



# ***AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT/ AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT VETERANS AND RETIREES NEWSLETTER***

*News for the men and women who served (civilian, government or industry) in the Personal Equipment (PE), Aircrew Life Support (ALS) or Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) professions. The views expressed herein are that of the individual mentioned and do not represent the views of the retired, active duty, ANG, Reserves, or veteran members of the PE, ALS, or AFE career fields.*

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**Visit our web site at [www.usafals-afe.net](http://www.usafals-afe.net)**

**Dec 2022 Edition**

### **Looking Forward**

*By Dave Chitwood, Group Vice President*

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and finish out the year in good health and good spirits! Here's to a much better 2023!

As the years go by, our opportunities to reconnect become fewer and farther between. Please don't let another year go by without making it to one of our reunions. Believe it or not, there are people there who would love to see you.

And with that being said, I think it's fitting that we honor our 2022 fallen right from the start. In the past year we lost...

### **FINAL ROLL CALL**

MSgt (Ret) Jimmy Fletcher	Feb 2022
SMSgt (Ret) Robert L Hobday	Feb 2022
MSgt (Ret) Anthony W. Rebeck Jr	Feb 2022
CMSgt (Ret) Joseph G Diamond	Mar 2022
TSgt (Ret) Stephanie Griffins	Apr 2022
MSgt (Ret) Danny R Brown	May 2022
CMSgt (Ret) Robert Bentley	Jun 2022
MSgt (Ret) Don Tinker	Jul 2022
Dallas Long (Ret)	Jul 2022
MSgt (Ret) Tony Metcalfe	Sep 2022
TSgt (Ret) James Lokey II	Oct 2022

We offer our sincere prayers and condolences to the families of our dear departed.

## Active Duty Chief Promotions

Congratulations to our brand new active duty Chief Master Sergeant selects!

(C)MSgt Brock Atchley  
(C)MSgt Alexis Delgadillo  
(C)MSgt William Delgado  
(C)MSgt Timothy Ledford  
(C)MSgt Analie Tigert

These will be our 272<sup>nd</sup> thru 276<sup>th</sup> ALS/AFE Chiefs. We wish you all the best as you embark on your leadership journey!



**Dinosaurs – We Are Back!**  
*By Al Loving*  
**SAFE Executive Advisor and  
Chief Dinosaur**

The Order of Life Support Dinosaurs (OLD) Club has been inactive for some time. However, the renewed interest in reforming the Dinosaur Club prompted me to take on the task of trying to reactivate the Club.

The Dinosaur (Dino) Club is reformed with an effective date of November 1, 2022, as the “Order of Life Support System Dinosaurs (OLD)” (slight name change).

If you are an active member of SAFE, and have served at least 25yrs within any of the life support systems disciplines, you are eligible for membership!

- Members of the former Order of Life Support Dinosaurs (OLD) Club are automatically Grandfathered into the newly formed Club.
- A one-time membership fee to help defray the cost of member certificate and

lapel pins, and so forth, was established at \$25 for each newly inducted member.

For an application or more details, you can contact me at:

Email: [aloving@cox.net](mailto:aloving@cox.net)

Mobile Phone: (757) 218-8560

Allen “Al” Loving, Chief Dino  
Order of Life Support System Dinosaurs

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This may or may not pertain to any of our group, but did you know, if a retired member engages in foreign employment for compensation without authorization, the member’s retired pay becomes subject to a withholding and/or debt, generally in an amount equal to the total amounts received from the foreign government? According to 37 U.S.C. § 908, retirees who are considering accepting employment with a foreign government for compensation must first apply for and receive approval in advance from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Service from which the member retired must both approve the employment/ compensation.

## Chili Sez!

*By Bob McElwain*



## The 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Guest Speaker

I had the distinct pleasure of inviting and introducing Mark Pestana, Colonel, USAF Reserve (ret) as our keynote speaker at our September 2022 reunion. Col Pestana served in the US Air Force and NASA as a pilot, and a space operations engineer. Mark is also an internationally award-

winning artist, specializing in landscape, seascape, and aerospace art. His paintings are in corporate, government, and private collections, and have flown into space. Fourteen of his paintings are displayed in the Pentagon collection. Colonel Pestana has the unique distinction of designing the following nine Space Shuttle mission patches for the astronauts.



When Life Support and Survival Equipment merged and became Aircrew Flight Equipment I wondered if the new career field would adopt a new logo. I was working in the NASA Dryden (now Armstrong) Flight Research Center's Life Support Systems Section at the time and thought it would be nice if I could get Mark who worked across the hall from me to design a new logo to represent the old and new career fields. Colonel Pestana gladly took on the challenge and came up with the following design.



To the Colonel's surprise I announced at the reunion that I had recently had the design made into the coin shown below. Both sides of the coin are the same with the exception of the

inscription. One side represents the old career field and has Aircrew Life Support stamped on it. The reverse side represents the new career field, Aircrew Flight Equipment, and is stamped as such. For accepting my invitation to be our guest speaker I presented one of the coins to the Colonel. Then I had the Colonel issue all the ALS/AFE reunion attendees one of the coins. You can see photos of the Colonel issuing the coins on our website in the pictures from our reunion.



