



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 8605 Sweet Gum Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



OFFICERS

President - John Culbert

President@AFTACWCC.org

Vice President - Kathy Pentecost

VicePresident@AFTACWCC.org

Chair of the Board - Charlie Penn

ChmnOfTheBd@AFTACWCC.org

Asst Chair of the Board - (Vacant)

AsstBdChmn@AFTACWCC.org

Director At Large - (Vacant)

DirectorAtLarge@AFTACWCC.org

Treasurer - John "Butch" Kemma

Treasurer@AFTACWCC.org

Asst Treasurer - Charlie Penn

AsstTreasurer@AFTACWCC.org

Secretary - Bob Baker

Secretary@AFTACWCC.org

Asst Secretary - Ken Breitwieser

AsstSecretary@AFTACWCC.org

Membership Chair - Allan Pentecost

MembershipChair@AFTACWCC.org

Newsletter Editor - John Culbert

Fallout Editor@AFTACWCC.org

Asst Editor - Bob Fitzgerald

AsstFalloutEditor@AFTACWCC.org

Distribution Chair - Allan pentecost

PubsAndDistribution@AFTACWCC.org

Webmaster - Bob Fitzgerald

Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PREZ

by John Culbert, WCC President

In the last issue, I spoke about the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association and its dissolution due to a lack of participation by the members.

Unfortunately, we could be headed down the same route. Except for the current board and a few other members, we see very little participation at the Annual Events.

In November, we have a critical event happening during the Fall Luncheon. We will be electing officers to run the organization. Hopefully, there will be new ones. Since the start of my participation, 3 or 4 years ago, I have seen very little change in the makeup of the execs and participation at the annual events.

It is time to get some new blood and ideas on the board. It's time to see some new faces at the events. I'm tired of eating leftover hamburgers and hot dogs after the picnic.

We need people to show up, fellowship with each other, and eat some food.

Sign up for an officer position, get out to the Fall Social Luncheon, and vote!

The Prez



... LEST WE FORGET Colorado Alumni ...



WHAT'S INSIDE

AFTAC AA WCC.org Report	2
WFO/1155th/TOD Then and Now	2
Events Calendar	3
Fall Social and Elections	3
Messages from the Field	4
In Memoriam	5
To Volunteer or Not to Volunteer	6
The Size of the Stars	7

“www.AFTACWCC.org”

Website Semi-annual Activity Report for the period 1 Apr 2025 – 30 Sep 2025

Submitted 7 October 2025 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

	Visitors	Highest <u>Visitors Week</u>	Total <u>Sessions</u>	Most Popular <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>	Next Most Popular <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>
2Q25:	13,383	1,359 (04/14)	15,327	Departed (303)	Contacts (272)
3Q25:	11,647	1,513 (09/15)	11,853	Departed (524)	Contacts (255)

*** These numbers have set new records for those categories of access to our website during any quarter.*

Departed page for 18May2024’s Spring Picnic was the 2nd most favorite in the 3rd 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.**

WFO/1155th/TOD Then and Now

(there’s been some changes to our little corner)



THEN

Now



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 9th 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. **Some of us will have dinner there at 6pm before the meeting.**

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

WCC ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION

Saturday, 8 Nov 2025 –11:30 am to 2:30 pm

BROOKFIELDS RESTAURANT, 4343 Madison Ave, Sacramento, CA 95842

(Madison Ave just West of I-80)

LUNCHEON: Each person/family will get to order & pay separately.
(Be sure to ask for your Seniors discount)

ELECTION:

CHAIRMAN of the BOARD: _____

ASST CHAIRMAN of the BD: _____

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: _____

TREASURER: _____

ASST TREASURER: _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: _____

PUBS & DISTRIBUTION: _____

PRESIDENT: _____

VICE PRESIDENT: _____

SECRETARY: _____

ASST SECRETARY: _____

FALLOUT EDITOR: _____

ASST EDITOR: _____

ASST WEBMASTER: _____

Please Email your Election choices **NLT Tue, Nov 4th**, to: Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org



from the Field

WORDS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Got questions or answers? Send 'em to:
Fallout Editor@AFTACWCC.org

From Raymond Yee

I was surprised to learn there is still email circulating regarding the "Time Capsule." While living in Sacramento, I worked with Jennifer Lewis from McClellan Airfield Property Management to initiate efforts to recover it. Numerous email exchanges were generated on the matter, and Frank Calenda remained in contact with me throughout. I submitted a dig application to HQ/AFTAC but never received a response. Unfortunately, interest eventually diminished, and with no one stepping forward, the project was abandoned. After relocating from Sacramento to Washington, I can only reflect that a significant portion of 1155th/AFTAC history remains buried there.



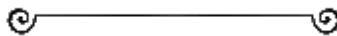
From Dick Brewer, Maj ret USAF/SG Biomedical Sciences Corps



Recipients,
What was the eventual outcome of the initiative to move the Steve Ellingson memorial at the 1155th?

