



# Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
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**LOOK US UP AT**

**[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)**

## **ATTENTION WCC ALUMNI**

### 2017 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion

15 June – 17 June 2017

It is time to make reservations for the 2017 AFTAC worldwide reunion that is being hosted by the West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association. **This will be the last reunion held by this chapter so let's go out with a whoop and a bang!**

The reunion will be again held at the Lions Gate Hotel (formerly the "O" Club) at McClellan Park in Sacramento. Those attending six years ago will recall this as a perfect and nostalgic site for our reunion.

The General's Quarters will serve as the focus for reunion activities. It is a four bedroom home with multiple areas for large and small conversations. The patio and lawn areas are expansive and well shaded. The hospitality suite will be located there as well as serving as the venue for the Friday night social and the Saturday banquet.

- Thursday, 15 June, 2017: Early sign-in and the hospitality suite activates at the General's Quarters.
- Friday, 16 June, 2017: Sign-in continues at the hospitality suite. Starting at 1700 there will be a no host reception on the patio at the General's house. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be offered. **Casual dress is the preferred attire the entire weekend.** Men can forget the suit jackets and women can forget the heels and cocktail dresses.
- Saturday, 17 June 2017: Hospitality suite is open and registration sign-in continues. The Banquet (**casual dress**) starts at 1700 on the patio. The banquet will include a no host bar and plated dinner. Dinner entrees offered will be your choice of beef, chicken, fish or pasta. This may be your last opportunity to mingle with friends and attendees. After the dinner the hospitality suite will be open.
- Sunday, 18 June 2017: Time to say goodbye.

More information for the day's offerings will be provided as it is available.

Lions Gate Hotel offers registered guests complementary continental breakfast and will arrange transportation to and from the Sacramento International Airport for a modest fee. The rooms are \$109/night with upgrades available. **For reservations you must contact the hotel directly at 916-643-6222 and indicate that you are with the AFTAC reunion group.** Reservations can be made now and we must have all reservations conformed by 15 February, 2017. For a multitude of reasons we are limited to 200. Attached please find the list of those that have indicated a desire attend. Not all AFTAC alumni are in our database, so spread the word.

## Hotel Information:

Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center  
3410 Westover Street  
Sacramento (McClellan), California 95652  
Phone: 916-643-6222  
Website: <http://www.lionsgatehotel.com/>

\*\*\*\*Be sure to mention you are attending the AFTAC Reunion\*\*\*\*

### ATTENDEES

Amerena, Joe	Labarge, Randy
Aning, Harm	Land, Bob
Atkinson, Sheri	Lebermann, Art
Baker, Bob	Lindsay, Ed
Balentine, Tony	Loebach, Tom
Barone, Pam	Lubin, Mike
Bartosek, Charles	Massey, Arlin
Bilyeu, Jay	Messenbrink, Gary
Brown, Dave	Nolan, Dennis
Carson, Deborah	O'Connor, Jack
Cartwright, Art	Payne, Jim
Counce, Jerry	Penn, Charlie
Doll, Julie	Phelps, Jim
Doughty, Al	Price, David
Fitzgerald, Bob	Richardson, Bobby
French, John	Riggs, Curt
Gehling, Cordell (Walt)	Rubertino, Tony
Gindlesperger, James	Scheffler, Terrence
Giordano, Jim	Seits, Ed
Hinkle, Rodney	Siemiller, Walt
Horsch, John	Simonton, Ralph
Hursey, David	Tarquino, Dave
Johnson, Joe	Tassan, Bob
Johnson, Robert	Ware, Tom
Kinbrough, Bill	Werner, Pat
King, Donald	Welander, Jim
Klein, Darrel	Zahm, Wayne

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Just a reminder that our business meetings are held the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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. It is also a great time for the kind of informal get-togethers that we had when we were on active duty at a site or on TDY somewhere, or when we are in the hospitality rooms during a reunion. The date of the next meeting is **Mon Dec 12**.

Always check our 'Events' page at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) or call ahead to our Vice President to confirm time & place

## Website Activity Report for the period 1 Jul 2016 – 30 SEP 2016

Submitted 7-Oct-2016 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest Visit Week (#Visits)</u>	<u>Total Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>
2,868	07/11-07/17 (736)	3,079	Albums** (965)	Fallout*** (645)

Notes: \* Does not include our 'Home' page, which almost always is the most popular page.

\*\* The 14May2016 Photo Album by Bob Fitzgerald was the most popular this quarter.

\*\*\*The Oct1999 Alumni Newsletter was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular this quarter. The "Big Story" in that predecessor to the 'Depot Fallout' was a recap of the AFTAC Reunion held in Sacramento in April. It also had an article about the history of WFO, 1155<sup>th</sup> TOS, & TOD and the deactivation of TOD in Sep1999. (Good reading!)

**Visitors:** This evaluation shows how many visitors accessed our website. Visitors are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, only one visitor is counted.**

**Sessions:** This evaluation shows the number of sessions. A session starts when a visitor accesses our website and ends when he or she leaves it. A session ends automatically after 30 minutes without activity. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, multiple sessions are counted.**

### WHO SAID THAT??

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> My esteem in this country has gone up substantially. It is very nice now that when people wave at me, they use all their fingers.
- >> We have to stop saying "How stupid can you be?" Too many people are seeing it as a challenge.
- >> It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot.
- >> My early choice in life was to be a piano player in a warehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference.
- >> Some politicians are so blinded by their agenda, they lose track of reality.
- >> Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.
- >> Mothers want their sons to grow up to be president, but they don't want them to become politicians in the process.
- >> You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

July's 2016's quotes were from Queen Elizabeth II, Joe Biden Jr, Joe Biden Sr, Albert Schweitzer, Carolyn Hax, Dick Gregory and John Gunther.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 18 Oct-2016

**Total Active Members = 148    Life Members = 135**

The lifetime membership dropped by one to 135 while the total remains at 148.

**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.

# FIVE MEN AGREE TO STAND DIRECTLY UNDER EXPLODING NUCLEAR BOMB

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

Source: Robert Krulwich  
Atomcentral.com

On July 19, 1957, five Air Force officers and one photographer stood together on a patch of ground about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. They'd marked the spot "Ground Zero. Population 5" on a hand-lettered sign hammered into the soft ground right next to them



The country was just beginning to worry about nuclear fallout,

Directly overhead, two F-89 jets roar into view, and one of them shoots off a nuclear missile carrying an atomic warhead.

They wait. There is a countdown; 18,500 feet above them, the missile is detonated and blows up. Which means, these men intentionally stood directly underneath an exploding 2-kiloton nuclear bomb. One of them, at the key moment (he's wearing sunglasses), looks up.

Who *are* these guys? **Col. Sidney Bruce, Lt. Col. Frank P. Ball, Maj. Norman "Bodie" Bodinger, Maj. John Hughes, Don Lutrel, and George Yoshitake ( the cameraman, not seen).** And why is the narrator joyously shouting, "It happened! The mounds are vibrating. It is tremendous! Directly above our heads! Aaah!"

This footage comes from our government's archives. It was shot by the U.S. Air Force (at the behest of Col. Arthur B. "Barney" Oldfield, public information officer for the Continental Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs) to demonstrate the relative safety of a low-grade nuclear exchange in the atmosphere. Two colonels, two majors and a fifth officer agreed to stand right below the blast. Only the cameraman, George Yoshitake, didn't volunteer.

It just goes to show you what an extra drink at the officer's club can do to otherwise sane airmen!

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*Notified by Dale Klug as published in the Sacramento Bee*

**JACQUELINE ANN BALLARD HOPKINS**  
**B. 21-JUL-1935; D. 24-AUG-2016 IN NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA.**



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**JACQUELINE ANN BALLARD HOPKINS**, daughter of Janice Marea Price Ballard and Arthur Herbert Ballard II, entered into life on July 21, 1935 in Springfield, Massachusetts. She went home to the Lord, peacefully in her sleep on August 24, 2016 after battling cancer for 7 years.

She grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut. Most of her life she worked as a bookkeeper, retiring in 2004 from H & R Block.

She was a life member of the Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary. She served as president of the Auxiliary for two years.

