

# News and Notes

January-March 2024

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Senior Airman Rachel L. VanZale, a videographer assigned to the 1st Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C., is this year’s Brig. Gen. James W. Hart, Jr. “Best of the Best” Award recipient.

## Videographer named Brig. Gen. James W. Hart, Jr. “Best of the Best” Winner for 2024

By Dick Cole  
Editor

Senior Airman Rachel L. VanZale, a Combat Camera journeyman assigned to the 1st Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base Charleston, S.C., is this year’s Brig. Gen. James Hart “Best of the Best” Award recipient.

She is responsible for capturing time-critical imagery sup-

porting operation and planning requirements during worldwide crises, contingencies, exercises and war.

VanZale won the Air Force 2022 Best New Videographer of the Year Award and used her knowledge to mentor 79 airmen during 26 squadron training events, leveraging her skillset to certify 256 core tasks for six airmen in upgrade training, expediting job

(cont’d on p.4)

# From the President's pen...



**G**reetings to every member of our Air Force Public Affairs Association! I'm delighted we were able to publish photos and highlights from our annual meeting in Tampa and our last edition of *News and Notes*. Since that time, we have continued to make progress in working with the Air Force Public Affairs community to increase the scope of our organization to include more programming that is attractive to our active-duty counterparts.

On its face, the change seems simple, but there are myriad administrative and legal matters to address as we move forward with the renaming and realignment. I want to thank Jay DeFrank and the AFPAA Transition Working Group for the work they have done thus far and their continued efforts. The transition effort will require a lot of continued patience, due diligence, and dialogue with the Air Force.

It is a lot of work, but we have the big ideas right—we have an organization that has overwhelmingly agreed the effort is worth pursuing, and we have continued cordial, productive dialogue with the Air Force Public Affairs leadership team. I am confident that in the spirit of cooperation and camaraderie, we will work through remaining issues.

Elsewhere in this edition, you'll see an opportunity to register for our annual meeting in San Antonio. This is a great location for the meeting, and I hope we can achieve record-breaking attendance. It will be great to see so many friends and former colleagues again!

*John Dorrian*

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# Association's Communications Chair Presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who

CHESTER, Va., March 22, 2024, —Marquis Who's Who, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles, is proud to present Richard M. "Dick" Cole with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

An accomplished 2024 listee, Cole celebrates many years' experience in his profession, and has been recognized for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials, vision, and successes he has accrued in his field. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected for their current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all examined during the selection process.

The Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to only five percent of Who's Who listees based upon career longevity, philanthropic endeavors, and lasting contributions to society. He will be one of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winners profiled in an upcoming issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

**News and Notes**

Drawing on more than four decades of experience in the field of communications and public relations, Cole specializes in employee and member communications. He is a retired Air Force major and a retired federal government GS-15 public affairs officer.

During his military career, he served as the Chief, Public Affairs Division for the 2nd Bombardment Wing, Barksdale AFB, La., where his base newspaper, *The Observer*, was named best in the Strategic Air Command for 1984. His community relations program was also selected as SAC's finest for 1983 and 1984. He also served with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service and was a spokesman to national and international news media from the Pentagon during Operations Desert Shield/Storm.

He entered federal civil service in 1993. During his government service, he edited, designed, or published numerous award-winning government publications including the former On-Site Inspection Agency's *On-Site In-*



**AFPAA Communications Chair Dick Cole was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who.**

*sights*; the National Wildlife Refuge System's *Refuge Update*; Naval Sea Systems Command's *NAVSEA Observer*; the Navy's Surface Warfare Directorate (N-86) bimonthly *Surface Warfare* magazine, the Defense Contract Management Agency's *Communicator* magazine, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's magazine, *The Shield*.

His last government position was as Director, Public Affairs for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va. He retired from federal service in 2013.

Prior to embarking on his professional journey, Cole pursued an education at Los Angeles City College, where he obtained an associate degree in Broadcasting. He graduated Magna

*(cont'd on p.5)*

***Best of the Best (cont'd from p.1)***

qualification and deployment readiness 32 percent in the unit, earning her two squadron quarterly awards.

