fort Walton Beach for September 2021. All the details will be forthcoming in future newsletters, on Facebook and on the website.

In 2021, our 45th Annual ARA reunion and the Fifth Air Rescue Ball, cohosted by ARA and TOMLF, is headed to Jolly Green land and will be hosted by a team of our ARA members living and working in that area. Our intent in going to the beach is to honor our newest members who migrated to our association after the closure of the Jolly Green Association in May 2019. Suffice to say, we plan to continue both the Mission of the Year award as well as their outstanding scholarship program. Your new Plans and Programs Director, Dan Beatty, has the event well in hand and we should be in for a real treat.

Our gathering in Tucson, hosted very ably by Heidi Meisterling, was a grand time. Our interaction with the 355th Wing was a nice re-bluing for our members. A combined wing of A-10 and Rescue forces, they put on a wonderful show for our group and topped it off with super attendance at the Saturday gala. A great time in Arizona!

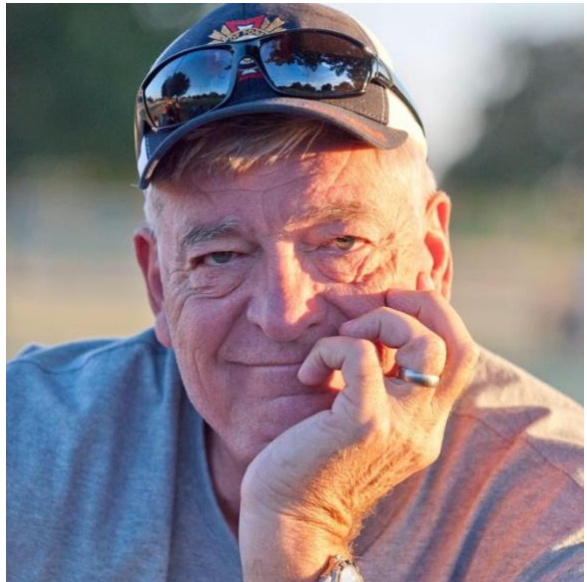
As promised, your board average age has now dropped precipitously. Mike Tillema was elected Vice President which makes Bill Severns a happy retired guy. Chris Barnett is now our 'belly button' (John Flournoy's term) as the new Director at Large. Todd Prejean is taking on the Treasurer position and another San Antonio member, Brad Dow, will be taking the Secretary job. Bob Remey is now the Historian and is doing a great job moving our memory books into the electronic era. Mandy Hutchison, our new newsletter Editor, has made Frank Watkins, our recent editor extraordinaire, incredibly happy.

The Rescue gala was another success as we recognized the crew that won the Jolly Green Association Mission of the Year, the TOMLF Squadron of the Year (58<sup>th</sup> RQS) and the Air Rescueman of the Year, Major Mark Fraser of the 18<sup>th</sup> Operational Support Squadron in Kadena AB, Japan.

Our Air Staff office for Rescue continued support and management of the annual Air Rescueman award and we look forward to their great help with the Jolly Green Mission of the Year award as well.

Several of our members flew west, and we dearly miss them all. After last year's newsletter, we learned of the loss in May of Dinny Brubaker, a true lady and much loved by us all. Our condolences went out to Bob, our long-time editor and stalwart board member. Then, shortly after our Tucson gathering, we learned that Tony Muehling had passed. Tony and family hosted us in Louisville in 2006. RIP to all our comrades who took the flight.

Carolyn and I wish you all a safe 2020 and look forward to seeing you in 2021!



*Ken*

# That Others May Live Foundation

## Executive Director's Notes



To our friends at the Air Rescue Association,

I'm honored to join **That Others May Live Foundation** as its next Executive Director and look forward to working alongside you.

That Others May Live Foundation's mission is deeply personal to me. My husband, Dan, joined the Combat Search and Rescue mission in spring 2010, and almost immediately we understood the impact TOMLF has in this community. I have seen time and again how the organization supports our Rescue Heroes and their families - in moments of tragedy, and times of need. I'm humbled by the opportunity to lead the organization into tomorrow.



As a non-profit leader with nearly fifteen years of experience, working with TOMLF merges my personal and professional passions. Most recently, I worked as a fundraising consultant for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital from our current duty station, Yokota Air Base. Having built strategic partnerships and relationships for one of the world's leading healthcare charities, I'm thrilled to be able to apply that experience to a mission that is very meaningful to my family.

TOMLF's evolving relationship with the ARA is essential to the growth and development of our most vital beneficiary programs – which your membership has generously supported through your time, talent and treasure. Formalizing this partnership and our shared vision for the future is a top priority, and I look forward to many conversations in support of this effort.

I'm eager to meet each of you. Until then, I can be reached by cell (702.625.3087) or email ([jen.morrissey@thatothersmaylive.org](mailto:jen.morrissey@thatothersmaylive.org)).

Thank you for your continued partnership, as together we serve our Rescue Heroes, Veterans and families.

Jen Morrissey  
Executive Director – That Others May Live Foundation



## Tucson – Fiesta in The Old Pueblo



Reunion number 44 is in the books! This year we enjoyed the beautiful weather of Tucson, Arizona; sightseeing the Old West in Tombstone and engaging with past and present USAF operations at Davis-Monthan (DM) AFB. Attendance ranged from 52 at the Welcome Reception, 70 at DM Day, to an astonishing 193 at the combined ARA/PRHA/TOMLF Air Rescue Ball, including 25 newcomers! A well-attended and successful event to say the least!

The 2019 ARA/PRHA reunion began on 2 Oct with registration and the Welcome Reception at the DoubleTree Suites Tucson Airport. Walt Hines and Clete Meyer ran the registration table, welcoming the 2019 reunion attendees. Later that evening, in true Fiesta fashion, the opening dinner was a feast of Southwest cuisine: fajitas, quesadillas, chips/salsa, beans, Spanish rice and churros. ARA President Ken Pribyla provided opening comments; Heidi Meisterling provided an overview of reunion activities; and as a special treat, ARA member and 355<sup>th</sup> Wing Vice Commander, Col Victor Pereira, provided welcome comments about the local area and Davis-Monthan AFB. After the reception, most participants enjoyed

the outdoor courtyard located conveniently by the hospitality suite. The weather was perfect during the entire reunion and most participants could be found outside in the courtyard during their free time. Thank you to Rescue Riders Phelipe Salinas and Pete Parks, who managed the hospitality room throughout the reunion and Air Rescue Ball.



