



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
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## JANUARY 2020 EDITION

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[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

### From the President

*by Allan Pentecost, WCC President*

Happy New Year and best wishes to all! We held our Fall Social and Election of Officers event on 9 November 2019 at Olive Garden Restaurant, and had a nice turnout. Olive Garden gave us a dedicated room and the food and service was great. We all had a good time eating with friends and sharing stories. Thanks to Ken Denbleyker for taking photos while Bob Fitzgerald was out of town and could not attend. We held the vote for the Election of Officers. Allan Pentecost was elected to the position of WCC President, replacing Rod Hinkle. Thank you Rod for your time and service as WCC President. Charles Penn was elected to the position of WCC Assistant Chairman of the board which was previously vacant. Thank you to all of the other officers (who will continue in their positions) for your valuable time and service. I am looking forward to serving as the new WCC President, as well as continuing as the Publications and Distribution Chairman.

Don't forget our upcoming 2020 WCC Spring Picnic and BBQ. It will be held again at Tempo Park, 13125 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Citrus Heights, on 16 May from 11:30am to 2:30 pm. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

### Oath of Enlistment

*by Don King, Newsletter Editor*



## In Memoriam PEGGY J RHEAULT



b. 07-Jul-1938, d. 22-Nov-2019 in Seal Rock, OR

(As written by Bob Fitzgerald with input & assistance from Peggy's daughter, Julie.)

**Peggy J. Rheault** was born in Alexandria, Virginia on July 7, 1938 to **Audrey & Raymond Beavers**. After high-school, Peggy became an administrative assistant working at the US Air Force's **1035th Field Activities Group/AFTAC** Headquarters just south of Alexandria. It was while working at **AFTAC** HQ that Peggy met, and on Dec 28, 1963 married **Charles R. "Ray" Rheault** who was an Admin Personnel Clerk at AFTAC HQ on active duty with the USAF. Peggy and her young daughter **Debbie** went with Ray after he applied for and was accepted by AFTAC to become a **99125L - Special Weapons Technician** and sent to Lowry AFB, CO in 1965 for training. After 9 months in Colorado, they were transferred to the **1155th Technical Operations Squadron** at McClellan AFB, CA where Ray worked in the **McClellan Central Laboratory (MCL)** as a bench chemist. In April of 1967 Ray, Peggy, daughter Debbie & infant daughter **Julie** were transferred to Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, AK. Peggy & Ray were outgoing active people who made many long-lasting friends at Eielson, and again when they returned to the 1155<sup>th</sup> TechOpsSq in October 1969 where Ray became the NCOIC of the Chem Lab.

Peggy was Ray's main supporter, bookkeeper and helper when he became a self-employed cabinet maker after retirement in 1978. Peggy never remarried after Ray's death in 1994 but was very active with the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Carmichael, CA and as a volunteer with Domestic Abuse Intervention & Elderly Rights organizations in Sacramento. Peggy helped with registrations at a number of the **AFTAC Alumni Association Worldwide Reunions** held by the 1155<sup>th</sup> TechOpsSq in Sacramento and was an active volunteer and supporter of the **Country Club Aires** (<http://www.countryclubaires.org/>) Men's Chorus & Band performances, and the **California Old Time Fiddlers District 5** (<http://www.csotfa5.org/>) monthly jam sessions & other western music jam sessions. Peggy loved music, especially western and all of Elvis Presley's 1950's style soft rock & roll music to which she loved to dance. She had a very kind and caring heart for everyone in need, including animals. No one was a stranger to Peggy.

Peggy leaves behind her loving and devoted daughters **Debbie Rheault** of Seal Rock, Oregon & **Julie Burke** (Mike) of Auburn, California and her grandchildren Joseph & Curtis Cissney and Lisa Meadows (*Debbie*) and Tori Oldham (*Julie*), plus 9 great-grandchildren. Peggy was predeceased by her father, Ray Beavers; brother, Robert Beavers; husband Charles 'Ray' Rheault; and mother, Audrey Beavers. A memorial celebration will be planned in the near future in the Sacramento area where most of Peggy's friends still reside. *Note: Possibly near the end of April 2020, but details were still pending at the time this was published.*

*On a personal note:* **Peggy & Ray** were our dear friends since the early 1960's. I first met **Ray** and then **Peggy** when I was a cryptographer in a communications detachment assigned to AFTAC HQ in Alexandria, (1960-64), after which I was accepted for training as a 99125L and subsequently sent to the 1155<sup>th</sup> TechOpsSq (MCL) in April 1964. When Ray and I were voluntarily transferred together with our families to Eielson AFB in April 1967 I helped carry baby **Julie** in my arms on our flight from Seattle to Fairbanks, Alaska. I was Julie's proxy Godfather at her Christening at Eielson AFB. Peggy & Ray were our daughter's Godparents at her Christening after she was born in 1975. My dear wife **Darlene** and I have lost a very dear friend in Peggy's passing and, although her physical presence will be dearly missed, she will still be with us in spirit and memories. May she rest together with Ray in God's peace.

