



# Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 8605 Sweet Gum Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



## SPRING 2025 EDITION

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### A WORD FROM THE PREZ

*by John Culbert, WCC President*

#### **When Membership Becomes Inactive**

Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association elects to merge with Florida

*From the Colorado Alumni Association August 2024 newsletter*

There is some concern about the future of our Colorado Chapter which is well founded. Our chapter numbers have dwindled. The Florida Chapter is very active and provides information on many members of our AFTAC/LRD family ... If we do not have anyone to step up to lead the Chapter (president and vice-president) by our March 2025 breakfast, we will consider making a motion to adopt "Articles of Dissolution" and vote (paid members) to dissolve the Chapter.

Here are the voting results from our 61 paid-up and Lifetime Members:

Motion #1 - Colorado Chapter to Merge with the Florida Chapter: 36 Yes; 1 No; 25 no response.

Motion #2 - to Donate the leftover money to the Grand Encampment Museum to support the

Detachment 142 Static Seismic Display.: 36 Yes; 1 No; 25 No Response.

59% of our qualified members voted to approve motions 1 & 2.

The motions are passed.



... LEST WE FORGET Colorado Alumni ...



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**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER**  
**BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK**  
**SATURDAY, 24 MAY 2025 – 11AM-2PM**  
**Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610**

**ATTENTION TO ORDERS**

*NOTE: We purposely moved our picnic event to the week after Armed Forces Day to avoid missing all the Veterans that participate in other events on that day.*

We are very happy to invite all AFTAC'ers, their families and friends to join us as we have our outstanding BBQ Picnic & Potluck social event for this year. Our picnic area has good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion reserved for our use. We will be lighting the BBQs before 1100 hours and wrap things up by 1400 hours. Once again, the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our alumni association will supply all the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soft drinks/water, utensils & paper products. We just ask that you bring a salad, side dish, dessert, or ?? **Please remember that due to current county regulations there is no alcohol consumption allowed at this facility.** All AFTAC Alumni & their guests (including non-AFTAC'ers) are cordially invited, but please submit your sign up(s) early so the logistics can be tweaked and enough of the basics obtained.

Just fill out the sign-up form below & send it to us now!

**YOUR SIGN UP IS NEEDED BY 19May.**

**DIRECTIONS**

*From I-80: Go East on Greenback, turn left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. **The park will be on the left side <1mile up.***

*From Hwy 50: Go North on Sunrise Blvd, turn right (East) on Greenback and left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. ^.*

If you have questions, call WCC Treasurer **Butch Kemna, (916) 722-8509** or Email:

**"PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org"**

**PLEASE FILL IN & MAIL, or EMAIL, THE COMPLETED SIGN-UP FORM BY 19May2025 to:**

**Mail to: AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct, Citrus Heights, CA 95610**

**or Email to: PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org**

I ☐ mailed / ☐ Emailed my form on \_\_/\_\_/25. There will be \_\_ of us coming & we'll bring \_\_\_\_\_ for potluck.

**(Note: This upper part is for your records, so keep it as a reminder)**

..... (Copy & Email this info in the body of your message, or cut here & mail the form to the address above.) .....

**AFTACAA-WCC BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK – SATURDAY 24 MAY 2025**

(Please print)

NAMES (Firsts & Lasts): \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number Attending [\_\_\_\_]

I/We will bring for the potluck:

Salad ☐ Side Dish ☐ Dessert ☐

Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Ph#: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Email Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

# EVENTS CALENDAR

(by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster)

## QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

Our WCC General Business Meetings are held quarterly at 7pm (Pacific) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of March, June, September & December. Our next meeting will be held **IN PERSON: Monday, June 9th at the Officer's Club (Lions Gate)**, 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park, CA 95652. Check our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Events" page before the meetings to confirm the details in case of last-minute changes. **Some of us will have dinner there at 6pm before the meeting.**

*Note: All AFTAC Alumni are welcome, but it'd help if you RSVP to let us know you want to participate so we can reserve enough room in the restaurant area for everyone attending: Email: [Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org).*

## UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENT

**Saturday, May 24, 2025 11:00AM-2:00PM Annual Picnic BBQ & Potluck at Tempo Park**, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. We moved the picnic to the week after Armed Forces Day so that those Veterans who are involved in other events on that day can attend it and then plan to attend our picnic the following week. Please plan to come to our picnic this year! We'd love to have you and your Guest. Look for the event flyer & sign-up form in this issue of our Depot Fallout, and on our website "Forms" page! Always check our <http://www.AFTACWCC.org> website "Events" page for up-to-date info & event status.



