



Message from the President;

Happy New Year! We are in the membership renewal cycle and for those who were not at the last reunion and renewed there, you were contacted by EJ Sherwood with a renewal form. Jim Mindak was out for knee surgery but has since caught-up with the mailing of renewal packets. If you have a question about this, please contact Jim at chiefjimcfd@sbcglobal.net or 312-213-7302 and leave a message.

2016 Reunion: Our next is slated for Charleston, SC in mid-April of 2016 and more details on that will come later this year. We had a lot of "First Timers" in Pensacola and we hope to build on that. See John's message.

Claude "Skip" Blanchard

Message from the Treasurer;

Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union Membership Eligibility

Members of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing Association are now eligible for membership in the **Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union (RBFCU)** through their Select Group program. **RBFCU** has branches in San Antonio, Kerrville, Boerne, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Austin, and Dallas areas. You may join **RBFCU** online by clicking on the Join Online! tab at <https://www.rbfcu.org/> and using **Promotion Code 2659**.

RBFCU offers the following perks and conveniences for their checking accounts: 10¢ cash back on all debit card purchases, No monthly service fees or minimum balance requirements, [FREE RBFCU Mobile](#) applications for [iPhone](#),[®] [iPad](#) and [Android](#)™ devices, Free online account access with detailed transaction information, Free online bill pay, Unlimited check writing and FREE standard **RBFCU** checks when [ordered online](#), 24/7 fraud monitoring and \$0 liability on debit cards, Competitive dividends, [Overdraft protection/Courtesy Pay](#)

Additional Information: Although **RBFCU** does not market by-mail banking (they do not furnish pre-addressed envelopes or reams of deposit slips), all financial services (e-Deposit, ePay, electronic funds transfers, transfers between accounts, etc.) are easily transacted on-line. If you initiate an [electronic transfer](#) of funds from **RBFCU** from another financial institution, make sure that you specify the type account because Savings, Checking, and MM all have the same **RBFCU** account number. In addition to all of the no-fee services, **RBFCU** pays dividends on checking account deposits!

Contact me at 830-896-5799 or e-mail at whkctc@aol.com if you have questions or encounter any problems attempting to join **RBFCU** on-line.

William "Bill" Cathey

A message from our reunion point-man in Charleston;

We are now in the process of arranging the lodging and activities for the upcoming 12th Tactical Fighter Wing Association Reunion for 2016.

12 TFW Association Newsletter March 2015

The City of Charleston South Carolina will be the location of the event. We are looking forward to see as many of our friends as possible and I believe you should consider this to be a “Vacation with about 100+ of your friends.” We are taking the advice of our members and plan on have some more time for our friends to gather and have time with each other. We hope to have a schedule which will allow time for both personal and scheduled events. We may only schedule one event per day, either morning or afternoon. We will provide guidance for those who wish to take in some of the wonderful sights on their own or in small groups.

There are many attractions in the Charleston area which range from Revolutionary War, Civil War sights to Plantations which will amaze. We also have Charleston Air Force Base and the Boeing 787 assembly facility. The area known as Patriots Point has the USS Yorktown and the Medal of Honor Museum.

Everyone will want to experience a “Carriage Ride” in Charleston. Charleston is also known to be one of the choice locations for international and domestic travelers. This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the reunion and have a vacation along with it. I would recommend adding two or three days on each end of the reunion and see the area in *vacation mode*.

John Newman

1. News from the VA:

A. The 2015 VA Compensation Rate Announced - This year the Veterans Disability Compensation and Veterans Pension payments will increase by 1.7%. The increase is based on the 2014 rate of inflation (consumer price index). Military.com 15 Dec. 2014

B. The VA Re-org plan - The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it is taking the first steps under the **MyVA** initiative to use state boundaries to divide the country into five regions. The new regions will allow VA to begin the process of producing a single regional framework to enhance internal coordination. Each organization within VA will begin work to ensure their structures are aligned within this framework by the end of June, 2015. The regional map is available at www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/myva-5-regions-map.pdf.