VanZale entered the Air Force in April 2021. She graduated from the mass communications foundation course at the Defense Information School at Fort George G. Meade, Md., in November 2021. Her first assignment following graduation was to the 1st CCS, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

She was tasked to deploy in support of Special Operations Command Africa. There, VanZale spent four months promoting regional security and stability across 54 nations, supporting 26 different militaries, and enabling joint information warfare capabilities for the command.

Among her achievements while forward deployed in Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti were:

- Leading a three-member team for the first congressional Women's Peace & Security summit in Kenya, crafting a video with comprehensive event metrics used to brief the Secretary of Defense to validate a \$10 billion United Nations concept.
- Directing a three-member forward-deployed team to Somalia, coordinating logistics with regional commands and capturing a \$1 million weapons delivery, showcasing U.S. commitment and bolstering support for counter terrorism operations.
- Trouble-shooting live stream cameras for West Africa's largest joint training event, advis-



***Not only is VanZale an accomplished videographer, but also a wife to a deployed servicemember and mother of three children.***

ing two NCOs on procedures, enabling 30 countries to remotely view a counter-insurgency evaluation and validating a \$12 million exercise.

- She drove documentation planning for a medical evacuation proof of concept exercise, advising civil affairs leaders, crafting 73 products countering Chinese messaging to the Djiboutian population and garnering support for U.S. operations.
- Leading an internal Special Operations Command Africa video production on East African force protection measures, identifying key



***VanZale prepares to shoot a video with African military colleagues.***

infrastructure deficiencies, enabling senior leaders to correct countermeasures for a \$2.6 million forward operating base, safeguarding 126 U.S. personnel.

- Leading a two-member social media team, crafting three strategic messages targeting counter-propaganda operations in West Africa, reaching 17 countries, exceeding the combatant command's PA goal by 23 percent and earning herself a Forward Operating Area Airman of the Quarter Award.

"Being awarded the 'Best of the Best' feels incredibly surreal, especially in the company of the other nominees," VanZale said. "My time at Combat Camera has given me talented teammates and unique opportunities that continue to shape me. I joined the Air Force later in life and this recognition makes me feel like the time I have invested into my career for my family has been worth it."

As previously mentioned, VanZale won the Air Force 2022 New Videographer of the Year Award, but she is also the recipient of the 2023 Air Force Public Affairs Outstanding Communications Airman of the Year Award.

VanZale's dedication and professionalism have also won her an Air and Space Force Commendation Medal and two Air and Space Force Recognition Ribbons.

"I believe achieving this recognition is an exciting win for our entire team and ultimately shows the greater impact our work can have," she concluded.

**“Lifetime Award: (cont’d from p. 3)**

Cum Laude from Troy State University with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism in 1977 where he was twice named to **Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities** (1976, 1977). He continued his academic efforts at Syracuse University, earning a master’s degree in radio, TV and film in 1985 with a 3.92 GPA. A documentary he coproduced with two other graduate students, “An Officer and A Lady: Three Women in Today’s Military,” was awarded the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award as the year’s outstanding documentary.

Among his professional accomplishments, Cole is most proud of hiring and mentoring numerous individuals in the public relations industry. Reflecting on a long career, he attributes much of his success to his family, his professional mentors, his persistence, and his dedicated work ethic. He taught communications and speech at the University of Maryland and the University of Maryland Global Campus as an adjunct professor for six years to mentor today’s communications professionals.

During his career, Cole received 41 communications awards for government magazines and newsletters he produced from numerous professional organizations including

the League of American Communications Professionals, Association for Publication Excellence, Hermes Creative Awards, Institute for Marketing Communications (MarCom Awards), the National Association of Government Communicators, The Public Relations Society of America, and the Association of Women in Communications.

In addition to his education and mentoring of communications professionals, Cole volunteered his time to produce newsletters and periodicals for several organizations over the years including the *IPMS/USA Journal* bimonthly magazine for the International Plastic Modelers Society, the bimonthly newsletter for the B-52 Stratofortress Association (*BUFF Bulletin*), and the quarterly newsletter for the Air Force Navigators and Observers Association (*DR Ahead*). While currently serving as Communications Chairman for the Air Force Public Affairs Association and producing its quarterly *News and Notes* newsletter, he also produces the monthly newsletter for his local American Legion Post, which was selected as “Best in the American Legion” for 2020.

