

# AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



June 2021

Vol. LXXIII



**2021  
AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION  
OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ken Pribyla** President  
703-328-2835 [kprib@verizon.net](mailto:kprib@verizon.net)

**Mike Tillema** Vice President  
210-863-5155 [pavejolly37@gmail.com](mailto:pavejolly37@gmail.com)

**Brad Dow** Secretary  
505-681-9183 [dow\\_brad@hotmail.com](mailto:dow_brad@hotmail.com)

**Todd Prejean** Treasurer  
520-861-2665 [ctoddp@hotmail.com](mailto:ctoddp@hotmail.com)

**Bob Remey** Historian  
210-289-9333 [bobremey@yahoo.com](mailto:bobremey@yahoo.com)

**Dan Beatty** Director/Plans & Programs  
719-338-0279 [whrylbrd76@aol.com](mailto:whrylbrd76@aol.com)

**Deb Fitz** Director/Public Relations  
206-715-6636 [sunchsr11@yahoo.com](mailto:sunchsr11@yahoo.com)

**Chris Barnett** Member-at-Large  
512-676-7726 [chris.barnett.c@gmail.com](mailto:chris.barnett.c@gmail.com)

**Vic Pereira** ARA TOMLF Liaison  
(520) 260-5981 [skiandfly97@gmail.com](mailto:skiandfly97@gmail.com)

**Kenneth Price** TOMLF ARA Liaison  
[kenprice06@gmail.com](mailto:kenprice06@gmail.com)

**Mandy Hutchison** Editor  
719-330-8715 [pavehawk@gmail.com](mailto:pavehawk@gmail.com)

**CONTENTS**

2. President's Notes
3. TOMLF Executive Director's Notes
4. Ft Walton Beach Reunion Information
8. Reunion Registration Form
9. 2020 Kight Award Winner
10. 2019 Jolly Green Mission of the Year
12. 2020 Rescue Squadron of the Year
13. 2021 Jolly Green Merit Scholarships
15. General Membership Meeting Minutes
18. ARA Financial Data
21. HC-130J
23. The Future of Combat Rescue
25. Memorial Roster & Reunion History
26. Lifetime Membership & Membership Form
28. Nat'l VN War Museum / ARA Store
29. From the ARA Library

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Mike Tillema  
SMSgt Stephan "Mike" Dugan  
Heidi Meisterling  
Terri Wallace  
Mike Agin

**PHOTOS/ILLUSTRATIONS**

Various folks. Sorry I don't have attributes for you specifically, but all the pics were great!

Send inputs for the next newsletter to:

**Mandy Hutchison**  
2349 Fowler Ave  
Ogden, UT 84401  
Phone: 719-330-8715  
Email: [pavehawk@gmail.com](mailto:pavehawk@gmail.com)

**ARA Newsletter**  
Published annually by the  
Air Rescue Association  
20429 Wahl Lane, Garden Ridge, TX 78266

## President's Notes

We made it to 2021. Hooray! Despite the nattering nabobs of negativism, it appears we have the ChiCom bug on the run and all systems are go this summer which means Ft Walton Beach in September is a GO! Cannot wait to see you all there and now we have COVID-19 war stories to add to our already voluminous supply. Check inside for all the details and get your reservations settled.

The past year was interesting to say the least. We managed to get all the awards we and TOMLF sponsor presented. Tucson cleaned up in 2020 winning the Squadron of the Year, 55<sup>th</sup> RQS, and the Mission of the Year, 553 RQS (79<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup> and the OSS) for a long range save in the Pacific Ocean near Baja. Our Kight awardee was a SERE specialist at Fairchild AFB, MSgt John Konkol, 22TRS. Read all about the exploits of all our winners elsewhere in this newsletter. I am certain you will be as impressed by these troops as I.



2020 was a bummer of a year for such a socializing bunch as we and it simply got worse when in November, we lost a huge chunk of the heart of ARA. Santiago Gonzalez slipped the surly bonds of earth one last time. He will be missed but we are all the better for knowing and working with him all these years. A warrior, mentor, friend, brother, husband, father for the ages. Fair winds, Sandy!

Carolyn and I send you all our best wishes for an ever-expanding free summer and we'll see you on the beach! God bless!

*Ken*



**To Our Friends at the Air Rescue Association,**

The mission of **That Others May Live Foundation** is so noble, and it is a tremendous honor to serve as its next executive director.

After 20+ years of the longest war in U.S. history, the continued stress of combat operations has taken a significant toll on our Rescue Heroes, Veterans, and their families. I'm greatly looking forward to finding opportunities to partner with the ARA leadership and members as we work together to provide much-needed programs, services, and resources that support our Rescue Community.

Before joining TOMLF, I proudly served as executive director of Special Ops Survivors and Camaraderie Foundation, both nonprofits whose missions serve our country's Military Service Members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers. With over two decades of experience in nonprofit management, strategy, developing and administering programs, and success in creating sustainable revenue streams, I'm excited to bring all of these skills and my education to TOMLF.

I'm a wine lover, avid traveler, golfer and SCUBA diver, and an outdoor enthusiast (especially anywhere on or near the water). I moved to Florida from San Francisco/Bay Area, California, and currently live in Tampa, Florida. I'm a proud mom of two sons and have one beautiful granddaughter!

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you! Until then, do not hesitate to call me at (702) 956-0713 or email me at [Terri.Wallace@thatothersmaylive.org](mailto:Terri.Wallace@thatothersmaylive.org). Please reach out and introduce yourself!

Regards,

Terri L. Wallace, Executor Director  
That Others May Live Foundation

# **AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION / THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE REUNION**

**08-11 September 2021**

**Fort Walton Beach, Florida**

## **THE CITY**

**Fort Walton Beach** is a city in southern Okaloosa County, Florida, United States. As of 2010, the population estimate for Fort Walton Beach was 19,510 recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>[5]</sup> It is the principal city of the Fort Walton Beach–Crestview–Destin Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Fort Walton Beach is a year-round fishing and beach resort community. Its busiest time of the year is the summer, causing a boost to the local economy because of seasonal human migration.

Fort Walton Beach is located at 30°25'13"N 86°37'00"W (30.420199, −86.616727).<sup>[17]</sup> According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 21.3 km<sup>2</sup> (8.2 sq mi), of which 19.3 km<sup>2</sup> (7.5 sq mi) is land and 2 km<sup>2</sup> (0.77 sq mi), or 9.26%, is water. More information about climate and history is included later in this letter.

## **GETTING TO FT WALTON BEACH**

### **Airports**

Nearby Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (airport code VPS) serves Fort Walton Beach, as well as Valparaiso, Florida. Airlines that currently serve Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport are Allegiant Airlines, American Eagle, Delta Air Lines, and Delta Connection. They provide non-stop service to Atlanta, Cincinnati, Charlotte, Dallas, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Las Vegas, Knoxville, Memphis, Oklahoma City, and St. Louis.

### **Major highways**

State Road 189 is a north–south highway from State Road 85 to US 98 in downtown Fort Walton Beach. State Road 85 is a north–south highway that leads north 27 mi (43 km) to Crestview, the Okaloosa County seat (also along Interstate 10), and ends at US 98 in downtown Fort Walton Beach. US 98 is an east–west highway, which runs through downtown Fort Walton Beach. The Brooks Bridge over the Santa Rosa Sound connects downtown Fort Walton Beach with Okaloosa Island, which is along the route of US 98. US 98 leads east 9 mi (14 km) to Destin and west 41 mi (66 km) to Pensacola.

## **OUR HEADQUARTERS (The Island Hotel RL)**

1500 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32584 (850) 243-9161

Located five minutes east of Destin, FL directly on the Gulf of Mexico shoreline, The Island is an iconic beachfront resort on Okaloosa Island in the panhandle of Florida. It features direct access to white sands, a variety of restaurants and bars, pools tropical gardens and vast event space. If you have been to a Jolly Green Reunion, this is the venue the JGA has held their



reunions for many years. We will have a hospitality suite. You can get more information at [theislandfl.com](http://theislandfl.com).