As you can see each side of the coin represents both eras of the career field.

The coin sells for \$15 each with a \$5 S&H fee and is available to all who would like to have one by contacting me at [mcelwain@charter.net](mailto:mcelwain@charter.net)

### **THE ALS/AFE 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION ANNIVERSARY COIN**



The 25<sup>th</sup> ALS/AFE Reunion Anniversary Coin as displayed above was well received at our reunion and 35 are available for sale. The coin sells for \$16 each plus a shipping and handling fee of \$5.00. More will be ordered if necessary. As you might recall all of the coins are



numbered. Tracking of who has what number is posted on our website. To take a look at the list click on the following link: <https://usafals-afe.net/the-als-afe-25th-annual-reunion-anniversary-coin>

Place your order by emailing email me at [bob.mcelwain@charter.net](mailto:bob.mcelwain@charter.net)

### **REUNIONS 2023 and 2024**

Reunion 2023 will be held in conjunction with the 2023 SAFE Symposium. The SAFE Association is presenting its Annual Symposium on October 10 – 12, 2023 in Virginia Beach, VA at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. SAFE is composed of Government, Military, Industrial, and Academic interests and represents aviation, space, land, and marine safety disciplines for the protection of users worldwide. Our reunion will start on Monday 9 October 2023 and terminate on Thursday 5 October 2023. The hotel we will be staying at is yet to be determined. Stay tuned for additional information as we join the association to bring you an exciting reunion IN 2023. The 2022 reunion attendees voted to have our 2024 reunion at the Tuscany Resort Hotel, in Las Vegas, NV.

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

It's time to nominate new board members for the USAF ALS/AFE Retiree and Veteran's Group again. Due to COVID and the lack of any activity by the group since 2019, current members have been asked to stay in their positions for another year which will terminate at the 2023 reunion. At that time, we need to have a new list of candidates for office. Are you interested in helping to lead the group and stimulate and maintain the camaraderie and brotherhood within the Aircrew Life Support (ALS) and Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) communities? We are seeking eligible candidates (members who attend or pledge to attend our annual reunions regularly) for election to the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Nominations for officers and members who have an interest in an elected office are to contact Bob McElwain NLT 1 June 2023.

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Our last newsletter was returned from the folks below with no forwarding address. If you know any of them, please tell them to contact Bob McElwain with their new address.

Al Bayley of Little Rock, AR  
Charles Goley of Caledonia, MS  
Richard Bingaman of Camden, DE  
Jack Graham of Mims, FL  
Bill Bolick of Henderson, NV  
Herbert Howard of Springfield, FL  
Michael Causey of Pflugerville, TX  
Kevin Kelleher of Pikesville, MD  
Jason Claes of Fort Gratiot, MI, and Warren, MI  
Bruce Maynard of Canal Winchester, OH  
Martin Clement of Shawnee Mission, KS  
Robert Redford of Dover, DE  
Don Davis of Mount Dora, FL  
John Wallace of Guyton, GA  
Barney Lopez of Silt, CO

### **No More Membership Requirement for our Website**

Because of issues applying for membership on our website, I have eliminated the requirement to be a registered member of the site. However, knowing the password to the password-protected pages on our website is still required. If you have forgotten the password, you'll have to contact me via email or phone to get it. Be prepared to verify that you are a member of the ALS/AFE community to get the password.

### **From Our Website Contact Form**

The following is from our website contact form.

Good Morning! We are in search of 12 Air Force combat flyers, Vietnam, 1965-1972. Pilots, Navigators, Weapon system officers, Loadmasters, and Flight engineers having combat missions in the F-100, F-102, F-104, F-105, F-4, B-52, B-57, RF-101, A-10-1, EB-66,

HU-16, or C-130. The Greatest Generation Foundation <https://www.tggf.org/> is sponsoring an all-expenses-paid trip back to Vietnam in 2023. Must be able to travel and have a DD214 showing combat in Vietnam (Air Medal, DFC, etc). FOOTNOTE: We will accept one representative from life support.  
Contact: Dan Petkunas Lt Col, USAF (ret)  
[col\\_dan\\_california@yahoo.com](mailto:col_dan_california@yahoo.com)

That's it for now, see you next year. By the way, thank all of you who donated and sent in stamps during the year.

### ***In Closing***

*By Dave Chitwood, Vice President and Newsletter Editor*

Please do your best to attend this or a future reunion. Whether you made it a career, did one hitch and out, active duty, Guard, Reserve, or Civilian you are welcome. Don't be afraid you won't know anyone! We are family and you will instantly feel the camaraderie you felt so many years ago. Hope to see you in Virginia Beach next October!

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*Be sure to visit our Group website ([www.usafals-afe.net](http://www.usafals-afe.net)), and on social media.*