On 3 Oct, the ARA/PRHA reunion traveled to Tombstone, Arizona, to experience the Old West. Our tour guide, Mr. Michael Foltz, was an expert in Arizona history and trivia. His narrations of Tombstone and its history were fantastic! A favorite spot on the tour was the infamous Bird Cage Theatre. The Bird Cage Theatre operated continuously, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for eight years from 1881 to 1889. It featured a saloon, a bar, a theater, and a brothel; where the painted ladies hung from the ceiling in crib-style housings named 'bird cages.' The theater was visited by many famous people during its time, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday who drank and played cards there. Today, the theater is believed



to be haunted by the ghosts of the many people who were murdered there. It is the only original standing structure (not refurbished) in Tombstone. The stairs scared us all!

Another site visited was the Rose Tree Museum, an historic family home dedicated to Tombstone's oldest families and site of the world's largest rose tree, a white Lady Banksia whose original root came from Scotland in 1885. The museum features an array of artifacts and memorabilia from Tombstone's early days, including several historical

collections along with dioramas of both the Gunfight at the OK Corral and the Lucky Cuss Mine.

A highlight of the afternoon was lunch at Big Nose Kate's Saloon. Reunion attendees enjoyed the great food, libations and could be seen singing and dancing to the live music. This famous bar was opened in 1880 as the Grand Hotel, which was declared as one of the finest hotels in the state. The deluxe hotel housed some of Tombstone's most famous residents, including Wyatt and Virgil Earp, Doc Holliday, the McLaury brothers, and the Clanton Gang when they visited Tombstone. After being destroyed by a fire in 1882, the building was converted into Big Nose Kate's Saloon.



All reunion attendees enjoyed their free time shopping and enjoying other attractions on Allen Street. Allen Street features three blocks of shaded boardwalks lined with saloons, shops, restaurants, and bars. Allen Street's buildings reflect what Tombstone was like during the boomtown days and exudes the enchantment of the Wild West. On the way home, our tour guide, Michael, ensured all questions and curiosities about Tombstone were answered. He was truly an amazing source of information!

On 4 Oct, the ARA/PRHA reunion traveled to Davis-Monthan AFB to tour the "Boneyard," watch an A-10 Weapons Load Competition and share historic rescue stories at the 563<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Group. First up was the infamous aircraft "Boneyard," the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG),



the sole aircraft boneyard and parts reclamation facility for all excess military and government aircraft. AMARG's typical inventory comprises more than 4,400 aircraft, which makes it the largest aircraft storage and preservation facility in the world. BG (ret) Keith Connolly and Col (ret) Schart were our AMARG tour guides, providing information, factoids and humor along the way. We toured aircraft from the Air Force, Navy Marine Corps, Coast Guard, NASA and other government agencies. Unique to most AMARG tours, the reunion attendees were allowed to exit the bus and walk in the area of historic rescue helicopters and aircraft. We thank AMARG Commander Col Jennifer Barnard, Ms. Teresa Pittman and Ms. Heike Smith, Chief of Protocol, for approving and coordinating this experience.



Next we moved onto the Weapons Standardization Hangar for the Weapons Load Crew competition. Per feedback at the last reunion, attendees wanted a different activity than the standard HH-60 and C-130 flightline tour. Upon hearing this, Col Bart Kenerson, 355<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group Commander, asked that this competition be scheduled to coincide with this year's reunion. The competition is between four teams of airmen who load the various weapons systems on the A-10

“Warthog” aircraft. The competition was exciting and very informative! During his closing comments, Col Michael Drowley, 355<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander, recognized and thanked the ARA. After the competition, reunion attendees had a group picture in front of the A-10 Warthog and were given an up-close tour of the A-10 and its weapons systems. We thank Capt Paul Baker for handling the logistics for our inclusion into this event.

From there, we headed to the 48<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron for the afternoon rescue heritage sessions. We first had a delicious lunch provided to us by Dave and Lola Carrell, owners of the Tanque Verde Chick-Fil-A. We appreciated the great meal donated by them. The heritage sessions were opened up with a mission brief by Col Jason Pifer, 563<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Group Commander, followed by Capt John Conner (48 RQS), SrA Raul Martinez (48 RQS) and 1Lt Jorge Pala (79 RQS) who provided an amazing account of their recent Tamara Rescue. Then ARA members Dale Stovall, Bill Farnham and Gary Copsy provided their incredible accounts of historic rescues spanning from the 1940s to 1980s. The young airmen in attendance were amazed! The afternoon continued with SSgt Austin Henson (48 RQS) briefing the 2018 JGA Rescue Mission of the Year, an event that was recognized



Saturday night at the Air Rescue Ball. Lt Col Robert Rosebrough, Red Flag Rescue Commander, discussed the formation and training points of Red Flag-Rescue, a truly unique Rescue training operation. The session concluded with ARA member Elroy Colby taking us into the future by briefing the design and capabilities of Rescue's newest helicopter, the HH-60 Whiskey. We would like to thank MSgt Matthew Macella (48 RQS) for facilitating the heritage briefings; his flexibility and patience were phenomenal – if only there were a medal!



To wrap up the evening we celebrated “First Friday” at the Trident III Grill, a local restaurant owned by a Navy Seal. We enjoyed the happy hour drink specials and a BBQ buffet that included pulled pork, wings, hot sausage links, mac-n-cheese, coleslaw, potato salad, rolls and cookies. Good food, good drinks, good friends!

Saturday morning was the customary time for meetings. The ARA BOD met early, followed by the general membership meeting. Highlights of the general membership meeting included introductions of the newly elected and/or appointed board members and the Air Force Rescue 2019 update briefed by Maj James Corless, 563<sup>rd</sup> RQG Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. Minutes of both meetings are in a separate section of this newsletter.

The premiere event, the Air Rescue Ball, was hosted that evening by the ARA and TOMLF. The ballroom was beautifully decorated with Rescue themed engraved carafes & flowers as the centerpieces and stemless engraved TOMLF wine glasses. Local TOMLF volunteers Kathy Gough, Charlene & Rob Vance, Cedric Stark and Clif Hicks assisted in coordinating the ball logistics, and the room looked fantastic!



The high point of the evening was the recognition of outstanding Rescue accomplishments. The 58<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Nellis AFB won TOMLF's Squadron of the Year. Todd Bolger, TOMLF Chairman, presented the award to Lt Col Douglass Holliday, 58 RQS Commander, who accepted on behalf of his squadron. Last year's winners, the 79 RQS (Davis-Monthan), were also present at the ball. This is a back-to-back win for the 563<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Group. The 2018 JGA Rescue Mission of the Year's citation was read, with the 48 RQS (Davis-Monthan) and 41 RQS (Moody) being recognized. And finally, Maj Mark Fraser, 18<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan, won the Richard T. Kight Award as the most outstanding Rescueman of the Year. ARA President Ken Pribyla presented this award.





