



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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JULY 2019 EDITION

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LOOK US UP AT
www.AFTACWCC.org

From the Vice President

by Bob Fitzgerald

We had a nice turnout for our Spring Picnic & BBQ held on Saturday, May 18th, Armed Forces Day! There were dire predictions for a bad storm for that day, which scared away some of those who had signed up, but 3 that weren't signed up came so we ended up with **29** Alumni in attendance. The good news is that the weather held off until after we were all done and everyone enjoyed a good BBQ, lots of good pot-luck food, good discussions with friends and an all-around good time. *(See elsewhere in this issue for some of the photos taken there.)*

Our next event will be our annual **WCC FALLSOCIAL**, to be held on **Saturday, November 9th**. Please put this on your calendar now to reserve the date. The details and the required sign-up form are in this issue of the Depot Fallout newsletter. That document is also on our website "**Forms**" page now. The deadline for receipt of your reservation/sign-up info is **4Nov2019**.

This is an "**Election of WCC Officers**" year with nominations to be accepted from the Spring Picnic & BBQ to the Fall Social event. *(See the "Nomination/Volunteer" form elsewhere in this newsletter and also on our website "Forms" page.)* All of the offices you see in there, and on the panel to the left of this article, are open for volunteers who will step up to run for one of these important jobs – *none of which take a lot of time to perform*. The election itself will be held at our Fall Social on November 9th. The newly elected WCC Officers will be installed at our meeting on 9Dec2019 for a two-year term: 12/2019-12/2021.

Alumni Worldwide Reunion RECAP

As is usually the case, the reunion exceeded expectations! Although there weren't any special trips or tours, everyone made up for that with the many small huddles to talk over old times and get up to date with their old and new friends. The same stories take on new details and appear to become more intricate, humorous and more enjoyable to eavesdrop on! The briefings were the best that I have heard. The Mt. Cheyenne one was very illuminating and almost understandable to this SEO! **Chief Master Sgt. Michael S. Joseph, Command Chief**, presented a good overview of the general operations of AFTAC as they currently are. **Col. Chad J. Hartman, Commander**, gave us a good look at where the organization is headed in the near future. For us old timers, it is truly amazing how AFTAC has been and will continue to be dynamically leading in the world!

WCC Spring Picnic, 18May2019 at Tempo Park, Citrus Heights, CA



Butch Kemna, Denise Pothier, Ken Breitwieser



Ken Breitwieser, Don Lemmon, Denise Pothier



Some of the delicious pot-luck dishes



Ken & Cathy Denbleyker



Ann & Al Pavik



Peggy Amintrouit & Irene Goodreau



Tom Wentz & Allan Pentecost



Butch Kemna, Charlie Penn & Bob Fitzgerald



Mike Lubin, Dave Price & Bob Baker



John Mazurek & Don Lemmon



Danny & Roberta Beach



Ann McKeel & Vernon Scheuplein



Dorothy & John Lanigan



Charlie Penn & Joe Johnson



Glen Carson, Donna Fritts, Yuko Carson

There were 29 attendees who ignored the dire weather prediction and showed up to find that the weather was cool but dry – at least while we were there! **AFTAC**'ers through and through, always! 😊



This Picnic Event was arranged by John "Butch" Kemna, Treasurer.

See our "**Albums**" page at www.AFTACWCC.org for more & larger color photos.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT GEORGE DEAN (6Jul1936- 16May2019) Olympia, WA

(Edited from the obituary published in the Siskiyou Daily Newspaper on 13Jun2019)



Robert "Bob" Dean, passed away at the age of 82. He was born in Sand Springs, OK and grew up in Ponca City, OK. Bob is buried in the Tahoma National Cemetery in Covington, WA.

In 1953, Bob joined the military on his 17th birthday. After serving for nine years in the U.S. Marine Corp and 12 years in the U.S. Air Force, Bob retired from active duty in 1975 with 21 years of service.

Bob brought his family to the (Yreka, CA) area in 1978 when he accepted a position as Chief of Security at R-Ranch. He went on to work for the Yreka Police Department for six years as a dispatcher & reserve police officer and retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Yreka in 1996.

Upon retirement, Bob and his wife, Anna, traveled around the country for ten years before settling down in Washington (state);

Bob is survived by his wife of 40 years, Anna; children: Deborah (Robert), Robert II (Anne), Clarissa, Christina (Raymond), and Charlana (Fred); grandchildren: Chana, Keolani, Robert III, Raymond Jr., Leah, and Eric; 10 great-grandchildren; siblings: Patricia & Jack; and numerous nieces and nephews. Bob was preceded in death by his father Ralph, mother Dolly, siblings Thomas & Vicki, son Trey, and grandchildren Kyle & Jenifer.

Webmaster/Assistant Editor Addendum:

Bob Dean was an SEO and good friends with Clifford "Bo" Ferris, other SEO's and many other members of our AFTAC units in the 1960's. I have good memories of Bob at the 1155th TOS and also at Det 202 in Alaska when, as my fading memory recalls, Bob & Bo (and possibly others?) paneled the Detachment Commander Col. Franz "Herb" Dettmer's office as a surprised for him. They did a good job too and the Commander was pleased. I also seem to recall somehow that Bob had another nickname "Slick". (Not sure of that anymore though.)

