



Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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www.AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

The WCC lost a good friend this month with the passing of **Steve Fritts**. Steve was a good friend to all of us in the WCC, and in spite of his being on the heart transplant list for a long time; he still stepped up last fall and agreed to stand for reelection as our WCC "Director At Large". Our hearts and prayers go out to Donna and all the Fritts family. The Aerospace Museum of California has authorized a memorial bench in Steve's honor in the flag courtyard fronting the main AMC entrance. **The total cost required is \$2500.** The WCC will donate \$500.00. Personal donations toward the Steve Fritts Memorial Bench may be sent to:

Christopher T. Carey
Aeolus Aerospace
5960 South Land Park Drive 256
Sacramento CA 95822-3313 USA
Make checks Payable to: AEROSPACE MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA
Write "For Steve Fritts Memorial Fund" in the check margin.

ILLUSTRIOUS AFTAC BRAINY BUNCH

By Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor



Dr. Carl Romney (far right), Air Force Technical Applications Center assistant technical director, is pictured with fellow AFTAC personnel (pictured left to right): Walter Singlevich, Gerald M. Leies and Doyle Northrup at an undetermined event in 1970. Northrup served as a technical director from July 1959 to 1972; Leies followed Northrup as technical director in 1974 until 1987 when the position was abolished. He later became AFTAC's first chief scientist until his retirement in 1988. Singlevich, a giant in the field of atomic energy and nuclear research, served at AFTAC's senior scientist throughout the 1980s until his death in 1992. (Courtesy photo)

NEWS REQUEST

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

I need "One Of Our Own" features to give interesting info about one of our talented members (all of you). Please feel free to submit neat things that you do. Remember that we are a fraternity! Also, there must be a lot of untold stories out there. They need not be humorous, just something interesting for AFTAC insiders. Don't be paranoid about the classified issues. I will sanitize it based upon advice from knowledgeable advisors.

WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

"www.AFTACWCC.org"

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Apr 2014 – 30 Jun 2014

Submitted 24-Jul-2014 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Month</u>	<u>Unique Visits</u>	<u>Highest Visit Day(#Visits)</u>	<u>Mo. Average Visits/Day</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Visits)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page</u>
Apr 2014	5,546	04/04 (522)	185	Albums** (619)	Links (106)
May 2014	5,733	05/15 (388)	185	Albums*** (210)	Albums** (186)
Jun 2014	5,526	06/14&25 (238)	184	Departed (154)	Links (109)

Notes: * "Most Popular" page does not include our 'Home' page, which **almost***** always is the most popular page.

** The most popular page in April & the next most popular in May was the **May 2006 Picnic** photo page.

*** The most popular page in May was the **Nov 2013 Fall Social** photo slide show.

I'm pleased to see that you all are consistently making good use of access to your favorite organizations via our "Links" page. Do you have a favorite org for which a link is missing from that page? If so, contact me with the URL. You know your Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org is always open to suggestions for new content, new page designs, & any help offered. Tnx. bf

WHO SAID THAT?

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> A good education is the next best thing to a pushy mother.
- >> Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't.
- >> The mind is not a vessel that needs filling but wood that needs igniting.
- >> The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.
- >> Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten.

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: dkconsulting@juno.com
April's 2014's quotes were all from Earl Pickles, featured along with his wife Pearl, in the popular comic strip by Brian Crane. I received responses from **Bob Baker** and **Don King**. **Jim Giordano** says he is still thinking.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 9 June 2014

Total Active Members = 147 Life Members = 136
This is an increase of 1 active member, Ester McCoy.

Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 Jan each year. Check your mailing label, or check the "WCC Roster" from our website "Forms" page. **Life memberships are available for \$75.** You can use the "Membership Application/Roster Update" form on the last page of this newsletter or the one from our web site "Forms" page to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who are not current with their membership dues will be dropped from the "active" roster along with our newsletter distribution & email notification lists.** (See our web site "Forms" page, "WCC Roster" link to check your status.)

Do You Know?