## "www.AFTACWCC.org"

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Dec 2024 – 28 Feb 2025

*Submitted 10-Mar-2025 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Visitors</u>	<u>Mo. Average Visitors/Day</u>	<u>Highest Visitors (dt)</u>	<u>Total Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (Sessions)</u>
Dec 2024	2,525	81	270 (12/27)	2,685	Departed (176)
Jan 2025	4,684	151	486 (01/07)	5,055	Departed (102)
Feb 2025	4,769	170	1,238 (02/25)	5,937	Departed (094)

Notes: \* Most Popular Page does not include our 'Home' page, which as the entry is almost always the most popular. The Departed page was the most popular, with, the 2022 Fall Social photo albums page the second most.

## LEGEND:

### **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.

## MOAA

### State Tax Update: 4 States Start '25 With Movement on Retired Pay Exemptions

#### California

**The Bill:** Legislation excluding uniformed services retirement pay and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) income from state tax was [reintroduced Dec. 2](#) after failing to become law in the previous session; it was referred to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee on Feb. 24.

AB 53, which would cover armed services retirees in addition to commissioned corps members of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA, retains the backing of MOAA's California Council of Chapters (CALMOAA), which supports the bill alongside other military and veterans groups such as the American Legion-Department of California, the Marine Corps League-Department of California, the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers, the Enlisted Association of the California National Guard, and the California State Commanders Veterans Council.

**The Budget:** Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2025-2026 budget proposal does not include a full exemption, but it would exempt up to \$20,000 in uniformed service retirement pay and SBP benefits beginning in the 2025 tax year for taxpayers with up to \$125,000 in annual income (\$250,000 if filing jointly).

"Veterans' organizations throughout California were pleased to see that Governor Newsom recognizes the many sacrifices our nation's career military families endure over a 20-year career and addressed taxation of military retirement in his proposed budget," said Cmdr. Jeff Breiten, USN (Ret), vice president of legislative affairs for CALMOAA, who also thanked Assemblymember James Ramos for his ongoing sponsorship and work on exemption legislation.

3/21/25, 3:02 PM



#### Here are some things you might not know about the Air Force.

1. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has maintained a tradition since 1955 of "tracking Santa" as he travels around the world on Christmas Eve. Today, you can even download apps to follow along on your smartphone. (via We Are The Mighty)
2. The Air Force shares its birthday with the CIA; the National Security Act of Sept. 18, 1947, created both entities. (via We Are The Mighty)
3. That same year, Capt. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 rocket-powered aircraft. (via We Are The Mighty)
4. Celebrities who served in the Air Force include Jimmy Stewart, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, Chuck Norris and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry. (via We Are The Mighty)
5. "Air Force One" isn't a plane, but the radio call name for any Air Force plane carrying the president of the United States. (via We Are The Mighty)
6. Two U.S. presidents — Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush — served as airmen. Reagan's time was before 1947, when the branch was still the Army Air Forces. (via USO)
7. The Air Force was the first service branch to create a provisional Cyber Command, in 2006. Today USCYBERCOM is a unified DoD command.
8. The Air Force's official song is titled, fittingly, "The U.S. Air Force," and includes the familiar line, "Off we go into the wild blue yonder." (via Grantham.edu)
9. The Air Force's colors are ultramarine blue and yellow — blue for the sky, and yellow for the sun and the excellence required of personnel. (via Grantham.edu)
10. Only 4 percent of all Air Force personnel are pilots. (via howstuffworks)





# IN MEMORIAM



## **THOMAS J RAMRATH, Maj USAF (Ret.)**

b. 01-18-1942 in Berlin, Germany

d. 03-Jul-2024 in Albuquerque, NM

### ***Berlin, Germany***

It was 1944. Tom was a two-year-old blond German-American boy. His German father had become an American citizen before returning to Germany in 1939. Now, with bombs bursting over their family apartment at 15 Breitenbachplatz in the suburbs of Berlin, the family's days and, especially, nights were perilous. "More boom-boom!" young Tom sang out, echoing the terrifying blasts that continued to disrupt the night. The family often scrambled to hide underground in the subway station. At one point, the apartment just next door to theirs was demolished by a bomb.