C. Vet Suicide Bill - On February 12, President Obama signed the **Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention** for American Veterans Act (or Clay Hunt SAV Act) into law before a White House crowd of veterans, politicians, and members of the Hunt family. However, in addition to calling for evaluation of existing VA mental health and suicide prevention programs and expanding the reach of these programs for veterans, the new legislation also includes the establishment of a pilot program on community outreach. Part of this outreach involves helping colleges and universities aid veterans in transitioning into their communities. (VVA)

D. Special Monthly Compensation The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) program may provide benefits in addition to, or instead of, disability compensation if there is loss (or loss of use of) a limb, sight, speech, hearing, mobility, sexual organ or functioning, or for certain other disabilities. There may be eligibility for SMC if the veteran is unable to leave the house or bed without help or is in need of regular help from another person in performing the basic tasks of everyday life, such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting and transferring. Because VA's Special Monthly Compensation program is one of the most confusing and intricate programs that the VA offers, it is important that you seek assistance from an accredited veteran's service officer. (Military.com Feb. 2015)

2. Military News;

A. The Shrinking US Veteran Population - Since the US ended the draft, the percentage of Americans who serve has declined. Those that do serve spend more time in harm's way, with many foreign tours providing military action or presence. This coupled with the downsizing of the military affects America's role as a world power.

B. USS Thresher Naval Museum - The Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, Washington, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the unveiling of its new USS Thresher (SSN-593) exhibit. USS Thresher was the Navy's most advanced submarine when it sunk April 10, 1963, with all hands on board. The loss initiated major changes in safety, construction and quality assurance programs throughout the submarine fleet. Since the initiation of the SUBSAFE program, no certified submarine has ever been lost. For more information on the museum, visit the [Naval Undersea Museum website](#).

C. Air Demo Teams nail down some of their dates - Here's a breakdown of the two military flight demonstration squadrons' planned Florida appearances through 2016;

2015

April 11-12: Thunderbirds -- Tyndall Air Show, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

April 25-26: Thunderbirds -- Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In & Expo, Lakeland, Fla.

July 11: Blue Angels -- Pensacola Beach Air Show

Oct 24-25: Blue Angels -- Sea and Sky Spectacular Air Show, Jacksonville Beach

Nov. 7: Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show -- NAS Pensacola

2016

April 2-3: Blue Angels -- Southernmost Air Spectacular, NAS Key West

June 25-26: Blue Angels -- Vero Beach Air Show

July 16: Blue Angels -- Pensacola Beach Air Show

Nov. 5-6: Blue Angels -- Birthplace of the Blue Angels Air Show, NAS Jacksonville

Nov. 11-12: Blue Angels -- Homecoming Air Show, NAS Pensacola

D. AZ has new home for Drones - The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson by David Wichner SIERRA VISTA -- After remotely flying unmanned aircraft over Iraq and Afghanistan for years, Arizona's Air National Guard drone pilots can finally take off and land close to home. In December, the Arizona Air National Guard 214th Reconnaissance Group christened a new hangar and support facility at Fort Huachuca's Libby Army Airfield that eventually will be home to four MQ-1 Predator drones for crew training and, eventually, stateside missions. The launch and recovery unit -- which handles drone takeoffs and landings -- is one of five such sites in the nation. With the new hangar, the 214th will help train airmen from across the country and is expected to fly homeland-security missions as needed in the future.

Military officials have said that military drones may be used stateside for missions such as search and rescue and border surveillance. In early November, the 214th flew its first launch-and-recovery mission from Libby even before the 22,500-square-foot hangar was completed. Col. Phil Purcell, commander of the Air Guard 162nd Wing, said after the inaugural flight that "Arizona remains at the forefront of readiness for any federal or state requirement."

E. Jane Fonda - The Frederick News-Post, Md. | Jan 19, 2015 | by Paige Jones Jane Fonda said she hoped for an open dialogue with veterans after about 50 former military members and supporters protested the actress's appearance on a Friday evening in January at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. "Whenever possible I try to sit down with vets and talk with them, because I understand and it makes me sad," Fonda told a relatively full theater,

responding to a submitted question. "It hurts me and it will to my grave that I made a huge, huge mistake that made a lot of people think I was against the soldiers."

In 1972, Fonda visited Hanoi, North Vietnam, where she criticized attacks on the dike system along the Red River. A U.S. investigation later revealed the publicity of these bombings as propaganda. Fonda's statements and a photograph of her sitting on a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft battery outraged many Americans and veterans, leading many to call her "Hanoi Jane" and a "traitor."

