

# Who Will Be The First Inductees To Public Affairs Hall Of Fame From Broadcaster, Bands, Info, Visual Fields? Nominate Now!

It's time for us to act! Nominations are needed for the Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame (HOF) being put in place at DINFOS, Fort Meade, Maryland.

Long discussed, now becoming a reality, it will honor the pioneers who shaped the four career fields – Bands, Broadcasting, Information/Public Affairs, Visual Information/Combat Camera – that are Air Force Public Affairs.

“AFPAAA is doing this in conjunction with SAF/PA and DINFOS,” said Art Forster who chairs the project for the Association.

“It will recognize the individuals who have made significant lasting contributions to the creation, growth and operation of all the specialties that make up the Air Force Public Affairs family.

The Hall of Fame will be part of the SAF/PA heritage wall at DINFOS.

In addition, a Hall of Fame web page will be created for the AFPAAA web site. The page will include the photo of each HOF member and a summary of their career accomplishments.

Former military and civil service members who have served in any Air Force Public Affairs specialties are eligible for the HOF. A nominee must have distinguished themselves by significant and lasting contributions to the profession, history, and traditions of Air Force Public Affairs in at least one of the four career fields.

Any member of AFPAAA, the Combat Camera Association, Air Force Musicians Association or the Air Force Broadcaster Alumni groups can nominate a person, living or deceased, who meets the eligibility criteria.

To submit a nomination for the Hall

of Fame, go to [afpaaa.org/halloffame.html](http://afpaaa.org/halloffame.html) and complete the form and email it to [hof@afpaaa.org](mailto:hof@afpaaa.org) not later than December 1.

Representatives from AFPAAA, Air Force Broadcasters, Air Force Musicians Association and Combat Camera will review the nominations and recommend inductees to the AFPAAA Board of Directors. The list of proposed inductees will be shared with the SAF/PA Director for his input, prior to a final decision by AFPAAA's Board of Directors.

The inaugural HOF group will be recognized at AFPAAA's October 2021 Annual Membership meeting. For additional information or if you have any questions, contact Art Forster, HOF Committee chair, at [aforster67@gmail.com](mailto:aforster67@gmail.com) or (256) 690-9902.

## Board Names Julie Briggs To Seat Of Resigned Tom Dolney

Julie Briggs, a Life Member of AFPAAA, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to fulfill the second year of Tom Dolney's term. Tom resigned July 1 at the end of his tenure as board chairman.

Julie retired from 26 years of active duty in Public Affairs in 2012 as a senior master sergeant. Her assignments included wing and MAJCOM positions in Arizona, Colorado, Guam, South Carolina, Texas, Japan, Iraq, Turkey,

and the UK, and at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

She was the training department NCO in charge at DINFOS when she left active duty to join the DINFOS faculty and teach the Public Affairs Qualification Course.

Julie is now a GS-14 and chief of policy, information, and records for the Defense Media Activity.

In explaining his decision to step down Dolney said, “I had served seven

years, it was the time to step aside to make room for a younger, new board member. As the newest

ex officio member of the board, I hope to continue to contribute to the Association.”



## New Date For 27th Annual Membership Meeting, Mark Your Calendars For October 2021

“It's October 7-9, 2021 instead of next April for our 27th Annual Membership

Meeting,” AFPAAA President Perry Nouis said after the Association's board meeting September 9.

“We've been working very closely with Wright-Patterson and the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Right now, because of the current, constantly changing conditions and restrictions created by the Covid-19 virus, trying to put together a schedule for the Spring just wasn't working. It had too much potential for frequent changes which was not what we wanted.”

All agreed that by next year things would be more settled and a program for six months later in October could be developed that would be fun, safe, and interesting and less likely to be subject to change.

“Our Holiday Inn hotel was able to give us rooms for the October dates too, so all fell into place,” Perry said. “We'll get the word out as soon as we can.”

Check [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org) and future News and Notes for details and registration and hotel information.



# Tell Us Who Is Qualified For McRaney Service Award

Who will get AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award, the top award presented to a member for their contributions to the Association, at our next Annual Membership Meeting in October 2021.

If you have a worthy member in mind to be honored, it's not too early to let us know.

The McRaney Award recognizes service far beyond the norm to the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association. It is presented at the Annual Membership Meeting but does not have to be given every year.

A unanimous vote by the Board of Directors for a nominee is required for it to be presented. AFPAAA members can make a nomination at any time.

For a nominee to receive the award, serving on the Board of Directors, chairing a committee, or holding an office – such

as president or chairman of the board of directors – is not required, but such achievements do not exclude a member from consideration.

