



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



SPRING 2024 EDITION

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A WORD FROM THE PREZ

by John Culbert, WCC President



"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

— Henry Ford

A camp commander was appointed and while inspecting the place, he saw 2 soldiers guarding a bench. He asked them why they guarded it.

"We don't know. The last commander told us to do so, and so we did. We think it might be some sort of regimental tradition!"

He searched for the last commander's phone number and called him to ask why he wanted this particular bench guarded. "I don't know, the previous commander before me had it guarded and I kept the tradition.."

Going back another two commanders, he found a 92-year-old retired general. "Excuse me sir, I 'm now the CO of the regiment that you commanded sixty years ago. I've found that you assigned two men to guard a bench. Could you please tell me more about the significance of this bench?"

The general was shocked. "What? Are they still guarding it? Is the paint still wet?"

...

When I was nominated to be President, I let it be known that I would do things a little differently.

With the shuffle of board members and an addition of a new Vice President, we should expect new ideas, plans and events. As members of a volunteer organization, we need to be patient and open to change. If we make the group more "active" and "fun", we might attract more members.

Let's work together for that change and relieve those solders from bench duty.

- John

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

By: John Culbert, New Newsletter Editor

The President talked about changes. There will be a change in the format of the Newsletter. In the past, Microsoft Word has been used to PUBLISH the newsletter because it is what is available to most people. As a past newsletter editor, I preferred Microsoft Publisher because it has more flexibility during the layout phase.

MS Publisher is not available, anymore, so I am using a cost-free application called "Swift Publisher". I have found it to be, although not as feature filled, but as flexible as Publisher.

In the Fall edition, expect to see some different looks. (*yes.. I will work with Bob to keep the continuity and peace*)

Each March and September the Depot Fallout needs input. If you have an article you would like to share, feel free to send to [jcyj.wcc@gmail.com](mailto:jcj.wcc@gmail.com)



FIVE WAYS TO SPEND YOU TAX REFUND

J.J Montanaro, CFP -- reprint from *The American Legion Magazine*

Last year the IRS reported that more that 60% of taxpayers received refunds. Will you? And if so, what are you going to splurge on?

You probably think I'll tell you to pay off debt, save or invest it. Or maybe you expect me to focus on tax tips and say that getting a refund is a financial mistake in the first place – that you should change your withholding so you keep more money in your paycheck.

There's merit in all these things. But in addition to being a financial planner, I'm human. The urge to buy something nice with some "found money" is real for me, too. That said, here are my top five tips for what to do with your tax refund.

Buy yourself something nice. You were probably going to do it anyway, so telling you to take all of your money and be financially prudent with it won't help much. Pick a percentage to use (maybe 10% to 20% of the refund amount) and have some fun with it. Then, yes, be responsible with the rest.

Create or shore up your emergency fund. Ever feel like you're living paycheck to paycheck, or that your cash reserves are always uncomfortably low? An influx of cash is a great way to fix that. Typically, I recommend an emergency fund of three to six months' worth of your committed expenses. Set this aside in an account that's separate from the one you use for your day-to-day finances and bill paying. And given the recent uptick in interest rates, make sure your money is working hard.

Pay off consumer debt. This is a good opportunity to clean the slate (or at least part of it). If you have multiple credit cards and can't pay them all off, consider eliminating the smaller balances first to give you a sense of accomplishment.

Fund upcoming expenditures and experiences. You probably have a list of events and activities you know you'll spend money on this year. Why not use some of your refund to set aside cash for these purposes? It's important to separate this money from your emergency fund; as specific amounts are earmarked for specific purposes, you'll be more likely to stick to your planned spending amounts.

Jump-start your savings. Do you have a savings goal you've meant to start on, but can't get excited about putting away a small amount each month? Dropping a lump sum into such a plan makes it easier to get over the initial hurdle.

If you're about to get a substantial tax refund, make the most of the opportunity. Are you just going to buy yourself something nice, or are you going to buy yourself a future, too?