Steve Colby served as emcee again this year and did a great job. The 355<sup>th</sup> Wing provided the Honor Guard, Vaughn Price (79 RQS) sang the National Anthem, Preacher Sam Ensor gave the invocation, and Walt Hines led the POW/MIA ceremony and read the names of ARA members lost during the year. Carolyn Schmidt and Barbara Goza ran the raffle of ARA custom labeled California wine

donated by Walt Hines, making over \$440. Thanks also to Bob Remey and Carolyn Schmidt for taking photos during the reunion and ball.

All-in-all, the 2019 ARA/PRHA Reunion in Tucson was a fun and successful event, topped off by a fabulous ARA/PRHA/TOMLF Air Rescue Ball. Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered to make this reunion and ball so outstanding!

Heidi Meisterling

**Old Soldiers never die,  
They just smell that way.**

**Air Rescueman's Code**

It is my duty as a member of the Air Rescue Service to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things I do **that others may live!**









CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION RICHARD T. KIGHT AWARD  
TO  
MAJOR MARK E. FRASER

Major Mark E. Fraser distinguished himself as the Chief of Wing Weapons and Tactics, 18th Operations Support Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. During this period, Major Fraser's superior innovation led to the development of several enterprise-level combat search and rescue advancements to include the creation of an enhanced survivor beacon streamlining the find, fix, and track processes of locating isolated personnel, and the modification of state-of-the-art mission planning software that minimizes risk to routing for rescue task forces in contested and denied environments. His incredible contributions have led to the development of a classified Joint Air Forces Component Commander risk and decision matrix, which influenced joint staff-level decisions regarding personnel recovery, dramatically reduced vulnerabilities to rescue forces, and decreased the overall recovery timeline of isolated personnel by more than fifteen minutes. Additionally, he led a Secretary of Defense-directed working group, which developed personnel recovery options for thirty-two United States Indo-Pacific Command strike plans. Furthermore, Maj Fraser was selected as a Superior Performer in Exercise NEPUTUNE HAWK where he led personnel recovery planning, which synchronized 29 different types of aircraft and over four thousand personnel, accomplishing one-hundred percent of Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff objectives. Finally, he chaired the Defense of Okinawa working group where he developed joint and bilateral combat search and rescue tactics, powering Japan's first ever combat rescue initiative, while directly supporting the National Defense Strategy. The distinctive accomplishments of Major Fraser reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.





CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE FOUNDATION 2019 RESCUE SQUADRON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to the 58<sup>th</sup> RQS for Their Cumulative Efforts, Endeavors and Mission Execution

The 58<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron epitomized the Rescue motto by demonstrating exceptional mission performance over the last year. Defining a Low Density-High Demand squadron; the unit maintained a taxing deployment dwell for a year, deploying personnel both downrange and stateside for combat, humanitarian, and AF, Joint and coalition training missions. This exceptional unit led Task Force 20 PR support with four repositioning and prepositioning movements with 31 passengers, 3 CH-47s, degrading Taliban and ISIS forces, with 31 enemy killed in action and 3 lives saved. The unit synchronized other government agency integration with Standard Operating Procedures incorporating 55 personnel over 139 missions. Their efforts enabled critical PR coverage cementing IA success. Ensuring their long-term impact on Afghanistan operations, their deployed personnel developed and refined the joint PR force; they trained four US Army crews on 25 flights, validating high risk PR mission set solving the Combat Air Forces and Special Operations Forces shortfalls. Demonstrating their operational prowess, acting as mission commander during SOF Troops in Contact event, the unit covered 112 US Forces over a 24-hour operation, delivering critical resupply to a cut-off team; the force was sustained and a High Value Target was killed. While deployed, the unit executed CASEVAC in support of Special Operations Task Force-Alpha and responded to an IED event, exfiltrating three CAT-A casualties from an unsecure LZ, ensuring Operational Detachment Alpha mission success. The unit provided a CSAR Subject Matter Expert embedded for a six-day operation. During that op, 10 enemy were killed, six enemy were wounded and a critical Taliban Command and Control node was destroyed, resulting in disrupted Taliban operations and enemies removed. Lastly the 58 RQS participated in liberating an enemy-held city with an attached PJ, who treated 20 wounded friendly forces, and uncovered a hidden IED factory. Participants were awarded two purple hearts and a bronze star with valor. For operations in Africa, the 58<sup>th</sup> RQS developed a joint standard and conducted robust USAF/Army Reaction Force initial qualification training program and conducted three high-visibility joint training exercises with four Coalition Joint Task Forces from Africa. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of the 58<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

# Jolly Green Merit Scholarship 2020

By Michael "Festus" Agin, JGMS Committee Chair

An all-volunteer team from ARA-TOMLF administered the Jolly Green Merit Scholarship program again this year continuing the 40+ year Jolly Green Legacy. This year we teamed up to award \$13,000 to six students for this upcoming school year. A five-person team employing safe distancing scored applicants on demonstrated academic and extracurricular achievements. Thanks to Pat Ledbetter, Ken Price, Tony Arrington, and Brad Dow for taking the time score over 24 applications.

The year's top ranked student is **Aidan Myerscough**



- He is the winner this year's named scholarship in memory of James "Yogi" McElhenney. Aidan will receive \$3,500 toward his education at New Mexico Tech, a STEM focused University. He will join the Biology program with a focus in Genetics staying on to hopefully complete his master's in biology.
- After graduation Aidan plan on working in a lab or getting a PhD in Genetics by going to medical school.
- Aidan pursued a rigorous AP STEM curriculum in HS and has won several Science Expo competitions. He also plays Soccer and is Captain of his HS Chess Team. This top candidate regularly volunteers at church as a videographer and participated in a community self-help project named the Nation's top High School Service Project. Videographer for Rio Rancho Youth Choir. In addition to lettering academically Aidan was inducted into National Honor Society that supported numerous Service Projects including tutoring fellow students in Algebra and Science.
- Aidan is sponsored by Kevin Myerscough, USAF Pararescue, 1998 - 2016

**Aidan Todorov**, our second-place winner is a rising sophomore at Villanova University outside Philadelphia and is majoring in economics with a minor in communications. Aidan will receive \$2,500 toward his second year in college.

- Aidan plans to pursue a career in public service following graduation and hopes to serve as a Naval Officer and pursue graduate education directly following his undergrad tenure.
- This is Aidan's second year winning this scholarship. Outside school Aidan is Assistant Captain of his Ice Hockey Team, Marching Band Section Leader, National Honor Society Vice President, Member of Villanova Special Olympics Organization Committee, Eagle Scout, and Villanova's Dean's List.
- Aidan is sponsored by Brig Gen Kenneth Todorov, HH-60G Pilot and Warrior Leader



**Jillian Keegan** will receive \$2,250 to support her attendance at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, studying Neuroscience and Pre-Med as a student in the Honors College.