Our schedule of events is listed on the registration form. In addition to events at the hotel, we may also arrange an offsite dinner and also a tour out to Duke Field. Difficulties with local transportation is the reason for not being able to confirm at this time.

## ADDITIONAL FORT WALTON INFORMATION

### Climate

Fort Walton Beach experiences hot and very humid summers, generally from late May to mid-September. Autumns, from mid-September to early December, are generally warm. Winters are very short and mild, from mid-December to late February. Springs are warm, from late February to late May.

Fort Walton Beach, part of the western Choctawhatchee Bay region of which Destin and Niceville are also part, is very wet, averaging 69 inches of rain each year, more than any other city in Florida. The wettest season is summer, and the driest season is autumn, although flood season continues into autumn.

Snow and freezing rain are very rare. Freezing rain occurs about once every 5 to 10 years. Snow occurs about once every 10 to 15 years. The most recent measurable snowfall was on January 31, 1977, when about 1 inch (25 mm) fell in Fort Walton Beach, while 3 inches (76 mm) fell on Crestview, about 27 miles (43 km) inland.<sup>[18]</sup> The most recent report of a trace of snow was on January 28, 2014.<sup>[19]</sup> The last report of freezing rain was on February 11, 2010.

### History

Prehistoric settlement of Fort Walton Beach is attributed to the mound building "Fort Walton Culture" that flourished from approximately 1100~1550 AD. It is believed that this culture evolved out of the Weeden Island culture. Fort Walton also appeared to come about due to contact with the major Mississippian centers to the north and west. It was the most complex in the north-west Florida region. The Fort Walton peoples put into practice mound building and intensive agriculture, made pottery in a variety of vessel shapes, and had hierarchical settlement patterns that reflected other Mississippian societies.

---

The first Europeans to set foot in what is now Okaloosa County and the Fort Walton Beach area were members of Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's party, who traveled by boat from what is now Panama City Beach, Florida in 1528 to Texas, *"Then we set out to sea again, coasting towards the River of Palms. Every day our thirst and hunger increased because our supplies were giving out, as well as the water supply, for the pouches we had made from the legs of our horses soon became rotten and useless. From time to time we would enter some inlet or cove that reached very far inland, but we found them all shallow and dangerous, and so we*

*navigated through them for thirty days, meeting sometimes Indians who fished and were poor and wretched people".*

The area is described at "40 deaths a day" in a Spanish map dated 1566. In later English and French maps the area of was noted as "Baya Santa Rosa" or "Bay St. Rose". A number of Spanish artifacts, including a portion of brigantine leather armor, are housed in the Indian Temple Mound Museum.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no documentary evidence of pirates using the area as a base of operations. Piracy was rampant in the Gulf of Mexico from pirates working out of Hispaniola, the Caribbean, and the Florida Keys. Notable raids occurred in 1683 and 1687 against the Spanish fort at San Marcos de Apalachee (by French and English buccaneers), a 1712 raid against Port Dauphin (now Alabama) by English pirates from Martinique, and the actions of the late 18th-century adventurer William Augustus Bowles, who was based in Apalachicola. Bowles was never referred to as "Billy Bowlegs" in period documentation; his Creek name was "Eastajoca".

During the era of Spanish and English colonization, the area of what was to become Fort Walton Beach was noted in several journals but no worthwhile presence was established.

Early settlers of Walton County, Florida were the first to establish permanent settlements in what is now Fort Walton Beach (the area was originally named "Anderson"). One of the first settlers was John Anderson, who received land plots in 1838. The name "Anderson" is noted on maps from 1838 to 1884. It was not until 1911 that the name "Camp Walton" appeared on Florida maps.

In 1861, Camp Walton was a Confederate Army camp, a fortified post, made up of the "Walton Guards", an independent Company of Florida Volunteer Infantry from Walton County. At this time, Okaloosa County did not yet exist. Walton County received its name from Col. George Walton, who served as secretary of West Florida during Andrew Jackson's governorship (1821–1822) and whose father, George Walton Sr., was the 56th signatory of the Declaration of Independence. As a result of Col. Walton's influence in the politics of north-west Florida, his name was honored by establishing Walton County.

Camp Walton was located between the Indian Temple Mound, now known as the Heritage Park and Cultural Center, and the Santa Rosa Sound, its mission was to protect the "Narrows" from Union ships. Although the "Walton Guards" did not see much action, they did keep busy by digging up prehistoric Indian remains buried in the Indian Temple Mound and displaying them at camp. The post was abandoned in August 1862, and the "Walton Guards" were assigned to reinforce the 1st Florida Infantry Regiment, with duty in the Western Theatre on the Tennessee front.

On April 11, 1879, John Thomas Brooks purchased at a public auction in Milton, Florida, 111 acres in Section 24, Township 2, Range 24 of Santa Rosa County, a portion of the property of Henry Penny whose heirs had failed to pay the taxes on the estate.<sup>[7]</sup> This parcel on the Santa Rosa Sound became what is now downtown Fort Walton Beach.

The United States Post Office changed the official name on their cancellations from Camp Walton to Fort Walton on 1 March 1932.

The 1940 census counted 90 residents in Fort Walton.<sup>[8]</sup> Fort Walton was incorporated by a state senate bill effective June 16, 1941.



View from Sound Park looking west towards Presidio Condominium.

The community's name was officially changed from Fort Walton to Fort Walton Beach on June 15, 1953, by agreement with the state legislature in Tallahassee, and incorporated a portion of Santa Rosa Island formerly known as Tower Beach. Tower Beach, named for a tall observation tower at the site which was later destroyed by a hurricane, had been an amusement area operated from 1928 by the Island Amusement Company by future-Fort Walton Beach mayor Thomas E. Brooks, with a board walk, casino, restaurant, dance pavilion, "40 modernly equipped beach cottages", and concession stands which was largely destroyed by fire on Saturday, March 7, 1942. Wartime supply restrictions prevented a reconstruction. This 875-acre parcel of Santa Rosa Island with three miles of Gulf frontage was conveyed to Okaloosa County on July 8, 1950, in an informal ceremony at the county courthouse in Crestview, Florida. The county paid the federal government \$4,000 to complete the transaction, the result of the efforts of Congressman Bob Sikes. The portion of Santa Rosa Island transferred is now known as Okaloosa Island. The remaining Tower Beach summer cottages were removed after the 1955 tourist season as the new Okaloosa Island Authority redeveloped the site with a new hotel and casino. The government was changed to a city manager form.

A special census conducted in 1956 listed 9,456 residents, which grew to 11,249 by 1960.

The last of three county-owned buildings on Okaloosa Island was torn down on May 31, 1995. The buildings had originally housed the Okaloosa Island Authority and more recently the Okaloosa County Council on Aging. The 1.3-acre tract on the north side of Santa Rosa Boulevard was sold.



# 2021 AF Rescue Symposium/ARA/Pedro Reunion Registration

To register and pay go to

<https://www.usafrescue.org/events-reunion-news>

Your Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dep \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your FIRST reunion? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you have a military I.D. card?

You: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Guest: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Can you help with these events?

Hospitality Suite Yes \_\_\_

Registration Yes \_\_\_

Bus Trips Yes \_\_\_

**If you prefer to send a check, print this page and  
keep a copy for your records...mail to:**

**Air Rescue Association**

**c/o Dan Beatty**

**12196 Stanley Canyon Road**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3635**

Q's, call or email Dan at

(719) 338-0276 [whrlybrd76@aol.com](mailto:whrlybrd76@aol.com)

**MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESEVATIONS EARLY!!!**

**NOT LATER THAN**

\*\*\*\*\* **Mon, 01 Aug 21** \*\*\*\*\*

Make your hotel reservations directly with the  
Island Hotel and mention ARA at

<https://reservations.redlion.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=15358&nights=1&checkin=09/07/2021&group=AIRR0901>

**WEBSITE:** [www.TheIslandFL.com](http://www.TheIslandFL.com)

**PHONE:** 1-800-874-8962

**IMPORTANT:**

Your name tag is your introduction to other members of  
the group. Don't leave your room without it!

