



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

23 October 2020 Newsletter, #2

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

You may view all back issues and more at this website.

The newsletter will be posted on this website twice monthly.

We have never had the personnel or the resources to send the newsletter to you at your email address. The dues for membership has never changed in our 26 year history. It remains \$5 per year - \$12 for 3 years - \$24 for 6 years.

For new or renewing membership, please contact our Membership Chair Linda Skillman, Linda.Skillman@outlook.com or (843) 553-5045, 7033 North Kenwood Drive, Charleston, SC 29406.

Future Activities of the 315th Alumni Association

Covid-19 has really put a damper on our events this year. We are sorry to say the Veteran's Day parade in downtown Charleston for the holiday will probably cancel. Plans for the annual Octoberfest at the home of Lt Col (ret) Barry Straus will be drastically scaled back or cancelled. We may move it up to January 2021. We will continue to assist needy families of the 315th Airlift Wing during the Christmas holidays. We will also continue to donate gifts to other organizations within the wing as we have over the years.

There will be no Christmas Luncheon sponsored by Heritage Trust this year. I paid a visit to the Charleston Club on base and talked to Judy, the new manager, and she was the only person in the building. The club is closed for business.

We are hoping to start the luncheon back in January 2021, but as of this time that remains to be seen. At this time there are more questions than answers.

315th alumni@gmail.com

Col Jim Roberts, the 315th AW Alumni Association President, has set this account up to bundle the names and addresses on the Alumni members on our current membership rosters. We will use this to send our members the newsletter at their email addresses. We may get the newsletter to the majority of them but we will never get them all. I have been doing this for twenty two years from my AOL address book but it has been recently deleted by them, making the job of sending out the newsletter 100 percent more time consuming. There is never enough time to maintain this listing and keep it up to date. First, Jim will need to find an individual or an agency to enter all the names and email addresses into the address book as we are not even close to doing this on our own. It will need to be hired out. I believe we are financed well enough to handle this. However, Lt Col (ret) Andy Savage, our former JAG officer who currently has his own law firm, has said that he will gladly underwrite these activities. Andy went on to say that he remembers everyone dearly and will never forget where he came from and the friendships he has formed along the way. Andy and Jim will eventually get together on this when the time is right.

The 315th Airlift Wing Chain of Command

The current 315th Wing Commander is Colonel Adam B. Willis. I met with Col Willis recently for a few minutes in his office and explained our mission and our purpose. I have placed Col Willis on our mailing list. Our first Commander was Col William Willis when we were the 943rd Group and they are not related.

Our current Vice Wing Commander is Don L. Thigpen, II. I met with Col Thigpen earlier. He was very busy but took the time out to speak with me.

The current Command Chief is CMSGT John Paul Burke. I haven't met Chief Burke yet and I have always found his office closed. He may not be full time active service.

It is important that we stay connected with the 315th Wing leadership. We are involved in many of their activities and we make donations to many of their charities. Also, many of those still in active service in the Wing are associate members of the 315th Alumni Association. A numerous number of them attend our quarterly luncheons sponsored by Heritage Trust. The 315th Wing Commander is always invited to speak with us if he is available but recently there have been no quarterly luncheons because of the virus.

Friends

One day all of us will get separated
From each other,
We will miss our conversations, days, months and years will pass until
We rarely see each other.

One day, our children will see our
Photos and say "who are these people?"
And we will smile back with invisible tears and
Say "It was with them I had the best days of my life"

Tommy Peters

701st Squadron FE, 315AW Webpage Master on Facebook

A Message from Beth LaBranche

Either we take the power back,
Or we will never be free again.
No more asking nicely.
Our forefathers warned us.
This is not a drill.

*Beth is former Air Force & an Alumni Member
Her spouse is SMSGT Lenny LaBranche, 701st Squadron FE*

Newsletters & News Bulletins

The news bulletin normally sends a message that is time sensitive. An example would be if someone suddenly passes among us and funeral arrangements need to be announced quickly so that we may plan to attend.

The newsletter includes a large variety of activities and it's of historical value. We keep it at four pages. Our website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> and our webmaster Chief Tom Clemmons has built the website to hold two newsletters monthly. Tommy Peters, our webpage master on Facebook posts all newsletters on Facebook, under 315MAW, 300th Squadron, 701st Squadron, and 315th AW Friends. SMSgt Dave Brock has a webpage on Facebook under Final Fly By, and he has a listing on there of all of us in the 315th Wing that are deceased. I maintain a hard copy for back up.

Okay folks, it's Friday night and I'm ready to go out there and do some serious socializing!
Enjoy the fine weather weekend, be safe and be good!!

Del Oxford, Communications ddoxford@aol.com delox1936@gmail.com