Bob Hartman, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, said he blamed Fonda for breaking off negotiations among the countries and held her responsible for thousands of American lives. "She encouraged North Vietnam to pull away from the negotiations table," he said, holding a sign outside the Court Street parking garage to protest her presence. "She got Americans killed ... and she went to Vietnam to advance her husband's career." About 50 veterans, many of whom served in Vietnam, held signs saying "Forgive? Maybe. Forget? Never" and waved flags outside the theater for about two hours, occasionally booing people entering the Weinberg Center, including state Sen. Ron Young. *(This is the same gal that accused her father Henry of abuse, but only after he was dead, and who did not agree with her political actions & statements. EJ)*

F. TRICARE and Taxes - For the first time, U.S. citizens, including service members, military retirees and their family members, must report their health care coverage on their 2014 taxes, which must meet minimum essential coverage. TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE for Life, TRICARE Overseas, TRICARE Remote and the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan meet the minimum essential coverage. (Mil.com)

G. The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission is urging President Obama to endorse and Congress to enact sweeping changes to military health insurance and retirement options to "empower" service members to make choices that would drive down compensation costs. The panel's final report makes 15 recommendations that, if fully implemented, would cut personnel spending for the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs by \$12 billion a year.

H. Free Admission to Military Museum - The Southwest Florida Military Museum and Library is dedicated to preserving and displaying military artifacts and memorabilia while educating the public about our nation's military heritage. It is the largest military museum in southwest Florida. All of the artifacts have been donated or loaned by the military, government and individuals. The museum is at **4820 Leonard St., Cape Coral, Fla.** It is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Sunday.

I. Basic Training Changes for USAF - Years after the Air Force increased the length of basic training by two weeks during the Iraq War, commanders have scaled back the core program and added a week of character development to raise awareness about sexual misconduct. (Military.com)

3. Please Welcome our Newest Members since December 2014;

Rojelio Carranza; 12 TFW HQ, Data Key punch Operator, Maint. Analysis Section, CRAB Nov. 1966 – 67.

Edward G DiBello; F-4 Pilot, 389th TFS, 1969 – 1970 Phu Cat AB.

Ronald R Flake; F-4 Pilot, 558th TFS, CRAB, May 1967 – Aug 1967, survived runway crash Aug. 67.

Joseph Langone; 12th Air Police Sqd., NCOIC Ranger (night) Flight, Jan 1966 – 67.

BG James L. Bauerle, Associate Member – US Army 32 years. 1969 -1970 served with 25th Infantry Division based out of Chu Chi, RVN and active duty during Desert Shield / Desert Storm operations.

4. History

A. Did you know? See the short story on "Tilley" included in this news release.

5. 12th TFW & 15th TFW MacDill AFB Reunion (formerly known as the Hog Drivers)

Mark your calendars, the dates are October 22-25 in Dallas! This link is updated and includes the downloadable reservation form. I am ending this link to your membership as some are with our group.

Carolyn Bauer bauerweb@cfl.rr.com

<http://militaryreunionplanners.com/SR/index.php?folder=12-15TFW>

6. 12 TFW Memorial, Cañon City, CO An informal re-dedication/mini-reunion is again planned **at Cañon City, CO**, this year. The selected dates are **26 - 29 August**. As has been the tradition, days will be spent touring and shopping and socializing, and evening dinners will be enjoyed at our favored restaurants. For details, go to:

<http://12tfw.org/reded.htm> Ron Doughty, VP, and 12th TFW Memorial Coordinator.

7. In Search of Vietnam service buddies; http://yvaveteran.org/35-1/35-1_locator.html

Send your request to; Vietnam Veterans of America: veteranlocator@gmail.com - No charge.

8. 12 TFW Website Highlight: The webpage at <http://12tfw.org/articind.htm> provides links to various 12th-related written articles. Another Cam Ranh Bay "Sandscript" newsletter, 18 August 67, has materialized and has been posted there at the bottom of the page. **Ron Doughty, VP, Web Master.**

Forgot your Members Only Password? – contact EJ EJ12TFW@cox.net Or 480-396-4681 Mesa, AZ

Reminder: If you would still like a **12 TFW Cap**, follow the instructions on page 6 of the December 2014 newsletter. I will take orders through March (shipping cost is included in cap price).

Stay Safe, E J

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**If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union Speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven.*

**~Will Rogers*

**Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, they go out and buy some more tunnel.*

**~John Quinton~*