



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
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## JANUARY 2019 EDITION

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LOOK US UP AT  
[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

### From the Vice President

*by Bob Fitzgerald*

The annual WCC "Fall Social" event was held at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Citrus Heights on 10 Nov 2018. It was a great success with a new recent high of **forty-one** in attendance. Photos are elsewhere in this issue and on our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Albums" page.

Good news: We now have a new "Publications & Distribution Chairman". **Allan Pentecost** was at the Fall Social and mentioned that he would be willing to help us out in whatever capacity was needed. I invited Allan to attend our General Business Meeting in December, which he did, and after agreeing to the job, he was appointed to fill the volunteer position that was held for many years by **Dale Klug** and more recently by myself, **Bob Fitzgerald**. Please welcome Allan to the list of WCC Officers, and the next time you see him please thank him for stepping up on behalf of all of our members. Allan's contact information is in the list of WCC Officers to the left of this page, as well as on our website "Contacts" page.

Our next event will be our annual WCC Spring Picnic & BBQ, held on Armed Forces Day, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please put this on your calendar now to reserve the date. We will publish the required sign-up form in our Depot Fallout April issue and on our website "Forms" page, hopefully by early April as well.

### AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

#### **Alumni Worldwide Reunion Next Year, 13 - 16 June 2019**

Please let us know if you are:

1. Definitely interested and will be attending
2. Definitely interested but may not be able to attend
3. Just interested and it's really iffy

Please send ONE email, stating 1, 2 or 3 as above and include both of these addressees:

[President@aftacco.org](mailto:President@aftacco.org) [Treasurer@aftacco.org](mailto:Treasurer@aftacco.org)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

(Refer to [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) "Departed" page for add'l photos, details, etc., and other entries.)

### **Raymond A. Shulstad** **APRIL 24, 1944 – NOVEMBER 21, 2018**



After a long battle with MDS anemia **General Ray Shulstad** passed away on November 21, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Vicki, his three children Donna, Cathy and Ray along with five grandchildren, Lorin, Nick, Deven, Matthew and Dylan. Ray had a long distinguished career in the Air Force retiring in 1994 as a brigadier general. He was a Captain in the 1155<sup>th</sup> Tech Ops Squadron in MCL working in the Chemistry lab back in the 60's or 70's In his civilian career, Ray managed several engineering organizations retiring from the Mitre Corporation in 2006 and established his own consulting company, Shulstad Consulting He is the author of numerous articles and has published three books: Peace is my Profession, Golden Nuggets: a Practitioner's Reflections on Leadership, Management and Life, and most recently his wife's biography, The Quilt of Her Life. He and Vicki live at University Village, a retirement center in Tampa, where he served on the leadership team by chairing the Finance Committee

### **Richard E. "Grif" Griffin MSgt (Ret)** **November 17, 1944 – December 5, 2018**



**Richard E. "Grif" Griffin**, born November 17, 1944 in Concordia, KS, died December 5, 2018 in Sacramento, CA at age 74. Grif enlisted in the [U.S. Air Force](#) in 1962 launching a lifelong career in electronics. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant while serving in the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron of the Air Force Technical Applications Center responsible for nuclear treaty monitoring and nuclear event detection. Grif retired in 1982 after 20 years' service. From 1968 - 1982 while with AFTAC, he traveled the world installing and maintaining seismic equipment. These travels included three years spent in Alice Springs, Australia. Following retirement, Grif embarked on a 31-year secondary career in bio-medical engineering with Sutter Health in Sacramento. He was extremely proud to be involved in the opening of five new hospitals including Sutter Roseville Medical Center and Sutter Medical Center/Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center in Sacramento. Grif is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sue, children Sean and Robyn, and siblings Roy and Bernice. A celebration of Grif's life took place Saturday January 26, 2018 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Lakeview Village Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 6211 Summerset Lane, Citrus Heights, CA. To honor his love for animals, donations may be made in his memory to the Dogwood Animal Project, 1415 Fulton Road, Suite 205, PO Box 432, Santa Rosa, CA or via [DogwoodAnimalRescueProject.org](#)(Nonprofit tax ID: 81-1178819)

Grif was involved in installing and maintaining seismic equipment from 1155th Technical Operations Squadron in Sacramento. He received his first training at Lowry AFB fall of 1968. His first assignment was to Det 423 the year of 1969. We were stationed 1974-1977 in Alice Springs. Over the years he was TDY to Alaska numerous times, Patrick AFB, and several overseas locations. Also, I believe a lot of his work was with "B" Systems. He retired in Sacramento fall of 1982. Grif was most likely a 99125 assigned to Seismic Engineering in the 1155th. ... per Sue