He has written two aviation books—**The Great Book of Fighter Planes: The World’s**

**Warbirds** (Publications International Ltd., ISBN: 0-517-03598-7) and **The Bell 47/H-13/HUL-1/HLL-1 Sioux** (Walter P. Stevens Publications) and contributed photos to 19 others.

He is active in numerous service organizations including the Air and Space Forces Association, Association of Old Crows, Military Officers Association of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Air Force Public Affairs Association (Communications Chairman and editor of the quarterly *News and Notes* newsletter), B-52 Stratofortress Association (founding editor *BUFF Bulletin*), Pedro Rescue Helicopter Association, Air Force Navigator and Observers Association (former editor *DR Ahead* newsletter), Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Airlift/Tanker Association, Strategic Air Command Veterans Association, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Tan Son Nhut Association, American Legion Post 284 (former 3d Vice Commander and current Public Relations Officer), Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9808, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 50 and La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses)—an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight.”



**Applications Accepted Until May 31**

# Dalton Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

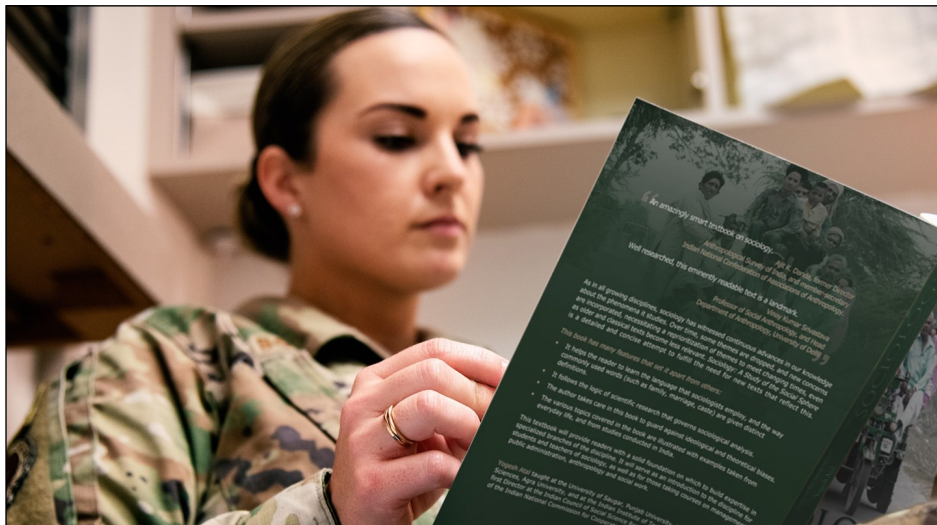
The Air Force Public Affairs Association is accepting applications for the Brig. Gen. H.J. Dalton Jr. scholarship program to May 31, 2024.

All active, Reserve and Guard 3NXX or 35X members and Air Force civilians in a core public affairs occupational series or assigned to a public affairs office are eligible to apply.

The first career Public Affairs officer to make brigadier general and head SAF/PA, Jerry Dalton worked tirelessly throughout his military and civilian careers to promote the advancement of the public affairs profession.

General Dalton was well known for his commitment to mentoring and encouraging the professional development of Public Affairs personnel. He strongly promoted the value of PAs of taking advantage of educational opportunities provided by programs like Education With Industry, the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Air Force Short Course in Communications. He also advocated PAs achieving professional accreditation from organizations like the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

This is the third year of the program. It offers recipients up to \$1,000 to fund not just college courses but also seminars, workshops, music lessons and courses provided by professional organi-



***This is the third year of the Dalton scholarship program. It offers recipients up to \$1,000 to fund not just college courses but also seminars, workshops, music lessons and courses provided by professional organizations (e.g., PRSA) specifically aimed at enhancing skills related to the PA career field.***

zations (e.g., PRSA) specifically aimed at enhancing skills related to the PA career field.

AFPAA encourages PAs to first maximize their use of Air Force tuition assistance before applying for a Dalton Scholarship. This provides more Dalton Scholarships to be available for professional development opportunities for which Air Force funding is not available.

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships can be awarded each year. More scholarships may be awarded in a year depending on the funds required to meet the cost of selected applicants' training and education. Payment will be made to the scholarship recipients upon successful completion of the approved course work. Recipients can apply for additional

scholarships in successive years if they have successfully completed their previous course work.

