



THE LIFE SUPPORT NEWSLETTER



News for the men and women who served in the USAF or civilians who work in Government or industry in the Aircrew Life Support business.

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There are quite a few changes in our Active Duty leadership this year. **Bryan "Beatle" Bailey** is retiring 21 May 04 and **Al King** has already retired. Later this year **Dave Delano** and **Bob Mendez** will retire. **Paul Parent** has also retired. At the school house **Dave Burdette** has retired and **Jeff Woodford** follows soon. We look forward to their continued participation in Life Support endeavors.

We have some super troops moving in to take their positions. **Chief Steve Wyatt** into AFMC, **Chief Chris Holt** into ACC, **Chief Gina Snowden** into PACAF, **Chief Steve Skaggs** at AMC, **Chief Jeff Bingman** moving into AETC and **Chief (sel) Mike "Curly" O'Neal** is replacing Al King at HSW. We look forward to their further advancing the career field!

LSOs Make Good

Not too long ago **Brigadier General Marc Rogers**, former 8th TFS Life Support Officer at Holloman was nominated for his second star. He was Fast Eddie Chewing's LSO as a young 1st Lt. General Rogers is currently the Director Requirements and Integration US Joint Forces, Norfolk VA. **Colonel Tom Travis**, former Wing Life Support Officer at Seymour Johnson has been nominated for his first star! Roger May was his Wing Super and Tim Morrow and Dan McGraw were squadron NCOIC's. While on a recent trip with Jim Rooney he related a TAC IG inspection he conducted where the wing earned really high ratings. Col (BG select) Travis is currently the commander of the Human Systems Wing at Brooks City Base Texas.



CHILI SEZ

First things first, effective 31 May I will be changing my e-mail address to bob.mcelwain@charter.net

I have finally given up on the fight against SPAM. The new e-mail address can be used now, but I will be dropping the old one effective the end of May 04.

Our last newsletter brought forth many favorable comments and e-mails; I'd like to share some of them with you.

Jimmie Shaw: *Thanks for a wonderful reunion. You guys did an outstanding job putting things together. I think it was one of the best reunions yet!*

Anita Shields (John Shields' widow): *I can't tell you how much I enjoyed being with all of you...it always makes me feel good that you keep me as part of the family.*

Dave Whitley: *Bob -- my sincere compliments for a superb reunion. We owe you and your Anniversary Team big thanks for another job well done! As the October newsletter stated, the Passing of the Torch was a touching ceremony, which brought tears to my eyes. The video did the same...so many old friends, co-workers and Life Supporters; several who are no longer with us.*

I look upon my 10 years with Life Support as the best part of my career. Speaking with old friends Tim Morrow, Milt Yopp, Tommy, Winchester, Jimmy Shaw, and, of course, Bill Wood at the reunion reminded me it wasn't all work either. We always found time to have fun! As the old adage states, "you can never go back"; but we can remember, and my memories of Life Support are nothing but the Best! For example, I always thought I was a pretty good golfer; but I only played with Shields, Rooney, Rob Hudson, Winchester and Dave Cramer. It wasn't until after I retired and started playing with civilians that I realized how bad my game really was. Cheers and all the Best!

Thanks for the tremendous support of our 50th anniversary coin and to **Robin Beal, Don Bock, Paul Stapleton, and Dave Wilson** for donating coins for deceased family members and to tech school grads. Dave is to be congratulated for suggesting such a great idea. Twenty coins were donated to the school and one each was awarded to six members of the last graduating class of 2003.

Another coin was mailed to Chief Delano at HQ AMC for presentation to the author of the following e-mail:

I am SSgt Wyman Herring III, the grandson of TSgt Wyman Herring. My grandfather died in 1966. Since I wasn't born until 1978, I never got a chance to know him. I ran into this web site and I saw his picture. He looks a lot like my dad. Well, the reason I am writing is that I would like to get one of the Aircrew Life Support Coins. I am not an Aircrew guy. I am in Medical Logistics (Med Supply) at Scott AFB. I would really like a coin to remember and honor my grandfather. I know how the coin rules work and I am willing to take on anyone who challenges my ownership :) Thank you for your time, Wyman H. Herring III, SSgt, USAF

In Memoriam

Since the last newsletter the following life supporters have entered into eternal peace:

Tom Lujan: Tom passed away just before Christmas. As most of you know Tom was a super Life Supporter, exceptional Tech School Instructor and a friend to all.