Steve was my instructor at Lowry before we both went to MCL in '67 (99125). I'd appreciate if someone could close the loop on this for me. Steve was a good friend.

Thank you,



From Dave Price

I understand there was an atrium in building 1080. Could the 'Ellingson Plaque' have been placed there? I don't believe anyone would place a time capsule under a monument; that would require an inordinate amount of work to retrieve it.



From John (?)

Gary, thank you for the picture and information you provided, both were invaluable. That was the first picture we saw of the plaque/monument.

-- do you have any insight why it's referred to as the 'Ellingson Plaque'?

-- do you have any insight that there is, in fact, a 'time capsule'?

-- and you mentioned the newsletter, 'Space Maker' ... I hope you have time to follow up on that avenue.

Thanks for all you are doing for us, John



If you have any input for these articles, contact Bob Fitzgerald at Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org



In Memoriam



DENNIS P. "DENNY" NOLAN

b.4/17/1946, d.07/19/2025 in Citrus Heights, CA



Denny was a "LIFE" member of the AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter from its inception in 1999, and a member of its Executive Committee for a number of years. We are sorry we don't have more information about him. I did know Dennis during our time together at McClellan. He was good friends with Dave Tarquino and rode a bicycle with him. He was a really good guy and will be missed by all.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate an obituary for Denny. However, if you are a member of the AFTACAA Florida Chapter, you may also go to their website and look under "Obituaries" for another photo and a listing of his AFTAC service on their 20 year wall.

If you have any details you'd like me to add to this article, or on our website "Departed" page, please contact me: Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org, Bob Fitzgerald. Thank you.

Honoring Veterans In Memoriam

At the Funeral or Memorial Service

- **Request Military Funeral Honors** : Eligible veterans are entitled to military honors, which can include the folding and presentation of the American flag to the family, the playing of Taps, and a three-volley salute.
- **Obtain a Presidential Memorial Certificate** : This signed paper certificate honors the veteran's memory and can be requested by the next of kin.
- **Arrange for a Veteran's Marker or Headstone** : A permanent marker or headstone is a way to commemorate a veteran's service and provide a dedicated place for remembrance.

During Memorial and Veterans Days

- **Participate in Ceremonies** : Attend local parades, wreath-laying ceremonies, and other events to show your gratitude.
- **Fly the American Flag** : Display the flag with proper etiquette to honor their service.
- **Support a Moment of Remembrance** : At 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, you can observe a moment of silence to reflect on the sacrifices made by military members.
- **Wear a Red Poppy** : The red poppy is a traditional symbol of remembrance for fallen service members.

Ongoing Ways to Honor a Veteran's Legacy

- **Preserve Their Story** : Document the veteran's life by creating a memory book or photo album, recording their stories, or submitting their information to a local history project or veterans' archive.
- **Visit Their Resting Place** : Regularly visit their grave or a significant location, cleaning the site and leaving an American flag or flowers.
- **Support Veteran-Focused Organizations** : Make donations to charities or organizations that support veterans, military families, or specific causes like training service dogs for veterans.
- **Educate Others** : Teach younger generations about the importance of military service and the sacrifices made by veterans to foster respect and appreciation.

To Volunteer or Not To Volunteer

by SEO Don King

WFO 1958 - 1960

Therein lies the question. We all volunteered to serve in the Air Force of this great country. No matter what that entailed. I enjoyed basic training at Samson AFB in the Finger Lakes district of New York. One day I was asked if I would like to become a Tactical Instructor and without thinking, I said yes. After taking the series of aptitude tests, I did so well that I thought of other paths to follow in my life in service. When interviewing with the Assignment NCO, I told him that I no longer wanted to be a TI. He didn't appreciate my decision, but he did change it to electronics. Whew!

I was sent to Lowry AFB for Atomic Weapons school! Wow! That sounded really neat! When I got to Lowry, they said that my class was cancelled and I would remain in the duty squadron, KP etc, until the next class. Hindsight tells me that they needed the time to work on getting me a Top Secret clearance. Three months later I was assigned to Special Instruments Training, SPINSTR. After completing my training, we stood in formation in the SPINSTR compound graduating and the commanding officer asked if anyone would volunteer to be an instructor. Again, without thinking, I said yes. I received three weeks of instructor training and qualified for the Flying Ice Cream Cone wings. After enjoying teaching for two years, I found that a result of the new basic training format of six weeks at Lackland AFB and the remaining six weeks concurrent with set school, I was pulling KP every 9 days while my students were doing none! OK!

