

25th Annual Membership Meeting At San Diego's Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel

It's more than convenient, it's beautiful. "What?" you say.

The luxurious Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel on San Diego's Harbor Island where our headquarters is for the Silver Anniversary AFPAAA Annual Membership Meeting, May 31- June 2.

And, it is not too early to make your meeting and hotel reservation, as well as start looking for good airfares. We have a great rate of \$155 per night plus tax at the Sheraton which is a short complimentary ride from San Diego International Airport.

If you want to spend some extra time seeing the sights of San Diego or just lounging around and enjoying Harbor Island and its many fine restaurants, there are a limited number of rooms available at the \$155 price for up to three days before and/or after the meeting that are sure to go quickly.

The full program is not complete but it will start with the traditional ice-breaker on Thursday evening. We are working on a tour

of Navy facilities for Friday along with the President's Luncheon. Saturday morning's briefings will include the Space & Missile Center, the AFRTS Broadcast Center, and the impact of social media on the Air Force.

Then will come the SAF/PA Director's Luncheon with Brigadier General Ed Thomas followed by our membership meeting, Saturday evening it's reception and banquet time with



You're Invited!

AFPAAA members are invited to the Pentagon, Friday, October 20 for the dedication of the new SAF/PA conference room partly funded by a generous AFPAAA donation. Lunch and a tour of SAF/PA's new offices will follow.

Pentagon access is very restricted, reservations are required. RSVP by Oct. 13 to Louis.J.Timmons.civ@mail.mil or call 703 695-5536. Full details on our website: www.afpaaa.org

the presentations of The Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr., Best of the Best Award and AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award.

Full registration for the meeting includes the reception, tour transportation on Friday, breakfasts and lunches on Friday and Saturday, and the reception and banquet Saturday. Individual events can be purchased separately.

Use the form on the next page for meeting registration and hotel information or go to our web site at: www.afpaaa.org/annualmeet.html

It's Nomination Time For The Mike McRaney Service Award

It is not too early for you to prepare a nomination for AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award. Nominations are due by January 1.

The McRaney Award is AFPAAA's highest honor. It can be given to any member in recognition of contributions to AFPAAA far beyond those normally expected of a member. A list of past recipients is in our membership directory and on the AFPAAA website at www.afpaaa.org/awards.html

Recipients of the McRaney Award are determined by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Nominations can be made at any time. The award does not have to be presented every year.

The McRaney Award is not a going out of office award. In considering a nominee, service on the Board of Directors, chairing a committee, or holding an office – such as president or chairman of the board of directors is not required, but such achievements do not exclude a member from the award.

A member's rank, accomplishments, positions while on active duty or working for a federal, state, local government, non-profit entity, religious group, or private corporation, will not be considered in determining an award recipient. Neither will monetary contributions to AFPAAA in and of themselves be the sole reason for making the award.

To be considered for presentation at the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting nominations need to be received by January 1. Submit nominations to AFPAAA's secretary: jaydefrank@afpaaa.org



Vician First Air Force Public Affairs Agency Commander

When Colonel Todd Vician (right) received the unit standard from SAF/PA Director Brigadier General



Ed Thomas in July he became the first commander of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency. Prior to then, from its activation in 2008, former AFPAAA Board chairman, Larry Clavette, was the civilian director of the agency.

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, AFPAAA has more than 350 people at eight worldwide locations. It includes two Air Force Combat Camera Squadrons and among other tasks it is responsible for deploying Public Affairs crisis response teams in support of contingencies and managing the licensing and branding of Air Force trade marks.

Colonel Vician comes to AFPAAA from serving as Chief of Staff for Seventh Air Force at Osan AB, Republic of Korea. Other assignments included Commander, 72d Mission Support Group, Tinker AFB, and Director of Public Affairs for Air Combat Command.

Registration Form



AFPAAA
25th Annual Membership Meeting
San Diego, CA
May 31, June 1 & 2, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____
(Do you receive text messages at this number? Yes ___ No ___)

email address: _____

Guest(s) Name(s): _____

How do you want your name/guest name(s) to appear on name badges: _____

NOTE – To register and pay by credit card online go to: <http://www.afpaaa.org/AnnMeet-Reg18.html>

Full Registration

Includes all events, except golf, on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday.