*Notice received from wife, Jeri, through John Horsch (AFTACAA-FL), and Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster*

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## **ALVIN L. PAVIK, Col USAF (Ret.)**

b. 14-Dec-1933

d. 01-Nov-2024 in Granite Bay, CA

**Colonel Alvin Louis Pavik**, 90, passed away on Friday November 1, 2024 at Elim Glen Care Center in Granite Bay after a long and prosperous life filled with a decorated career serving his country and family.

Born on a farm in Pochontas, Iowa on December 14, 1933 to parents Albert and Mary Pavik. He was the third of six children; older brothers Junior and Malvin and younger sister Judy and brothers Vincent and John. He and identical twin Malvin shared an unbreakable bond, and as both of their families would say, telepathic ability, that lasted throughout their life.

*Info received from wife, Ann, provided to friend Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster*

*continued on page 11*



## **CMSgt John Horsch**

d. 07-Apr-2025

John Horsch passed away on April 7th after a long battle with a severe respiratory illness. To say his fight with this problem was difficult is a monumental understatement. John, with all his laughter and concerns for others, fought this battle with dignity and determination to remain viable, and a damn good job he did. John's family, friends and the entire AFTAC Alumni membership not only saw the passing of a friend, it is the loss of an icon. I would dare say that there would not be an Alumni Association if it weren't for John Horsch. Many years ago, probably more than many of you remember, AFTAC's then Commander Colonel Clapper requested of a few retirees, that an AFTAC Alumni group be formed. John took up the baton and ran with it. He was instrumental in the development of the very first set of rules and regulations and the required Charter. That was not an easy task as it might sound, because these things required many levels of higher echelon reviews and approvals. John persisted and succeeded.

*Story by Frank Calenda*

*continued on page 13*

# IN MEMORIAM

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## Ramrath - continued from page 5

After Berlin fell to the Allies and the Russians moved in, the charming blond Tommy, now about four years of age, was sent out to procure food from the Russian soldiers. His soliciting brought rewards and praise, and the family was able to hold on day by day, often aided Tom's elder brother Frank's connections to the black market.

Was it his early exposure to Russians, bombs and planes flying overhead that provoked Tom's eternal curiosity with weapons of war, his love for international travel, and his fascination with fast cars and airplanes?

Tom likes to tell the story of his first good spanking. Still in Berlin, he was about three years old, and he took his then one-year old sister Elizabeth by the hand and led her down the stairs to the Breitenbachplatz park. The two were so thrilled to be outside playing in the grass that they removed their shoes, placing them carefully on the wall. Alas, when they returned to retrieve them, both tiny pairs of shoes were gone! The loss of two pairs of children's shoes was a hardship for the family; Tom's mother gave him a good spanking for his lapse, one that he never forgot.

All six family members would survive the war. With a powerful strength of character and a firm bond of love between them, Joseph Ramrath, his beautiful wife Mathilde and their four children, Frank and Eleanor, Thomas and Elizabeth, fled war-torn Germany in two groups of three to settle in the United States. Tom was five years old when he and his mother and sister Elizabeth made the transatlantic journey by ocean liner. Tom's lasting memory of that trip included eagerly biting off a chunk of his first whole orange, peel and all!

## ***Boston, Massachusetts***

The Ramrath family eventually settled in the Mattapan neighborhood of the Boston suburbs. Tom graduated from Hyde Park High School and worked in the Boston area for a few years where he met, fell in love with and, in 1962, wed Loretta Melone, "LuLu." At her urging, Tom enlisted in the U. S. Air Force.

## ***The U. S. Air Force***

Everything changed for the young couple with Tom's new career in the Air Force which would span 24 years and eventually honor him with the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Commendation medal, and the Good Conduct medal. Tom and Lu made friends all along the way, both at work and at play. Many of them remained friends for life.

Tom was often TDY as a young recruit. First it was basic training in Texas in 1962, then technical and maintenance schools in Mississippi, and then remote communications squadron in frosty Newfoundland in 1963-64. Tom always recalled with special fondness the Heineken beer company whose pilots flew in a special shipment of their fine lager to the ice-bound, isolated squadron when the well went dry. Imagine the cheers!