To be a nominee rank, accomplishments, and positions while on active duty or working for a federal, state, local government, non-profit entity, religious group, or private corporation, will not be considered in determining an award recipient.

Monetary contributions to AFPAAA will not be the sole or a major reason for making the award. Service to the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association is the prime criterion.

A list of past recipients is in our membership directory and on AFPAAA's website at [www.afpaaa.org/awards.html](http://www.afpaaa.org/awards.html)

For presentation at the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting submit your nominations to AFPAAA's secretary [GregSmith@afpaaa.org](mailto:GregSmith@afpaaa.org) by June 1.

## Perry On Minnesota Election Day Ballot

AFPAAA president Perry Nouis will be one of the literally thousands of names



on the November 3rd ballots for municipal, state, and national offices.

Perry tossed his hat in the ring on May 21st to be the Republican candidate for the House District 44A seat to represent his home area of Plymouth in Minnesota's legislature.

He has been involved in politics since retiring from the Air Force in 2004. Perry has been a congressional staff member, county party chairman, and served on Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District and the State's Central Committees. He was also a delegate/alternate in 2008 when the Republican National Convention was held in St. Paul.



## On-Line Shopping At Exchanges Offers Convenience & Savings During Covid-19

One of the major changes Covid-19 has brought to our lives is the increased use of the internet to get almost everything we need and want such as food, clothing, medical treatment, meals, and much more.

In addition to the old standbys of Amazon.com and Walmart.com, we've turned to Safeway.com, Kroger.com, and other grocers and merchants for our food, clothing, furnishing and other needs.

For many of us it's been very convenient to choose from the options to pick-up in store, have purchases brought to us curbside, or get delivery

to our homes, as we deal with the various virus imposed quarantines and restrictions in the areas where we live.

But how many of us have thought of or used the four online military exchanges that we have available?

Most of us know the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and the Navy Exchange; not as well know are the Coast Guard and Marine Exchanges.

Each online exchange is a separate entity with its own website, pricing, sales, and operating rules – Army & Air Force: [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) Navy: [mynavyexchange.com](http://mynavyexchange.com) Coast Guard:

[shopcgx.com](http://shopcgx.com) Marine Corps: [mymcx.com](http://mymcx.com) Besides avoiding taxes on purchases, many items have free shipping.

There is a benefit to having an account with each online exchanges.

When looking for a specific item, be it shoes, big screen TVs, pillows, etc., it pays to comparison shop the exchange websites. Prices can vary from site-to-site on the same item. If free shipping is provided, comparing prices and fees to find the best combination you can take advantage of can produce even more savings.

**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 2446, East Peoria, IL 61611-2446. On-line subscriptions are available at [www.AFPAAA.org](http://www.AFPAAA.org) **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Multimedia, and Public Affairs 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](http://www.AFPAAA.org) **Officers and Board of Directors Members:** Chairman, Jay DeFrank; President, Perry Nouis; Vice President, Brett Ashworth; Secretary, Greg Smith, Treasurer, Phil Ratliff, Julie Briggs, John Dorrian, John Gura, Doug Kennett, Chuck Merlo, David Phillips, Jerry Renne, Carla Sylvester, and John Terino. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Membership Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff; Membership, Christine Queen; Oral History, John Gura; Website, Jim McGuire; SAF/PA Liaison, Clem Gaines.

# From The President's Pen



*Yes, our 27th Annual Membership Meeting will be at Wright-Patterson AFB, but for good reasons we've moved it from April to October 7-9, 2021.*

*Too many things are still in a state of flux across our nation as it copes with returning to some sense of normalcy with the Covid-19 virus. The same applies to Wright-Patt, the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and the Dayton-Fairborn area.*

*Working with Air Force Material Command Public Affairs and the museum we all agreed putting together a viable program at this time for April didn't make sense and would not be fair to you, our members – there was too much chance things could change again and again.*

*With imminent advances in medicine and vaccines, we agreed it was sensible to move the Annual Meeting six months later into 2021. By then we expect to put in place a program less likely to change that will ensure our gathering is safe, interesting and fun for all.*

*It's been twelve years since we last visited Wright-Patt and the museum and there have been many changes to both. While we are enjoying the company of old friends we'll be getting updated on some of the Air Force's newest programs and technologies. And, we'll have the opportunity to see the Air Force Museum's newest building and exhibits which were opened earlier this year.*

*Our awards banquet, that concludes the meeting, in addition to honoring the tops in Air Force Public Affairs with the Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr., Best of the Best Award and presenting AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award, will have a special feature this time around.*

*The first inductees from Public Affairs, Bands, Broadcasting, and Visual Information/ Combat Camera into the newly established Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame will be announced (see story p. 1 for details and to make nominations).*

*To ensure our gathering is a success, we are keeping up with what Wright-Patt, the museum, and our hotel require for a safe visit and will make that information available on our website, [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org) and in News and Notes.*

*And, as this column ends, we welcome Julie Briggs to AFPAAA's Board of Directors. She succeeds Tom Dolney who we all thank for serving with distinction for seven years.*

**– Perry**

# Lord Guard & Guide

## Eldean “Dean” Borg

Dean Borg, who had served on active duty and in the Air Force Reserve in Information/Public Affairs and had a distinguished five decades-plus broadcasting career died at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, March 22, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 81.