## **FRANK E. PETERS**

**b. 02-Apr-1934; d. 15-Nov-2018 in Carmichael, CA**



Frank E. Peters died peacefully on November 15, 2018 at the age of 84. He was born on April 2, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan to his loving parents, Leonard and Lydia (Sampson) Peters. Frank graduated from Detroit's Cass Tech High School, then joined the Air Force. During his first assignment in South Texas he met Opal (Jean) Scott, his wife of 59 years. While in the Air Force he obtained his degree in accounting from Sacramento State. After his Air Force retirement, he went to work for the State of California until his second retirement in 1992. Frank was a Freemason and Shriner. He spent many years of his retirement as a dedicated volunteer driver for the Shriners Hospitals for Children. He enjoyed traveling, reading and his devoted canine companions. Frank is survived by his daughter Kathyryne (Mike) Louritt of Florissant, Colorado; Laura (Michael) Peters Ross of Lincoln, California; and Brenda Freeman of Sacramento, California. He is also survived by his grandchildren Jeffrey, Karyn, and Nikolai Louritt; and Jonah Freeman. He was preceded in death by his only brother George; his wife Jean; his son David; and his granddaughter, Melissa Louritt. A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 8, 2018 at the Bicentennial Daylight Lodge No. 830. The address is 3010 Becerra Way, Sacramento, CA 95860. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Sacramento. Frank is loved and will be missed by his family and friends. Published in The Sacramento Bee on Dec. 2, 2018

## **TOMMIE KAZUE BAKER**

**b. 06-Apr-1927; d. 01-Nov-2018 in Carmichael, CA**



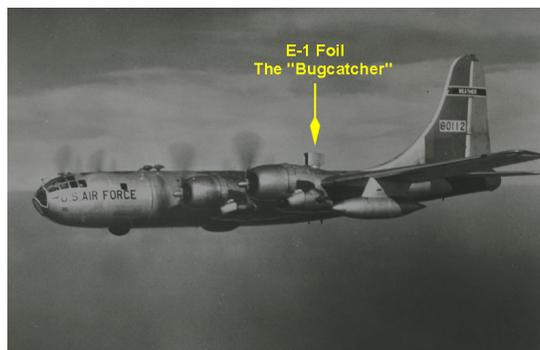
As received 11/2/2018 from Bob Baker

Tommie Kazue Baker, age 91, passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 1, 2018. She was born in Tokyo, Japan, the oldest of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Michisaburo Nakajima of Tokyo. She met her husband in Sacramento, California, and after their marriage moved with him to a number of US Air Force bases where he was stationed. Tommie and her husband enjoyed many trips together in their small airplane. Tommie had many activities, beginning as a volunteer at the Officers' Wives Club thrift shop at McClellan AFB, California. For many years she studied the Japanese arts of brush writing and tea ceremony. For three years she served as co-president of the Sacramento chapter of Ikebana International flower arranging society. Tommie is survived by her husband of 44 years, Bob E. Baker of Carmichael, California, and three sisters who reside in Japan. In keeping with her wishes for a simple service, Tommie will be remembered in a private ceremony with the members of her husband's family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tommie's name to the Sacramento Public Library Foundation.

## **1956 Airplane Crash Clouded By Unknowns** **11 KILLED: Air Force craft monitored radiation of USSR bombs.**

By JOSEPH DITZLER

Published: July 17, 2007



WASILLA -- The four-engine airplane nose-dived from 12,000 feet in the night sky and slammed into the Delta Islands, a collection of overgrown gravel bars in the Susitna. As it fell, its racing engine awakened a hunter camped nearby. Two explosions followed, then a series of smaller explosions. A small glow reddened the low clouds above the scene.

The next day, pilot Charles Tulin left Merrill Field in his Aeronca Champ with Ken Whitaker of the Anchorage Daily News aboard to survey the crash site. "I didn't know exactly where it was. We knew it was in the area of Willow, so we flew up the Big Su until we saw a plume of smoke about 30 miles away," Tulin recalled in June. "It was right near the confluence of two streams."

Eleven crewmen, including SEO TSgt Richard K. Brown, died that early morning Aug. 31, 1956, when the aircraft, a WB-50D, tail number 49-315, an upgraded version of the silver, tubular B-29 Superfortress bomber, crashed for reasons not clear to this day. The plane, based at Eielson Air Force Base, belonged to the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The aircraft was christened the Golden Heart, a tribute to nearby Fairbanks.

The Golden Heart, like other WB-50Ds in Alaska, had two missions. One, weather reconnaissance, and another less talked about at the time: detection of radioactive debris from Soviet atomic weapons tests.

AUG. 31, 1956: The Golden Heart taxied for takeoff from Eielson in darkness early Aug. 31, 1956, a Friday, for an expected 12-hour mission. Capt. Leonard Chapman Jr., a 30-year-old Dayton, Ohio, native, was at the controls. In the right seat sat the co-pilot, Maj. Dale Richardson, 44, of Wood, S.D. At 2:04 a.m., the four Pratt & Whitney reciprocal engines roared at full throttle. The Golden Heart climbed aloft and headed south. Forty-five minutes later the crew reported reaching 12,000 feet, according to an Air Force report. The flight was "progressing normally."