According to what I was told by Bob's widow, Anna, after Bob retired from the Air Force she and Bob had a farm in Yreka, CA for a number of years, then they moved to Raymond, WA where he built a home. They later moved to Olympia where Anna still lives. Anna gave permission for anyone who would like to contact her by email at momsan123@hotmail.com. ... *Bob Fitzgerald*

Oh, You're One Of Those!

By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

A tale from one of the reunion attendees should strike home with a lot of you. TDY or attached to non-USAF installations frequently led to facing unique practices different from ours. One of our guys was attached to an Army post. He was waiting along a street next to a soldier. An officer's car passed by them and then stopped abruptly. The officer hollered out, "Private!" Our guy figured that he must be hollering at the soldier since he wasn't a private. The officer came over to our guy and asked him why he didn't salute his car. Our guy responded that we were only required to salute General Officer's cars when their flags were mounted on the car. He asked what unit he was assigned to, and our guy responded with the detachment number. The officer shook his head and said, "Oh, You're one of those", and headed back to his car. That again showed how unique and well-known we were!

Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery

Submitted by Joe Johnson

*The following is adapted from a speech delivered by **Senator Tom Cotton** on April 9, 2019, at Hillsdale College's Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the Old Guard.*

The Old Guard is literally the *old* guard, the oldest active-duty infantry regiment in the Army, dating back to 1784

Every headstone at Arlington tells a story. These are tales of heroes, I thought, as I placed the toe of my combat boot against the white marble. I pulled a miniature American flag out of my assault pack and pushed it three inches into the ground at my heel. I stepped aside to inspect it, making sure it met the standard that we had briefed to our troops: "vertical and perpendicular to the headstone." Satisfied, I moved to the next headstone to keep up with my soldiers. Having started this row, I had to complete it. One soldier per row was the rule; otherwise, different boot sizes might disrupt the perfect symmetry of the headstones and flags. I planted flag after flag, as did the soldiers on the rows around me.

Bending over to plant the flags brought me eye-level with the lettering on those marble stones. The stories continued with each one. Distinguished Service Cross. Silver Star. Bronze Star. Purple Heart. America's wars marched by. Iraq. Afghanistan. Vietnam. Korea. World War II. World War I. Some soldiers died in very old age; others were teenagers. Crosses, Stars of David, Crescents and Stars. Every religion, every race, every age, every region of America is represented in these fields of stone.

I came upon the gravesite of a Medal of Honor recipient. I paused, came to attention, and saluted. The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest decoration for battlefield valor. By military custom, all soldiers salute Medal of Honor recipients irrespective of their rank, in life and in death. We had reminded our soldiers of this courtesy; hundreds of gravesites would receive salutes that afternoon. I planted this hero's flag and kept moving.

On some headstones sat a small memento: a rank or unit patch, a military coin, a seashell, sometimes just a penny or a rock. Each was a sign that someone—maybe family or friends, or perhaps a battle buddy who lived because of his friend's ultimate sacrifice—had visited, honored, and mourned. For those of us who had been downrange, the sight was equally comforting and jarring—a sign that we would be remembered in death, but also a reminder of just how close some of us had come to resting here ourselves. We left those mementos undisturbed.

We finished up our last section and got word over the radio to go place flags in the Columbarium, where open-air buildings contain thousands of urns. Walking down Arlington's leafy avenues, we passed Section 60, where soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were laid to rest if their families chose Arlington as their eternal home. Unlike in the sections we had just completed, several visitors and mourners were present. Some had settled in for a while on blankets or lawn chairs. Others walked among the headstones. Even from a respectful distance, we could see the sense of loss and grief on their faces.

Once we finished in the Columbarium, "mission complete" came over the radio and we began the long walk up Arlington's hills and back to Fort Myer. In just a few hours, we had placed a flag at every grave site in this sacred ground, more than two hundred thousand of them. From President John F. Kennedy to the Unknown Soldiers to the youngest privates from our oldest wars, every hero of Arlington had a few moments that day with a soldier who, in this simple act of remembrance, delivered a powerful message to the dead and the living alike: you are not forgotten.

No one summed up better what The Old Guard of Arlington means for our nation than Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey. He shared a story with me about taking a foreign military leader through Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sergeant Major Dailey said, "I was explaining what The Old Guard does and he was looking out the window at all those headstones. After a long pause, still looking at the headstones, he said, 'Now I know why your soldiers fight so hard. You take better care of your dead than we do our living.'"