He was born in Forest City, Iowa, and was an outstanding half-miler at Iowa State University where he



earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and an AFROTC commission in 1959. He also earned a master's degree in public administration from Iowa University. While a student Dean covered home basketball games for the Des Moines Register and United Press International.

After graduation his four years of active duty encompassed the Cuban Missile Crisis at Homestead AFB, Florida.

Beginning in the 1970s he served in a variety of Reserve assignments that included SAF/PA, AFNEWS, and the Chicago Regional Office. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1996.

Two of his four sons, Lindsey and Matthew, were Air Force Public Affairs officers, a third, Randy, was as an Air Force hospital administrator, and two grandsons are active duty Air Force Officers.

Dean's broadcasting career began at WMT in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he eventually directed a staff of 34 broadcast journalists. He became host of Iowa Public Television's weekly 'Iowa Press' show shortly after its creation in 1971, a post he held until 2017.

He covered stories across the state and the world, reporting on Iowans in the Vietnam war, the Paris Peace Talks, and interviewing every president from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama.

In 1973 Dean added another career to his broadcasting work, becoming the full-time director of public information for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics until 2010. In retirement he continued to host Iowa Press and became a senior correspondent for Iowa Public Radio and station WSUI.

He gave freely of his time to community service, charity, and educational causes and received many awards for his efforts, including Iowa State's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dean is survived by his wife, Sheila; sons Randy, Bart, Lindsey and Matthew; daughter Kierstyn; ten grandchildren, and his siblings Betty, Sharon, Lyle, and Julie. He was interred at Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Donations in Dean's name may be made to the Mount Vernon Community Schools Foundation for an annual scholarship for a high school graduate at: <https://ia-mountvernon->

[lite.intouchrecepting.com](http://www.iowapbs.org/friends) or to the Iowa PBS Foundation for an annual internship for a college student pursuing a journalism degree at: <http://www.iowapbs.org/friends>

*Another of the good ones passes! Dean was always willing to help narrating numerous radio shows and the USAF series for the TODAY show. He was a consummate professional. Also a terrific guy!*

– Rick Fuller

## Allen Lee Eakle

Al Eakle, an AFPAAA Life Member who had an active duty, Air Force Reserve, and Federal civil service career of more than 36 years, died June 23 of heart disease. He was 66.

He was born at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. Upon graduation in 1972 from Eldorado High School, Placentia, California, he enlisted in the Air Force.

Al's active duty career included assignments at Takhli and Nakhon Phanom RTAFBs, Thailand; 86th TFW, Ramstein AB, Germany; 341st SMW, Malmstrom AFB, Montana; 52nd TFW, Spangdahlem AB and HQ USAF/PA, Ramstein AB, Germany; 10th TRW, RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom, and the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs.

In addition to the Vietnam conflict, he was deployed to the Middle-East during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

He earned the appellation “Air Show Al” when he was the Airshow Coordinator for the Thunderbirds where he planned 195 demonstrations in the U.S. and overseas from 1989-93. He retired from active duty as a master sergeant in 1993.

Al was an active member of the Thunderbird's Alumni Association serving on its board and in a number of other positions for more than eight years. He was the communications chairman with responsibility for managing and updating the website, the ThunderRolls printed newsletter, and an electronic newsletter.

In retirement Al held a number of civilian and Federal government positions. He was an actor in a number of movies and television shows in the early 1990s. He was a tour guide and then Customer Service Manager at Hoover Dam Visitor



Center, Nevada; Public Affairs Specialist, USAF Reserve, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Public Affairs Officer, Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center, Ohio; Public Affairs Officer, Indiana District, U.S. Postal Service; and Deputy Director of Public Affairs for 1st Air Force, Tyndall AFB, Florida, when he retired from civil service in August 2010.

Al is survived by his sister, Sandy, and brother, John. He will be interred with military honors on October 24 at Oak Hill Cemetery, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

*I met Al long ago, early in both our careers. He was always such a nice guy, and a truly professional public affairs practitioner. The highlight of his career, to him, was his tour with the Thunderbirds, but he relished his overseas assignments, as well. Al was a hard-working, enthusiastic, and interesting man whose life touched so many others in a positive way. I valued his friendship. He will be missed.*

– Valarie (Elbow) Johnston

Al was a great guy. May his memory be eternal.