The military life with its itinerant nature was tough on the young Ramrath family. Leaving good friends behind and struggling along with poor pay were difficult. In order to make ends meet, Loretta, who loved to cook her Italian family recipes, and Tom, hosted Friday night Pinochle parties for young fellow recruits. Everybody chipped in to buy the meal and the beer!

*continued on page 7*

# IN MEMORIAM

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Ramrath - continued from page 6

## **March Air Force Base, Riverside, CA**

*Tom and Lu took the road to California where, in 1964, Tom was stationed in Riverside. They rented a charming three-bedroom home with a pool, and life was good. Soon Lulu's sisters moved in with Tom, Lu and their German Shepherd dog, Max. Judy, recently divorced, moved in first with her four offspring, and then Delores with her three children and "one in the oven" (Tom's words) and soon to be born. The swimming pool was a favorite spot for the kids and the dog, especially with only one bathroom for four adults, seven kids and a baby. Tom taught young Wally and Steve to play chess, and soon Wally was outfoxing his teacher! But the tight quarters finally became unbearable for Tom and Loretta, so they moved out to find their own apartment, leaving the nice house to the remaining family members!*

## **Sacramento**

*In 1967 Tom attended Sacramento State College as an undergraduate where his lasting friendship with Bill Ragsdale, a fellow undergrad, began. They also soon met others in Sacramento who would become lifelong friends, fellow members of the Corvette Club. Showing and racing their almost-new Marina blue 1965 Corvette Stingray, Lu and Tom hung out with other Corvette fans--the Hammers, Bowdens, Fleigs, Armeses, and Tepolts. The bunch became like a family, with friendships that spanned decades.*

*In the landmark year of 1970, Tom graduated with honors from Cal State (now Cal State University) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Along with his friend Bill Ragsdale, Tom then became a distinguished graduate of Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, and then a commissioned officer in May of that year.*

*He and Bill both attended graduate school at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio where Tom received a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1972. While living in Dayton, Lu's young nieces, Donna and Debby Klein, ages 11 and 12, joined Tom and Lu's household again for a couple of years. It was a big change for all of them, with many bumps and adjustments on both sides. But mutual love and respect built a strong bond among them, for life.*

## **McClellan AFB, Sacramento**

*AFTAC Years: from 1972 to 1978 Tom was assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center at McClellan AFB in Sacramento, as chief of engineering for the atmospheric sampling systems program, supporting the Atomic Energy Detection System's worldwide mission and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He obtained top secret security clearance. The work took him to Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East, working with diverse federal agencies. He once had the dubious honor of accepting a personal dinner invitation from the Shah of Iran, truly a night to remember. Tom described the Shah as charming and urbane.*

## **Nellis AFB, Nevada**

*In 1978 Captain Ramrath was reassigned to the 554 Range Group at Nellis AFB in Nevada where he worked as a program manager, converting the military operation to a civilian contract. He and Lu made lifetime friends, Hesh and Bobbi Altman and Ralph and Barbara Wick.8*

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# IN MEMORIAM

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Ramrath - continued from page 7

## **Space Division, Los Angeles**

*From October 1983 to April 1985, Tom had the honor of serving in the Air Force Space division as deputy director of payload acquisition for the MILSTAR Program in Los Angeles, then as program manager for FLEETSAT, a joint Navy-Air Force communications satellite. Tom and Loretta made more wonderful friends--Art Ritter, Craig Vaughan and Paul Huffman.*

*In 1984 Tom and Lu's life was brought to a tragic standstill when Lu was diagnosed with cancer. Her diagnosis came as a total shock, as her only symptom was a back ache. Within a few months she had lost her struggle with cancer. Her memorial service took place in Sacramento where she was buried and where throngs of loving friends and family came to celebrate her life.*

*Still reeling after losing his wife so precipitously to cancer, fate chose to bring niece Debby and Tom together again. Debby's life had become troubled, and Tom helped point her in the right direction and get her back on her feet. She has been forever grateful to her Uncle Tom for stepping up, with open arms, many times over, to save the day.*

*Two years passed by. A few months before his retirement in 1986, Tom accepted an invitation to a going-away party for a colleague. That fateful night he was virtually dragged across the hall to meet a small curly brunette playing pool (very poorly) with few of the guys, her tight black jeans prominent as she leaned over the table to hit a tough shot. Mutual friends Al and Bobbi Perry introduced Tom to Jeri, and a new life was on its way for them both.*