Jacqueline is survived by her husband of 62 years, TSgt, Retired, Marvin Gilbert Hopkins, five children; Mark Arthur Hopkins, Keith Timothy Hopkins, Russell Alan Hopkins, Allison Marie Hopkins (Rathburn), and Scott Andrew Hopkins; also by her brother, Arthur Herbert Ballard III; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She had many friends in AFSA, the Air Force and her church, Christ Community Church in Carmichael, California.

There was a celebration of her life on September 7, 2016 at her church in Carmichael.

Marvin and Jackie are life members of the AFTAC Alumni Assoc, West Coast Chapter.."

## **FALL SOCIAL**

*By Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster*

As of the date of this publication, there are only 12 people signed up for the Fall Social. We have room for 40, but we need signups to occur before the Nov 8 cutoff date. The forms page is on the website and also with this newsletter. These are always great events, so if you haven't already signed up, do so and join in the fun, food and fellowship!

# WING EARNS OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

25<sup>th</sup> Air Force Web Site



Photo - Josh Plueger

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. --

Air Combat Command recently announced the 55th Wing as a recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the time period of June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016.

The OUA is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement, excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or conducts with distinct military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force.

"This award is a direct reflection on everyone in the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth," said Col. Mary Reynolds, 55th Wing commander. "Through their hard work and dedication, we were able to accomplish our mission, support our people and take pride in our support to combatant commanders around the world."

During this time, the wing surpassed 25 continuous years of operating in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility and supported every major Department of Defense mission around the world.

Overall, all seven of the 55th Wing's aircraft variants answered its nation's call when needed over this twelve month stretch.

- . RC-135V/W Rivet Joint crews flew 489 missions in support of six combatant commanders
- . EC-130H Compass Crews flew 522 missions in two AORs
- . RC-135S Cobra Ball crews executed 95 missions for four combatant commanders
- . RC-135U Combat Sent crews flew 112 high-priority missions
- . **WC-135W Constant Phoenix crews generated 14 high-interest missions**
- . OC-135B Open Skies crews conducted eight missions over Russia, Ukraine and Italy
- . E-4B crews surpassed 40 years of continuously alert

In addition to operations, the 55th Communications Group ensured the unit became the largest wing to ever pass a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection while the 55th Dental Squadron and 55th Force Support Squadron were named best in ACC.

"I'm continuously blown away by what our Airmen are doing on a daily basis here at the 55th Wing," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Morris, 55th Wing command chief. "It's an honor to serve alongside them and this award is certainly deserved."

Anyone who served in the 55th Wing during this time period can now wear OUA ribbon and their records should be updated to reflect the award.

# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. – WEST COAST CHAPTER

## 2016 Fall Social

Saturday, 12 November 2016 – 3:30 - ~ 5:30PM

at Sam's Hof Brau

2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, Ca 95821 (916) 482-2175

Please note the later time this year and plan to join us for a late lunch/early dinner.

Sam's has a lot of good food and a full bar. Dress is casual.

COST: You order at the deli counter and pay Sam's at the end of the line after you've selected & received your meal order(s).

Refer to <http://www.thehofbrau.com/menu> for Sam's menu items & prices.

Space is limited to 40 so please fill out the form below, or the one from our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Forms" page, and your reminder portion, and then mail the form to us by November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, [AsstBdChmn@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:AsstBdChmn@AFTACWCC.org), or call 916-723-7634.

*Keep this part as your reminder of what was on your registration form:*

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

I mailed the registration form on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2016 to:

AFTAC Alumni Assoc.-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

[Save the above for your file]

*(Cut off here, fill out & mail the following form by 8 November 2016.)*

AFTAC Alumni Assoc. - West Coast Chapter  
2016 Fall Social Registration Sign-up Form  
for Saturday, 12 November 2016 - 3:30 - ~ 5:30pm  
at Sam's Hof Brau  
2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821

*(Please Print Clearly)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # Attending: \_\_\_**

**Mail this registration form by 8 Nov 2016 to:**

AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.<sup>00</sup> 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.<sup>00</sup>.

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]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



RETURN ADDRESS:  
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