– Pat Miner

Long before he was Airshow Al, he was editor of the NKP News and a very young-looking, freckle faced Airman First Class. Reminded us of Howdy Doody but he sure was a very good editor. So sorry about his sudden passing. He was always forward-looking and professional.

– Tom Shumaker

I first met Al at Ramstein AB when I was the USAFE Director of Public Affairs in the early 1980s. What a talented and likeable guy. Our paths crossed again in Las Vegas in 1997 at the AFPAAA meeting when Al was working as a tour guide Hoover Dam. I last saw him at the annual membership meeting in Destin-Fort Walton Beach in 2017. Al was one of a kind and will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, my friend.

– Dave Shea

Oh no. Al and I always had great conversations. This is a tough loss.

– Jason Tudor

The news hit me hard when I learned Al had passed away. We had been friends since the mid '80s when we were at the Air Force Academy. I last saw him in July 2016.. After Hurricane Michael he had made a new home for himself in Niceville, Florida. I loved seeing all the projects he was having done on his home, and it saddens me that he won't be around to enjoy it. RIP, "Air Show Al." You were a good-hearted soul.

– Annette Fogt Crawford

## Perry Duane Jenifer

Perry Jenifer, who had a long Civil Service career in Public Affairs, passed away August 27 in Sevierville, Tennessee, from heart disease. He was 78.

He began his journalism career as a sports writer then sports editor for The Hawkeye, his hometown of Burlington, Iowa, newspaper.

He was a freelance writer and after entering Civil Service became the editor of the Keesler AFB, Louisiana, newspaper.

During his 23-year editorship, which ended when he retired in 2008, Perry's supervision and training of several generations of Air Force journalists, as well as his own skills, were repeatedly recognized.

In addition to the Keesler News receiving a Thomas Jefferson Award, members of the staff won 134 Air Education and Training Command media contest awards. And, in 2007, for the fifth time in seven years, Perry was named AETC's Print Journalist of the Year.

He is survived by his wife Lisa; daughters Kari, Kelly, and Katie, son Michael, and stepson Dustin.

Perry was my mentor, my friend, and my "work husband" from 1996 until he retired in 2008. He inspired me deeply. He was a great teacher to the dozens of Airmen who came through Keesler's PA shop. I learned more in the first six months I worked for Perry than I did in college and graduate school combined.

– Susan Griggs



## William McKinley Taylor

AFPAAA member Bill Taylor, who had a distinguished 27-year career in Air Force Public Affairs, passed away September 14, 2019. He was 88.

He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and grew up in Muncie, Indiana. Bill earned a journalism degree from the Indiana University in 1952 and entered the Air Force the following year.

During the Vietnam conflict he had assignments in Saigon, RVN, and Bangkok, Thailand. He then became the Air Force rep on DoD's Southeast Asia press desk in the Pentagon.

His next assignment was senior Public Affairs representative for United States Forces Japan and he was dual hatted as the chief of information for Fifth Air Force. Bill returned to Washington and was appointed Director of Defense Information in OASD/PA. He retired from that post as a colonel.

In 1980 he became a public affairs adviser to the American Petroleum Institute. Bill's expertise was invaluable when he went to Alaska in 1989 to provide on-site assistance to Exxon after the Valdez oil spill. Subsequently that led to his organizing and managing the oil industry's crisis management and communications seminar for eight years.

Bill founded Action Image, a public relations and sports photography enterprise in 1996. He has also served as a public affairs emergency response reservist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and was an advisor to the Newseum and Leisure World of Maryland.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughters Leslie and Sheila; three grandsons, and one great-grandson.

Contributions in Bill's memory may be made to Cancer Care, The University of Kansas Health System, Fund Development, 2330 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Suite 305, Westwood, KS 66205, or via the internet at: [www.kansashealthsystem.com/](http://www.kansashealthsystem.com/)

Bill and I first met in 1973 when he was the Director of Public Affairs for Fifth Air Force in Japan, and I was at Osan, Korea. He was a seasoned PA veteran by that time who taught me a lot. I shall always be indebted to him. Our career field lost a legend with his passing.

– Dave Shea

Sorry to hear of Colonel Taylor's passing. A truly great leader and public affairs officer. His ability to handle any crisis and maintain an even keel under any pressure was inspiring. One of the unsung hero's of Air Force Public Affairs.