Those wishing to apply should visit the Dalton Scholarship page on the AFPAA website at (<https://afpaaa.org/scholarship.html>) for a full description of the program. You can click on the link in the "How To Apply" section of that page to access an application form.



# Next Annual Meeting Set for San Antonio's Riverwalk

By Perry Nouis  
Annual Meeting Coordinator

Planning is well underway for the next Association annual membership meeting scheduled for San Antonio, Tex. The dates for the meeting are October 3-5, 2023.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites by Windham at the San Antonio Riverwalk. Rooms are available at \$143 per night, single or double.

Current plans call for a typical meeting structure with an ice-breaker/mixer the evening of Thursday, Oct. 3. A visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is being planned for Friday, Oct. 4. Saturday (Oct. 5) will feature membership business meetings



and the traditional awards banquet in the evening.

A golf outing is being planned for the morning of Thursday, Oct. 3. The location has yet to be identified.

As with all planning in an uncertain world, plans are tentative and could change.

More information will be provided about the Friday tour once planning and coordination are completed.

We advise members to check the AFPAA website frequently as there is a registration form (One is

also included in this issue of *News and Notes*), hotel information, a list of those planning to attend, and the itinerary as that information is confirmed and becomes available.

We're going to make every effort to ensure those who attend have a wonderful time visiting San Antonio!

Be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible!



## The *News and Notes* is your publication!

We encourage your submissions! Tell us your professional news, share a professional book review, express your thoughts and comments. Got an interesting career story? Share! Have interesting photos from your PA days? Share! Send submissions to Dick Cole, editor, at [dickcole1853@verizon.net](mailto:dickcole1853@verizon.net)!

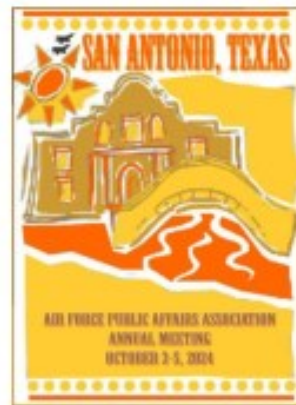


**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 3-5, 2024**



# AFPAA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Do you accept texts? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_)

Guest(s) (Please indicate how you want names reflected on name tags)

How many in your party will go on the bus tour to JBSA Lackland? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you, or a guest, want to play golf on Thursday morning, Oct. 3 (there is extra cost TBD):  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Full Registration** - Includes all events, except golf on Thursday.

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$250 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$250 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$300 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Individual Event Registration

Icebreaker Reception – Hotel, Thursday, October 3, 5-7 p.m.

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast – Hotel, Friday, October 4, 6-7:30 a.m.

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

President's Luncheon – JBSA Lackland, Friday, October 4  
(Includes bus transportation from Hotel to JBSA Lackland for Friday's tours)

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

President's Luncheon Only – JBSA Lackland, Friday, October 4

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast – Hotel, Saturday, October 5, 6-7:30 a.m.

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SAF/PA Director's Luncheon, Hotel, Noon Saturday, October 5

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AFPAAA Annual Awards Reception & Banquet, Hotel Saturday, October 5. Please indicate your meal choice(s):

\*Beef \_\_\_\_\_ \*Fish \_\_\_\_\_ \*Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ \*Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*Use M for Member Choice G for Guest & Non-Member Choices)

Member Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$105 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$105 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$110 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks or money orders payable to: **AFPAA**

**Centurion Donation** - \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check/money order to:

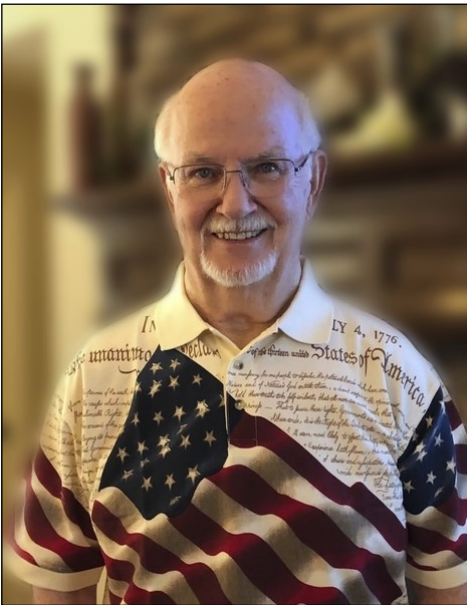
Total Remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Meeting Registrations are due NLT Midnight September 10, 2024. Registrations received after this date will be charged a \$25 Per Person Late Fee.**