- She is excited to begin school at Alabama and remain focused on her goal – Medical School -- while still experiencing all that the university life has to offer, such as attending football games and joining a Panhellenic sorority... Roll Tide!
- In addition to being recognized as a bilingual National Scholar she participates in HS Lacrosse and Club Swimming. Jillian also finds time to volunteer at Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree, Move America Forward, Powerhouse Ministries, Sacramento Children’s Museum, City of Folsom, Ronald McDonald House and Active member in local Young Life Club (Christian Youth Group).
- Jillian is sponsored by Thomas Keegan, HH-60G Pave Hawk Instructor Pilot currently serving at the 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing

**Chase Miller** will receive \$2,000 to support his attendance at Appalachian State University with a double major in journalism & electronic media/broadcasting.

- After graduation, he plans to work in reporting, photojournalism, and documentary filmmaking.
- In addition to excellent academic achievements Chase supported Student Council Elections Committee and Fundraising Committee, Key Club Public Relations Officer, Toys for Tots Vice President, founding student editor of Change Art Magazine, and actor/stage manager for the High School Art Department.
- Chase is sponsored by SSGT Clinton Miller, HH-60G Pave Hawk Crew Chief in the late 80s thru mid 90s



**Shannan Flake** will receive \$1,500 and return to Utah Valley University to receive her bachelor's degree in Nursing.



- After graduating from college, she plans to work as a Registered Nurse at a hospital and has hopes to go to outside the United States to give medical help as a nurse to those in need.
- Shannan lettered in both Varsity Soccer and Track & Field. Lifeguard for Student Council Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President. Organized and supported over 60 hours per year of volunteer Service Projects as member of National Honor Society. Currently completing an 18-month Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Mission in Sweden – she saved money to fund her mission abroad was saved from working during High School.
- Shannan is sponsored by CMSgt Michael Flake, Helicopter Flight Engineer on multiple Air Rescue and Special Operations platforms. Michael also served at TOMLF Board of Directors for several years.



**Abigail Ellis** will receive \$1,250 and will be attending the University of South Florida and majoring in Biomedical Science.

- After graduation from college, her hope is to work in a research lab and develop treatments for the world's most deadly diseases.
- Abigail lettered in Varsity Soccer (Team Captain), Basketball, and Volleyball. She served as Student Council President for two years organizing Prom and Graduation events. National Honor Society Secretary and President – formed and managed a peer-to-peer tutoring group.
- Abigail is sponsored by CMSgt Joel Ellis, various specialties as a Helicopter Maintenance Technician on HH-60G Pave Hawk



# Air Rescue Mixer

## CAF WEPTAC 2020 & HH-60 Whiskey Whiskey Auction

On 14 January, Air Rescue Association (ARA) and That Others May Live Foundation (TOMLF) conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Air Rescue Mixer during the annual Combat Air Forces Weapons and Tactics (CAF WEPTAC) Conference.

Over 50 people attended the event in person and 25 participated virtually in the on-line auction. A huge shout out to Richard Gonzales and his awesome Stonehouse Bar and Grill Team - great venue, awesome food, tasty pours and superb service make this a great spot to stop in after work at Ft. Nellis. A special shout out goes to Dave "Driver" Roberts from the HH-60W Program Office who had the vision to capture numbered bottles associated with Rescue Units around the world.

The purpose of the event was to provide attendees an informal social environment to mingle while enjoying food and refreshments. The organizers of this event from the ARA-TOMLF also auctioned/raffled 11 bottles of HH-60W Whiskey and signed First Flight print. We also took a few moments to update you on our 2019 accomplishments and plans for 2020.

Thanks again for your everyone's support. The event raised over \$7,000 and after event costs \$5,000 will go toward scholarships and tragedy assistance.



# Air Rescue Mixer – NCR Honoring James “Yogi” McElhenney

On 5 February, **Team Air Rescue** conducted their 6th or 7th Soirée at Ireland’s Four Courts walking distance from the Arlington Courthouse Metro.

The purpose of the event was to join members of Air Rescue Association and That Others May Live Foundation (ARA-TOMLF) to honor James “Yogi” McElhenney on the eve of his Interment at Arlington National Cemetery.



About 60 people paid in advance and were handsomely rewarded with awesome appetizers, 2 free drinks and a 1-year ARA membership.

The event was purposely scheduled the night before James “Yogi” McElhenney’s interment at ANC. As a bonus we got to meet Yogi’s family and most poignantly Yogi daughter Shannon.

After a bit of socializing we conducted a Rusty Nail Salute and a celebration of life for Yogi that included a slide show and short remembrance speeches by family and friends.



Thanks to Bob Ford our event honcho along with Connie and Brad Grambo who made sure no one waited in line to join the fun.







**Air Rescue Association  
Board of Directors Minutes  
Saturday, October 5, 2019**

The Board of the Air Rescue Association met on October 5, 2019, in a board room of the Doubletree Suites Tucson Airport, Tucson AZ, beginning at 8 am.

Present: Ken Pribyla, Mike Tillema, Walt Hines, Frank Watkins, Bill Farnham, Deb Fitz, John Flournoy, Sandy Gonzalez, Dan Beatty, Todd Prejean, Bob Remey, Chris Barnett, Ken Price, Gary Copsy

Absent: Bill Severns, Mary Severns, Mike Agin, Col. Mark Kelly

The 2018 BOD minutes as published in the latest newsletter were approved.

President Ken Pribyla introduced new board members as follows:

- Mike Tillema to replace Bill Severns as vice president
- Walt Hines to replace Mary Severns as secretary
- Dan Beatty to replace Walt Hines as plan and programs director
- Bob Remey to fill historian vacancy
- Todd Prejean to replace Bill Farnham as treasurer
- Chris Barnett to replace John Flournoy as member at large

Ken also summarized the progress of the ARA-TOMLF partnership as largely status quo. Most of the TOMLF board member are ARA members with little active participation. Their co-hosting of the Air Rescue Ball continues to work well. Representatives of both TOMLF and ARA were on hand at the final JGA reunion in May to work out how to handle the JGA Scholarship Program and the JGA Mission of the Year, an Air Force level award as is the Kight award. The scholarship balance of \$155K was turned over to TOMLF and placed in a separate account. (At the May reunion, JGA gave out six substantial scholarships to children of deceased Rescue heroes.) Going forward, the ARA will present the Mission of the Year award.