– Rick Fuller

Bill Taylor's passing is deeply sad for the military and civilian public affairs people who had the pleasure to work with or near him. An incomparable professional and "Class-Act" in the truest sense, Bill had a keen intelligence and a highly respected composed, con-



*fidest "Cool," "calm" and "collected" temperament. I was on the AF press desk and he was OASD-PA's DDI and displayed all those traits during major public affairs challenges. He had a serious and studied in demeanor but he enjoyed good humor and his smile and laugh were unique and unforgettable. In retirement, Bridget and I saw Bill often at the commissary and exchange where he'd tell us about his latest ventures, golf score and children. It was always fulfilling for us to see a valued friend and mentor, an AF public affairs treasure, and such a fine human being. Consolation and peace to the Taylor family.*

*– Art Dederick*

## Leo Michael Terrill

Mike Terrill, a Lifetime Founder of AFPAAA with a 24-year active duty career in the Army and the Air Force, died July 6th at the Chandler Arizona Regional Medical Center of Covid-19. He was 83.

He was born in Hubbard, Oregon, and grew up in the Globe-Miami area of Arizona where his father was a miner for the Miami Inspiration Copper Company. He was an outstanding baseball player at Miami High School and was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles but when Mike graduated in 1955 he opted to enlist in the Army.

After basic training he went to Korea as a chaplain's assistant and clerk typist. In 1957 he received a hardship discharge to care for his siblings when his father was hospitalized with tuberculosis.

Mike worked in the same mine when he returned until he began his college education in 1958, first earning an associate degree from Palo Verde Community College, Blythe, California, and completing his bachelor degree in English from Northern Arizona University in 1960.

He returned home and taught English at his high school until he began his 22-year Air Force career in 1963 when he was commissioned through Officer Training School.

Initially he was assigned to logistics, including a tour at Da Nang, Vietnam, in 1967-68. He transitioned to Public Affairs when he was sent to Boston University, earning a master's degree in public relations in 1970.

Mike was the highly visible spokesman in 1979 when the deposed Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was treated at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas. He had a similar, prominent role as the Air Force's Pentagon spokesman for the B-1 bomber and M-X/Peacekeeper ICBM from 1980-1984. His last assignment was as head of the Los Angeles Office of Public Affairs. He retired as a colonel in 1985.

In retirement he continued as a public relations and communications expert for businesses, advocacy groups, and government agencies. He worked for the Harris Group, Reston, Virginia; Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico; the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, Alexandria, Virginia, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Long Beach, California.

From 2009-2016, until he retired to Mesa, Arizona, Mike was deputy director of Public Affairs for the Missile Defense Agency, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Throughout his life Mike was active in community, church and charity causes including the Youth Impact Program, Kidz at Heart International, and the Miami Sports Hall of Fame.

Mike is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carolyn; sons Michael, Mark, and Marshall and daughter Mischael; seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. A celebration of Mike's life is planned for his birthday on February 15, 2021 with interment that day at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.

Donations in Mike's memory may be made to the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association and sent to: Phil Ratliff, Treasurer, 868 Trevino Terrace, Lady Lake FL 32159



*Mike Terrill was one of our All-Star teammates when I was SAF/PA. He was humble, compassionate, wise, hardworking, and professional in every way. A team player. I love working shoulder to shoulder with this great American and Air Force officer. See you in heaven brother.*

*– Dick Abel*

*Truly sad news. I never had a chance to work with Mike, but I got to know him through our Annual Meetings. Just a super nice guy.*

*– Perry Nouis*

*My friendship with Mike dates to the 1970s in San Antonio when we had a great team of PAOs at Randolph, Lackland, Kelly and Brooks. His death has shaken the many friends and colleagues who have known him since then. We crossed paths many times since our San Antonio days, and I will remember him not only for his professionalism, but also his sense of humor and love of family. Dawn and I pray for strength for his family. We will miss Mike.*

*– Sam Giammo*

The many inspiring comments on Mike Terrill's passing remind us of the very best things about him as a PA practitioner and friend. I always appreciated the pleasure and instruction of Mike's company as he went about his work with limitless energy, enthusiasm, positivity and personal integrity – all delivered with his big trademark smile and friendly greeting. A PA professional we'll remember for a long time. Our con-

dolences and wish for peace to his family.

– **Art Dederick**

*So sad. He was one of the greats.*

– **Jay DeFrank**

For decades Mike was a dear friend, colleague, business partner, racquetball instructor and the example of a superb leader and teammate. I counted on Mike many, many times in difficult situations and he came through every time - without fail. I will miss his warm friendship and our hearts go out to Carolyn and his extended family. God Speed old friend.