2019 WCC ELECTION NOMINATION/VOLUNTEER FORM

(Please add your name for an office, and/or one additional nomination for each of the other offices)

	2017-2019 INCUMBENTS Willing To Stay In Office Position	PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME and/or <u>1</u> NOMINATION FOR EACH OFFICE FOR THE 2019-2021 TERM	ELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY
Board of Directors	Chairman of the Board of Directors	Ken Denbleyker	
	Asst Chmn of the Board of Directors		
	Director At Large		
	President		
	Vice President		
	Treasurer	"Butch" Kemna	
	Assistant Treasurer	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
	Secretary	Bob Baker	
	Assistant Secretary	Ken Breitwieser	
	Membership Chairman	Dave Price	
	Assistant Membership Chairman	Bob Fitzgerald	
	"Depot Fallout" Newsletter Editor	Don King	
	Assistant Newsletter Editor	Bob Fitzgerald	
	Webmaster / Administrator	Bob Fitzgerald	
	Assistant Webmaster	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
Publications & Distribution Chmn	Allan Pentecost		
Assistant Pubs & Distribution Chmn	Bob Fitzgerald		

SUBMITTED BY (Sign) : _____

Date: ___/___/2019

Print all entries and either scan the form & email it to: ElectionCommittee@AFTACWCC.org

Or send a printed copy of it to: **AFTAC-WCC**
ATTN: Election Committee
P.O. Box 3974
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

Thoughts On Serving

By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

The main purposes of the AFTAC-WCC are to foster continued awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) its subordinate units, and its predecessor organizations, and to provide its membership a forum for desirable social, educational, and humanitarian services. When we look back on the many times that we have gotten together, there are many events or conversations that cannot be replaced with photos or reports. Looking eye-to-eye at an old or new friend establishes a bond that cannot be broken. Sometimes these are one of those rare meetings that we characterize as chance encounters. But more often than not, it takes an established organization to bring like-minded people together. From this, we greet old friends, sometimes after decades of silence, with hugs and grins that refresh countless memories. We also fraternize with those with whom we have frequent times together at events organized by the leadership. As we recall from our active duty time, volunteering always results in deeper understanding of the mission and opens new doors for leadership and new ideas. With nearly 150 loyal members of the WCC, 2 years of volunteer service by some fresh faces would help keep the vibrancy and the heritage of this key chapter rolling. Key because so much of our history has its roots at McClellan. For many of us, this was our first look at the USAF out of Training Command, and what a difference! So this is what a real outfit looks like! Well, likewise, so this is what a real alumni association looks like! Keep it alive and strong! Give service serious consideration.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Our General Business Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel restaurant in McClellan Park. The meetings usually last less than an hour. All AFTAC alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend. The date of our next meeting is **9/9/19**. Always check www.AFTACWCC.org website “Events” page to confirm the date, time & place

UPCOMING 2019 SOCIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019, 11:30am-2:00pm will be our “FALL SOCIAL” and an **Election of Officers**.

Details on this event are published in this issue of the Depot Fallout newsletter and on our website.

(Note: Updated schedules of all WCC meetings & social activities are always available from the “Events” page on our www.AFTACWCC.org website.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of Jun 12, 2019

Total Active Members = 142 Life Members = 138.

Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 Jan each year. Check your mailing label, or check the “WCC Roster” from our website “Forms” page. **Life memberships are available for \$75.** You can use the "Membership Application/Roster Update" form on the last page of this newsletter or the one from our web site “Forms” page to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who are not current with their membership dues will be dropped from the “active” roster along with our newsletter distribution & email notification lists.** *(See our web site “Forms” page, “WCC Roster” link to check your status.*

“www.AFTACWCC.org”

Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Apr 2019 – 30 Jun 2019
Submitted 5-Jul-2019 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest Visitors Week</u>	<u>Total Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>
9,849	04/29-05/05 (885)	15,815	Departed (529)	Links (441)

Notes: * Does not include our ‘Home’ page, which almost always is the most popular page.

Visitors: This evaluation shows how many visitors accessed our website. Visitors are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, only one visitor is counted.**

Sessions: This evaluation shows the number of sessions. A session starts when a visitor accesses our website and ends when he or she leaves it. A session ends automatically after 30 minutes without activity. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, multiple sessions are counted.**

NEXT ISSUE

Review of Another Book by an AFTAC Author!

WCC 2019 FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION EVENT

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019 – 11:30am-2:30pm
at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
5445 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610



The Olive Garden has assured us that we can each order off of their regular menu and pay separately for our meals. Therefore, no money will be required with your reservation form, which is required. Please inform us no less than 48 hours in advance if you must cancel your reservation.

SAVE THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

My Name: _____ Spouse/Other: _____

Additional Guests Name(s): _____

TOTAL ATTENDING: ____

The deadline for receipt of your reservation is Monday, 4 Nov 2019

I/We sent in our signup for the above names on __/__/2019
via USPS to: **AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**

or

I/We sent in our signup for the above names on __/__/2019
via Email to: FallSocial@AFTACWCC.org

cut here

WCC 2019 FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION EVENT

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019 – 11:30am-2:30pm
at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
5445 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

RESERVATION FORM – Please Print

My Name: _____ Spouse/Other: _____

Additional Guests Name(s): _____

TOTAL ATTENDING: ____



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 January each year. Check your mailing label for expiration date. Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date. Life memberships are available for \$75.⁰⁰.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last, First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

() - _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Addr

Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

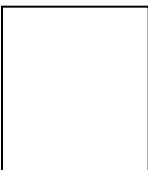
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



RETURN ADDRESS:
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WEST COAST CHAPTER
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