Please indicate the number of meal choice(s) for the Saturday banquet:

Steak _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

How many in your party will go on the Friday, June 1, tour _____

Members Attending ___ x \$200 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$200 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$300 = \$ _____

Individual Event Registration

**Icebreaker Reception - Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel,
Thursday, May 31, 5-7 p.m.**

Members Attending ___ x \$20 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$20 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$25 = \$ _____

Breakfast - Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel, Friday, June 1.

Members Attending ___ x \$30 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$30 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$35 = \$ _____

President's Luncheon - Friday, June 1.

*(Includes bus transportation from Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel
for Friday tour)*

Members Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$75 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$85 = \$ _____

President's Luncheon Only – Friday, June 1.

Members Attending ___ x \$55 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$55 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$65 = \$ _____

Breakfast - Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel, Saturday, June 2.

Members Attending ___ x \$30 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$30 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$35 = \$ _____

**SAF/PA Director's Luncheon, Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel,
Saturday, June 2.**

Members Attending ___ x \$55 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$55 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$65 = \$ _____

**AFPAAA Annual Reception and Banquet, Sheraton Bay
Tower Hotel, Saturday, June 2, 6-10 p.m.**

Please indicate number of meal choice(s) for the banquet:

Steak _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

Members Attending ___ x \$95 = \$ _____
Guests Attending ___ x \$95 = \$ _____
Non Members ___ x \$105 = \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to: AFPAAA

Mail form and check/money order to:

**Phil Ratliff, Treasurer
868 Trevino Terrace
Lady Lake, FL 32159**

Total Remitted \$ _____

**Meeting Registrations
Are Due NLT Midnight
May 16, 2018
Registrations Received
After That Time Will Be
Charged A \$25 Per
Person Late Fee**

Hotel: AFPAAA has a block of rooms at the Sheraton Bay Tower Hotel at the rate of **\$155.00+tax** per night (single or double). This rate is valid 3 days before and after our meeting **if** space is available. Make hotel reservations online at <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/AFPAAA2018> or by calling **1 877 734-2726** and ask for group **AFPAAA 25th Annual Meeting 2018**. Hotel reservations must be made by **May 16, 2018**.

For the latest meeting information check AFPAAA's website: <http://www.AFPAAA.org/annualmeet.html>

From The President's Pen —



One of our Association's primary responsibilities is to honor and preserve the legacy of those who helped build and sustain the Air Force Public Affairs career field – including the pioneers of Air Force bands, broadcasting, and visual information.

It is up to us to ensure the Air Force men and women of today and tomorrow understand and appreciate the history of Public Affairs – our foundation, our challenges, and how we evolved over the years. As older former PA practitioners pass on we are in a race against time to provide a permanent record of that legacy. If we don't take the baton in that race right now and carry it, no one else will.

I am happy to report that your Association has taken that baton and is actively involved in several initiatives to help sustain the Public Affairs legacy.

With the help of a sizeable donation from AFPAAA, the SAF/PA Memorial Conference Room in the Pentagon will be completed and dedicated on the 20th of this month. It includes a wall display honoring those Air Force Public Affairs professionals who lost their lives in harm's way. Details of the ceremony are posted on our website and all AFPAAA members are invited to attend.

In addition, we are working with SAF/PA to establish an Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame to recognize and honor our trailblazers. Our Army Public Affairs counterparts have a similar program that includes a special website and wall displays in the Pentagon and DINFOS. Stay tuned for more details as we move forward.

Our Best of the Best and President's Awards, oral history program, and remembrances in our newsletter are other ways AFPAAA honors and preserves the achievements and contributions of those who built the legacy of Air Force Public Affairs communications career fields.

In other matters, plans are moving forward for our 25th Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego, May 31–June 2. On-site chairman John Gura reports the program will include possible tours of area Naval facilities and presentations by the SAF/PA Los Angeles office and the AFRTS Broadcast Center. This is another great opportunity to expand our horizons and visit with old friends so mark your calendars and use the registration form on the opposite page.