– **Mike McRaney**

*So sorry to hear about Mike's death. He was a super professional.*

– **Jim Hart**

Mike was one of our Public Affairs pioneers – a true visionary, sage counselor and mentor to many. His energy, drive and commitment to excellence set an example for both his seniors and subordinates. I was privileged to understudy Mike when I reported to the Pentagon in 1978. He was the principal media advocate for the B-1B bomber and the M-X (Peacekeeper) ICBM. He always displayed a “can-do” attitude and was a master at working with the media with the unique ability to translate the highly technical into language everyone could understand. Learning and applying his communication skills propelled my career. In retirement we were together again at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama -- he as Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs officer and I as Army Contracting Command's Director of Public and Congressional Affairs. Janet and I enjoyed reconnecting with Mike and Carolyn and much treasure our time together in Huntsville. Mike touched many lives and will never be forgotten. Rest easy good friend.

– **Art Forster**

*Indeed, Mike was one of my heroes as well! May he rest in peace.*

– **Doug Kennett**

AFPAAA has lost a great one! I worked with Mike and Rick Lehner on the Peacekeeper missile while assigned to the Pentagon, and later as he guided our Public Affairs efforts in the Los Angeles Public Affairs Office. He never had a bad day and made sure your day was the best. His sage counsel was the best. I looked forward to seeing him every year at our annual meetings. Rest in peace Mike — we will all miss you.

– **Phil Ratliff**

*Mike Terrill was unequalled in public affairs savvy and talent. We go back a long way – from the mid-70s when Mike was at the Pentagon, and I was at the Aeronautical Systems Division. We worked closely acquisition programs. I was Director of Public Affairs at Air Training Command at Randolph AFB in 1979 and Mike ran the Lackland AFB PA shop. The Shah of Iran was flown to Wilford Hall Hospital, and the press descended on Lackland. State Department guidance, relayed to us by Mike Burch, told us to kick the media off the base. Mike handled that unenviable task with true professionalism, as his appearance that evening on NBC national news demonstrated.*

– **Dave Shea**

I was saddened to learn of Mike's death. I worked with him at SAFPA, SDIO, and for him at the Harris Group in Reston.

– **Dave Rigby**

*Mike and I worked together four times during our lengthy friendship. In 1979, as I completed OTS, Lt. Col. Terrill at Lackland's PA office wanted to see me. It felt like an interview. A couple of days later I was assigned to Mikes' office. I was a bit disappointed was no flying mission, but it set the stage for my working life. all because of Mike Terrill. In the 1981 he requested that I be his assistant on his Pentagon team when he headed PA for the contentious, politically pressurized M-X missile program. Working for him in the M-X office was a doctoral program in practical public affairs, and all the years I spent working for him are still the best jobs and experiences I have ever had, both personally and professionally. At M-X I was around the cream of the PA crop—Neil Buttimer, Scott Duncan, Mike McRaney, Pat Mullaney, Ron Rand, Johnnie Whitaker, Art Forster, Dave Shea, and so many others. The strategic missile guys loved Mike's work ethic and outgoing personality. as Almost all of them had never been around Air Force Public Affairs people and had the chance to see how hard we worked and what they could successfully accomplish to support a mission. Mike's last assignment, chief of the LA office, was his “dream job”. He loved the entertainment industry and providing assistance to movies and TV shows that involved the Air Force. Neither of us was on active duty when we worked for a strategic missile consulting group from 1987-1991. I was the PA officer for the Missile Defense Agency in 2009, and although I doubted if he would move from Arizona, I offered Mike a job in our Huntsville, Alabama, office; he jumped at the chance. Mike became my deputy. He had the entire MDA office in Huntsville wrapped around his finger in no time and it seemed like Mike knew every one of the 5,000 people there, from the three-star MDA director to the lady at the Starbucks. Even though Mike was in his 70s, he loved his work so much that although he spoke of finally retiring and returning to Arizona, he brushed off any mention I made of it. I learned later that he told Carolyn that he felt he had an obligation to stay and help me at MDA until I retired, and that's what he did. In February 2016 we both retired on the same day – Jodi and I moved to France, Mike to Arizona. We spoke on phone a couple times a month and exchanged emails on a regular basis. The Friday before he passed away, I received an anniversary card from Mike and Carolyn with about a dozen photos he took at my wedding in 1989 – that was Mike in a nutshell, always thinking about others. It's very hard to realize my phone won't ring anymore with his caller ID, thankfully I have his voicemails and it is great to still hear his voice!*

– **Rick Lehner**

Mike was a world expert and master of communicating on challenging and controversial weapon systems that advanced the cause of missile defense to keep America and the western world safe. He was beloved by all that met him and knew him. He was gentle, he was kind, he had a sparkle of optimism in his eye that was never dimmed and a heart that never ceased loving, caring and bringing joy. He had a presence that was a light of joy that shined on everyone he was around. God bless Mike for his 83 years of sunshine. Rest in Peace.

