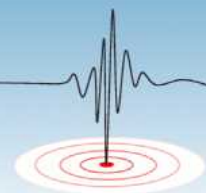




ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



September 2021

Volume 2021, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COLORADO CHAPTER

Upcoming Events

THE ANNUAL NOVEMBER DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE AURORA HILLS TIN CUP BANQUET ROOM, 50 S. PEORIA ST. ON 20 NOVEMBER 2021.

**MORE DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS THE DATE APPROACHES
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

AFTAC HQ OPEN HOUSE 3 DECEMBER 2021

THE 2022 WORLD WIDE REUNION HOSTED BY THE FLORIDA CHAPTER WILL BE ON 18 — 22 MAY 2022 AT THE RADISSON RESORT AT THE PORT 8701 ASTRONAUT BLVD, CAPE CANAVERAL, FL



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New Officers Needed!

President Bryce Dunn and Vice President Darrel Kline have served the Colorado Chapter for many years. They are ready to pass the torch to new leaders. Please consider volunteering to take these offices. You may contact any of the Staff listed to the left of this request to accept the challenge. We will have the election at the February 2022 breakfast.

We're ALL on the Web!

Colorado Chapter: www.aftacco.org

Florida Chapter: www.aftacaa.us

West Coast Chapter: www.aftacwcc.org

Official AFTAC Web Site: www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC

Retiree personnel services available 24/7

The Total Force Service Center can deliver any time and from any location. To reach a select the menu option for retired military with



personnel services to the retiree family via telephone. Total Force Service Center agent, call 800.525.0102 and personnel inquiries.

Note: Expect a long menu of options to select, but you will find some useful information.

Three Inductees Join Past “Giants” on AFTAC Wall of Honor

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. -- In keeping with its annual tradition, the commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center inducted three former members of the nuclear treaty monitoring center onto its famed “Wall of Honor” May 26.

Col. Katharine G. Barber recognized retired Senior Master Sergeants Mike Clark and Tony DeMarco and Ms. Eunice Harris at a ceremony held in the Doyle M. Northrup Auditorium here as dozens of current, former and retired members of AFTAC witnessed the induction.

Barber and her command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Amy Long, presented each inductee with an engraved medallion that depicts an American Bald Eagle clutching a scroll in one talon and a sword in the other. The scroll symbolizes the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the sword illustrates military strength and might. Above the eagle are the words, “Sapientia Potentia Est,” Latin for “Wisdom is Power.”

In addition to the medallion, the honorees’ names were engraved on plaques that now hang on the Wall of Honor in the center’s main lobby.

Selection to the wall is stringent and rigorous. The AFTAC Heritage Committee meticulously reviews dozens of nomination packages of former scientists, analysts, engineers and technicians to judge their contributions and impact on the center’s historic long-range detection mission. Only three per year are considered for induction. The committee looks for nominees who demonstrated great character and whose actions truly discriminated them from thousands of other center employees, both military and civilian.

Dr. Mike Young, AFTAC’s historian, led this year’s selection panel.

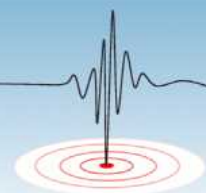
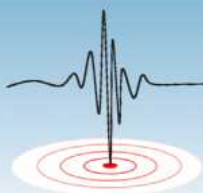
“Our lineage can be traced back to 1947, two days before the Air Force was established as a separate service, and the single thing that can be attributed to our success as an organization is without a doubt our people,” said Young. “The contributions of today’s inductees are priceless, and their work absolutely formed the cornerstone of our long range detection mission. AFTAC’s greatest asset has always been its people. It definitely gives our more junior personnel an opportunity to learn about the giants upon whose shoulders we stand today.”

Clark, who joined the Air Force in 1969, spent nearly his entire 25 years in the Air Force assigned to AFTAC’s various overseas and stateside detachments. He was also a technical training instructor and authored training manuals. After retirement, he became the lead analyst for the Group of Scientific Experts Technical Test 3, the planning group that helped develop the International Monitoring System for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization.