MSgt. Lujan was buried with Full Military Honors on 20 February 2004 at Arlington National Cemetery. He is resting at Court 6, Section MM, Stack 14 Number: 3. Those who have the chance are encouraged to stop by and pay your respects.

In attendance at the Ceremony were his brother Cippi Lujan and his son, his sister-in-law Shirley Lujan along with her stepson Michael and his wife. Representing the Life Support community were Chief Skip Clawson and his family and Chief Al Loving. As usual the USAF Honor Guard did themselves and the US Air Force proud. This was a very memorable ceremony.

Tom was living at the US Airmen and Soldiers Home in Washington DC at the time of his untimely death. Tom died as a result of complications following a fall in his room.

Tom had served at many locations during his time in the Air Force. A few of these were Chanute Air Force Base as Life Support Course Supervisor, Homestead Air Force Base as a Training Instructor, Castle Air Force Base as a Supervisor, numerous tours in Southeast Asia and Korea, and Carswell Air Force Base Texas. Upon retirement from the USAF he was with ILC Dover in California.

To say Tom will be missed is an understatement. Those of us who received the late night phone calls from Tom know how much he loved us and how much he loved his Air Force family. I believe that Tim Howard said it best. "Tom always thought of others first and would do whatever he could to help someone. He was always very proud that he served with and helped many excel in the Life Support Career Field and in the USAF."

Tom, we all say Rest in Peace.

Jack Rollins: Retired AF parachute rigger and retired civilian life support worker at the 479th, Holloman AFB. Jack died on Christmas Day. He was 64.

Lawrence Erdman: Larry passed away on 31 Dec 03 at the age of 71. He was born on December 1, 1932 in Detroit, MI. After graduating from high school in 1951, he joined the U.S. Air Force and went on to serve throughout the United States, Europe and Vietnam where he was decorated with the Bronze Star. Larry moved to Tucson, AZ in 1968 and was stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB. He retired from active duty in 1972. After retirement, Larry stayed active in the Moose Lodge, VFW, American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans associations. He enjoyed camping and fishing, watching the Raiders on Sunday afternoons with friends on his back patio and the occasional card game that sometimes lasted longer than the football game.

Al Kozuch a 50-year employee at Gentex recently passed away. Al was the manager of the Research and Development Helmet Model shop. He was active and instrumental in the creation and development of literally every helmet program at Gentex since 1953. From the early P-series helmets to the latest HGU helmet. At his death Al was deeply involved in the development of an improved parachutist helmet. Al was a WWII Combat Veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart. His knowledge and background in the history of helmets was vast and he will be missed.

Other News

Mike Sedillo has retired and moved into a position at Armstrong Lab's at Wright Patterson where his background and knowledge in Night Vision will continue to provide valuable insight to the government. **Danny Keith** is back on board at Eglin working Life Support Test issues. **Gary Winchester** is at Kirtland working Chemical Defense and **Paul Parent** we hear will soon be visible as a civilian at the shows and conferences. **Bill Lott** has relocated to Enon

Ohio and is ministering at the Grape Grove Church of Christ at Jamestown Ohio. **Bill Vincent** is back on board at Seymour Johnson and **Larry Cuffee** is at the C-130 Depot in Waco, TX working as a Product Assurance Manager. **Bob Billings** has retired and is consulting in the Dayton area. **Jerry "Mac" McCawley** has joined Gentex as Helmet Systems project manager. Mac brings hands on flight experience (F-15C, F15E, F-4F and OH-58's) helping to develop new products. **Bert Bradley** is working in law enforcement at the Great Smokey Mountains National park in Tennessee. **Bill Becket** was at the Guard Conference with a neat tent sleeping bag/cot (Tent Cot) combination. Glad to see him back. And, **Al Cricks** put an application in for a job as a contract Survival Equipment man (PR) with the Navy at Pensacola NAS. And finally after 37 years of service to our Country, the USAF, and the Aircrew Life Support community, **Clarence Hartman** of Brooks City Base fully retired back in December. Good luck to you all and don't forget that no matter where life takes you, once a life supporter always a life supporter.