– **Riki Ellison**



## James E. Skarsten

Jim Skarsten, an AFPAAA Life Member who lived in Lancaster, California, passed away April 4. He was 84.

He was born in Minnesota in 1936 and enlisted in the Air Force in 1956. Jim had a 23-year career in Information/Public Affairs. His assignments included Sembach AB, Germany, and Air Force Communications Command. He retired as a master sergeant and worked for Boeing.



Jim was proud of his Norwegian heritage. In retirement he edited and published the eclectic, 20-30 page, Skarsten Times newsletter online for the many family members throughout the United States. It was replete with humor and commentary and the main source of information for the Skarsten family reunions that occurred every 3-4 years.

## Dennis Russell Weddle

AFPAAA member Denny Weddle, who had a 23-year Air Force career, died of cancer August 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was 78.

He was born in Coon Rapids, Iowa, and graduated from Drake University with a BA degree in drama and radio-TV and the University of Southern Mississippi with a MA degree in college counseling/psychology.

During his Air Force Career his assignments included Vietnam and as part of Operation Homecoming, the return of the POWs from North Vietnam. But it was his 1969-1971 tour at Nellis AFB, Nevada, as the Information Officer for the Thunderbirds that most remember him for.

Denny retired in 1985 as a lieutenant colonel to Las Vegas, Nevada, which he fell in love with when he was at Nellis, and became the Director of Corporate Public Affairs at Summa Corporation.

Three years later he became an independent business man. He founded Weddle/Caldwell Advertising, which evolved into Denny Weddle & Associates, and then became the full-service marketing, public relations and government lobbying agency D3 Marketing & Advertising he headed.

Denny became a prominent member of the Las Vegas community giving his time and talents to multiple local and national service and charitable causes.

He served as a chairman of the board of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. Over the years he was president or chaired more than 30 non-profits, including the Nathan Adelson Hospice, Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Nevada Opera, College



of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America, Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame, St. Jude's Ranch, and the Nellis AFB Civilian-Military Council.

He was a Thunderbirds Alumni Association president and emceed most of its reunion banquets for four decades. And, he was a member of and supported numerous veterans groups including the Vietnam Veterans Association, VFW, American Legion, and the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association.

Denny is survived by his sons, Denny Weddle II and Dana, and five grandchildren. He was interred at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City.

*What a warm and generous man Denny was. I will never forget his willingness to help those who needed his unique brand of professionalism. He lived and loved the Air Force and especially the Thunderbirds and was "the" point man for AF public affairs in Las Vegas. Whatever the need, Denny got it done with enthusiasm, professionalism and great humor. I was honored with his friendship.*

– Mike McRaney

Did not know him personally but the name resonates forever with our age group. RIP.

– Doug Kennett

*Denny was a great friend, airman, officer and servant leader. Now I know he is in heaven. I will miss this patriot.*

– Dick Abel

Denny was my classmate at the three-month-long Information Short Course (as it was known then) at the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus. He was



extremely intelligent, quick-minded, and always ready with a quip that kept us laughing. His personality was a perfect fit for his Air Force career choice. He was also a heck of a nice guy. I consider myself lucky to have known him.

– Valerie (Elbow) Johnston

*Denny Weddle and I met during Operation Homecoming in 1973 when on TDY we were assigned to the Hospital Joint Information Bureau at Clark AB. What a fun guy! More important, he was a true professional. Rest in peace, my friend.*

– Dave Shea

Denny was a real mover and shaker in LV and Nevada. The list of charities and organizations he helped is amazing. Always fun to be with. When I was setting up our 2014 Las Vegas meeting I wanted something special for the banquet. I asked Denny if he could give me suggestions ... those who were there will remember the incredible showgirls and "Elvis" impersonator ... all thanks to Denny. A true character who will be missed by many!

– John Gura



# Eight Decades Of Experiences Now Available On-line In 36 Oral Histories

They're only a finger-touch away. The stories of the experts and the legends from the entire spectrum of Air Force Public Affairs are right on your computer in their own words.

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AFPAAA's 36 oral histories that are now available span eight decades of experiences that can be read and learned from on-line at our website.

Just go to [afpaaa.org](http://afpaaa.org) and Hit "About US", then tap the "Learn From Legends" sub head and you can join Colonel Barney Oldfield in World War II with the Ninth Army shepherding the Allies' press corps into Berlin, helping Eisenhower establish post-war

SHAPE, and the tracking of Santa at Christmas by NORAD each year.