In closing I'd like to pay tribute to two dear friends who recently passed away: Gerry Hickman and Carol Schillerstrom. Gerry was a former SAF/PA Deputy Director and prior to that PA Director at both USAFE and Air Force Materiel Command. He was one of our stalwarts and a mentor to many young officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians. We'll miss his wise counsel, wit and enduring smile. Carol, the wife of another late SAF/PA Deputy, Dave Schillerstrom, was a very special lady who not only contributed to the success of her husband but also shared her love, talents and sage advice with many Air Force families. Carol attended our Destin meeting in April. We'll miss these two unique individuals and extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

– Art Forster

Lord Guard & Guide

Earl D. Flick

Earl Flick, who had careers in Air Force Public Affairs and with The Aerospace Corporation, died May 12 in Torrance, California, after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. He was 78.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, he was commissioned through OTS. His first assignment was as both the Information Officer and the Club Officer for the 7272nd Fighter Training Wing, Wheelus Air Base, Libya.



Earl's later assignments included Luke AFB, Arizona, Guam, during the Vietnam war, and Beale AFB. He managed the Strategic Air Command Distinguished Visitor Program and was deputy chief of Public Affairs Plans and Programs, USEUCOM, Stuttgart, Germany. He retired in 1985 as a major.

In his post Air Force career he supported USAF/NASA/NSA launch vehicle and satellite programs for The Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, California.

Earl was a good friend and a strong PA, especially when we worked at 15th Air Force HQs in the 1980's. He was probably the most organized person I have ever known. He had work folders, ticker files, suspense lists, etc. etc. for every subject known to mankind. He was also the king of gadgetry even before the advent of computers. Rest well, my friend.

– Wayne Corbett

I was privileged to serve with Earl in SAC, USEUCOM, and again in retirement. He was absolutely the finest staff officer I encountered in my 27 years in uniform. Smart, witty, thorough, and totally reliable, his demeanor allowed him to function smoothly in the company of commanders and senior staff officers. The DV program he managed for SAC was audited by the GAO and found to be "a model for the Air Force to follow."

– Dave Cole

Phillip M. Haines

Phillip Haines, a career Air Force Public Affairs NCO, passed away May 3 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 67.

He is survived by his wife Masoumeh Vali; daughters Annie Budd and Alicia Cheasty, and son Karl Haines. He was interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Donations in Phillip's name may be made to Brain and Behavior Research Foundation at <https://www.bbrfoundation.org/about>.



I was assigned with Phil at Davis-Monthan AFB in 1979-80. He was the NCOIC of the internal information division. I was a newly minted second lieutenant, and I learned a lot from Phil. One of the nicest guys ever, too!

– Linda Leong

Todd R. Lane

Todd Lane, who earned honors throughout his Air Force career, died of cancer at his home in Las Vegas, Nevada July 18. He was 55.

He was born in Manhasset, New York, and joined the Air Force in 1982. Todd's first assignment was at Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina, where he earned the John Levitow Award while attending the NCO Preparatory Course.

In assignments at Zwiebruecken Air Base, Germany, and Aviano

Air Base, Italy, Todd earned distinguished graduate honors at the NCO Leadership School and the Kislung NCO Academy. At Sembach Air Base, Germany, he completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree, graduating first in a class of 900 from the University of Maryland and receiving the school's Bentley Award as its number one graduate for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and human relations.

Following duty at Beale AFB, California, as Chief, Audiovisual Services, he was assigned to the Joint Staff, during which time he earned Senior NCO Academy Distinguished Graduate honors.

He retired as a Chief Master Sergeant from his last assignment as the superintendent of the 99th Communications Squadron Support Flight, Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Todd was an outdoor enthusiast who was an accomplished rock climber and enjoyed canyoneering, surfing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Todd is survived by his wife of 33 years, Karen, and his son, Calder; his parents, David and Joan Lane; and his brothers, Gregg and Maththew Lane. Donations in Todd's memory can be made to the food bank Three Square at <https://threesquare.nationbuilder.com/>



George C. Larrieu

George Larrieu, who was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, was one of the Greatest Generation and a life member of AFPAAA, passed away in San Antonio, Texas, June 7. He was 92.

George's military career began in 1943 when he graduated from high school in Houston, Texas, and enlisted in the Marine Corps. Following WW II, he studied photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology and was self-employed as a publicity photographer.

He was commissioned through Air Force ROTC and was in Public Affairs throughout his career. His assignments included Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Lincoln AFB, Nebraska; Maxwell AFB, Alabama; and Lajes AB, Azores. He served at Scott AFB, Illinois, and Tan Son Nhut AB, Republic of Vietnam, where he was director of combat information photography.