.... **Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster** [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org). (Also published on our website "Departed" page.).

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **JAMES "Jim" GILLMORE**

b. 06-Mar-1936; d. 21-Oct-2018 in Concord, CA  
(As received from Calvin Bacon via Email to Frank Calenda)



**James Michael Gillmore** 82, entered into rest on October 21, 2018 in Concord; born March 6, 1936 in Cleveland, OH to Donald and Florence Gillmore. He had been ill for many years; the family is very grateful for his all of his caregivers.

James attended Ohio State University, he served in the USAF (1959-1963) and he earned his AA degree in Computer Science from Diablo Valley College. James worked as a computer programmer 11 years for Wells Fargo. Then he worked for various companies as a self-employed programmer until his retirement in late 1999. James had a lifelong love of steam trains and model railroads. He also loved photography and traveling.

James is survived by his wife of 58 years Evelyn J. Gillmore; son Scott; daughter-in-law Cindy Gillmore; grandchildren Derek and Leah Gillmore. James is also survived by extended relatives and friends. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00AM, Monday, November 12, 2018 at Ouimet Bros. Concord Funeral Chapel, 4125 Clayton Road, Concord. Interment will be private in Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA. In lieu of flowers, memorials in James memory may be made to: California State Railroad Museum, 125 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. *Published in East Bay Times on Nov. 4, 2018.*

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**Cal Bacon** added: "Jim graduated from tech school at Lowry AFB in August 1960 (married 27 Aug 1960) and spent the rest of his USAF time in **building 628 in the Mass Spec Lab**. Regards, **Cal Bacon 1155 TOS 1960 - 1963**." Cal also included this Web Link for the obituary:  
<https://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/james-m-gillmore?about>

*Note: Jim was a LIFE member of the AFTACAA West Coast Chapter. ... bf, Webmaster*

## **DFAS---When to Update Your Account**

*by: Dale Klug – Casualty Assistance Rep @ McClellan Park, CA 1-916-640-8446*

We recommend reviewing your retired pay account at least once a year to make sure your information is up to date. It might be useful to review a copy of your annual Retiree Account Statement (RAS) each December. You might even consider printing a copy of your most recent:

[monthly eRAS](#)

from [myPay](#) every few months. Below are a few examples of situations in which you might need to update your account information.

### **If You've Switched Banks or Opened a New Account**

Your banking information is perhaps the most important thing to keep updated. We rely on you to tell us where to send your payments. The sooner you [update your direct deposit](#), the less likely your payment will go to the wrong place.

Please make sure that your payments are going to your new account before you close out your old account. It can take up to 30 days to process a direct deposit change request. Closing out your old account before we've updated your bank information can result in missing and returned payments.

### **If You Move to a New Home or Relocate Temporarily**

You need to update your mailing address whenever it changes. Even if you are only going somewhere warmer for the winter, you should let us know. We're always mailing letters, account statements, and other important information you won't want to miss.

### **If You've Married, Divorced or Added to Your Family**

Changes in the size of your family can affect several aspects of your retired pay account. You should first [update your Arrears of Pay Beneficiary](#), the person who receives your final payment when you die.

If you chose the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) when you retired, you might also need to [update your SBP beneficiary](#). Life changing events often increase or decrease the amount of your SBP premium. You should send documentation such as divorce decrees, death certificates and marriage certificates to us as soon as possible. Late notification of a change in your life can result in debts to you or your family.