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

Soviet Submarine K-129 (1968)



The Event

K-129 was a Project 629A ([NATO reporting name Golf-II](#)) diesel-electric powered submarine of the [Soviet Pacific Fleet](#), one of six [Project 629](#) strategic ballistic missile submarines attached to the 15th Submarine Squadron based at Rybachiy Naval Base, [Kamchatka](#), commanded by Rear Admiral Rudolf A. Golosov

In January 1968, the 15th Submarine Squadron was part of the 29th Ballistic Missile Division at Rybachiy, commanded by Admiral Viktor A. Dygalo. *K-129*'s commander was Captain First Rank V.I. Kobzar. *K-129* carried hull number 722 on her final deployment during which she sank on 8 March 1968. The Soviet Navy deployed a huge flotilla of ships to search for her but never found her wreck. The United States attempted to recover the boat in 1974 in a secret cold war-era effort named [Project Azorian](#). The attempt to raise the vessel from greater than 3.0 miles (4.8 km) below the surface was the deepest attempt ever to raise a ship. The [cover story](#) used was that the salvage vessel was engaged in commercial [manganese nodule](#) mining.

The Role of AFTAC

On March 8, 1968, the acoustic signatures of two extended destructive events were detected and recorded by four AFTAC hydroacoustic stations in the Pacific: Midway Island; Kaneohe, Oahu; Wake Island; and Eniwetok; and by the AFTAC tap on a US Navy SOSUS array terminating at Adak, Alaska. These signals were analyzed using time-difference of arrival times at each station and were determined to originate within 2 nms of 40-06N / 179-57E and originating within a few seconds of 111200Z March 1968. This detection and localization provided the first specific data on the wreck of the Soviet Golf-II class SSB "K-129" which became the target of the CIA's Project "AZORIAN" salvage operation conducted in the summer of 1974.^[6]

6. Polmar, Norman; White, Michael (2010). *Project Azorian: the CIA and the Raising of the K-129*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press. ISBN 978-1-59114-690-2

DOWN MEMORY LANE

1978

by Dale Klug, WCC Newsletter Editor Emeritus

Here's a photo of the 1155th's all female Honor Guard taken in June 1978 at a parade in Jackson California.

Team members are Kelly, Sue, Ginger & Denise.



IN MEMORIAM

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

MSgt. Gary Stephen Fritts



STEVE FRITTS IN HIS FAVORITE SEAT

Sunrise....March 8, 1948 Sunset.....July 15, 2014

MSgt. Gary Stephen Fritts went to be with the Lord Jesus on 7-15-14 after a long & courageous battle with Congestive Heart Failure. He leaves behind the Love of his Life, Donna (Billups), who loved & adored him with all her Heart & Soul. Also his precious Black cat, Sasha. Stephen & Donna loved to travel. In their 37 yrs of marriage they had wonderful Adventures in 50+ Countries & most of the U.S.A. Some of the favorite countries being, Israel (where a Tree was planted in their Honor), Turkey, Africa, Egypt, Russia, Jordon (Petra), Eastern Europe & especially Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic. They sailed to Norway on the Queen Victoria & England to New York on the QE II. They also loved to Snow Ski at Heavenly Valley, Lake Tahoe & Banff Springs, Canada.

Stephen was born in Lenoir City, Tenn. to Ralph & Velma Fritts. Stephen attended the Univ. of Tenn. **In 1968 he enlisted in the Air Force where he was trained in electronics & his first assignment was in the organization that was responsible for detecting & collecting nuclear detonations world wide.** His initial duties were to

fly as an aircrew member collecting debris from these nuclear events. **Stephen continued these airborne duties for 15 years until health issues grounded him & he transferred within AFTAC to become a laboratory analyst & retired after 24 years of active service.**

Steve was a designated Chief Airman aircrew member with over 3000 flight hours & the recipient of numerous personal awards for Outstanding Performances, Achievements & Commendations to include three Meritorious Service Medals & two Air Medals for Meritorious Achievement while Participating in Aerial Flight. Steve loved the Air Force & had a passion for all things involving flight & space. During his career he was involved in numerous missions in support of NASA Space Shuttle launches.