DeMarco was also a career-AFTACer, serving 23 years with the organization from 1966 to 1989. He was an expert in operating the electromagnetic pulse technique – the “Q” technique – in the Atomic Energy Detection System. When the “Q” capabilities were eliminated in favor of more advanced satellite methods, DeMarco played a key role in the rapid development of the new “J” technique and ultimately became AFTAC’s most experience EMP systems expert.



The medallion pictured here was presented to newest inductees to the AFTAC’s Wall of Honor at a ceremony May 26, 2021. The medallion, which was created by 1st Lt Adam Satterfield and MSgt Chad Tabuba, both members of AFTAC, symbolizes the inductees’ contributions to long range detection and nuclear treaty monitoring, AFTAC’s primary mission. The back of the medallion has a personalized inscription that reads, “Let this medallion signify its recipient is a member of an elite and noble group of Airmen who stand in silent vigil for the good of all humankind.” (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt Chad Taguba)



Three Inductees Join Past “Giants” on AFTAC Wall of Honor

Continued from page 2

Harris, a 31-year government civilian, served as the secretary and closest confidant to AFTAC’s first senior scientist, Walt Singlevich, for nearly 20 years. She handled numerous responsibilities and managed countless classified and time-sensitive national-level reports to ensure Singlevich had the tools and resources needed to make critical decisions for senior decision makers. In essence, she was an office manager, administrative assistant, primary communicator and invaluable gatekeeper in managing AFTAC’s senior scientist’s daily workload.



Eunice Harris

“My mom just loved AFTAC,” said Mike Harris, Eunice’s son. “She was involved in everything from the alumni association to morale events to spouses groups to holiday parties – you name it. She adored being part of such a great organization.”

Mike, along with his sister Tina Colon, accepted the posthumous award for their mother.

“If my mother had been here today to receive this honor, she would be grinning ear to ear,” said Tina. “She ran our household much like how she took care of Mr. Singlevich – a tight ship, but with a lot of love. We are so appreciative of AFTAC for recognizing her in such a special way. We’re all very proud!”

The Wall of Honor was established in 2015 to recognize individuals who “profoundly contributed to AFTAC’s global mission, while personifying the Air Force Core Values of integrity, service and excellence,” and since its inception, the center has inducted 30 people to the wall.

Addressing the audience but directing her comments to the three inductees, the leader of the treaty monitoring center had nothing but praise for their significant contributions to AFTAC’s continued success.

“It is such a privilege for me to recognize the lifetime achievements of today’s honorees,” said Barber. “You are innovators, trainers, developers, instructors, creators, and trailblazers who used your expertise to make tough calls and provide crucial data to our national decision-makers, all the way up to the President of the United States, and in doing so, you kept us safe. I cannot wait to see the legends we are creating today join your names on our wall to forever commemorate your historic contributions. I salute Mike, Tony and Eunice and thank their families and friends for joining us in celebrating their profound impact.”



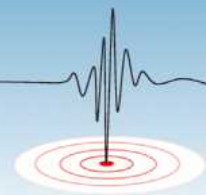
Mike Harris & Tina Colon accepted the posthumous award for their mother Eunice Harris



SMSgt Michael P Clark



SMSgt Anthony S DeMarco



From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President

I sincerely hope everyone is doing well as we approach our first snow here in colorful, but smoky, Colorado.



First, I would like to thank everyone that attended our picnic in June at Matney Park in Castle Rock, especially the ones that helped to crank the old ice cream maker for dessert. It was really good to get together and see everyone in person.

Secondly, congratulations and job well done for this year's Wall of Honor selectees, Tony DeMarco, Mike Clark and Eunice Harris (deceased in 1996). Sue & I flew down to Florida for the 26 May ceremony, which was outstanding. The AFTAC Commander, Colonel Katharine G. Barber, Command Chief, CMSgt Amy L. Long, and the AFTAC Staff executed a most impressive ceremony. The AFTAC historian, Dr. Michael Young, is doing an

outstanding job preserving our history. Wall of Honor inductee Tony DeMarco's work on the 20 Year Wall of Service Honorees dovetails in with Dr. Young's research and preservation work including historical displays within the new building. Sue & I enjoyed watching Mike Clark receive the high honor of induction to the AFTAC Wall of Honor, both as a good friend and colleague. We were stationed together at 421 in 1976-77 and were best men at each other's weddings in 1979. We visited Mike in Vienna, Austria in 2016 when he was working as the Seismic and Hydroacoustic Waveform Analyst trainer at the United Nation's CTBTO Center. During the ceremony we were surprised to see our former Melbourne neighbor, Bob Anderson, son of Evelyn and CMSgt (retired) John J. Anderson. Evidently Eunice and the Harris' family were very close to the Anderson family. Small world.