WEBSITE QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

1 Oct 2023 – 31 Mar 2024

By Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

	Visitors This Quarter	Highest Visitors Week	Total Sessions	Most Popular Page (#Sessions)	Next Most Popular Page (#Sessions)
4Q23:	5,678	12/04 (764)	5,911	Departed (807)	Links (169)
1Q24:	11,627**	01/22 (1,264**)	11,863**	Departed (748)	Links (205)

**** I believe these numbers have set new records for these categories of access to our website during any quarter.**

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.**

EVENTS CALENDAR

By Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

Our WCC General Business Meetings are held quarterly at 7pm (Pacific) on the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December. Our next meeting will be held **IN PERSON: Monday, June 10th at the Officer's Club (Lions Gate), 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park, CA 95652.** Check our www.AFTACWCC.org website "Events" page before the meetings to confirm the details in case of last-minute changes.

Note: All AFTAC Alumni are welcome, but it'd help if you RSVP to let us know you want to participate so we can reserve enough room in the restaurant area for everyone attending: Email: Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENT

ANNUAL WCC SPRING PICNIC BBQ & POTLUCK

**Armed Forces Day, Saturday 18 May 2024 @ 11:00am ~ 2:00pm
at "Tempo Park", 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.**

Look for the event flyer & sign-up form in this issue of our Depot Fallout, and on our website "Forms" page! And always check our <http://www.AFTACWCC.org> website "Events" page for up-to-date info & event status.



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER

BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2024 – 11AM-2PM

Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

We are very happy to invite all AFTAC'ers, their families and friends to join us as we have our outstanding BBQ Picnic & Potluck social event for this year. Our picnic area has good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion reserved for our use. We will be lighting the BBQs before 1100 hours and wrap things up by 1400 hours. Once again, the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our alumni association will supply all the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soft drinks/water, utensils & paper products. We just ask that you bring a salad, side dish, dessert, or ???. **Please remember that due to current county regulations there is no alcohol consumption allowed at this facility.** All AFTAC Alumni & their guests (including non-AFTAC'ers) are cordially invited, but please submit your sign up(s) early so the logistics can be tweaked and enough of the basics obtained.

Just fill out the sign-up form below & send it to us now! **YOUR SIGN UP IS NEEDED BY 10May**

VITAL DETAILS:

When: Saturday, 18 May 2024

Where: Tempo Park,

13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, 95610

Hours: 1100 Hrs -1400 Hrs

Cost: Nothing but a little of your time!



DIRECTIONS

From I-80: Go East on Greenback, turn left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. **The park will be on the left side <1 mile up.**

From Hwy 50: Go North on Sunrise Blvd, turn right (East) on Greenback and left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd.

If you have questions, call WCC Treasurer **Butch Kemna, (916) 722-8509** or Email: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org"

: form on next page :



PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM

**PLEASE FILL IN & MAIL, or EMAIL, THE COMPLETED SIGN-UP FORM BY 10May2024 to:
Mail to: AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
or Email to: PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org**

I mailed / Emailed my form on ___/___/24. There will be ___ of us coming & we'll bring _____ for potluck.

(Note: This upper part is for your records, so keep it as a reminder)

(Copy & Email this info in the body of your message, or cut here & mail the form to the address above.)

AFTACAA-WCC BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK – SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

(Please print)

NAMES (Firsts & Lasts): _____ SPOUSE/GUEST: _____

Add'l Name(s): _____ **Total Number Attending [_____]**

I/We will bring for the potluck:

Salad Side Dish Dessert Other? _____

Your Ph#: (____) ____-____ Email Addr: _____

NEW ID CARDS REQUIRED FOR ALL RETIREES & SPOUSES

What is the retired military ID card expiration date?

- If you own a legacy ID without any expiration time (or one that's labeled INDEF or indefinite), you have until the end of 2025 to replace it with the next-generation USID card per current plans.

Next Generation USID Card

Since July 2020, legacy USID cards have been supplanted with next-generation USIDs to provide higher security against fraud and counterfeiting.

Unlike old retiree cards, which were made of paper, the replacement ones are constructed using plastic and will always have an updated topology and an expiration date.



- In practice, legacy IDs must be replaced after their final validity date, which is often the holder's 65th birthday. However, if they are branded "indefinite," you may wait until 2025 to switch to a next-generation ID.



IN MEMORIAM

MARY ESPING

b.1924, d.23Sep2023 in Sacramento, CA
(Notified by Dale Klug after contact from Mary's daughter, Linda.)