His aircrew member assignments whetted his appetite for aviation & he devoted much of his retirement to Research & became deeply involved in the **Aerospace Museum of California.** Working voluntarily at the museum as crew chief for their F-104 Starfighter. He loaned many of his personal aviation memorabilia to enhance the static display of the F-104. Steve also served as Secretary of the Museum's Board of Directors. He served with Distinction.

After retiring from the Air Force he received a Masters Degree in Computer Science from National University - "Cum Laude" He was employed by the County of Sacto. for 10 years as an I.T. Manager with Health & Human Services.

Stephen also leaves, Son, Col. John A. Nicholson, USMC, Ret. (Madeline), Grand children, Ashley, Courtney & Logan. Sisters, Patricia Bennett (John), Sandra Fritts, Brother, Archie (Beverly) & Many Beloved Nieces & Nephews. (Nephew: Sgt. Grant Bennett USAF spent much time with Uncle Stephen)

Funeral Services, with "Military Honors" were held at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks, CA. He is interred in the National Military Cemetery in Dixon..

Donations to "Heart Assoc." or "Wounded Warriors" would be appropriate.

My Darlin' Sweetheart Stephen, My Angel for 37 yrs. I have no doubt that God in His precious benevolence will see that you & I will be together in His Heaven & Glory. Sweetheart, as Always, I will Love You for All Eternity -- Until we meet again -- I Love You!!



ROBERT LLOYD MORRISON, MSGT USAF (RET)

ROBERT LLOYD MORRISON, MSGT USAF (RET) was born in Boston, MA on January 15, 1938. He passed away on June 21, 2014 in Fair Oaks, CA from complications of cancer. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Carol Faye; son Lloyd Scott Morrison and wife Amy, grandsons Sloan and Jake; son Michael Todd Morrison and wife Angie, grandson Michael Todd Jr and granddaughter Makailuh May; daughter Heather Edlund and grandson Ian Edlund; brother Kenneth Morrison and wife Sam, nephew Keith, nieces Bess and Dory; and Bob's best friend Joan McDermott.

Robert (Bob) graduated in 1956 from Millis High School, Millis, MA. He served in the US Air Force 1958 – 1979; serving 19 years with the AFTAC organization. His tours in AFTAC included Thailand; HQ, 1035th Field Activities Group, Washington DC; 1156th TOS, Det 454, Hawaii; and 1155th Technical Operations Squadron, McClellan AFB, CA. His active duty tours were followed by 14 years as a civilian equipment specialist at McClellan AFB, CA.

He was a member of the Carmichael Elks Lodge 2103; Harding San Juan Lodge 579, Scottish Rite, Valley of Sacramento; and Ben Ali Shriners, Sacramento.

Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to Mercy Hospice, 9912 Business Park Dr, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95827 or the American Cancer Society.

A memorial service was held at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Ave, Carmichael, CA on July 11.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Just a reminder that our business meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of March, June, September, and December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel on McClellan Park. The meetings last about an hour and all Alumni are welcome.

(Always check our 'Events' page at www.AFTACWCC.org or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. – WEST COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC – 17 MAY 2014



Tommie & Bob Baker
KB



Peggy Armintrout & Fran Papineau
KB



Denise Dermenjian with John & Corrine Miner
KB



Ken & Eva Breitwieser
DD



Cal & Alice Brown
DD



Cathleen & Ken Denbleyker
DD



Betty Jo & Rod Hinkle
DD



'Butch' Kemna & Richard DiMeola Jr.
DD



Joe Johnson & Charlie Penn
DD



Clay Lemire
DD



Dennis Nolan
DD



Al & Ann Pavik
DD



Nancy & Dave Price
DD



Dave Riddle
DD



George Thompson
DD



Dave & Suki Tarquino
DD



Tom Wentz
DD

We had **34** in attendance at our Spring Picnic, which was arranged & coordinated by **BUTCH KEMNA**, WCC Treasurer.

These photos were taken by:*

KB=Ken Breitwieser

DD=Denise Dermenjian

*There are 29 picnic photos in full color available on the "Albums" page of our www.AFTACWCC.org web site.

This photo page by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 January each year. Check your mailing label for expiration date. *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for **\$75.⁰⁰**.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last, First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

() - _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Addr

Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

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