*Tom retired with the rank of major in September of 1986. His service in the Air Force had instilled in Tom a respect for the sanctity of a soldier's bond, shared mutual support. He carried this principle into all his work situations, creating a lasting bond between himself and many of his coworkers over the years. His social and family relationships benefitted from this principle as well--Tom was always there to lend a hand to a friend, a relative or a coworker in need.*

*In September, Tom and Jeri took an unforgettable ten-day trip in a borrowed motorhome to the Grand Canyon with Dax, Tom's beloved German Shepherd dog. Life was good!*

## **Las Vegas, Nevada**

*Tom's first post-retirement job was with EG&G, a successful high technology engineering firm founded in the 1930s by three scientists from MIT, Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier. Starting in October of 1986, Tom worked out of Las Vegas, Nevada, as a program manager for EG&G Special Projects.*

*Tom and Jeri were wed in at the Alexis Park in Las Vegas, Nevada June 18, 1988. They relocated in 1990 to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Tom worked first as General Manager of EG&G Special Projects and then as Vice President of EG&G MSI Albuquerque Operations. His projects took him to Europe, Egypt, India and Latin America. He relished the work, the problem-solving, the travel.*

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# IN MEMORIAM

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Ramrath - continued from page 8

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# IN MEMORIAM

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Ramrath - continued from page 9

## **Albuquerque**

*In 1991 Tom and Jeri bought a house in Albuquerque where they were to enjoy life for over 30 years together. Little did they know that it was to be the longest stay in any one place for either of them, in their lifetimes.*

*In 1999 Tom's sister Eleanor published her acclaimed "Eleanor's Story," a beautifully written memoir of the family's years in Germany during World War II. This same year Tom retired from EG&G and took a job with FastMetrix, a small high technology firm headed by Gary Kamerman, out of Huntsville, Alabama. Tom and his good friends, Paul Freedman and Clark Harris, worked remotely and traveled for FastMetrix for many years. Their projects often required special security clearance.*

*Tom and Jeri remained in Albuquerque where the lifestyle suited them both. They attended symphony orchestra performances. They made more good friends. They took a timeshare in Kauai where they fell in love with Hanalei Bay. Tom became a certified SCUBA diver and learned to love the undersea world. He went diving with his brother-in-law, Cary Betts, in the splendid waters off the coast of Kauai, and with his good friend Gary Kamerman in other fabulous diving spots. They bought a townhome in Pagosa Springs, Colorado where they hiked with their dogs, Sarah and Casey, Riley and Spot, skied at Wolf Creek, and drank beer with the locals. At home, Tom loved to take a morning run with the dogs in the foothills open space.*

*In 2013 Tom had open heart surgery. Soon fully recovered and healthier than ever, he continued to play tennis doubles three times a week, and occasionally skied, dived and golfed, until in 2018 he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and underwent chemotherapy. That same difficult year, he was also diagnosed with primary progressive dementia. Tom maintained a healthy lifestyle until it was no longer possible for him to take part in physical exercise. He passed away peacefully on July 3, 2024 at the age of 82.*

*There is much, much more to enjoy, so check out the original of all this at:*

[www.frenchfunerals.com/obituaries/major-thomas-ramrath](http://www.frenchfunerals.com/obituaries/major-thomas-ramrath)



# IN MEMORIAM

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Pavik - continued from page 5

Al initially attended the Iowa State College. It was there that he also met the love of his life and future wife, **Ann Vislisel**. After going to Iowa State, Al was accepted into the Aviation Cadet program and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force, starting his long distinctive military career. Al received a Bachelor and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois, graduating number one in his class from the Masters program.

Al's career in the Air Force took him to a number of different assignments, including Ellington AFB in TX, Kessler AFB in MS, Griffiss AFB in NY, McClellan AFB in CA in which during this time he also served in Saigon Vietnam to monitor North Vietnamese penetration throughout Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, Patrick AFB in FL, and back to McClellan AFB in CA in which he had the distinction in assuming Commander of the Technical Operations Division. He served 31 years, 3 months, and 20 days in the Air Force and retired in 1986 as a full Colonel. *(And yes, he knew the exact time and would proudly state it down to the day.)* During this time he was highly decorated including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster among many other recognitions. Just weeks before his retirement, Al was recognized for leading the effort to analyze samples taken from the Chernobyl accident. Throughout Al's military career, while he loved and excelled solving complex technical challenges, his biggest pleasure was the ability to mentor and support so many others. Whenever asked what he enjoyed most about the Air Force, he would always answer "the people". This was evident when he was awarded in 2017 the high distinction of the **Air Force Technical Application Center** (AFTAC) Wall of Honor at Patrick Air Force Base, which recognized his ability to work with all ranks and ranges of individuals including Air Staff and national and international level scientists.