Enough of ATC! I requested transfer to WFO. The "A" commanding officer flew over to interview me and only said that I would need to extend my enlistment one year to make it worthwhile. No problem! Off to the real Air Force! Enjoying SEO training and flying at WFO was fantastic! So this is what the real Air Force looked like! I could have been there two years earlier! Having crew member wings along with flight and hazardous duty pay was a dream come true!

Then SPINSTR sent WFO a request for me to come back TDY for three months to teach the "A" course. I was the only person to have taught at the school and have field experience. Again, without thinking, I said yes. I enjoyed Denver and teaching and had many friends there, so it sounded like a good decision. I gave the keys of my Austin Healy to a buddy. I had a great time at Lowry and not only taught the course but wrote the syllabus for the course. I got my third stripe while there. However, there was a master sergeant existing there who I was not warned about! He was not in my training squadron, but one morning, as I was leaving the brick barracks with my hands in my pockets this man bellowed at me from out on the street, "Airman! Are your hands cold?"; I replied, "Yes, they are." When I reached him he angrily dressed me down for it! He then took me to the Air Police office and rambled on about my conduct claiming I had sworn at him! The AP was clearly not interested so he took me over to his CO. He told me to wait while he went in to talk to the CO. When he came out, he calmly said, "Please report to your CO! Please!? Boy! What a change! When I reported to my CO, he said, "Stay out of that man's way. He is known as a hot-head." Then I remembered one of the many reasons for leaving ATC! I completed my assignment and flew back to my beloved real Air Force!

Checking back into the barracks, my buddy returned my keys and said that the OSI wanted to see me! The OSI!? He had been stopped at one of the internal base checkpoints and they searched the car and found electronic parts in the trunk. That was not unusual, because I would do that often when going to the flight line to do repairs to our equipment. It was faster than going to the motor pool to get a truck and then return it. When I went to the OSI, he read me my rights! That is not a good omen! I gave him the above explanation and he said that was fine and that there would be no further action. Whew!

When I got to WFO, the "A" CO gave me a letter of commendation from the SPINSTR CO, complimenting me highly on my performance while there! I'm back on top! Then..... The new WFO commander wrote me a letter of reprimand about the OSI event! Stunned, that night I joyfully burned the letter in front of my buddies! Thereafter, I really thought over the situation when asked to volunteer for anything! I still volunteered a lot, but only after looking at possible risks!

The Size of the Stars

By John Culbert

My father was Retired Navy and a Boy Scout Leader. One of the services his boys performed was the destruction of old and damaged US flags. In many cases, he would cut the stars out of the flag, put them in small plastic gem bags and hand them out to other Veterans. I was the recipient of one such star that encouraged me to continue the tradition.



When he passed away, my sister gave me the two US flags that Dad had flown over his house. These were a great platform for me to start my new quest. I created the 100 stars and had no problems handing them out to friends, family and veterans at the American Legion Post I belong to.

One day, I was informed by the Post that they had received a large Garrison Flag for destruction, and if I was interested in the star field. I was amazed at the size of the 17-inch stars and thought hard about how to use them. Obviously, they would not fit in someone's pocket, let alone the small gem bag.



While deciding on the use of the stars, I tried to determine the size of the entire flag. I found, on the internet, that there is a standard for flag dimensions. I also

found an online Flag Calculator where you input one known dimension of the flag and it would give you the remaining sizes. By inputting the size of the star from point to point (also known as the diameter), the application told me the entire flag was 23 feet wide, 44 feet long, and the stripes were 21 inches wide.



I located 20-inch shadow boxes at IKA EA that worked great to frame the stars. The first star went to my Sister, who is a Commander in the Navy and was my dad's primary caretaker. The second went to the American Legion Post.

I continue to make the Pocket Stars as well as the Garrison Stars. Recently, we went to Disneyland, where I was prepared with a great number of stars to give away. I was disappointed by how few people wore veteran hats, camouflage clothing, or talked about their service time. I can't ask EVERYONE I come across if they served. In the end, I gave away only 5 stars.

We are going back in December, where I plan to wear a hat displaying my status as a Veteran and a button asking to tell me if they are a Veteran. Maybe I can give away a whole flag's worth of stars.

Veterans, "You Are Remembered!"



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Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 January each year. Life memberships are available for \$75

NOTE: Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration year. Check you mailing label for expiration year

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Last. First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

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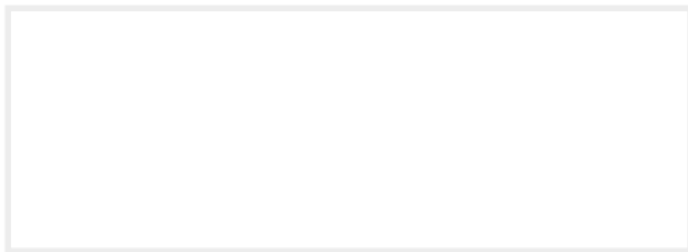
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Active Duty: _____
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AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

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



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AFTACAA-WCC
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