We also suggest reviewing your [Federal and State Income Tax Withholding](#) with a tax professional. We cannot help you choose a withholding amount or offer tax advice, but you may find that gaining or losing a family member will affect your tax liability

If you're a [myPay](#) user and your email address changes, please be sure to update it in [myPay](#).  
**Updated Nov 13, 2019**

## **A Chilling Tale**

*by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster*

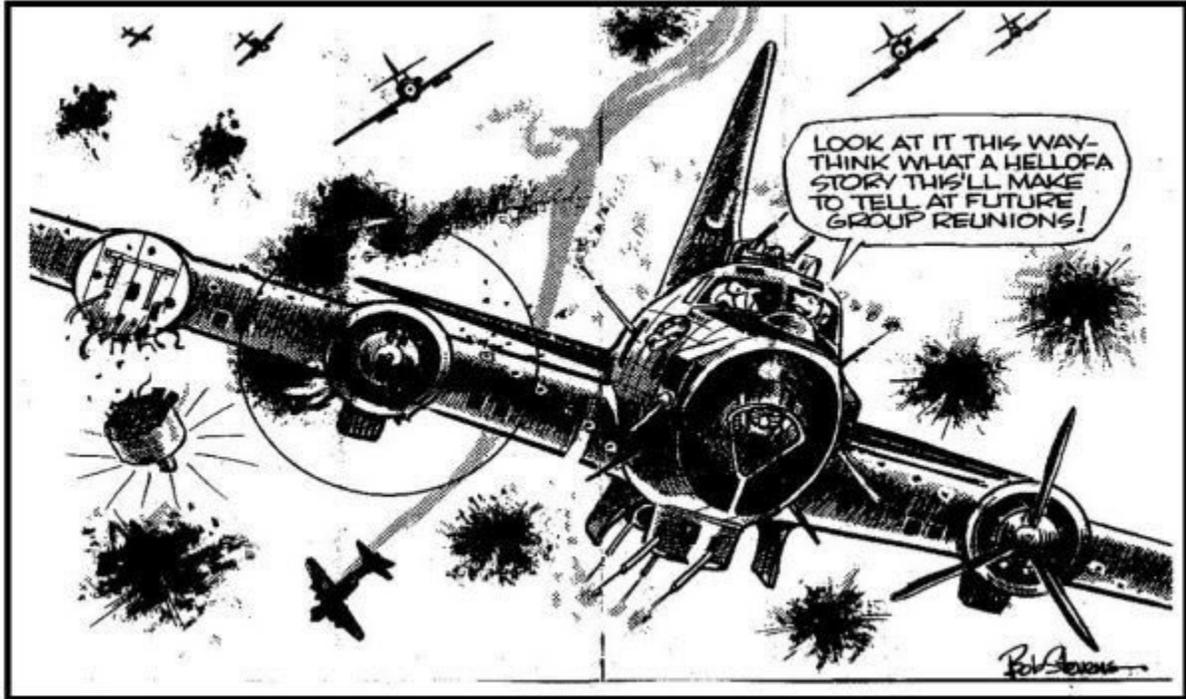


### **1967 Fairbanks Flood**

I was in the lab at Eielson from April 1967-Oct 1969. Do you remember the earthquake outside of Fairbanks in '67 followed just weeks later by a major Chena river flood that pretty much wiped out Fairbanks? I was given permission by my Det Commander, Col Dettmer, to take two weeks to work communications up at the University above the city, but to get there I had to ride on the bed of a big military truck that dropped me off at the gate at Fort Wainwright, *the only dry spot anywhere around*, where a helicopter took me up there ... then it was just about 24/7 for two weeks handling all the local H&W traffic on my own portable CB-Radio. Those were very interesting times! I became a licensed "Ham" (Amateur Radio Operator) the next year thanks to the local Ham Radio Club alongside members of which I worked that disaster. (WN6FGU/KL7 back then and WA6FGU shortly after returning to Sacramento.)