**Hotel Reservations:** AFPAA has a block of rooms at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel at the rate of \$143.00+tax per night (single or double). The rate is valid October 3-5, 2024, while rooms are available. Make reservations at: <https://www.afpaa.org/san-antonio-2024.html>, or call the hotel at 800-753-3757. The reservation code is "Air Force Public Affairs Association (CG0106)." Deadline for hotel reservations is Sept. 12, 2024. A very limited number of rooms will be available at this rate up to three days prior and three days post the established meeting dates: Check-in October 3, 2024/Check-out October 6, 2024. The cost of golf will be provided separately to those wanting to play.

# LORD GUARD AND GUIDE



**JAMES H. HATT**

**J**ames H. Hatt was born March 6, 1942 in Bangor, Maine to Fred Austin and Ada Ann (King) Hatt. He passed away after a short illness at the Healthplex Regional Hospital in Norman, Okla., July 6, 2022.

After graduating high school at East Millinocket, Maine in 1960, he enlisted into the United States Air Force in August. During his tour in Vietnam from 1967-1968, he was serving as a combat news reporter and information specialist at the 7th Air Force Headquarters on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. He flew 40 combat missions and won the Air Medal for his aerial achievement. He flew in many types of USAF aircraft in the combat zone, including small, propeller-driven O-1 Bird Dog spotter planes, C-123, C-130 and C-7A transports and supersonic F-100 Super Sabre jet fighters to report air opera-

tions in Southeast Asia. He also accompanied U.S. and allied land forces time and again on search and destroy operations to provide news coverage of USAF air support from the ground. He was presented the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Medal, and a special plaque at the US Seventh Air Force Headquarters.

During his Air Force career, he served in New Hampshire, Washington, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

He had two assignments overseas at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He retired in 1984 after 24 years of Air Force service. Additionally, he served as a civil service employee for 13 years.

On February 14, 2003, Jim was united in marriage to Stacey Clark Nikkel and they made their home in Blanchard, Okla., for 11 years. After Stacey retired, they moved to Norman to be closer to family.

Jim had a love of reading and music but his passion was sports. He was a life-long passionate fan of the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots, and Oklahoma University sports, especially football, basketball, baseball and softball. He played basketball and baseball from high school on through Intramural Leagues in the military.

Survivors include his wife, Stacey; two daughters, Terri Craft and husband Steve of Midwest City, Okla., and Michele Reinke and husband Chris of Choctaw, Okla.; two sons, James Hatt Jr. of Choctaw, Okla., and Ryan Hatt and wife Karla of Rocky

Point, N.Y.; five grandsons, Cameron, Taylor, and Jon Craft; Brady and Reece Reinke; three granddaughters, Drew Reinke; and Taylor and Madison Hatt; and four great-grand-children, Mayson, Britton, and Madilyn Craft; and Raylan Craft.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant son, Jeffrey; two brothers, Donald and Dwinal Hatt; four sisters, Alice Page, Shirley Standley, Donna Staples, and Sandra Baldry.

He was buried July 9, 2022, at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery in Norman, Okla.

*I was the NCO in charge of the 3902nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office at Offutt AFB in the early 1980s. As a recently promoted technical sergeant with only five years PA experience, I relied on Jim's knowledge and advice. His guidance helped me throughout my career. The best piece of advice was to always put the good of our country and Air Force first. I tried to always to follow his advice. Jim, in my opinion, was the best PA chief master sergeant in the Air Force. We used to have fun each fall when his Sooners played my Huskers. You are missed, chief!*

—Paul Shoup

## **RONALD J. BELENSKI, SR.**

**R**etired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Ronald J. Belenski, Sr., passed away November 8, 2023.

He was born in West Mifflin, Pa., to the late Joseph and Elizabeth Belenski. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 20 years

before retiring.

He is survived by his sons, Johnathan Belenski and Ronald Belenski, Jr.; three grandchildren, Joseph, Andrew, and Anna Belenski and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Sharon, and his parents.

A celebration of life will be held at a date to be announced.