At 3:02 a.m., the Golden Heart reported being over Talkeetna, same altitude, flying under instrument flight rules, meaning it was probably in the clouds. This "was the last radio transmission to be heard from the aircraft," according to the Air Force report.

At 3:08 a.m., the airplane disappeared from radar screens at the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center. What happened to the Golden Heart has ever since defied explanation.

"Approximately 90 percent of the aircraft was reduced to unrecognizable ashes, molten metal and fragments ranging in size from a few feet long to less than an inch," according to the Air Force report.

Bernie Barris, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and former weather service navigator, said he's studied this particular crash. Referring to an article on the crash in Air Weather Service Safety Magazine, he took note that even though the airplane flight deck practically disintegrated, investigators determined the electrically powered compass was not operating at the time. Without that compass, the autopilot, if engaged, would try to steer the airplane to a nonexistent heading. That, he speculated, could have rolled the airplane into a fatal spin. "Being still dark, they might not realize in time and would not be able to recover," Barris said.

The Golden Heart plummeted nose-first into three small islands, its 70,000 pounds of aviation fuel, enough for 19 hours, becoming a fireball. The impact zone measured less than 200 square feet, about the amount of space needed to park a Superfortress. "It looked to me like the wreckage of a light plane, except for the one large piece of wing or tail," wrote Ken Whitaker of the Daily News for that afternoon's newspaper.

No distress call emanated from the crew; the engines, recovered by investigators, appeared to be running normally. The Air Force ruled out weather, structural defects or fire onboard the aircraft prior to the crash. If the Air Force ever determined a cause, it never made the report public, nor would it have to, although anyone flying that model plane would have access to it, according to Barris. "From everything I have seen and everyone I've talked to, no determination has been made as to the cause," he said by phone.

The Golden Heart was one of six WB-50Ds involved in fatal crashes, he said. In three of them, the Golden Heart included, he said, "we just don't know. ..."

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Our General Business Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3/11. Always check [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Events" page to confirm the date, time & place.

## UPCOMING 2019 SOCIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, 18 May 2019, 11:30am-2:30pm we will hold our annual "SPRING PICNIC BBQ".

At this picnic, we will open the floor for nominations for WCC Office for an election to be held at the Fall Social.

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

Details on these events will be published in upcoming Depot Fallout newsletters and on our website.

*(Note: Updated schedules of all meetings & social activities are always available our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Events" page.)*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*by Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

As of Oct 8, 2018

**Total Active Members = 145 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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)"

**Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Oct 2018 – 31 Dec 2018**

*Submitted 11-Jan-2019 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster*

| <u>Visitors</u><br><u>This Quarter</u> | <u>Highest</u><br><u>Visitors Week</u> | <u>Total</u><br><u>Sessions</u> | <u>Most Popular*</u><br><u>Page (#Sessions)</u> | <u>Next Most Popular*</u><br><u>Page (#Sessions)</u> |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 3,906                                  | 10/01-10/07 (502)                      | 4,459                           | Albums (784)                                    | Contacts (485)                                       |

Notes: \* Does not include our 'Home' page, which is almost always the most popular page.  
The 05/19/2018 Spring Picnic Slide Show was the most popular page during this quarter.

**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 MONTH:

### A1C with Ph.D. lands job at nuclear treaty monitoring center.

*by Don King, Depot Fallout Editor*

That is not an error! We all know how incredible AFTAC is, but this will pump you up like you would never believe! Out of 259,190 airmen, only 33 have a Ph.D, and AFTAC has one. Look forward to this amazing story in the next issue of the Fallout.

**WCC Fall Social, 10Nov2018 at The Olive Garden Restaurant, Citrus Heights, CA**



**Glen & Yuko Carson + John 'Butch' Kemna**



**Dave Price + Allan & Kathy Pentecost**



**Tony Carvelli, Sylvia Hegelein, Dale Klug**



**Denise Dermenjian, Bob Baker,  
Ann & Al Pavik + Joe Johnson**



**Ken & Cathy Denbleyker,  
Dennis & Chum Nolan**



**Rick Holderman & Rose Lee Dunn**



**Jean Charles & Laura Horne**



**Bill Hanlon & Dan Lowe**



**Pattye & Don Lemmon –  
Tom & Peggy Poole**



**Tom & Sue Wentz,  
Roberta & Danny Beach**



**Betty Jo & Rod Hinkle (WCC President)**



**Ken & Eva Breitwieser**



**John & Corinne Miner**



**Corinne Miner & Darlene Fitzgerald**

This event was arranged by  
**Bob Fitzgerald,**  
WCC Vice President

See our "Albums" page at  
[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)  
for more & larger color photos

**Forty-One  
Alumni & Guests  
Attended**

*Photos by  
Bob Fitzgerald  
(seen only in the group)*





# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

**Annual membership fee of \$10.<sup>00</sup> 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.<sup>00</sup>.**

**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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



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