George's last assignment was at USAF Southern Command, Albrook AFB, Canal Zone. He retired in 1970 as a major.

After earning a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas in 1971, he was Executive Director of the Texas Public Relations Association from 1974-1980.

He was Director of Public Relations for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County from 1972-1979. In 1979 he became the Director of Public Relations at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, where he worked until his retirement in 1989.

George was interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1129 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, Texas, 78148.



Thomas M. Scanlan

Tom Scanlan, who had a 38-year active duty and reserve Air Force career, died June 1 of cancer in Tucson, Arizona. He was 76.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from the Cheshire Academy, Cheshire, Connecticut. He was enlisted in the Air Force before earning his degree and an AFROTC commission from Michigan State University in 1966.

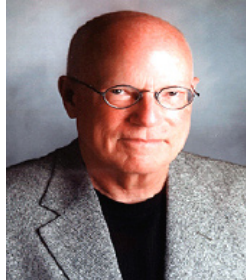
Tom was assigned to the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, first in Turkey and then Germany. AFRTS did not have live video feeds from the United States at that time. Tom was determined to bring

the first man landing on the moon in 1969 live to the American service members and families his station served.

He organized a campaign that raised funds that paid for a microwave interconnection to Eurovision that enabled the broadcast of the Apollo 11 landing; the first live, overseas satellite television broadcast to military families. Tom said "It was absolutely the high point of my entire Air Force career, active and reserve, to have led this outstanding group of young men, women, and civilians at AFTV Germany. They truly are amongst the finest in every respect."

He left active duty in 1973 to pursue a career in radio and television; and what a career that was!

Tom's accomplishments included being the owner and general manager of eight full-power commercial TV stations, three of which were brand new sign-ons, serving new areas in northern Michigan. He also bought and managed WGTU-TV and WGTQ-TV in Traverse City and served as general manager of four stations in Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina.



He was a past president of the Michigan Broadcasters Association. He was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2002, was presented the Michigan Broadcasters Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Tom is survived by wife Sue, son Thomas Jeffrey, daughter Jessica Claire, and three grandchildren.

Tom was a personal friend and professional colleague for 50 years. We first met when he was commander of the AFTV station at Ramstein and I was running AFTV Berlin. He was a consummate professional and a proud patriot.

His enlisted background in air defense electronics and his college degree in broadcasting combined with his God-given skills as an organizer and leader to make him the perfect young officer to take over and turn around the flagging AFTV operation at Ramstein. It was one of the eight television stations operated by the 7122nd Support Squadron. Although it had the largest audience of any of the stations, it was the poorest equipped. And because of the lack-luster facilities, the staff was less than motivated. Their product reflected it, and the station was an embarrassment to the leadership of the 7122nd when the squadron began retransmitting the signal to USAFE headquarters and the Wiesbaden area.

Tom turned it all around in a remarkably short time. His energy, pride, and charisma lit a fire that ignited relentless improvements that drove the station until AFTV operations in Germany were transferred to the Army's AFN Europe. Tom and I reunited through the AFRTS on-line chat group, and we maintained a direct email conversation regularly until his battle with cancer took him off line. In that time we shared a lot of memories and a lot of values. RIP, ol' comrade.

– Rallin Aars

I've lost one of the best friends a man could ever have. Cancer took my buddy Tom Scanlan. Other than my dad, Tom probably influenced my life more than any one person. Tom was my commander at American Forces Television in Germany. When we left the Air Force, Tom hired me to come to Michigan to help build a new TV station from the ground up. Tom's love, guidance, trust, support, and most importantly, FRIENDSHIP, provided me with a career path of nearly 50 years in television broadcasting. Rest In Peace, My Friend. You will be missed.

– Thomas Disinger

David L. Sheets

AFPAAA member David Sheets, who served 26 years of active and reserve duty, passed away peacefully June 4 at home in Hilton Head, South Carolina. He was 71.

David was born in Olney, Illinois, and grew up in Delaware, Ohio. A 1967 graduate of Miami University with a B.S. in Business, he was commissioned through AFROTC. He earned a master's degree in Public Relations from The American University in 1973.

He served at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and the Pentagon until leaving active duty in 1972. In the Air Force Reserve he was the 931st Air Refueling Group's Public Affairs Officer at Grissom AFB, Indiana. He was then assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, where he served until retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1993.