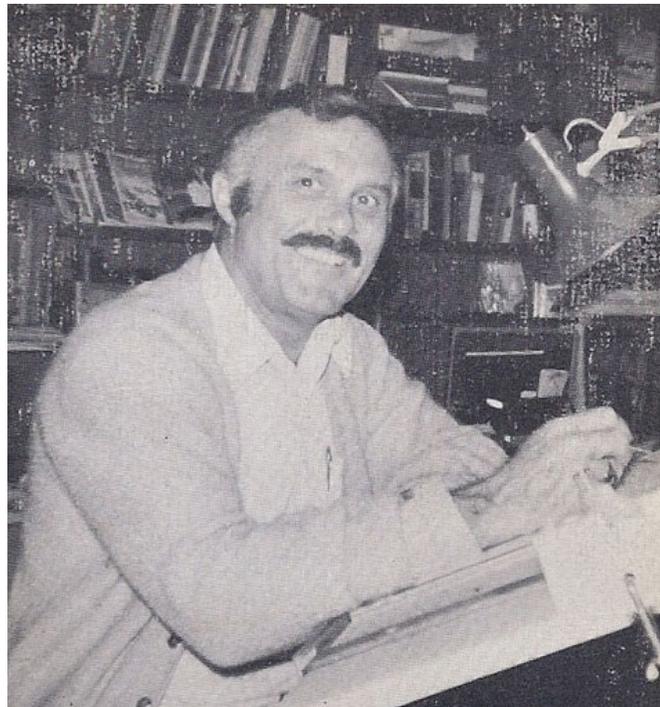
## A Cartoonist for Flyboys

by Don King, Newsletter Editor



Bob Stevens was an American cartoonist and aviator. Born Robert Merrill Stevens, he studied art at Pasadena, California, before joining the Army Air Corps in 1942. He flew about every World War II fighter the Army Air Forces had, and also made cartoons for the army magazines *Army Times* and *Stars and Stripes*. He later worked as a civilian flight instructor and then transitioned to jets. He set a world speed record in 1950 in the F-86 Sabre and later commanded the first Atlas missile squadron.

After retiring from active duty as a colonel, Stevens became a successful cartoonist. His comic strip 'Clementine' ran with the Lew Little Syndicate in 1965 and 1966. He subsequently turned to creating editorial cartoons for the Copley News Service, and his work was soon syndicated to more than 300 newspapers. During the 1970s and 1980s, he made aviation cartoons for *Private Pilot* and *Professional Pilot* magazines. His work has been collected in books like 'There I Was, Flat On My Back' (1968) and 'More There I Was' (1974) by Martin Leeuwis Publications.



## 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 Restaurant in McClellan Park. The meetings usually last an hour or less. All AFTAC alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend. The date of our next meeting is **March 9th**. Always check our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website “Events” page to confirm the date, time & location in case of last minute changes.

### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

**Saturday, 16 May 2020, 11:30am-2:30pm** we will hold our annual “Armed Forces Day WCC SPRING PICNIC & BBQ”.

We always have a great time at this spring event where we enjoy WCC provided BBQ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, sodas & bottled water along with all the potluck dishes & desserts brought by our members & guests. There will be a required sign-up form in the next Depot Fallout newsletter and on our website by this April, so please look for it then.

**Saturday, 14 Nov 2020, 11:30am-2:00pm** will be our “FALL SOCIAL” luncheon event. Details regarding this will be published later in upcoming Depot Fallout newsletters and on our website.

***Please make note of the above events on your personal calendar and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.***

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*By Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

**As of DEC 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 Oct 2019 – 31 Dec 2019  
Submitted 1-Jan-2020 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors</u> <u>This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest</u> <u>Visitors Week</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>
<b>3,294</b>	<b>10/07-10/13 (565)</b>	<b>3,537</b>	<b>Departed (334)</b>	<b>Links (315)</b>

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.**

# AFTACAA WCC FALL SOCIAL

By Bob Fitzgerald, Vice President



L-R far back 3rd row: John Miner, Tom Wentz, John "Butch" Kemna, Charlie Penn & Dave Riddle;  
2nd row: Ken Denbleyker, Don Lemmon, Jeanne Haslett, Ken Breitwieser, Denise Pothier, Bob Baker, Walt Gehling & Allan Pentecost;  
Front Row Seated: Pattye Lemmon, Donna Fritts, Corinne Miner, Irene Goodreau & Sue Wentz;  
Not photographed but also in attendance: Al & Ann Pavik; Dale Klug; Jeanne Haslett's daughter Cherri & granddaughter Alora;  
and Kathy Pentecost (Photographer). (24 total attended)

## Parody on As Time Goes By

By: Don King, Newsletter Editor

*You must remember this  
A quake is just a quake    A spike is just a spike  
The fundamental things apply  
As time goes by*

*Unless two "B" guys say  
That sure looks different to me    On that you can rely  
No matter what the future brings  
As time goes by*

*Experience and analysis*

*Never out of date*

*"Say I've seen this before*

*Sure looks like a man-made trace"*

*A check with other sites clears all the doubt away*

*That no one can deny*

*It's still the same old story  
A fight for God and Country    A case of do or die  
In God we always trust – All others we monitor  
As time goes by.*



# 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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