Mike Tillema gave Bill Severns' report, citing 20 new members (5 signing up with ARA and 15 signing up on the TOMLF web site), 38 re-ups, 5 JGA life members having transferred to the ARA, and \$1130 derived from dues. He also reported that 12 ARA members had died since last year's reunion. He went on to provide an update on the Lazer Ladies, who are now handling ARA memorabilia (coins, shirts, etc.) with new items being developed. The proceeds last year for the ARA were \$1100.

Walt Hines underscored Mary Severns' good progress following her hip surgery and encouraged the display of ARA patches and stickers.

Bill Farnham reported total assets of \$17339, consisting of the balances from four accounts as follows: Wells Fargo checking, \$7284; savings, \$8011; Bill Severns' account, \$617; and Walt Hines' account, \$1427. We have an outstanding liability to TOMLF of \$4035, resulting in a net equity of \$13304. He is in the process of turning over this function to Todd Prejean, the new Treasurer.

Dan Beatty discussed reunion plans for 2020 and 2021. The proposed site for 2020 is Ft. Walton Beach in order possibly to capture residual interest of former JGA members who want to continue their great legacy as ARA members. Frank Watkins added support to this idea. A host has not yet been identified, but initial arrangements are being examined for potential periods beginning on Oct. 14, 21, or 28. The AF Helicopter Pilots Assn. is meeting on Oct. 5-8 in Kansas City. Dan will coordinate with former JGA officials. He cited AFSOC at Hurlburt as a possible venue. Walt said that he maintains the ARA email bank and will turn that over to Dan.

New Historian Bob Remy summarized how he has put together with great success the last two reunion yearbooks using an on-line program called Shutterfly. He is looking at different ways to further digitize the process to include on-line access on the ARA and/or TOMLF web site(s). This would include making available on-line and via email the Newsletter as well, and he is examining the security issues. He is working now on the 2019 yearbook. He also wants to create a digital ARA member scrapbook with a brief bio of every member. His ground-breaking work was applauded by all.

Public Relations Director Deb Fitz discussed the various outlets in which she had publicized ARA and the reunion and indicated that more could be done with our web site. Ken said that the umbrella site that Greg Lowdermilk outlined in New York had not been done, as many TOMLF staff personnel had changed, and there is nothing out there yet to show our partnership. We now also have to include JGA in the effort. The current ARA web site is being managed by Sandy Gonzalez' grandson who has done a yeoman's job. Deb said that all of this is doable and could be patterned after the current two layers of the TOMLF site: one being the chairman's site and the other being a members-only site. Digital payment of dues, etc., must be a part of it. Discussion ensued about cyber security and recent phishing problems. Mike Tillema talked about the importance of branding which could be done more effectively and that Mike Agin had purchased several Go Daddy domains for future development. Discussion ended without naming an OPR. Deb requested to be advised of additional outlets to reach more potential members. She was lauded for her outstanding work.

Retiring Quartermaster Sandy Gonzalez stated that he has only five blank wooden plaques left and only four angel medallions. He is happy to turn over this function to the Lazer Ladies, and Mike Tillema stated that they could provide the blank plaques, etc., in the future. For many, many years, Sandy managed the procurement and sale of coins, shirts, jackets, caps, etc. to ARA members and did an amazing job, certainly a key part of the branding effort. Sandy also announced the forthcoming movie about the late Rescue hero and MOH winner William Pitsenbarger, entitled "The Last Full Measure."

Newsletter Editor Frank Watkins reported that the printer had provided ±100 extra copies of this year's newsletter. He sent most of these to Mike Agin to use in his recruiting of ARA members through TOMLF events. Many got lost in mailing for some unknown reason, but we had extras to cover the problem. He implored all to get articles and photos in early. He also reiterated the need to go to email delivery to save on postage. The BCC option can be used to guard against access to blanket email addresses. It is felt that that the newsletter would be more widely distributed via email. The newsletter is currently uploaded to the ARA web site, but there will be provisions to send the newsletter to members who don't use the computer. The ARA roster is also on the web site but requires a password protected logon. The hard copy roster that can be purchased by members no longer includes email addresses.

John Flournoy, in turning his duties as Member-At-Large over to Chris Barnett, said that the job mostly involves ear-bending to stay on top of issues affecting the organization and its membership and "stirring the pot" to identify new leadership.

New Business: Mike Tillema presented a point paper (attached) on ARA life membership. All agreed that it is time to offer this option, particularly inasmuch as we have already committed to transferring JGA life members to the same status in the ARA. The board adopted his proposal and will take it to the general membership for final approval.

The board also approved Mike Tillema as the new Vice President. He will be subject to a vote in the general membership for official approval.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted:

Walt Hines  
Secretary



# Financial Information

December 31, 2019 ■ Page 2 of 5



## Summary of accounts

### Checking/Prepaid and Savings

Account	Page	Account number	Ending balance last statement	Ending balance this statement
Wells Fargo Business Choice Checking	2		6,471.16	6,471.16
Business Market Rate Savings	3		8,011.63	8,011.83
<b>Total deposit accounts</b>			<b>\$14,482.79</b>	<b>\$14,482.99</b>

## Wells Fargo Business Choice Checking

### Activity summary

Beginning balance on 12/1	\$6,471.16
Deposits/Credits	150.00
Withdrawals/Debits	- 150.00
<b>Ending balance on 12/31</b>	<b>\$6,471.16</b>
Average ledger balance this period	\$6,466.32

Account number:

**AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION**  
*California account terms and conditions apply*  
 For Direct Deposit use  
 Routing Number (RTN):

For Wire Transfers use  
 Routing Number (RTN):

### Overdraft Protection

Your account is linked to the following for Overdraft Protection:

- Savings - 000001607426887

## Transaction history

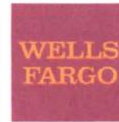
Date	Check Number	Description	Deposits/Credits	Withdrawals/Debits	Ending daily balance
12/16		Recurring Transfer to Air Rescue Association Business Market Rate Savings Ref #Op07Bjz9T9 xxxxxx6887		150.00	6,321.16
12/17		Recurring Transfer From Air Rescue Association Business Market Rate Savings Ref #Op07Bv7Gq xxxxxx6887	150.00		6,471.16
<b>Ending balance on 12/31</b>					<b>6,471.16</b>
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

### Monthly service fee summary

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the Wells Fargo Account Fee and Information Schedule and Account Agreement applicable to your account (EasyPay Card Terms and Conditions for prepaid cards) or talk to a banker. Go to [wellsfargo.com/feefaq](http://wellsfargo.com/feefaq) for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.