After retiring from the Air Force, while never one to sit idle, he immediately started helping his friend **Fred Zanetta** build homes for his 'gap year'. He then took a job as Program Manager for Motorola and moved to Arizona for 12 years before fully retiring back to Granite Bay in 1999. While in Arizona, he resumed golf and many weekends he and Ann would be found golfing at Williams Air Force Base. Once in full retirement, Al's biggest pleasure was visiting each of his 8 children and their families who lived across the country, to help with whatever projects he could. He would accomplish a year's worth of work in one week's time, and this provided him the greatest joy. His other pleasures in retirement was maintaining his beautiful home and grounds in Granite Bay and also on the "Hilltop", a 20-acre parcel of land that had views of Folsom Lake. Everything that could be found on his property in Granite Bay, the streams, bridges, sidewalks, patios, fences, playhouse, treehouse, gazebo, garden, numerous trees, and expansive lawn, was conceived, built or planted, and tended by him. He and Ann also enjoyed their time supporting St. John's Catholic Church in Folsom and being involved in a number of social groups through the church where they met good friends.

None of his achievements would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 68 years, Ann. Al and Ann married on October 1, 1956 in Lisbon, Iowa. Immediately after their honeymoon they moved to Texas to start their life. Ann has been a foundation throughout Al's life, including supporting their various moves, taking care of their then 7 children while Al was away for 1 year in Vietnam, and in his later years, being his caregiver after being diagnosed with Parkinson's and then his daily visitor at Elim Glen Care Center.

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# IN MEMORIAM

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## Pavik - continued from page 11

In addition to the love of his country and his wife, Al above all loved and was so proud of his 8 children and their families. Al is the beloved father and father-in-law of **Diane** and **Sam Richie**, **Kate Bechtold** and **Kim Saal**, **John** and **Melissa Pavik**, **Laurie** and **Fred Gomes**, **Michael** and **Andrea Pavik**, **Patricia** and **Christopher Cook**, **David** and **Carole Pavik**, and **Elizabeth** and **Charles Seeley**. He believed in each of his children and taught us strong work ethic and to strive for high goals. There was no doubt the pride in his voice when he talked about each of his kids.

Al was also the honored grandfather of 19 grandchildren **Cheryl** (David), **Kali** (Nko), **Jillian** (Drew), **Eric** (Katelyn), **Emily**, **Samantha**, **Jason**, **Bryan** (April), **Brad**, **Alexandra** (Evan), **Ben** (Madison), **Megan**, **Madison**, **Ty**, **Audrey**, **Nathan**, **Zachary**, **Grace**, and **Zoe**. There were many summers that some of the grandkids would come and visit for a few weeks. Some of their summer adventures included visiting the Grand Canyon, "helping" them move from AZ back to CA which entailed loading, driving, and unloading the U-Haul, and Al giving them the keys to the old Mazda so they could learn to drive in the backfield.

Al and Ann's legacy also lives on in their 10 great grandchildren with the 11th due in March 2025. He also leaves behind a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins who he always enjoyed visiting during family reunions, weddings, and other special events.

Al was predeceased by his parents, **Albert and Mary**, brother **Junior**, sister **Judy**, and daughter-in-law **Cindy**. Al is now also able to be reunited with his first two children, **Ann and Diane**, who both died shortly after they were born.

The entire Pavik family would like to thank **Elim Glen Care Center**, especially **Jennifer Lee and Farah Cuccia**, for their loving support of Al for the last 3 years of his life. While in his last years of life in which Parkinson's disease took over, our dad still had the dignity and presence in which he held for his entire life. When the Elim staff would address him as "Colonel", you could almost see the proud sense of smile emerge on his face, as he recalled the impactful and meaningful life he truly led.