Peruse the story of twice decorated for heroism, machine gunner Arnald Gabriel, who went on to become a music icon as the Commander/Conductor of the Air Force Band for more than two decades.

"Two top EMs who had unique careers, Chief Master Sergeants Reed Switzer and Chuck Lucas, are available," said Oral History Chairman John Gura.

"Reed was a real pioneer, the first in PA to be promoted to E-9, the first Palace Info EM assignments guy, and he worked with legendary war correspondent Earlie Pyle in Europe".

Chuck Lucas had at least three careers. "He was in Air Force Public Affairs for 20 years and did another 20 with the Veterans Ad-

ministration," John continued.

"In the 1950s he had an entirely different career, working outside of government as the general manager for the Eastern League baseball team in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania."

More recent prominent figures available in the completed histories for on-line reading include generals Dick Abel, who played a key role in the return of the POWs from Vietnam; Jerry Dalton, the first in the PA career to become director, and Ed Robertson.

There are more on the way too. "We've contacted others and expect to interview and add them to our inventory within a couple of months," John observed.

"Interviews take time, we'd like to do a lot more," Gura stated. "Anyone who wants to help should contact me at [johngura@afpaaa.org](mailto:johngura@afpaaa.org)".

## AIM HIGH

## New App Guides Recruits Through Training, Career Choice Selection Process



**AIM HIGH** – It's modern, it's attractive, it's very informative, it's Air Force Recruiting Service's new, high tech, interactive mobile phone app.

**AIM HIGH** can be downloaded from either the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android phones, or take a look at it in a desktop version available at [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com).

It puts potential recruits and those already in the training pipeline, as well as anyone else who uses it, in touch with what will and could happen as they go through basic and skill training.

The **AIM HIGH** app pulls together a lot of previously scattered information. That makes it easier for prospective recruits to learn more about careers and life in the USAF and the Space Force, helps them connect with recruiters, and prepares them for Basic Military Training or Officer Training School.

It has many capabilities, including allowing recruiters to stay in touch via messaging with and answering questions from individuals, whether they are interested in the active force, the Air National Guard, or the Air Force Reserve.

Anyone using **AIM HIGH**, such as family and friends, can see what basic military training is about. And those

considering enlisting can get information on career paths they could choose or are potentially suited for.

Users can explore different AFSCs in specific focus areas and learn about specific qualifications, what the requisite training for each career field looks like, and what kinds of tasks they might have in each career field or specialty.

Three goals of **AIM HIGH** are:

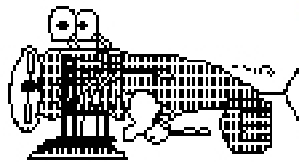
- To incorporate the experience of trainees currently completing BMT and the questions and comments received from potential recruits into the app to make **AIM HIGH** better, more responsive to recruits, and a more effective tool to bring the most qualified people into the total force.
- Helps the service learn more about current and potential future Airmen and how to match them with the right Air Force Specialty Codes to ensure their happiness in uniform.
- Make "every Airman a recruiter" through **AIM HIGH** so they connect interested friends to the Air Force and a recruiter.

The communication side of **AIM HIGH** is not an open forum to just anyone, it is controlled by the recruiter dealing with the individual recruit.

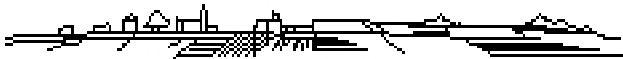


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**Welcome Aboard To . . .** *new members Sabra Brown, Janice Conner, Larry Hill, and Passion Julinsey.*

**New Lifer . . .** *congratulations to Laura Beckley.*

**Our Apology To . . .** *new Life Member Daria Torres, we misspelled her name in April's issue.*

**IMPORTANT! ID Card Renewal Extended, If You Need To Renew, Do It Now . . .** *Have you checked your own, your spouse's or your dependent's ID card lately? Take a look, the card*

*may have expired or will expire this year. DoD normally issues 18,000 to 20,000 identification cards a day at more than 1,600 sites around the world, but these are not normal times. Not to worry. In response to the Covid-19 virus DoD wants to reduce crowding at ID card issuing sites during the pandemic and has extended the ID card rules. Military dependents and retirees can continue using their cards that have or will expire this year through the end of March 2021 for base access and through June 2021 for medical care – but that doesn't mean you should put off getting a new card: **Renew as soon as possible.** And you may not be able to do it tomorrow or even in a week or two – you need to call the card issuing office at the base you want to use to find out a number of things:*

- Are renewals by appointment only and what are the days and hours for them? Don't be surprised if you have to schedule well in advance.*
- If it is open to walk-in card renewals, what are the days and hours it is open for them?*