Fee period 12/01/2019 - 12/31/2019	Standard monthly service fee \$14.00	You paid \$0.00
<b>How to avoid the monthly service fee</b>	Minimum required	This fee period
Have any ONE of the following account requirements		



**Monthly service fee summary (continued)**

How to avoid the monthly service fee	Minimum required	This fee period
- Average ledger balance	\$7,500.00	\$6,466.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
- A qualifying transaction from a linked Wells Fargo Merchant Services account	1	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
- Total number of posted debit card purchases or posted debit card payments of bills in any combination	10	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
- Enrollment in a linked Direct Pay service through Wells Fargo Business Online	1	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
- Combined balances in linked accounts, which may include	\$10,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Average ledger balances in business checking, savings, and time accounts - Most recent statement balance in eligible Wells Fargo business credit cards and lines of credit, and combined average daily balances from the previous month in eligible Wells Fargo business and commercial loans and lines of credit - For complete details on how you can avoid the monthly service fee based on your combined balances please refer to page 10 of the Business Account Fee and Information Schedule at <a href="http://www.wellsfargo.com/biz/fee-information">www.wellsfargo.com/biz/fee-information</a>		

WXWX

**Account transaction fees summary**

Service charge description	Units used	Units included	Excess units	Service charge per excess units (\$)	Total service charge (\$)
Cash Deposited (\$)	0	7,500	0	0.0030	0.00
Transactions	0	200	0	0.50	0.00
<b>Total service charges</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>

**Business Market Rate Savings**

**Activity summary**

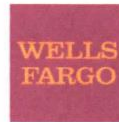
Beginning balance on 12/1	\$8,011.63
Deposits/Credits	150.20
Withdrawals/Debits	- 150.00
<b>Ending balance on 12/31</b>	<b>\$8,011.83</b>
 Average ledger balance this period	 \$8,016.46

Account number: XXXXXXXXXX  
**AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION**  
*California account terms and conditions apply*  
 For Direct Deposit use  
 Routing Number (RTN): XXXXXXXXXX  
 For Wire Transfers use  
 Routing Number (RTN): XXXXXXXXXX

**Interest summary**

Interest paid this statement	\$0.20
Average collected balance	\$8,016.46
Annual percentage yield earned	0.03%
Interest earned this statement period	\$0.20
Interest paid this year	\$2.41

ELITE - 000000000000



**Transaction history**

Date	Description	Deposits/ Credits	Withdrawals/ Debits	Ending daily balance
12/16	Recurring Transfer From Air Rescue Association Business Checking Ref #Op07Bjz9T9 xxxxxx6422	150.00		8,161.63
12/17	* Recurring Transfer to Air Rescue Association Business Checking Ref #Op07Bvl7Gq xxxxxx6422		150.00	8,011.63
12/31	Interest Payment	0.20		8,011.83
<b>Ending balance on 12/31</b>				<b>8,011.83</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$150.20</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

\* Indicates transaction counts toward the Regulation D and Wells Fargo savings withdrawal and transfer limit. Except outgoing wire transfers, there is no limit on the number of withdrawals or transfers made in person at an ATM or Wells Fargo location or on any types of deposits. For more information, please refer to your Account Agreement.

**Monthly service fee summary**

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the Wells Fargo Account Fee and Information Schedule and Account Agreement applicable to your account (EasyPay Card Terms and Conditions for prepaid cards) or talk to a banker. Go to [wellsfargo.com/feefaq](http://wellsfargo.com/feefaq) for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.

Fee period 12/01/2019 - 12/31/2019	Standard monthly service fee \$6.00	You paid \$0.00
<b>How to avoid the monthly service fee</b>	Minimum required	This fee period
Have any <b>ONE</b> of the following account requirements		
· Average collected balance	\$500.00	\$8,016.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
· Total automatic transfers from an eligible Wells Fargo business checking account	\$25.00	\$150.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Y/C/YC

**Account transaction fees summary**

Service charge description	Units used	Units included	Excess units	Service charge per excess units (\$)	Total service charge (\$)
Deposited Items	0	20	0	0.50	0.00
Cash Deposited (\$)	0	5,000	0	0.0030	0.00
<b>Total service charges</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>



## ARA Attendees to 2019 Reunion

James S. Allen, Jr	John Flournoy	Lee Kostellic
John Armstrong	Pam Flournoy	Jacquie Leighton
Judy Armstrong	Ron Flournoy	Debbie Leon
Jerry Ball	Bob Ford	Mark Leon
Kuniko Ball	Dave Fraser	Greg Lowdermilk
Chris Barnett	Mark Fraser	Kelly Jo McElhenney
Dan Beatty	Boyd Fulmer	Shirley McGuire
Martha Beatty	Dianne Fulmer	Heidi Meisterling
Brad Bergman	Al Gailey	Clete Meyer
Heidi Bergman	Carlene Gailey	Kristin Pereira
DeDe Bolger	Patricia Gerstenberg	Vic Pereira
Todd Bolger	Robert Gerstenberg	Russ Petranto
Bob Brothers	Sandy Gonzalez	Danielle Prejean
Felicia Callahan	Bill Goodwin	Todd Prejean
Joe Callahan	Margie Goodwin	Carolyn Pribyla
Steve Colby	Barbara Goza	Ken Pribyla
Margaret Conran	Gran Goza	Ken Price
Phil Conran	Lynda Hale	Bob Remey
Gary Copsey	Mike Hale	Carolyn Schmidt
Al Duke	Marilyn Hawk	Larry Schmidt
Susan Duke	Sheridan Hawk	Dale Stovall
Linda Ensor	Leonard Hines	Mike Tillema
Sam Ensor	Mary Hines	Charlene Vance
Bill Farnham	Eleanor	Robert Vance
Krista Farnham	Walt Hines	Frank Watkins
Marcy Farnham	Edward Horne	Marilyn Watkins
Deb Fitz	Tim Hudson	Laura Wittman
Sisy Fitz	Barry Kamhoot	Susan Zerbe
Charlene Flournoy	Jo Kamhoot	Terry Zerbe
	Kate Kostellic	

## MEMORIAL ROSTER

We have been notified of the passing of the following members since publication of the May 2018 Newsletter

### THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED LAST YEAR

*Denise Brubaker Ed Brunner George Burgess Jim Burns Robert P. Glymph James "Yogi" McElhenney  
Anthony Muehling Robert T Dobson Sheila Dobson*

### THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED IN EARLIER YEARS

*John Shaeffer (2018) Karin Doucette (2018) C. Mike Parker (2018) Barbara Voyiaziakis (2018)*