## FT WALTON BEACH 2021 REGISTRATION FORM

To register and pay go to

<https://www.usafrescue.org/events-reunion-news>

All costs are per person  
Total

Cost x No. =

**ARA Lifetime Memberships/Re-ups** are available at

<https://www.usafrescue.org/membership>

**Registration Fee**

\$25 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY, 08 SEP**

1900 Welcome Social

\$30 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

(heavy Hors D'oeuvre & prime rib carving station)

**THURSDAY, 09 SEP**

0900-1100 Memorial Park/Museum Tour at Hurlburt

1100-1300 Lunch (including transportation) \$30 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

1300-1500 Armament Museum/Test Squadron Tour at Eglin

1730-2130 Dinner cruise \$130 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

- Limited availability, so sign up early.

- Menu choices (please mark your choices. One per person))

\_\_\_ Beef fillet mignon

\_\_\_ Bronzed gulf fish

\_\_\_ Gulf shrimp and grits

\_\_\_ Blue crab mac & cheese pasta

\_\_\_ Stuffed chicken breast

\_\_\_ Vegetable ragu

**FRIDAY, 10 SEP**

0900-1100 ARA/TOMLF BOD meeting

0900-1200 Shopping Trip to Mary Ester \$25 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

Lunch on your own

1300-1600 Vietnam/Pedro Symposium

1800-Beach BBQ \$50 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

**SATURDAY, 11 SEP**

0900-1000 ARA BOD meeting

1030-1200 ARA General Membership meeting

1700 Cocktails

1800 Air Force Rescue Ball \$65 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_

**Meal choice (choose one per person)**

\_\_\_ Florida citrus brined chicken

\_\_\_ Herb roasted pork tenderloin

\_\_\_ Coriander crusted gulf shrimp

**TOTAL DUE**

= \$ \_\_\_

**NOTE:** Includes transportation. Meal costs include gratuity.



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE 2020 AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION RICHARD T. KIGHT AWARD  
TO  
JOHN H. KONKOL

Master Sergeant John H. Konkol distinguished himself as Field Flight Chief, 22nd Training Squadron, 336th Training Group, 58th Special Operations Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. During this period, MSgt Konkol led twenty-six Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Specialists in performing Level-C Code of Conduct remote field training in extreme climatic conditions. Additionally, Sergeant Konkol oversaw medical evacuation drills, preparing his flight to provide ready support during high-risk evasion exercises, ultimately ensuring the safe completion of “no-fail” training for 1,100 warfighters. Furthermore, Sergeant Konkol selflessly volunteered to fill a deployment manning shortfall, departing on three weeks’ notice to fill a Superintendent position at the Joint Personnel Recovery Center for ninety days, preventing a lapse of continuity in a vital role. His leadership and determination helped streamline personnel recovery oversight for the theatre’s continuous conventional and unconventional operations. Moreover, upon returning from his deployment, Sergeant Konkol immediately guided his flight through training during a global pandemic; impressively, his flight was the sole flight in the squadron to remain fully operational, ensuring 120 aircrew honed their isolated personnel skills. In addition, Sergeant Konkol’s mentorship and expertise were critical to the successful execution of three Air Education and Training Command courses targeted at preparing the nation’s highest risk personnel for emergency bailout and survival in any environment. Lastly, his operational experience aided in modernizing the Department of Defense’s premier survival and recovery training course to better posture forces in challenging future conflicts. Sergeant Konkol’s dedication and selfless service epitomize the motto “That Others May Live,” and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

## Jolly Green Mission of the Year Heraldry

The patch depicts the central elements of the **Air Rescue system—the Jolly Green Giant wearing a King Crown and holding up the Guardian Angel logo**. They are reminders of the proud historical legacy of each part of the system and the arrangement highlights their inter-dependence. Those symbols are surrounded by depictions of the speed and coverage that are Air Rescue’s essential characteristics, and symbols of the Air Rescue ethos.

**COVERAGE.** Air Rescue is prepared to go anywhere, at all times —this is the professional and personal commitment that the rescuers have made to those they protect. Regardless of the distance required, the terrain, weather conditions, or the malign intent of adversaries, Air Rescue will go anywhere on the globe to rescue those in need. **The globe in the hands of the Guardian Angel represents Air Rescue’s global reach and the half-light and half dark shading signifies the ability to operate in any conditions, day or night.**



**SPEED.** Speed is one of the most important elements of a successful rescue mission. Air Rescuers demonstrate the value they place on the lives of others by moving as quickly as their professionalism and experience will allow. Air Rescuers know that the contest against the elements, against adversaries, and for the survival of those at risk is a race against time. **Speed is emphasized by symbols shaped like diamonds—nature’s most unyielding substance. The diamonds are arranged to represent a tachymeter around the edge of the patch, representing specific speeds that are often used in the Air Rescue Mission (600, 480, 360, 240, 120, and 60 knots)**

**THE AIR RESCUE ETHOS.** The antidote to tyranny is the recognition by governments that every individual has value and rights. This is a bedrock concept upon which the United States was formed, and Air Rescue is a pure manifestation of that ethos – “to save life and aid the injured”. Its existence, and every mission pursued with global reach and speed sends a powerful signal to friend and foe alike. **The patch’s background stripes are the colors of precious metals which represent the universal value of the individual. The barbed wire separating the strips reminds all Air Rescuers of the consequences of “placing these duties before personal desire and comforts”.** These things I do, that others may live.

Designed by:

- Michael “Festus” Agin
- Steve “Elroy” Colby
- Nic “Russian” Dezinski
- Mark “Dip” Dipaolo
- Michael “Ghandi” Healy



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
2019 AIR FORCE JOLLY GREEN RESCUE MISSION OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Awarded to the crew of **Air Force Rescue 5709** for superior airmanship epitomizing the motto  
“THESE THINGS WE DO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE”

Crew members aboard **Air Force Rescue 5709** distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as an HC-130J Crew, 79th Rescue Squadron and 48th Rescue Squadron, 563d Rescue Group, 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona from 10 July to 13 July 2019. During this period, an HC-130J Combat King II, call sign Air Force Rescue 5709, and a pararescue jump team launched 1,300 nautical miles off of the coast of Mexico to save two critically injured individuals onboard the fishing vessel Tamara following the collapse of a twenty-five ton crane. Both fishermen were in critical condition, with massive head trauma, severe burns, and a crushed lower extremity. Despite great risk to themselves, the seven-man team parachuted from 1,000 feet above sea level to rescue the injured fishermen. Once on board, the team requested an additional pararescueman and flight surgeon. With absolutely zero room for error and lives on the line, the crew of Air Force Rescue 5709 precisely delivered a flight surgeon attached to a pararescueman, executing the first-ever operational water tandem jump. After all team members got on the vessel, the team treated and packaged the patients for the 58-hour transit to shore. The more severe patient with head trauma required advanced medical assessments to ensure his survival. With the patient’s life on the line, the team utilized satellite communications for a neurosurgeon tele-medicine consult and stabilized the patient. Once on land, the team transferred the patients to Mexican authorities, ultimately saving the lives of the two Mexican nationals. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of the crew of Air Force Rescue 5709 reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.

**48th Rescue Squadron (RQS):**

- Capt John Conner
- SMSgt Chris Young
- MSgt Robert Watkins
- SSgt Ryan Kulla
- SSgt Michael Bernstein
- SSgt Yosuel Garica
- SSgt Raul Martinez
- SSgt Cody Reyes

**79th Rescue Squadron (RQS):**

- Lt Col Rob Allen
- Maj George Geiges
- Maj Christopher Creveling
- Capt Andrew Kim
- 1 Lt Jorge Pala
- TSgt Gabriel Campbell
- TSgt David Henson
- TSgt Joshua St Onge
- SSgt Miles Morissette

**563d Operational Support Squadron (OSS):**

- Capt Colby Gray





TOMLF / ARA RESCUE SQUADRON OF THE YEAR 2020  
TO THE  
55<sup>th</sup> RESCUE SQUADRON

TOMLF and ARA are proud to award the 2020 Rescue Squadron of the Year award to the 55<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron. The 55<sup>th</sup> RQS major accomplishments included:

- While deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, the 55<sup>th</sup> rapidly executed a short notice emergency base evacuation of personnel and aircraft, just minutes before Iranian missile impacts, saving countless lives and preserving CSAR Alert coverage in order to maintain National Security Policy.
- The first operational rescue squadron to contract MI-24 Hinds for unit air combat maneuvering training. They created the first non-weapons school rotary-wing Air Combat Maneuvering Instructor Pilots in Rescue.
- The first squadron to contract robot vehicle aerial gunnery targets to aid target acquisition and destruction.
- The first to execute a phased training plan which is now emulated by other squadrons for combat readiness. This plan was lauded by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force as “Leading the Air Force”
- The first squadron to deploy the Distributed Aperture Infrared Countermeasure System, they revamped defensive systems Tactics, techniques and procedures with combat-tested data, now all units are fielding it.
- The 55<sup>th</sup> led personnel recovery for a time-sensitive-targeting mission in Syria—special ops forces wouldn’t execute without them (the #1 go/no-go criteria)—resulted in a high value target of ISIS being killed in action.
- 2 combat saves in support of downed apache & helped recover a 31-million-dollar aircraft
- 6 combat saves in a short notice response to an “off-Drop Zone jump”
- Found and saved three lost hikers during a routine training sortie
- Selected as the Air Force representative to teach CSAR to Colombia and Chile—building partnership capacity for America

Those are just a few of the many accomplishments of the 55<sup>th</sup>. The bottom-line is that the 55<sup>th</sup> was head and shoulders above the rest of the competition, which is a huge testament to their amazing year. The blood, sweat and tears of training translated to unparalleled excellence in combat and everything else they were tasked to do. The distinctive accomplishments of the 55<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron resulted in their award as the That Others May Live Foundation Rescue Squadron of the Year! Congratulations!



# Jolly Green Merit Scholarship 2021

By Michael “Festus” Agin, JGMS Committee Chair

An all-volunteer team of ARA-TOMLF administered the **Jolly Green Merit Scholarship** program again this year continuing the 40+ year Jolly Green Legacy. This year we teamed up to award \$13,000 to six students for this upcoming school year. A five-person team scored applicants on demonstrated academic and extracurricular achievements. Thanks to Committee Chair Mike Agin, Ken Price (Incoming Chair), Tony Arrington, Michael Erickson and TOMLF executive director, Terri Wallace, for taking the time to score over 24 applications.



The year's top ranked student is **Alexandra Gendreau. She is the daughter of pilot Lt Col Robert Gendreau.** She will receive \$3,500 toward her freshman year at the College of William and Mary and will pursue a double major in biology and chemistry with a minor in Hispanic Studies. After graduation, Alexandra aspires to be a scientific researcher and has plans to pursue a doctorate in molecular cell biology and neuroscience.



- In addition to excellent academic achievements, outside of school, Alexandra is an active team leader for Interscholastic Equestrian Association where she regularly competes and has won several qualifiers to include the 2019 National Champion.
- This top candidate has volunteered the past five years at Operation Smile, and the past two summers she interned at the College of William and May and Christopher Newport University. For her senior project, this year she is working with Wolbachia Project.

Our second-place winner, **Elizabeth Webb, is the daughter of aircraft maintainer Chief Master Sergeant Terry Webb.** She is a rising junior at Texas Tech University and will receive \$2,500 toward her third year of college.

- Elizabeth is passionate about nursing and has a career goal of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). Having both lived and traveled extensively, she will use these experiences to provide culturally competent care in our healthcare system.
- Since starting college, she has served as both social media chair and treasurer- and is currently the president-of the Pre-Nursing Association. In addition to her love of nursing, she has been an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for the past two years, and an active volunteer with United Future Leaders of America teaching leadership skills to elementary students. In her off time, she loves playing volleyball, and played an active role her HS senior year in winning the State Championship.



**Emily Brosofsky, our third-place winner, is the daughter of pilot Lt Col Harold Brosofsky.** She will receive \$2,250 toward her first year of college. Emily has a goal of becoming an educator after college. As a rising college freshman, she plans to attend a college surrounding their language and teaching programs.



- Her goal is to seek a double major in elementary education and linguistics, with a minor in a focused language of choice, both of which will fulfill her dream of teaching and translating to young students in distant countries.
- During high school, Emily co-founded the “Girls Who Code” club and served as its marketing officer, then Learning and Resource Leader. Her teaching skills led her to be awarded the title of “Best Teacher”. She was a very present actor and singer who earned the “Best Actress” award twice from Maryland Thespian Festival, and a long-time member of Maryland Music Educators Assn.

Our fourth-place winner, **Chloe Michael-Ann Choquette**, is the daughter of pilot BGen Sean Choquette. She will receive \$2,000 to support her attendance at the University of Arizona Honors College to major in Psychology with a minor in Women Studies.

- Chloe is passionate about helping those who struggle with mental health issues. After overcoming her own challenges due to the constant moving many children of service members face, she is ready and excited for this next chapter of her life.
- She has a long-term goal to earn a Doctor of Psychology, then become a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in psychiatry.
- While serving as the Vice President of Veteran's Heritage Project, she was published in two editions of a book of veteran's stories as written by students and was awarded a scholarship for her involvement in the Project. She also was an active writer/editor for her school's newspaper, the "Iron Quill", and is a volunteer of the Military Assistance Mission of southern Arizona.



**Autumn Myerscough**, our fifth-place winner, is the daughter of pararescueman Master Sergeant Kevin Myerscough. She will receive \$1,500 to support her attendance at The University of New Mexico, studying Anthropology with a focus on Archaeology. After graduation Autumn plans to work as an archaeologist and work towards furthering her education to a master's and later, a doctorate.



- She is excited to begin school at UNM and remain focused on her goal of a doctoral degree in paleontology. In hopes of earning much needed "hands on" experience, Autumn will be attending field schools during her summers. She has already been awarded a scholarship for one of those schools from the Cheryl Wise Foundation.
- Having been lettered and barred academically, Autumn will graduate with distinction and receive honors cords and honors. In addition to excellent academic achievements, she is an active sports enthusiast, being lettered and barred in both Varsity Tennis and Soccer. She also was elected the 2021 All State to play chess, and acts as Team Captain, SVP of the Concert Choir, 2021 All State Member, and has received the Girl Scouts lifetime award and chords.

Our sixth-place winner, **Emma Williams**, is the granddaughter of pilot Lt Col William Farrow Williams. Emma will receive \$1,250, to support her attendance at East Carolina University's Honors College with the goal of majoring in nursing. After graduating from college, she plans to apply to either a Physician Assistant School or Nurse Practitioner School. After she completes graduate school, she has a goal to return to her hometown and either open her own practice or work at the multispecialty clinic, using her skills to make an impact in this small, rural town that has had limited healthcare.

- Emma lettered in both basketball and volleyball, where she had leadership roles as Team Captain, Most Valuable Player and earned recognition as Most Valuable Player and Tournament MVP Award.
- She also finds time to act as President of the school's Future Farmers of America and earned both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in conference finals and regionals.





**Air Rescue Association  
Board of Directors Minutes  
Saturday, October 5, 2019**

*Editor's note: This is a reprint from the previous newsletter as these minutes will be reviewed and approved at the Reunion in 2021.*

The Board of the Air Rescue Association met on October 5, 2019, in a board room of the Doubletree Suites Tucson Airport, Tucson AZ, beginning at 8 am.

Present: Ken Pribyla, Mike Tillema, Walt Hines, Frank Watkins, Bill Farnham, Deb Fitz, John Flourney, Sandy Gonzalez, Dan Beatty, Todd Prejean, Bob Remey, Chris Barnett, Ken Price, Gary Copsy

Absent: Bill Severns, Mary Severns, Mike Agin, Col. Mark Kelly

The 2018 BOD minutes as published in the latest newsletter were approved.

President Ken Pribyla introduced new board members as follows:

Mike Tillema to replace Bill Severns as vice president

Walt Hines to replace Mary Severns as secretary

Dan Beatty to replace Walt Hines as plan and programs director

Bob Remey to fill historian vacancy

Todd Prejean to replace Bill Farnham as treasurer

Chris Barnett to replace John Flourney as member at large

Ken also summarized the progress of the ARA-TOMLF partnership as largely status quo. Most of the TOMLF board member are ARA members with little active participation. Their co-hosting of the Air Rescue Ball continues to work well. Representatives of both TOMLF and ARA were on hand at the final JGA reunion in May to work out how to handle the JGA Scholarship Program and the JGA Mission of the Year, an Air Force level award as is the Kight award. The scholarship balance of \$155K was turned over to TOMLF and placed in a separate account. (At the May reunion, JGA gave out six substantial scholarships to children of deceased Rescue heroes.) Going forward, the ARA will present the Mission of the Year award.

Mike Tillema gave Bill Severns' report, citing 20 new members (5 signing up with ARA and 15 signing up on the TOMLF web site), 38 re-ups, 5 JGA life members having transferred to the ARA, and \$1130 derived from dues. He also reported that 12 ARA members had died since last year's reunion. He went on to provide an update on the Lazer Ladies, who are now handling ARA memorabilia (coins, shirts, etc.) with new items being developed. The proceeds last year for the ARA were \$1100.

Walt Hines underscored Mary Severns' good progress following her hip surgery and encouraged the display of ARA patches and stickers.

Bill Farnham reported total assets of \$17339, consisting of the balances from four accounts as follows: Wells Fargo checking, \$7284; savings, \$8011; Bill Severns' account, \$617; and Walt Hines' account, \$1427. We have an outstanding liability to TOMLF of \$4035, resulting in a net equity of \$13304. He is in the process of turning over this function to Todd Prejean, the new Treasurer.

Dan Beatty discussed reunion plans for 2020 and 2021. The proposed site for 2020 is Ft. Walton Beach in order possibly to capture residual interest of former JGA members who want to continue their great legacy as ARA members. Frank Watkins added support to this idea. A host has not yet been identified, but initial arrangements are being examined for potential periods beginning on Oct. 14, 21, or 28. The AF Helicopter Pilots Assn. is meeting on Oct. 5-8 in Kansas City. Dan will coordinate with former JGA officials. He cited AFSOC at Hurlburt as a possible venue. Walt said that he maintains the ARA email bank and will turn that over to Dan.

New Historian Bob Remey summarized how he has put together with great success the last two reunion yearbooks using an on-line program called Shutterfly. He is looking at different ways to further digitize the process to include on-line access on the ARA and/or TOMLF web site(s). This would include making available on-line and via email the Newsletter as well, and he is examining the security issues. He is working now on the 2019 yearbook. He also wants to create a digital ARA member scrapbook with a brief bio of every member. His ground-breaking work was applauded by all.

Public Relations Director Deb Fitz discussed the various outlets in which she had publicized ARA and the reunion and indicated that more could be done with our web site. Ken said that the umbrella site that Greg Lowdermilk outlined in New York had not been done, as many TOMLF staff personnel had changed, and there is nothing out there yet to show our partnership. We now also have to include JGA in the effort. The current ARA web site is being managed by Sandy Gonzalez' grandson who has done a yeoman's job. Deb said that all of this is doable and could be patterned after the current two layers of the TOMLF site: one being the chairman's site and the other being a members-only site. Digital payment of dues, etc., must be a part of it. Discussion ensued about cyber security and recent phishing problems. Mike Tillema talked about the importance of branding which could be done more effectively and that Mike Agin had purchased several Go Daddy domains for future development. Discussion ended without naming an OPR. Deb requested to be advised of additional outlets to reach more potential members. She was lauded for her outstanding work.

Retiring Quartermaster Sandy Gonzalez stated that he has only five blank wooden plaques left and only four angel medallions. He is happy to turn over this function to the Lazer Ladies, and Mike Tillema stated that they could provide the blank plaques, etc., in the future. For many, many years, Sandy managed the procurement and sale of coins, shirts, jackets, caps, etc. to ARA members and did an amazing job, certainly a key part of the branding effort. Sandy also announced the forthcoming



movie about the late Rescue hero and MOH winner William Pitsenbarger, entitled “The Last Full Measure.”

Newsletter Editor Frank Watkins reported that the printer had provided ±100 extra copies of this year’s newsletter. He sent most of these to Mike Agin to use in his recruiting of ARA members through TOMLF events. Many got lost in mailing for some unknown reason, but we had extras to cover the problem. He implored all to get articles and photos in early. He also reiterated the need to go to email delivery to save on postage. The BCC option can be used to guard against access to blanket email addresses. It is felt that that the newsletter would be more widely distributed via email. The newsletter is currently uploaded to the ARA web site, but there will be provisions to send the newsletter to members who don’t use the computer. The ARA roster is also on the web site but requires a password protected logon. The hard copy roster that can be purchased by members no longer includes email addresses.

John Flournoy, in turning his duties as Member-At-Large over to Chris Barnett, said that the job mostly involves ear-bending to stay on top of issues affecting the organization and its membership and “stirring the pot” to identify new leadership.

New Business: Mike Tillema presented a point paper (attached) on ARA life membership. All agreed that it is time to offer this option, particularly inasmuch as we have already committed to transferring JGA life members to the same status in the ARA. The board adopted his proposal and will take it to the general membership for final approval.

The board also approved Mike Tillema as the new Vice President. He will be subject to a vote in the general membership for official approval.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted:

Walt Hines  
Secretary



# Financial Information

## Summary of accounts

### Checking/Prepaid and Savings

Account	Page	Account number	Ending balance last statement	Ending balance this statement
Wells Fargo Business Choice Checking	2		5,053.92	5,441.72
Business Market Rate Savings	3		21,604.04	21,614.22
Total deposit accounts			\$26,657.96	\$27,055.94

## Wells Fargo Business Choice Checking

### Statement period activity summary

Beginning balance on 4/1	\$5,053.92
Deposits/Credits	387.80
<u>Withdrawals/Debits</u>	-
Ending balance on 4/30	\$5,441.72

Account number:

AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION

California account terms and conditions apply

For Direct Deposit use

Routing Number (RTN):

For Wire Transfers use

Routing Number (RTN):

### Overdraft Protection

Your account is linked to the following for Overdraft Protection:

- Savings -

## Transaction history

Date	Check Number	Description	Deposits/ Credits	Withdrawals/ Debits	Ending daily balance
4/2		Wix.Com EDI Pymnts TX1645712500Xt Ref*TN*TX1645712500XtNte*Inv*Wix Payments\	387.80		5,441.72
Ending balance on 4/30					5,441.72
Totals			\$387.80	\$0.00	

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

### Monthly service fee summary

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the disclosures applicable to your account or talk to a banker. Go to [wellsfargo.com/feefaq](https://wellsfargo.com/feefaq) for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.

Fee period 04/01/2021 - 04/30/2021

Standard monthly service fee \$0.00

You paid \$0.00

WX/W

## Account transaction fees summary

Service charge description	Units used	Units included	Excess units	Service charge per excess units (\$)	Total service charge (\$)
Cash Deposited (\$)	0	7,500	0	0.0030	0.00
Transactions	0	200	0	0.50	0.00
<b>Total service charges</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>

## Other Wells Fargo Benefits

Our National Business Banking Center customer service number 1-800-CALL-WELLS (1-800-225-5935) hours of operation have temporarily changed to 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Access to our automated banking system, the ability to report a fraud claim on your business credit or debit card, and access to report a lost or stolen business card will continue to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Thank you for banking with Wells Fargo. We appreciate your business.

## Business Market Rate Savings

### Statement period activity summary

Beginning balance on 4/1	\$21,604.04
Deposits/Credits	10.18
Withdrawals/Debits	- 0.00
<b>Ending balance on 4/30</b>	<b>\$21,614.22</b>

Account number:

**AIR RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

*California account terms and conditions apply*

For Direct Deposit use

Routing Number (RTN):

For Wire Transfers use

Routing Number (RTN):

### Interest summary

Interest paid this statement	\$0.18
Average collected balance	\$21,608.04
Annual percentage yield earned	0.01%
Interest earned this statement period	\$0.18
Interest paid this year	\$0.71

## Transaction history

Date	Description	Deposits/ Credits	Withdrawals/ Debits	Ending daily balance
4/19	Mobile Deposit : Ref Number :508180936137	10.00		21,614.04
4/30	Interest Payment	0.18		21,614.22

Ending balance on 4/30

21,614.

22

<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10.18</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
---------------	----------------	---------------

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

---

## Monthly service fee summary

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the disclosures applicable to your account or talk to a banker. Go to [wellsfargo.com/feefaq](https://wellsfargo.com/feefaq) for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.

Fee period 04/01/2021 - 04/30/2021  
paid \$0.00

Standard monthly service fee \$5.00

You

---

### How to avoid the monthly service fee

Have any **ONE** of the following account requirements

- Minimum daily balance
- Total automatic transfers from an eligible Wells Fargo business checking account

Minimum required

\$300.00

\$25.00

This fee period

\$21,604.04 ✓

\$0.00

YC/YC

---

## Account transaction fees summary

Service charge description	Units used	Units included	Excess units	Service charge per excess units (\$)	Total service charge (\$)
Deposited Items	1	20	0	0.50	0.00
Cash Deposited (\$)	0	5,000	0	0.0030	0.00
<b>Total service charges</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>



# HC-130J Combat King

Contractor: Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

Service: United States Air Force

Power Plant: Four Rolls Royce  
AE2100D3 turboprop engines

Payload: 35,000 pounds (15,875  
kilograms)

Speed: 316 knots indicated air speed  
at sea level

Range: beyond 4,000 miles (3,478 nautical miles)

Armament: countermeasures/flares, chaff

Basic Crew: Three officers (pilot, co-pilot, combat system officer) and two enlisted loadmasters



The HC-130J Combat King replaces HC-130P/Ns as the only dedicated fixed-wing Personnel Recovery platform in the Air Force inventory. It is an extended-range version of the C-130J Hercules transport. Its mission is to rapidly deploy to execute combatant commander directed recovery operations to austere airfields and denied territory for expeditionary, all weather personnel recovery operations to include airdrop, airland, helicopter air-to-air refueling, and forward area ground refueling missions. When tasked, the aircraft also conducts humanitarian assistance operations, disaster response, security cooperation/aviation advisory, emergency aeromedical evacuation, and noncombatant evacuation operations.

Modifications to the HC-130J have improved navigation, threat detection and countermeasures systems. The aircraft fleet has a fully-integrated inertial navigation and global positioning systems, and night vision goggle, or NVG, compatible interior and exterior lighting. It also has forward-looking infrared, radar and missile warning receivers, chaff and flare dispensers, satellite and data-burst communications, and the ability to receive fuel inflight via a Universal Aerial Refueling Receptacle Slipway Installation (UARRSI).

The HC-130J can fly in the day; however, crews normally fly night at low to medium altitude levels in contested or sensitive environments, both over land or overwater. Crews use NVGs for tactical flight profiles to avoid detection to accomplish covert infiltration/exfiltration and transload operations. To enhance the probability of mission success and survivability near populated areas, crews employ tactics that include incorporating no external lighting or communications, and avoiding radar and weapons detection.

Drop zone objectives are done via personnel drops and equipment drops. Rescue bundles include illumination flares, marker smokes and rescue kits. Helicopter air-to-air refueling can be conducted at night, with blacked out communication with up to two simultaneous helicopters. Additionally, forward area refueling point operations can be executed to support a variety of joint and coalition partners.

The HC-130J is a result of the HC/MC-130 recapitalization program and replaces Air Combat Command's aging HC-130P/N fleet as the dedicated fixed-wing personnel recovery platform in the Air Force inventory. The 71st and 79th Rescue Squadrons in Air Combat Command, the 550th Special Operations Squadron in Air



Education and Training Command, the 920th Rescue Group in Air Force Reserve Command and the 106th Rescue Wing, 129th RQW and 176th Wing in the Air National Guard will operate the aircraft.

First flight was 29 July 2010, and the aircraft will serve the many roles and missions of the HC-130P/Ns. It is a modified KC-130J aircraft designed to conduct personnel recovery missions, provide a command and control platform, in-flight-refuel helicopters and carry supplemental fuel for extending range or air refueling.



A 71<sup>st</sup> RQS HC-130J recently returned from deployment, Moody AFB, GA

# The Future of Combat Rescue

By SMSgt Stephan “Mike” Dugan, 723d AMXS/41<sup>st</sup> HMU Superintendent

Since 1982, the HH-60 platform has been the workhorse of the Rescue community. It and its supporting cast of Maintainers and Operators have responded to calls for help on nearly every continent on this planet. From the deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq to the beaches of Japan and Bahamas, the Pave Hawk has been there to deliver aid and rescue those in need. However, nearly 40 years of service and over 5,000 flights took a toll on the aircraft's structure.

In 2010, the Air Force made the decision to replace these aging aircraft with the HH-60W, also referred to as the Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH). This new aircraft, a derivative of the combat-proven HH -60M, not only promised to be a more capable rescue platform but also aimed at structural issues encountered over the Gulf's life cycle. Some of these features included the strengthening of the Fuselage Station 308 beam, expansion of the internal fuel bladder, and solid blade construction. These features aim to improve the maintainability of this platform for 50 years or beyond.



*First HH-60Ws arrive at Moody AFB, 5 Nov 2020*

In addition to the structural improvements implemented by Sikorsky-Lockheed Martin, there were many system upgrades designed to make the aircraft more capable and easier to maintain. One of these improvements is the all-electric rescue hoist, which eliminated the hydraulic-based models currently used on the HH-60G. This new hoist is just as capable as the previous devices, but the replacement time has been nearly cut in half. In addition to the hoist, the transition to the Electro-Optical/Infra-Red (EO/IR) system consolidated all the components of the previous Forward-Looking/Infra-Red (FLIR) system into a single unit. Not only reducing the troubleshooting time but also downsizing the logistical footprint.





Sikorsky didn't stop at system updates to make this new platform maintenance friendly, they also digitalized the debrief process. This now allows integration of Pilot Reported Discrepancies (PRDs) and Aircraft Reported Discrepancies (ARDs) into an automated debrief. When fully operational, this system will be able to connect to the Integrated Maintenance Data System (IMDS) to create Job Control Numbers (JCNs) for discrepancies and suggest fault isolation procedures in the Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETMS). These IETMS are then dispatched with the maintenance members and walk them step by step through advanced troubleshooting procedures. Although not all-inclusive, this is a definitive edge in the maintenance of such a complex platform.



*Sgt Cody White and SSgt Ryan Jenkins replacing the rotor brake.*

With all of these upgrades in form and function, it's clear to see why the Air Force chose a tried and true platform to continue its most righteous mission. The structural upgrades and the maintenance integration should keep this helicopter on alert to deliver aid and rescue those in need late into the 21st century. Following in the footsteps of a giant is never easy, but Jolly Green II is ready for the task!

**Old Soldiers never die,  
They just smell that way.**

**Air Rescueman's Code**

It is my duty as a member of the Air Rescue Service to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things I do **that others may live!**



## MEMORIAL ROSTER

We have been notified of the passing of the following members since publication of the June 2020 Newsletter

### THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED LAST YEAR

*Theodore Bell Donna Purvine Baylor Haynes (JGA Founder) Francis B. "Fran" McNutt Roger Gendron  
Marilyn Ricker Sandy Gonzalez Richard "Wally" Wofniewicz Earl Dowd Jim Allen*

### THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED IN EARLIER YEARS

*Richard Kirkland (2019)*

♥ May they rest in peace

## REUNION SITES AND HOSTS

1976	Coeur D'Alene, ID	Bob & Jake Dyberg	1998	Catskill Mtns, NY	Bob & Jake Dyberg
1977	Albuquerque, NM	Rich & Lou Anne McVay	1999	San Diego, CA	Ed & Dorothy Uranich
1978	Albuquerque, NM	Dick & June Kight	2000	Branson, MO	Shad & Mary Shaddo
1979	San Diego, CA	Ed & Bobbie Ladou	2001	Las Vegas, NV	Bob & Jake Dyberg
1980	San Antonio, TX	Bill & Oleta Montgomery	2002	Atlanta, GA	Sandy Gonzalez
1981	Ft. Walton Bch, FL	Glen & Nadine Sullivan	2003	Dayton, OH	Dan & Jane Bigelow
1982	Scottsdale, AZ	Roy & Charlotte Jacobsen	2004	Seattle, WA	Bruce & Jan Haskins
1983	Colo. Springs, CO	Warren & Alice Ruppert	2005	Colo. Springs, CO	Dan & Martha Beatty
1984	Charleston, SC	Hank Tammenga	2006	Savannah, GA	Rip Powell
1985	Seattle, WA	Al & Gladys Scott	2007	Louisville, KY	Tony & Betty Muehling
1986	Williamsburg, VA	Bob & Alice Mennell	2008	San Antonio, TX	Keith Sullivan & BRAT
1987	Honolulu, HI	Bob & Jake Dyberg	2009	Philadelphia	Ron & Peg German
1988	Dallas/Fort Worth	Bob & Dorothy Walsh	2010	Sacramento	Bill & Marcie Farnham
1989	Hyannis, MA	Vince & Ginny McGovern	2011	Branson	Gatherings Plus (Sandy G.)
1990	San Francisco, CA	Verd & Fran Rasmussen	2012	Chattanooga	Walt & Mary Eleanor Hines
1991	Denver, CO	Lou & Dee Sacane	2013	Fort Worth, TX	Gene & Jeanette Lewis
1992	Tucson, AZ	Don & Kathleen Godbey	2014	Charleston, S.C.	Bill & Mary Severns
1993	Hot Springs, AR	Gene & Lou Watkins/ George & Marge Tuck	2015	San Diego, CA	John & Eleanor Colombo
1994	Portland, OR	Joe & Dory Herrmann	2016	Las Vegas, NV	Walt Hines/TOMLF
1995	Nashville, TN	J. B. McCarley	2017	Melbourne, FL	920 Rescue Wing/Walt Hines
1996	Orlando, FL	Sandy & Gina Gonzalez	2018	Westhampton, NY	Walt Hines/Mike & Carla Cassels
1997	Orlando, FL	Ted & Bev Tatum	2019	Tucson, AZ	Heidi Meisterling
			2020	Postponed	

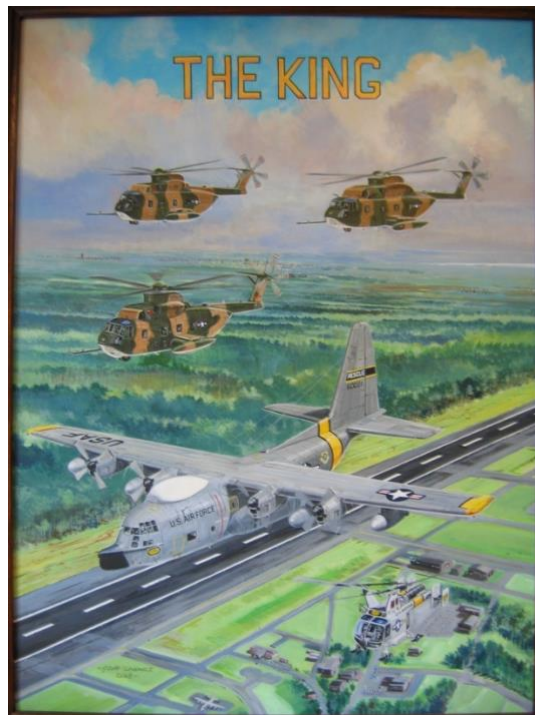
## KIGHT AWARD WINNERS

2020	John H. Konkol	1998	Robert G. McNeil
2019	Mark E. Fraser	1997	Crews of AF Rescue 206/212
2018	Dustin Jespersen	1996	Crew of AF Rescue 986
2017	Kevin M Rynbrandt	1995	Crew of AF Rescue 26114
2016	Maurice Muro	1994	Crew of AF Rescue 811
2015	Brian Scott	1993	Keith A. Sullivan
2014	Brandon T Casteel	1992	Karen A. Pickering
2013	Brian R. Dicks	1991	Michael A. Wayt
2012	Jose L. Cabrera	1990	Michael Callahan
2011	Matthew C. Leigh	1989	Terry L. Muncy
2010	Salvatore L. Portelli	1988	Dell T. Hamilton
2009	James E. Hangsleben, Jr.	1987	Timothy P. Malloy
2008	Stephen H. Thackery	1986	William H. LeRoy
2007	Jason E. Snyder	1985	Carl R. Binford
2006	Eric T. Trocinski	1984	Bruce C. Johnston
2005	Trevor J. Boyko	1983	Lee A. Roberson
2004	John B. Creel	1982	Joe Martinez
2003	Keith A. Sullivan	1981	Richard G. Flaherty
2002	Robert H Walker	1980	Jay G. Jinks
2001	Randall R. Nelson	1979	Louis DeMartino
2000	Kevin P. Mullins	1978	Robert L. LaPointe
1999	John McGonagill		



# Become an ARA Lifetime Member!

Tired of having to get reminded about annual dues? Become an ARA Lifetime Member! It's easy and just work with Mike Tillema ([michael.tillema@thatothersmaylive.org](mailto:michael.tillema@thatothersmaylive.org)) on the application. If you've paid for this year or more, we can deduct that amount off the total! Lifetime Memberships are available to those at least 70 years of age for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. If you're at least 80, congrats because your Life Membership is free! Life Memberships also include the member's spouse! Come on in and join the ARA Lifetime Member team!





# Air Rescue Association

## Application for Membership

Since 1976, and 47 successful reunions later, the Association still seeks and accepts eligible persons who wish to enjoy the camaraderie of “rescue” people. As stated in the bylaws, “Membership in the Association is open to all persons, regardless of grade, rank or position who were or are assigned to the USAF Air Rescue Service or its antecedent and descendent organizations. Other military personnel, government civilian employees, or contractor representatives who were associated with Air Rescue; current and former members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Civil Air Patrol; plus any persons who have been rescued, recovered, or rendered emergency assistance by Air Rescue are also eligible and welcomed for membership. Adult close family members (parents, spouse, children and siblings) of those eligible for membership in accordance with the foregoing are also eligible for regular membership in their own right.” If interested in becoming a member, please supply the information requested in the form below, with a brief summary of applicable Air Rescue service and other pertinent information.

**Join online at the following link:** <https://www.usafrescue.org/membership>

Please check all applicable: New Member \_\_\_\_, Update Dues \_\_\_\_, Update Contact \_\_\_\_, Other \_\_\_\_  
**Dues** \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ years. (\$10.00 per year per person [\$20.00 per couple] up to 5 years in advance).  
Individuals who are at least 80 years old, or have hosted an ARA Reunion, or have paid dues for at least 20 years, or were Life Members of the Jolly Green Ass’n are eligible to become ARA Life Members. (Member must notify the ARA VP, Sec’y or Treas of their eligibility).

**Life Memberships are also available to those at least 70 for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. Life Memberships also include the member’s spouse.**

My check # \_\_\_\_\_ for the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (No cash, please).

_____	_____	_____
Last Name	First Name	Spouse Name (if applicable)
_____		
Address (City, State & Zip)		
_____		
_____	_____	_____
Home Phone	Cell Phone or Fax	Email Address

Air Rescue Assignments (Yours or relative’s) Include Unit, Base, State/Country, Years There

Unit 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 4: \_\_\_\_\_

If New Member, how did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check (no cash, please) to:

Air Rescue Association  
20429 Wahl Lane  
Garden Ridge, TX 78154

# Seeking Air Force Rep on BOD of National VN War Museum

The National Vietnam War Museum project was formalized in 1998 to develop a national venue that would create an atmosphere of learning about the Vietnam War era, and engage people of all ages, nationalities, and political points of view.

In 1999, the museum was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) corporation in the State of Texas and purchased a 12-acre site in Mineral Wells, Texas, approximately 50 miles west of Fort Worth. The physical location of the museum is Weatherford TX.

A great deal of progress has been made in the museum's development, but it is far from complete. More information on the museum can be found at [nationalvnmuseum.org](http://nationalvnmuseum.org).

There is presently no Air Force representation on the museum's Board of Directors and therefore no concept of how to include exhibits of Air Rescue. During the war, HU-16, HH-43, HH-3, HC-130, and HH-53 aircrews made valuable contributions and definitely should be portrayed. We are seeking someone from PRHA, ARA, TOMLF, or the former JGA to step up and fill this position. **Please let Mike Tillema know if you are interested, or contact Dr. Jim Messinger, the project's treasurer, at [jmessinger@wc.edu](mailto:jmessinger@wc.edu).**

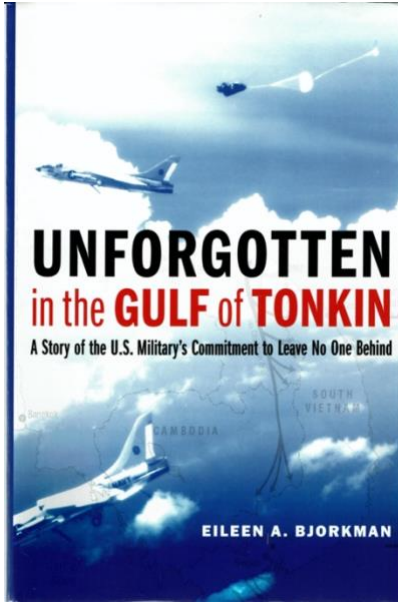
## Air Rescue Association Store

If you'd like to purchase some cool USAF Rescue swag, please go check out Lazer Ladies at <https://www.lazerladies.com/collections/toml>

There are great items including hats, mugs, coins and more! This site helps make money for the ARA. The Lazer Ladies are two wonderful sisters (Mary Lou and Cindy) who opened up a business right outside Nellis AFB. One of the sisters, Mary Lou, was a Helo Mx Officer at Nellis prior to pulling pitch and going to the civilian side!



## From the ARA Library



### UNFORGOTTEN in the GULF of TONKIN

On November 18, 1965, U.S. Navy pilot Willie Sharp ejected from his F-8 fighter after being hit while positioned over a target in North Vietnam. With a cloud layer beneath him, he did not know if he was over land—where he would most certainly be captured or killed by the North Vietnamese—or over the Gulf of Tonkin. As he ejected, both navy and air force aircraft were already heading toward him to help.

What followed was a dramatic rescue made by pilots and other airmen with little or no training or experience in combat search-and-rescue. Told by former military flight test engineer Eileen A. Bjorkman, this story includes nail-biting descriptions of air combat, flight, and rescue. Bjorkman places Sharp's story in the larger context of the U.S.

military's bedrock credo—No Man Left Behind—and calls attention to the more than eighty thousand Americans still missing from conflicts since World War I. She also explores the devastating aftershocks of the Vietnam War as Sharp struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Woven into this gripping tale is the fascinating history of combat search-and-rescue missions that officially began in World War II. Combining the cockiness and camaraderie of *Top Gun* with the heroics of *Sully*, *Unforgotten in the Gulf of Tonkin* is a riveting tale of combat rescue and an unforgettable story about the U.S. military's commitment to leave no man behind.

---

**Eileen Bjorkman** loves all things aviation, with a particular passion for military and homebuilt aircraft. She is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel with 700+ hours of flying time as a flight test engineer in 25 different types of military aircraft, primarily the F-4, F-16, C-130, and C-141. As a civilian pilot, she holds an Airline Transport Pilot rating and is a Certificated Flight Instructor with more than 2,000 hours of flying time. She owns an aerobatic airplane, a Decathlon. When she's not writing or researching, she can usually be found doing some sort of outside activity, especially anything involving an airplane!

In addition to her books, Eileen has had articles published in *Air & Space/Smithsonian*, *Aviation History*, *Portland, Equinox: Poetry and Prose*, *Sport Aviation*, the *Everett Daily Herald*, and many technical journals.

# Moral Imperative

## 1972, Combat Rescue, and the End of America's War in Vietnam

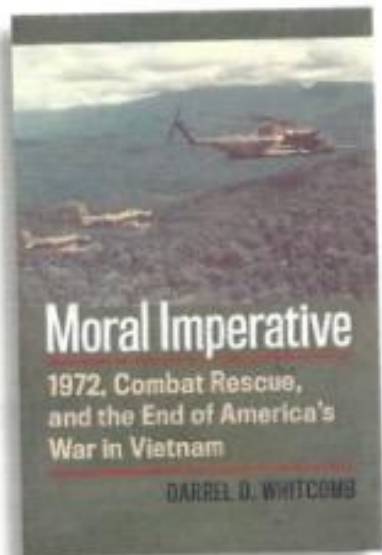
Darrel D. Whitcomb

In 1972, America was completing its withdrawal from the long and divisive war in Vietnam. Air power covered the departure of ground forces, and search and rescue teams from all services and Air America covered the airmen and soldiers still in the fight. Day and night these military and civilian aircrews stood alert to respond to "Mayday" calls. The rescue forces were the answer to every man's prayer, and those forces brought home airmen, sailors, marines, and soldiers downed or trapped across the breadth and depth of the entire Southeast Asia theater. *Moral Imperative* relies on a trove of declassified documents and unit histories to tell their tales.

Focusing on 1972, Darrel Whitcomb combines stories of soldiers cut off from

their units, advisors trapped with allied forces, and airmen downed deep in enemy territory, with the narratives of the US Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, contract pilots, and special operations teams ready to conduct rescues in Laos, Cambodia, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. All of these missions occur against the backdrop of our withdrawal from the war and our diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting peace. In detail, Whitcomb shows how American rescue forces supported the military response to the North Vietnamese's massive three-pronged invasion of South Vietnam, America's subsequent interdiction operations against North Vietnam, and ultimately the strategic bombing of Linebacker II.

Darrel D. Whitcomb graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 1969. He served three tours in Southeast Asia as a cargo pilot and forward air controller, logging combat missions over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a colonel in 1999 and is the author of *The Rescue of Bat 21* and three other books on military rescue and aviation.



"This book does an outstanding job in addressing the search and rescue efforts of the US Air Force and US Navy during the last year of the war. This book is strongly recommended."

**JAMES H. WILLBANKS**, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, US ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, VIETNAM VETERAN, AND AUTHOR OF *ABANDONING VIETNAM*

"Darrel Whitcomb deftly demonstrates the ends to which rescue crews were willing to go to save a downed airman or aviator. Whitcomb shows the almost daily struggle of the men who flew the Sandys, Jolly Greens, Big Mothers, and a host of others who were willing to put it all on the line to bring their comrades out of harm's way. An amazing tale of gallantry and sacrifice."

**BRIAN LASLIE**, AUTHOR OF *THE AIR FORCE WAY OF WAR: U.S. TACTICS AND TRAINING AFTER VIETNAM*

DECEMBER

368 pages, 21 photographs, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4  
Modern War Studies  
Paper ISBN 978-0-7006-3006-6, \$26.95 (t)  
Ebook ISBN 978-0-7006-3007-3, \$26.95

[www.kansaspress.ku.edu](http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu)

University Press of Kansas



1953 Clark Field PJ Jump from SA-16 "1018"  
32nd ARS (MATS)



**See you in Ft Walton Beach in 2021!**