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162nd Wing Retiree News

February 2016

This newsletter is published by the 162nd Wing Retirees Office for the sole purpose of providing information relevant to retirees. Photos in this publication are from Retirees Office files or public domain, unless otherwise noted. Questions or comments regarding this publication should be forwarded to the address listed in the upper left-hand corner of this page.



Free Income Tax Preparation

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is available again this year at Davis Monthan AFB. Retirees are welcome. For detailed information about what you need to bring to your interview and to make an appointment phone (520) 228-3489.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana to open soon

The Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Marana has been under construction for over a year and is almost complete. Dedication ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 10 a.m. As we get closer to the date, watch our emails and the news media for directions and further information.

For those planning ahead for a burial in a veterans cemetery, the Marana location will provide an option close to Tucson. Pre-registration is possible, which provides the cemetery with your basic information so most of the paperwork will already have been completed in advance. For more information on Veterans Memorial Cemeteries in Arizona go to the web sites listed below or call (520) 458-7144.



Retiree Events

February-June 2016

Monthly Retirees Luncheon
Held the second Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral Buffet, 6865 N. Thornydale Rd., 11:00 am. Scheduled dates are:

Mar 8
Apr 12
May 10
June 14



Monthly Flightline Luncheon
Held the last Monday of each month at Famous Sam's, 7129 E Golf Links, 12 noon. Scheduled dates are:

Feb 29
Mar 28
Apr 25
May 30
June 27



Monthly Pilot's Breakfast

Held the first Tuesday of each month at the IHOP, 5101 E. Grant Rd., 7 am.



Seasonal Monthly White Mountain Retirees Breakfast

Will be held the second Wednesday of each month from May to September at The Picnic Basket, 436 E. White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop, AZ, 7:30 am.



Annual ANG Retirees White Mountain Picnic

The 12th Annual White Mountain Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016, at Charlie Clark's Steak House in Pinetop. Put this date on your calendar. More detailed info will be available as we get closer to the picnic date.



Other events

Heritage Flight practice at Davis-Monthan

Practice for the 2016 air show season is scheduled for March 3-6 at DMAFB. Aircraft scheduled are F-22, F-35, F-86, P-51, P-38 and P-47. Military retirees are welcome to come out and watch the airplanes practice. Check the local news media for actual times.



Burial benefits for deceased Air National Guard members

Question: Are retired members of the Air National Guard eligible for military veterans burial benefits?
Answer: Yes, but benefits may vary depending on where you are buried and type of burial.

Qualifications for benefits are as follows: Any deceased veteran discharged under honorable conditions or (in some cases) some who are discharged under other than honorable conditions. As an Air National Guard Retiree you are considered an Air Force Retiree (check out your retirees ID card) and are eligible for burial benefits. A copy of your DD214 (separation from active duty) or NGB 22 (separation from National Guard) is required to acquire benefits. Funeral directors should know what to do but they will need your separation form to initiate the benefits.

During your memorial service, wherever you chose to have it, you are also entitled to a military honor guard. Your funeral director will know how to contact the proper personnel for an Honor Guard. All veterans are entitled to a granite or marble headstone (regardless of the cemetery), and a flag. In a veterans cemetery there will be no charge for opening or closing the grave, a vault or liner, or setting the marker. In a private cemetery there may be a charge for these services. Usually, a family is responsible for all other expenses including transportation to the cemetery.

We highly recommend you know where your military separation forms are, that you write down your desires, and decide on your burial location while you are still alive. This will make it much easier on your surviving family members when you're gone.

To get specific information go to the "va.gov" web site and click on Burials and Memorials. You can also go to the "azdvs.gov" website to check out Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. Those who don't have computer access can contact the Retirees Office and we will send you information.



Retirees Remembered

The following former, and current, unit members recently passed away. Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of these dedicated coworkers who served with us at the Tucson Air National Guard:



Richard (Dick) Laidley: Dick was an early fighter pilot at the 162nd who served with us during the F-100 days.

Frank Enfinger: Frank was a current unit member who worked in Avionics and also served as a member of the 162nd Wing Honor Guard.

Ed Brazill: Ed was one of the early unit members who served with us in Base Supply for many years.

In Memoriam 2015

As another year comes to an end we would like to recognize former unit members who were no longer with us as 2015 came to a close. These individuals were our friends and co-workers who contributed to the proud history of the 162nd Wing.



Harry van der Voort	Dany Daniel	Stacy Somner
Juan Salcido	David Mallick	Rasid Hasan
John Smith	Karen Veltman	Juan Escalante
Chuck Aegerter	Jeff Glaser	Frank Reed
Dale Fisher	Jack Donovan	Bill Harn
Hank Majeski	Gloria Kim	Ed Espino

162nd Wing 60th Anniversary Party scheduled for June

The 162nd 60th Anniversary will be celebrated on Friday and Saturday, August 26-27, 2016 at the Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson. Events planned are a golf tournament, family day events, evening banquet, and an evening social hour each day. Current unit members, retirees and family members are all invited to be part of this celebration. Put Aug 26-27 on your calendar and plan to attend this party.

Still looking for old military stuff to display at the 60th

If you have some old pictures, uniforms or other mementos from the 162nd in the early days (50's or 60's preferred but 70's or 80's would be good, too) we would like you to share so we can display them at the 60th Anniversary Party. Give us a phone call or email and we will discuss details.

Recognizing our 162nd WWII vets

During the 60th Anniversary we would like to recognize our living WWII veterans. We have some names but not sure if our list is complete. Those we know of are identified below. If you know of any others please contact the Retirees Office by phone or email.

Don Morris	Wayne Butler	George Olbin
Milt Collier	Bill Bradley	Ray Basek

Once again 162nd Retirees show their Holiday Spirit in supporting current unit members

The Monthly 162nd Retirees Lunch held on December 8th was an event to remember. An overflow crowd of more than seventy-five former unit members (the largest participation ever for a retirees lunch) filled our room at the Golden Corral. Retirees ate a quality meal, mixed with old friends and got an update on unit happenings from the current 162nd Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Phil Purcell. The retirees holiday spirit was front and center as retirees donated a truckload of food and a sizeable amount of cash to help lift the holiday spirits of less fortunate current Guard members. Barb Gavre, the 162nd Wing Family Readiness Program Manager, was present to accept the donations. Also, retiree Liz Kohler raffled off a custom-made, 162nd-themed quilt and donated half of the proceeds to family support. It was a grand event all around.



Don't forget that the luncheon is a monthly event and retirees and family members are always welcome. It's held on the second Tuesday every month of the year.

A personal note from Barb Gavre: RETIREE'S: I want to "THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart for supporting Family Readiness. The support and generosity was overwhelming during the December luncheon/food drives the past two years. Thank you for your service to the 162 ANG and country. I am proud to be a 162d RETIREE. God Bless You. Barb

Jan 12, 2016 Retirees Lunch attendees gather for a group photo