♥ May they rest in peace

## REUNION SITES AND HOSTS

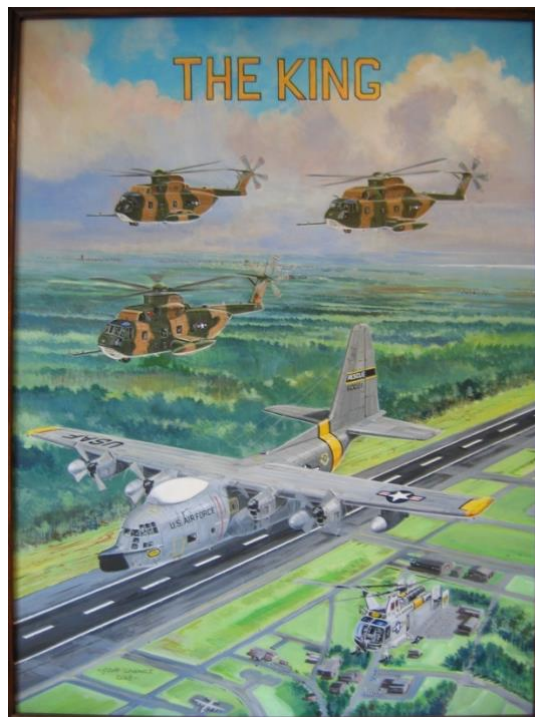
1976	Coeur D'Alene, ID	Bob & Jake Dyberg	1998	Catskill Mtns, NY	Bob & Jake Dyberg
1977	Albuquerque, NM	Rich & Lou Anne McVay	1999	San Diego, CA	Ed & Dorothy Uranich
1978	Albuquerque, NM	Dick & June Kight	2000	Branson, MO	Shad & Mary Shaddo
1979	San Diego, CA	Ed & Bobbie Ladou	2001	Las Vegas, NV	Bob & Jake Dyberg
1980	San Antonio, TX	Bill & Oleta Montgomery	2002	Atlanta, GA	Sandy Gonzalez
1981	Ft. Walton Bch, FL	Glen & Nadine Sullivan	2003	Dayton, OH	Dan & Jane Bigelow
1982	Scottsdale, AZ	Roy & Charlotte Jacobsen	2004	Seattle, WA	Bruce & Jan Haskins
1983	Colo. Springs, CO	Warren & Alice Ruppert	2005	Colo. Springs, CO	Dan & Martha Beatty
1984	Charleston, SC	Hank Tammenga	2006	Savannah, GA	Rip Powell
1985	Seattle, WA	Al & Gladys Scott	2007	Louisville, KY	Tony & Betty Muehling
1986	Williamsburg, VA	Bob & Alice Mennell	2008	San Antonio, TX	Keith Sullivan & BRAT
1987	Honolulu, HI	Bob & Jake Dyberg	2009	Philadelphia	Ron & Peg German
1988	Dallas/Fort Worth	Bob & Dorothy Walsh	2010	Sacramento	Bill & Marcie Farnham
1989	Hyannis, MA	Vince & Ginny McGovern	2011	Branson	Gatherings Plus (Sandy G.)
1990	San Francisco, CA	Verd & Fran Rasmussen	2012	Chattanooga	Walt & Mary Eleanor Hines
1991	Denver, CO	Lou & Dee Sacane	2013	Fort Worth, TX	Gene & Jeanette Lewis
1992	Tucson, AZ	Don & Kathleen Godbey	2014	Charleston, S.C.	Bill & Mary Severns
1993	Hot Springs, AR	Gene & Lou Watkins/ George & Marge Tuck	2015	San Diego, CA	John & Eleanor Colombo
1994	Portland, OR	Joe & Dory Herrmann	2016	Las Vegas, NV	Walt Hines/TOMLF
1995	Nashville, TN	J. B. McCarley	2017	Melbourne, FL	920 Rescue Wing/Walt Hines
1996	Orlando, FL	Sandy & Gina Gonzalez	2018	Westhampton, NY	Walt Hines/Mike & Carla Cassels
1997	Orlando, FL	Ted & Bev Tatum	2019	Tucson, AZ	Heidi Meisterling

## KIGHT AWARD WINNERS

2019	Mark E. Fraser	1998	Robert G. McNeil
2018	Dustin Jespersen	1997	Crews of AF Rescue 206/212
2017	Kevin M Rynbrandt	1996	Crew of AF Rescue 986
2016	Maurice Muro	1995	Crew of AF Rescue 26114
2015	Brian Scott	1994	Crew of AF Rescue 811
2014	Brandon T Casteel	1993	Keith A. Sullivan
2013	Brian R. Dicks	1992	Karen A. Pickering
2012	Jose L. Cabrera	1991	Michael A. Wayt
2011	Matthew C. Leigh	1990	Michael Callahan
2010	Salvatore L. Portelli	1989	Terry L. Muncy
2009	James E. Hangsleben, Jr.	1988	Dell T. Hamilton
2008	Stephen H. Thackery	1987	Timothy P. Malloy
2007	Jason E. Snyder	1986	William H. LeRoy
2006	Eric T. Trocinski	1985	Carl R. Binford
2005	Trevor J. Boyko	1984	Bruce C. Johnston
2004	John B. Creel	1983	Lee A. Roberson
2003	Keith A. Sullivan	1982	Joe Martinez
2002	Robert H Walker	1981	Richard G. Flaherty
2001	Randall R. Nelson	1980	Jay G. Jinks
2000	Kevin P. Mullins	1979	Louis DeMartino
1999	John McGonagill	1978	Robert L. LaPointe

# Become an ARA Lifetime Member!

Tired of having to get reminded about annual dues? Become an ARA Lifetime Member! It's easy and just work with Mike Tillema (michael.tillema@thatothersmaylive.org) on the application. If you've paid for this year or more, we can deduct that amount off the total! Lifetime Memberships are available to those at least 70 years of age for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. If you're at least 80, congrats because your Life Membership is free! Life Memberships also include the member's spouse! Come on in and join the ARA Lifetime Member team!





# Air Rescue Association

## Application for Membership

Since 1976, and 47 successful reunions later, the Association still seeks and accepts eligible persons who wish to enjoy the camaraderie of “rescue” people. As stated in the bylaws, “Membership in the Association is open to all persons, regardless of grade, rank or position who were or are assigned to the USAF Air Rescue Service or its antecedent and descendent organizations. Other military personnel, government civilian employees, or contractor representatives who were associated with Air Rescue; current and former members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Civil Air Patrol; plus any persons who have been rescued, recovered, or rendered emergency assistance by Air Rescue are also eligible and welcomed for membership. Adult close family members (parents, spouse, children and siblings) of those eligible for membership in accordance with the foregoing are also eligible for regular membership in their own right.” If interested in becoming a member, please supply the information requested in the form below, with a brief summary of applicable Air Rescue service and other pertinent information.