His civilian career was primarily as a development director and fundraising executive for foundations and non-profit organizations, including public television and radio, universities, hospitals, and medical schools. He was a board member of the National Association of Fundraising Executives.

David is survived by his wife of 25 years, Linda Sheets; daughter Catherine Dunwoodie; son Nathan Sheets; stepdaughters Heather Karlen and Michelle Moody, and nine grandchildren.

He was buried with military honors at Dayton National Cemetery. Memorial contributions in David's name may be made to the Hilton Head Humane Association at: http://www.hhhumane.org/?page_id=489 or Hospice Care of the Lowcountry at: <https://www.hospicecarelc.org/donate/>



Bernell A. Whitaker

Greatest Generation member and AFPAAA Lifetime Founder Bernie Whitaker passed away peacefully with family and friends by his side October 6, 2016 in Bakersfield, California. He was 93.

Bernie's military career began as a teenaged Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet. He earned his wings and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant as a P-40 Warhawk pilot at age 19.

Assigned to the 5th Fighter Squadron, 52nd Fighter Group, 15th Air Force in Italy, beginning in August 1944 he flew P-51 Mustangs. His first mission ended with engine failure and a crash landing, but Bernie was able to get back to his base.

On his last mission, a long-range escort, his engine failed again, caught fire, and he was forced to bail out. He was captured and placed in a German prisoner of war camp. He spent several months in captivity until the camp was liberated on April 29, 1945 by General Patton's 3rd Army.

Most of the remainder of Bernie's 32-year career in uniform was in Public Affairs. His assignments included Korea, Vietnam, and the Pentagon. In addition, he served in Los Angeles, working with motion picture and television companies to ensure accurate and appropriate portrayals of the Air Force.

Bernie is survived by his sister, Leta Gronbeck; his sons, Craig and Mark, six grandchildren, ten grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. He was interred at Bakersfield National Cemetery.

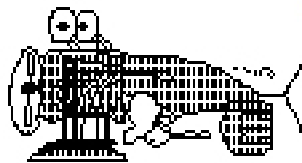


Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P. O. Box 447, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447. On-line subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, as an Air Force Broadcaster, or in the multimedia career fields, as either military or civilian, are eligible for *Full Membership*. Current or former members of those career fields, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for *Associate Membership*. **Membership Rates:** Lifetime \$300 (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments); Full Membership, one-year \$25 or three years \$50. Associate Membership, one-year \$10 or three years \$20. Membership applications are available at www.afpaaa.org **Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Judy Bivens; President, Art Forster; Vice President, Tom Dolney; Secretary, Jay DeFrank; Treasurer, Phil Ratliff, Dick Abel, Larry Clavette, JC Corcoran, Connie Custer, John Gura, Perry Nouis, John Terino and Johnny Whitaker. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff; Membership, Neil Buttmer & Christine Queen; Oral History & Web site, John Gura; SAF/PA Liaison, Larry Clavette.



P. O. Box 447
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



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&
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Welcome Aboard To . . . new members
William Austin, Teddy W. Austin, Lealan Buehrer, Phil Fountain, Katherine Grabham, Jess Harvey, Melissa Harvey, Victoria Hight, Joy Josephson, Brandon Lingle, Marcie Mascaro, John Pavliga, Karen Platt, Mitchell S. Rose, David Schmidt, and Gloria Wilson.

New Lifers . . . congratulations to
Stefan Alford, Bryan Bouchard, Robyn Chumley, Kenneth E. Fidler, Mike Paoli, and Robert Potter who are with us for the long haul.

Timely Reading . . . with North Korea throwing all sorts of nuclear capable missiles around the fall issue of **Strategic Studies Quarterly's** focus on all aspects of nuclear policy and weapons is a must read. Go online to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/> to read the articles or download the issue.

We Remember With Fondness . . . Carol Schillerstrom, 86, who was with us in April in Destin and passed peacefully in her sleep on August 10. The wife of deceased former SAF/PA Deputy Director and AFPAAA Lifetime Founder, David Schillerstrom, Carol's bubbly and vivacious presence, bright smile, lilting laughter, and genuine friendship brightened our gatherings through the years. She is survived by her son, David, and daughters, Linda and Karen. Carol was interred with Dave at Arlington National Cemetery.