In lieu of flowers, we would like donations to go to **Elim Glen Care Center**. If you do wish to donate, please send a check, specifying in honor of **Al Pavik**, to **Elim Glen Care Center, 6257 Eureka Rd, Granite Bay, CA 95746**. The family will work directly with Elim Glen to ensure the donation goes directly in supporting the residences in honor of our dad.

Visitation will be **Sunday November 10th from 5:00-7:00 pm** with a rosary beginning at 6:30 pm at **Miller Funeral Home, 507 Scott Street, Folsom, CA**. Funeral services will be **Monday November 11th at 10:00 am** at **St. John's Catholic Church at 307 Montrose Dr, Folsom CA** followed by burial at Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery at 1201 Forrest Street, Folsom CA with full military honors. There will be a reception directly afterwards at St. John's Catholic Church Garden Reception room, which all are welcome.

This obituary was found at [www.millerfuneralhomefolsom.net](http://www.millerfuneralhomefolsom.net)

### A recollection:

I knew, and respected, Al when he and I worked at the 1155th Tech Ops Sqdn, McClellan Central Laboratory (MCL). He was a "true blue" Officer who you could always trust. After retirement, and when Al was part of our West Coast Chapter Officers, he and Ann held a Christmas party at their home, which my wife, Leilani, and I enjoyed very much. **Rest In Peace, Al!**

*Bob Fitzgerald, AFTACAA-WCC Webmaster [MSgt USAF (Ret.), MCL 4/1964-4/1967 & 10/1969-2/1977.]*

# IN MEMORIAM

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Those rules persist until this very day. Then the question came up, "How do we find all these literally thousands of former AFTAC'ers and maintain contact with them". John did that too. Working with AFTAC's personnel department, he obtained the names of those retirees and worked them into the most basic types of computers available back then. Finally, with the help of a few other old timers, he developed a Google type of website where events and happenings could be viewed. He developed a VERY popular newsletter, the Post Monitor, commonly called the PoMo. It was, and remains, a very popular item. You can view them all on the Alumni website. And the rest, they say, is history. With John though, it didn't end there. It can be strongly stated, that the dynamic AFTAC Alumni association that we have today, is the direct result of John's continuing efforts, much of it being done while battling with his sickness. I could say many of us would have given up, and truthfully, many did. John's demeanor was fascinating too. You liked him the moment you met him. My wife and I did. He was never about himself, he was always interested in you. "Where are you from?" he'd ask with genuine interest. "What did you do?", he'd continue with a twinkle in his eye. The questions would continue and you'd be locked in a long conversation, but one that you'd find yourself enjoying. Here was a man that you'd want to remember and actually one that you would. John's awards and accolades were numerous. One that he was extremely proud of was his selection to the AFTAC Wall of Honor, which is a distinct tribute to those AFTAC personnel that displayed exceptional performance for the organization and through those efforts, to the world. This honor, and his name is there with the likes of Generals, Chief Scientist and other high level dignitaries. John's name, along with those others, belongs there. John was easy to laugh and in the process, would make you want to laugh. What a great communication event that was!! These things and so many others, too numerous to pen here, are what made John the outstanding man that he was. He will be missed by my wife and I, and I know that he will be missed by many others. As a dedicated father, uncle and grandfather, I know he will be greatly missed by his family. He's now with the love of his life Chris and I also know she will well take care of him. On behalf of so many friends John, God love you and we know that you will be remembered. - Frank and Edna Calenda

*in memoriam*



# Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)



**Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 January each year. Life memberships are available for \$75**

NOTE: Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration year. Check you mailing label for expiration year

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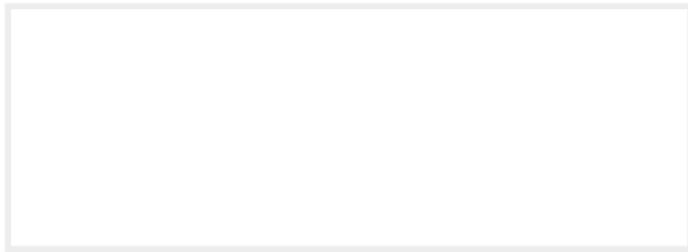
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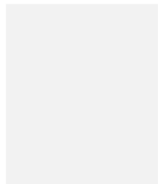
**Support your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends.** [From the Depot Fallout]

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



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