**CAROLYN M.  
BRITTEN-DALTON**

**C**arolyn Mabel (Jenner) Britten was born August 5, 1936, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Lloyd Lyndon Jenner and Helma Alma (Meme) Ferguson of Oklahoma City, Okla., and was the second of seven children born to Meme. She died at 87 years of age in Abilene, Texas, November 6, 2023.

She was buried in Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery on November 27, 2023, next to her first husband, Col. Samuel L. Britten.

With the exception for some summers visiting her dad and grandparents in Durant, Okla., with her sister Charlotte, Carolyn was an Oklahoma City girl. After graduating from Capitol Hill High School (Oklahoma City) in 1955, she began her college educa-

tion at Oklahoma University but completed her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Mary Washington College, in Fredericksburg, Va.

As a young girl, she and Charlotte, walked with their grandmother Helma Aurelia "Boom-Boom" Boas to services at the First Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City where they were members. Carolyn had a lovely soprano voice, and they sang in the children's choir. After meeting Sam, Carolyn became a faithful member of the Church of Christ, leading Women's Bible Studies, teaching children's Sunday School, and teaching classes for teenage girls.

As she was finishing high school, she met her future husband Sam on a blind date. He was a poor farm boy from Venita, Okla., who was in ROTC at Oklahoma University in Norman, while working on the first of several degrees in engineering. He wound up teaching her algebra class at OU, and made sure she put in the extra hard work so there wouldn't be any appearance of favoritism. She earned an "A" – but she really did have to work hard to earn it. They were married July 2, 1955 at the First Lutheran Church in downtown Oklahoma City.

After a brief time working for Standard Oil in Chicago, Sam was commissioned into the United States Army and Carolyn quickly learned to love travel, spending the remainder of her life moving around the country and the world as an Army Wife for more than 30 years. She was his helpmate and soulmate for 52 years, as together they made their home in Norman, Okla.; Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Ill.; Fort Hood, Tex.; Muenchweillor, Germany; Champlain, Ill.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Abilene, Tex.; Fort Bliss, Tex.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Huntington,

W.V.; Vicenza, Italy; Mesquite, Tex.; Gainesville, Tex.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Midland, Tex.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Allen, Tex.; and McKinney, Tex.. Her travels extended to every nook and cranny of Europe, Israel, Greece, and many other places. No matter where they lived, the Brittens were known for their hospitality. Rank and social class made no difference in their home. Many a GI, widow, single person, and couple enjoyed gathering around a table filled with homemade Belgian waffles and warm fellowship.

Carolyn was an elementary school teacher for a number of years and taught as a substitute when she could. She worked with SCB Radio and TV, Southern European Broadcasting in Italy. She was licensed as a social worker in the State of Texas, and applied those skills while in Midland, Tex.

She was an excellent cook, a wonderful mother, and she loved caring for her family and others. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother, a Member of the Officers Wives Club, the Protestant Women of the Chapel, and many other organizations.

Her beloved husband Sam died on October 4, 2009, and after two years she found a new companion and married retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jerry Dalton. They lived in Dallas, Tex., until his death eight years later. Soon thereafter, she moved back to Abilene in January 2021 where she lived near her son until her death.

She is survived by all her direct descendants: her son, Samuel Lynn Britten and wife Victoria "Vicki" of Abilene, Texas, along with their son Samuel Austin Britten; and her daughter, Nancy Kay (Britten) Brobston and husband Mike of Allen, Texas, along with their children Daniel James Brobston, Gregory Dean Brobston, Christina Grace (Brobston) Osorio and husband Robert, and Sean Michael Brobston.



P. O. Box 2446  
East Peoria IL 61611-2446  
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome to the newest members of our association!

**Members**

- Ingrid Bradley
- Patrick Sullivan

**Life Members**

- Thomas Mullican
- David Branham

**Life Members (Payment Plan)**

- Miconna Boaldin

We presently have a total membership of 479, which breaks down thusly:

- 60 Lifetime Founders
- 232 Life Members
- 30 Best of Best Life Members
- 5 Payment Plan Life Members
- 148 Annual Members
- 2 Adjunct Life Members
- 1 Adjunct Member
- 1 Affiliate Member

We also had 15 members who did not renew their memberships from 2023. Our membership at the end of 2023 was 466.