Please check all applicable: New Member \_\_\_\_, Update Dues \_\_\_\_, Update Contact \_\_\_\_, Other \_\_\_\_  
**Dues** \$\_\_\_\_\_for\_\_\_\_years. (\$10.00 per year per person [\$20.00 per couple] up to 5 years in advance).  
 Individuals who are at least 80 years old, or have hosted an ARA Reunion, or have paid dues for at least 20 years, or were Life Members of the Jolly Green Ass’n are eligible to become ARA Life Members. (Member must notify the ARA VP, Sec’y or Treas of their eligibility).  
**Life Memberships are also available to those at least 70 for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. Life Memberships also include the member’s spouse.**

Air Rescue Association no longer sells logo items directly to our members. We have, instead, teamed with the Laser Ladies, <https://www.lazerladies.com/collections/toml>, to make the similar variety of pins, coins and apparel available at prices comparable to when we were selling directly.

My check # \_\_\_\_\_ for the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (No cash, please).

Last Name	First Name	Spouse Name (if applicable)
Address (City, State & Zip)		
Home Phone	Cell Phone or Fax	Email Address

Air Rescue Assignments (Yours or relative’s) Include Unit, Base, State/Country, Years There

Unit 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 4: \_\_\_\_\_

If New Member, how did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check (no cash, please) to:

Air Rescue Association  
 20429 Wahl Lane  
 Garden Ridge, TX 78154

## From the [Afterburner](#), Fall-Winter 2019-2020, News for Department of the Air Force Retired Personnel



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE,  
Col. Rick A. Kibbey, a combat rescue aviator, was shot down after flying his first rescue mission in Vietnam War. He was brought home after being missing in action for more than 50 years. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Retired Airman celebrates his father's life, legacy PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Richard Kibbey was 12 years old when he answered a knock at the front door and saw a lieutenant colonel, a man with a lot of stripes and a chaplain.

"And I knew right away something was wrong," said the now retired lieutenant colonel and current 45th Space Wing antiterrorism program manager, who grew up in a self-described 'Leave it to Beaver' 1950's household.

"Dad was the kind of guy that spent quality time with each of us individually and together," recalled Kibbey. "We went out camping, we did lots of family stuff." "Dad" – Col. Richard 'Dick' Kibbey – was a C-124 Globemaster II pilot in the Air Force. He volunteered to train into another program, one to develop a pioneer program in helicopter rescue. After cross-training into the rescue program, he got orders to Vietnam.

Dick and three other Airmen were serving as HH-3E helicopter crew members with the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron out of Thailand, when they were tasked with a rescue and recovery mission. Their mission: to rescue the pilot of a downed aircraft over North Vietnam. On Feb. 6, 1967, no more than two weeks after trading "I love you's" and "See you soon's" with his wife and four children in the United States, Dick's helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire after rescuing the downed pilot. The helicopter, a Jolly Green Giant, experienced an internal explosion and crashed; leaving four of the five men onboard missing in action.

"It was an ugly, ugly couple months of not knowing," said Kibbey. "You hope to hear something and nothing ever comes. There's no new news. Weeks turn into months, months turn into years. And then you get into a routine of secretly hoping, but not too much, because you don't want to be disappointed. You soon start to realize this is just the way that it is.

" Kibbey soon followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Air Force as a security forces officer.

“In 1979, when I was a lieutenant, my dad was about to come upon his twentieth-year of service,” said Kibbey. “It’s difficult to decide what to do for someone when they’ve served for 20 years but are missing in action; so the decision was made to retire him and give my mother his retirement pay. I went to San Antonio for the ceremony where my mother received my father’s Silver Star and Purple Heart decorations.

” Dick’s missing in action status was soon amended to deceased after no discoveries in numerous searches of the area thought to be the crash site. This was believed to be the very heart-wrenching final chapter of his story, until September 2015.

On one of the last visits to the Jolly Green Giant’s believed crash site, a local villager approached the military recovery team and handed them a box. The box contained bones and dog tags from several American Airmen.

“The man took the team into the mountains, and there was still wreckage from the helicopter in the trees,” said Kibbey. “They started doing some digging and found more evidence and refocused their efforts on this new site.

” In September 2018, Kibbey received word from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency that he had been waiting on for half of a century; his father’s remains were found at the crash site. Dick was finally coming home to be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

At the funeral home, the family had their fallen hero’s casket open, with his classic Air Force blue uniform laid within.

Kibbey’s mother, Mary Ann, passed away in 1979. Soil from her grave site is symbolically joined with her husband at his gravesite with plans for a subsequent visit to Arlington to bring soil from his grave back to Florida so they would be together there as well.

With the mystery of his father’s fate resolved, Kibbey looks back on his memories with him with a bit more relief in his heart and a smile on his face.

“I learned so much from my father,” recounts Kibbey. “He was an honorable man, a prankster and a strict disciplinarian, but in a kind way. He wanted to make us better people and make us more conscious of our responsibilities as citizens. Because of him, my siblings and I had a foundation of empathy for the world and empathy for others. It all paid off.

” Looking through photos of his father in uniform, Kibbey held back tears and said, “I wanted to be just like my dad.”





## Excellence Runs in the Family!

By Mike Tillema

I met a hero a few months ago at the fiftieth anniversary of the Boxer 22 mission <https://www.historynet.com/saving-boxer-22-the-largest-rescue-mission-of-the-vietnam-war.htm>

Jim Corcoran was a Flight Engineer on Jolly 76 fifty years ago. Jim was on the first HH-53 to try and rescue the two Airmen from Boxer 22, an F-4 that was shot down. The story was incredible and the people I was fortunate to meet were phenomenal...quite an honor. Well it's evident that excellence runs in the Corcoran family.

Kathryn Corcoran is the daughter of Jim Corcoran. Kathryn received one of the Jolly Green Merit Scholarships a few short years ago. She wrote, "I am honored to have been selected for a Jolly Green Association Scholarship. Following my arrival at Michigan State University, I received an AFROTC Scholarship and then an additional scholarship to cover my full room and board. Due to this unexpected blessing, I feel your generous scholarship would greatly help a deserving individual. So, I am enclosing a refund check of \$1,000 for your original scholarship as well as an additional check for \$200 to "pay it forward." I would like to thank the Jolly Green Association again for their generosity and support. I am so honored to be affiliated with such an outstanding organization."

Kathryn's honesty and kindness were fantastic. Over the many years the JGA has been awarding scholarships, this was a first. Kathryn is now a 2Lt stationed at DM in Tucson! She is evidently already living up to the USAF Core Values of Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do! Kathryn, the ARA is very proud of you and wishes you great success in your AF career!

## Rescue in the COVID-19 era:



**See you in Ft Walton Beach in 2021!**

**Air Rescue Association**  
20429 Wahl Lane  
Garden Ridge, TX 78266

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