Mary was born in Kansas in 1924. She shared many wonderful stories of growing up on the family farm with her parents Leo and Lena, her sister Lorena and her brother, Ray.

She married our father **Jim Esping** in 1945. After spending the first several years of marriage as co-owners of a hardware store, they began their adventure as a career military family after Dad was recalled in 1952. Throughout the many moves Mom always made every house a warm and welcoming home and place of stability.

Her love for the Lord, her family and friends were the focal point of her life. After celebrating her 99th birthday with family and friends she departed her earthly home to her Heavenly home with Jesus on September 23, 2023.

Mary is survived by her son Chuck, daughter Linda and husband Tim, beloved Grandchildren Alison, Joshua, Erik and Stephanie and husband Nick, and Great Grandchildren Elias and Adelyn.

We are so thankful God gave us such an incredibly loving, kind and caring Mom and Grandma who reflected His love in so many ways. We miss her so much, but she will always be close in our hearts until we see her again.

Memorial suggestion, Mom's favorite devotional was Our Daily Bread: <http://www.odb.org>.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Mary, please visit our **Flower Store**. (Note: The link for flowers is in the East Lawn Cemetery obituary for Mary, which is published at this web address: <https://obits.eastlawn.com/mary-esping>)

This obituary is also published on the www.AFTACWCC.org website "**Departed**" page, where there is also a photo and obituary published for Mary's husband, Jim, who passed away in September 2010.

...(Bob Fitzgerald, AFTACAA-WCC Webmaster & Assistant Newsletter Editor)



ERNIE RUTZ

b.4/19/1939, d.12/30/2023 in Auburn, CA
(Notified by AFTACAA-FL. Data obtained after phone call from Wife, Barbara, & Grandson, Johnathan.)



Ernest F. "Ernie" Rutz, Jr., LtCol USAF (Ret.) passed away peacefully on December 30, 2023 in his home. "Ernie" was first commissioned from Rutgers University in 1961. His first tour was attending Penn State, joining AFTAC from 1963 to 1979 after graduation and spending his career with people he loved.

In retirement, Ernie enjoyed golfing, fishing boating, poker, woodworking, RV camping and traveling.

We are blessed to have family near us: Son David with partner Christine Larimer, Granddaughter Anastasia, and Grandson Johnathan.



Ernie and Barbara were married 61 years and met in high school. Ernie's remains are interred at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California. He made forever friendships.

Note: The following was sent to AFTACAA-FL by Tom Niquette the day after Ernie passed away:

(Ernie) "was first assigned to the 1155 Laboratory, then to Det 407, then USAF Air Command and Staff College, then assigned to HQ AFTAC. In 1978 he was assigned back to the 1155sq laboratory. (This) is all that I can remember about Ernie. ...Tom"

Another recollection. I knew Ernie when he was a Captain working in McClellan Central Laboratory (MCL) Chemistry Unit in the 1960's and 1970's. I was working in MCL Laboratory Operations part of that time, but my best friend, and daughter's Godfather, **Charles R. "Ray" Rheault (dec.)** was NCOIC of Chem and worked with Ernie. I know Ray enjoyed working with Ernie, and from my own interactions with "**Captain**" Rutz, he was always fun and pleasant to be around and work with, even during some long "flap" hours and days of hard work. **RIP Ernie!**

... Bob Fitzgerald, AFTACAA-WCC Webmaster [MSgt USAF (Ret.), MCL 4/1964-4/1967 & 10/1969-2/1977]



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Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org

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

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 E-mail Address

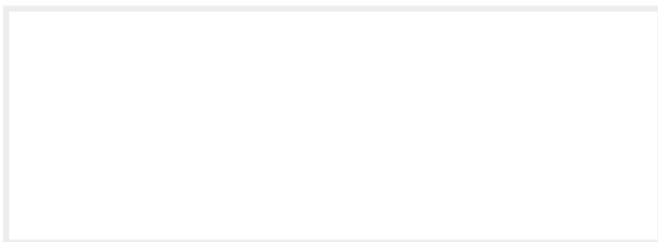
Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

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]*

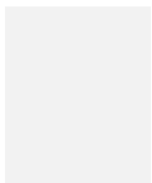
CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS

(updated 11/15/21 ..bf)



To:

== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



AFTACAA-WCC
c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
RETURN ADDRESS: