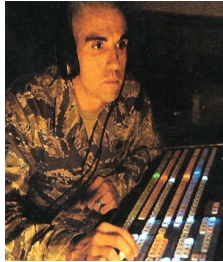


Two PA NCOs Chosen For 12 Outstanding Airmen

Technical Sergeant Adam L. Gomez and Master Sergeant Shawn J. Jones, along with ten others designated the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, were honored last month at the Air Force Association's Air & Space Conference, September 16-18. They are the first Public Affairs duo to be selected for the elite group in the same year.

Each year the program, initiated by the Air Force Association in 1956, recognizes 12 enlisted personnel for superior leadership, job performance,



TSgt Adam L. Gomez

community involvement, and personal achievements.

TSgt Gomez, of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency's 3rd Combat Camera Squadron, was selected for what he did in a 12 month deployment to Afghanistan. There he served as theater planner for the American Forces Network, managing equipment and systems maintenance for 620 forward operating bases. He led his team through five hostile-fire engagements and was awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal.



MSgt Shawn J. Jones



MSgt Jones is the first member of the Air Force Reserve to win the DoD Print Journalist of the Year Award. After nine years of active duty he transferred to his current assignment with the 514th Air Mobility Wing as a Public Affairs Specialist. He edits the wing's Freedom Flyer Magazine, which has been designated as Air Force Reserve Command's best news publication. He has helped the wing earn AFRC best retention rate honors by increasing morale-boosting coverage in the wing magazine.

A Unique Opportunity: Act Now To Sponsor And Share Dinner With A Wounded Warrior In San Antonio

Would you like to honor and help rehabilitate a wounded warrior? You can do just that at our 21st Annual Membership Meeting's banquet in San Antonio, Saturday, April 12.

"We have been working with San Antonio Military Medical Center's Warrior and Family Support Center. Part of the rehabilitation program includes assisting the wounded warriors in feeling comfortable in social settings," Annual Meeting chair Linda Arnold explained.

"Invitations to the wounded warriors will be extended and we should have up to twenty in groups of two who will join us for the banquet." A group will be either two warriors or a warrior and spouse/escort."

Because only a maximum of ten sponsorship will be available, sponsors need to let Linda know they wish to participate immediately. When the names of the wounded warriors are provided, they will be assigned to sponsors

in the order their desire to participate was received. Sponsorship of a wounded warrior duo will cost \$120.

Sponsors will have the opportunity to meet their duo prior to the Saturday evening reception and banquet. They will then escort them to the events. Each sponsor will have a designated table for eight with reserved seating for them and the warriors. At the discretion of the sponsors the remaining seats may be filled with whomever they wish or left open for anyone who wishes to join the group.

If you want to be a sponsor, contact Linda now at arnold777@satx.rr.com to ensure you will have the best chance to participate in this unique opportunity.

The registration form and full details of the rest of the 21st Annual Membership Meeting program, including two optional, Friday evening special events, will be on our web site shortly and in the next issue of News & Notes.

From TAC News Service To AP Vice President, Kansas Newspaper Hall Of Fame Inducts Stevens

AFPAAA member Paul Stevens was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame May 3. The induction recognized his 36-year Associated Press career, which included 19 years as chief of AP's Kansas-Missouri bureau.

Paul achieved one-of-a-kind status with the honor, becoming the only person in both the Kansas and Missouri Newspaper Halls of Fame; he entered the latter in 2006.

With his recently deceased father, Walter Stevens, editor emeritus of The Fort Dodge (Iowa) Messenger, and his mother, who was a proofreader at the Cedar County News in Hartington, Nebraska, when she met his father, Paul claims newspapers are in his blood. That was evident during his brief

Air Force career when he was a historian, newspaper editor at Little Rock, AFB, Arkansas, and in his last assignment at Tactical Air Command headquarters, where, as a staff sergeant, he was the editor of the TAC News Service.

"Little did I know that being TAC News Service editor in 1971-72 would help lead to a career in another news service, the AP, a career that began after leaving the Air Force and going to grad school at Kansas University for my master's," Paul observed.

During his years with the AP, he held many positions, including three bureau chief jobs. When Paul retired in 2009 he was one of the Associated Press' first four



Retired AP vice president Paul Stevens (center), retired Kansas State professor and longtime newspaperman Bill Brown (left), and publisher of the Manhattan Mercury Edward Seaton (right) were inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame in May. Photo by Kansas Press Association

regional vice presidents with responsibility for the 15 states in its Central Division.

Third Gift From Freitag Adds To Endowment Fund

For the third time in as many years AFPAAA member Alan Freitag has added \$500 to the endowment fund.



“We greatly appreciate Alan’s support of AFPAAA,” treasurer Jim Hart said. “Contributions to AFPAAA’s endowment fund are the key to our having funds in the future to provide services to our members.”

Alan, a full professor in the University of North Carolina’s Department of Communication Studies and a Fulbright Scholar, is also on the board of trustees of the Interactivity Foundation, which is dedicated to improving civic engagement in public policy discourse. For his service on the board he receives a stipend which he sends each year to several non-profit organizations he supports.

McCullough’s Soccer For A Cause PR Effort Scores PRSA Silver Anvil Award Of Excellence

Life Member Bob McCullough’s Soccer for a Cause campaign, a grass roots effort that led to the creation of the San Antonio Scorpions professional soccer team, received an Award of Excellence in the Public Relations Society of America 2013 Silver Anvil competition. Only the top 15 percent of 847 entries this year earned the award.

Philanthropist Gordon Hartman, head of The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, launched Soccer for a Cause in 2010 shortly after opening Morgan’s Wonderland.

Bob, Morgan Wonderland’s communications director, explained it is a non-profit and the world’s first ultra-accessible theme park designed with special-needs individuals in mind yet built for enjoyment by everyone.

The objective of the campaign is, through the Scorpions, to help the non-profit Morgan’s Wonderland

Lord Guard & Guide

Paradon Silpasornprasit

Major Paradon Silpasornprasit, chief of the scheduling division with responsibility for scheduling training for more than 4,000 cadets at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), died August 9th, in Colorado Springs. He was 44.

Known by many as ‘Sil’, he was born on March 17, 1969, in Bangkok, Thailand. After graduating from Clearfield High School, Clearfield, Utah, he enlisted in the Air Force. He was a dental assistant; assistant NCOIC, Preventive Dentistry; and NCOIC Dental Logistics at the USAFA.

Paradon earned a communicative arts degree from the University of Colorado and a masters degree in

International Relations from Troy University. He was commissioned through OTS in 2001 and became a Public Affairs Officer.



Sil’s assignments have included executive officer, Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, U.S. Air Force Academy; Deputy Commander, American Forces Network Korea, Yongson, Korea; and Chief, Public Affairs, Travis AFB, California.

A full military funeral was held August 15 at the U.S. Air Force Academy’s Cadet Chapel. He was buried with full military honors at the Air Force Academy.

Paradon’s survivors include his wife, Susan of Colorado Springs; sons Matthew of Sacramento State University and Andrew of Colorado Springs; his mother, Murylee Lowery of Thailand; his step-parents, Robert and Shirley Shaffer of Ridgecrest, Colorado, and his brother Robert M. Shaffer of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Donations “In memory of Major Sil” may be made to Silver Key Senior Services, 2250 Bott Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, or online at www.silverkey.org

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P. O. Box 447, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447. On-line subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, as an Air Force Broadcaster, or in the multimedia career fields, as either military or civilian, are eligible for *Full Membership*. Current or former members of those career fields, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for *Associate Membership*. **Membership Rates:** Lifetime \$300 (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments); Full Membership, one-year \$25 or three years \$50. Associate Membership, one-year \$10 or three years \$20. Membership applications are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Mike Cox; President, Phil Ratliff; Vice President, Clem Gaines; Secretary, Larry Clavette; Treasurer, Jim Hart; Dick Abel, Judy Bivens, Jay DeFrank, Tom Dolney, Art Forster, John Gura, John Terino, Johnny Whitaker. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting, Clem Gaines; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Jim Hart; Membership, Neil Buttimer; Oral History & Website, John Gura.

From The President's Pen —



My goodness! Where did the summer go? Seems as though it was only yesterday and we were meeting in Las Vegas.

It's been a busy summer and I'm happy to report we've found someone to become our AFPAAA Annual Membership Meeting chairperson. I am pleased to welcome Kathy Reardon to that position. To be ready to take over for 2015, Kathy will shadow our current chair, Linda Arnold, while she plans for the San Antonio meeting April 10-13.

Speaking of San Antonio – here's something to think about. Up to 10 of our members will have the opportunity and privilege to sponsor a wounded warrior and their spouse or guest at the Annual Membership Meeting banquet. It's a wonderful opportunity to honor these warriors while helping with their rehabilitation. This is a first-come, first served privilege – see the article on page one for how to get your name on the list ASAP .

Also, we're offering not one but two special optional activities for Friday night in San Antonio. Look for the details of those activities and the registration form soon on our web site and in the next issue of News & Notes.

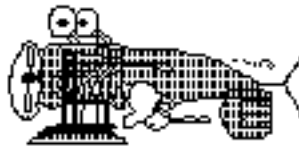
I've received some excellent suggestions for the committee I will ask our Board of Directors to establish at its next meeting to conduct an organizational and administrative review of AFPAAA. We aren't having any problems, but a review may show how we can operate even better. When the committee's work is done, it will recommend to the board appropriate action for changes to our by-laws, if that is warranted. If you have any thoughts on what the committee should consider, drop me a note at PhilRatliff@afpaaa.org or pmratliff@thevillages.net

It is with great sadness that I note the loss of two of our great airpower leaders. Colonel George "Bud" Day, former Vietnam P.O.W. and Medal of Honor recipient, passed away on July 27th. Just two weeks later, we lost former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Chief of Staff, and CINC USAFE David C. Jones.

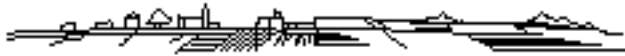
Again, welcome aboard to Kathy. I know she is busy helping Linda Arnold get San Antonio ready for us next spring.

Cheers!

– Phil Ratliff



Prop Wash & Jet Blast



Global Vision, Global Reach, Global Power For America . . . spells out how Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III sees the Air Force performing its mission in the future. The document and an accompanying video are available at www.af.mil/airpower4america In the video, General Welch notes that while the technology to execute the Air Force's five core missions today could not have been envisioned when the service was established in 1947, just as then, the Airmen performing those missions are the key to keeping the USAF the best in the world.

We Mourn . . . the passing of Sandra "Sandy" Cagle, 71, wife of Colonel Lylburn S. (Sam) Cagle, who died July 13th, after a long fight with multiple melanoma. Sam and Sandy were the "get it done" team supporting AFPAAA's 2005 Annual Membership

Meeting in Tacoma. They helped keep costs down by providing A-V, signage, printed materials, and table centerpieces in lieu of the hotel . . . former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and CSAF, General David C. Jones, who died August 10th at the age of 92 . . . former Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel George E. "Bud" Day, who died July 27th at the age of 88.

Centurion Addendum . . . our apologies to Lifetime Founder William C. "Bill" Hansen whose name was omitted from the list of Centurion donors to AFPAAA's Endowment Fund in the last issue of **News & Notes . . .** and an additional Centurion donor is Lifetime Founder Mark Foutch.



Sapphire And Golden . . . wedding anniversaries were reached this summer by Phil and Linda Ratliff and John and Barbara Terino. The Ratliffs marked 45 years together with a trip to Barcelona, Spain, and a Mediterranean cruise. The Terinos celebrated their 50th with a reception and dinner for members of their wedding party, family, and friends at Caesars Atlantic City.



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