I'm sure there is other news out there that folks would be interested in so let us know when something significant happens in you life. For example, **Walt Thompson** indicated to me that he has a part in a movie called "Temptation" that is due out soon. Walt is playing the part of some sort of a coach. **Lee Wise** is still working in Saudi and stated that as of March 2004 he has 51 years in the business! He went on to say, *"I am not sure how much longer I will continue, this may be my last year. The Saudis drive me crazy, and it's time I take it easy for a while"*. Good luck Lee, and be careful over there...we want to see you at a reunion one day.

Mailing List Update

Please be sure to send us your new address when you move. The red entries on our address list represent members whose last newsletter was returned with no forwarding address. As more and more of us get into the computer age we need less and less stamps. This makes it very

important for everyone with an e-mail address to make sure we have a good e-mail address on you so we can let you know when a new newsletter is available on our web site.

Reunion

Last year's reunion was great and this year's affair is just around the corner. As a matter of fact, it seems like it was just yesterday that we were wrapping that one up. Time sure flies! This brings to mind something a Wing Superintendent said to John Shields at a TAC conference one day. Frustrated that the IG was coming to see him in a few weeks the superintendent stood up and said, "Chief, these inspections sure come around quick, every time I look around I'm either being inspected, preparing for an inspection, or answering the write ups from the last inspection!" Needless to say everyone in the audience cheered.

This year's reunion is being held from 20 through 23 September at the Casablanca Hotel in Mesquite, NV. Mesquite is 85 miles north of Las Vegas on interstate 15. See the attached form for registration details.

Monday, 20 September is a travel day and check in time for your room is not earlier than 3 PM. A booth will be set up from 1 PM until 5 PM somewhere in the lobby for all to sign up for the reunion. If you arrive after 5 PM just sign in at the hotel registration desk and ask for the location of the life support hospitality room.

The Mesquite Bus Company is offering transportation to and from the Las Vegas airport for a fee. The more passengers the cheaper the price. For reservation or info call them at 702-346-0969.

U.S. Rent A Car is giving our group a special rate. This is the same company we used last year. To make a reservation with them, call (800) 777-9377 or (702) 798-6100. To receive these rates, you must ask for the "Life Support" convention group discount. You can also make a reservation by e-mail at racmarketing@lvcm.com. Indicate your arrival and departure dates and the type of car you want to reserve, and they will e-mail you a confirmation. Reservations are

strongly recommended. When you arrive at the Las Vegas airport, locate their phone at the callboard in Baggage Claim, and they will pick you up at the airport. For those of you spending extra time in the area, these rates are also available during the week before and after the reunion. Below is the list of special rates, which include UNLIMITED FREE MILEAGE:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Daily Rate</u>	<u>Weekly Rate</u>
Compact	\$18.95	\$110.95
Intermediate	\$21.95	\$114.95
Full Size	\$26.95	\$129.95
Premium Car	\$33.95	\$179.95
Mini Van	\$44.95	\$229.95
S.U.V	\$49.95	\$234.95
Convertible	\$46.95	\$219.95

If you're looking for an opportunity to connect with some of our active duty and civilian friends in the life saving business, a couple of opportunities will come up this summer. The World Wide Life Support Workshop will be held 25 - 30 July 04 at the Hyatt Hotel on the River Walk in downtown San Antonio, TX. The SAFE Association Annual Symposium is scheduled to be held 27 - 29 Sept 04 at the Grand America/Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT. The driving distance between Mesquite, NV and Salt Lake City is only 343 miles so plan on attending the reunion and SAFE if you can.

Sick Call

Several of our members have been under the weather lately. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and better health goes out to **Roy Arterbury**, **Marie Balla**, and **Gary Barrett**. Hope you all are well enough to see us at this year's reunion.