A video of the 30-minute ceremony is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DeKHHi4yMc>

We really enjoyed the Alumni Breakfast on 18 September at the Tin Cup Banquet room – the in-person venues for the gathering of AFTAC and LRD families and friends is one of the pillars on which this Colorado Chapter was established. Although our organization is not formal – we do not have a set of by-laws and annual elections, it has continued since it was formed in 1987) by a core group, led by SMSgt (Retired) Ben Vlassick. Since its inception, there have been four presidents: Ben Vlassick, Jack Smith, Steve Clark and me. I will carry the torch as long as I can or until I am relieved because I really believe in the good that the three alumni chapters provide.

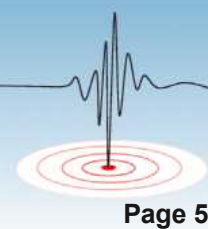
With that said, now is a good time to start planning for the May 2022 world-wide reunion that will be hosted by the Florida Chapter.

Also, if you have some spare change, I am sure that the AFTAC Memorial can still use some help. Alumni Lou Seiler has been working diligently on this project: <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>

The Colorado Alumni attended the interment of Norm Metcalf's ashes at Fort Logan in November 2019. Since no immediate family attended, Alumni Larry Johnston (a classmate of Norm's) received the flag on the behalf of a grateful nation. Larry gave the flag to the fiduciary in case a family member claimed it. After no claims were made, the fiduciary asked me to pick up the flag in Loveland, CO. At the breakfast, we discussed the disposition of the flag for proper use and retirement. On 23 September, I provided the flag to my American Legion Post #1 Color Guard. They will treat the flag with proper respect and use it to benefit other veterans or give it a proper retirement. Thank you all for the support you provided in this matter.

I remember when the Air Force Association started the funding for the National Air Force Memorial next to the Pentagon. If you have not visited it – you should. Near the memorial is a very large list of names that contributed to it (displayed electronically). I think it is good that we preserve our rich history. 88,000 airmen lost their lives during WWII alone. Many others contributed so much to preserve our freedom, including the ones from our organization.





Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher



It is truly wonderful to have in-person events again! All three Alumni chapters have held gatherings where there were real people attending instead of virtual meetings on the computer or smart phone screen. Furthermore, the 2022 World Wide Reunion in Cape Canaveral, Florida is set for 18 — 22 May 2022 and details for registration will be published as the date approaches. I, for one, really missed being able to see and talk to folks in a face-to-face environment.

Our annual picnic took place at Matney Park on 26 June with just a few hardy souls braving the very cool weather. Those who attended had a great time and enjoyed several brief periods of sunshine that warmed us up. Thanks are in order to our President Bryce for setting up the event and performing the grilling of the hamburgers and hot dogs. Also a word of thanks goes out to all who brought side dishes and desserts to compliment the burgers and dogs.

The breakfast on 20 September at the Aurora Hills Tin Cup was very well attended and the food provided by the Tin Cup staff was excellent as usual. Our Treasurer Bill told me that 30 people were present which is a great turn-out indeed. One active duty member was among the attendees, Capt. Nathaniel Anderson, Det. 45 commander. He gave us brief overview of the current status of the Det. He expressed his appreciation for our association and what it does to preserve the history of AFTAC. Also attending was the newest member of our family, Mathew and Kayalyn White. He shared his activities with both AFTAC and life after the Air Force with us. I worked with Matt at Det. 204 in Fairbanks and we had a good time reminiscing about our time in Alaska.

Our annual Alumni Veterans Day/Holiday Dinner date has been set for 20 November at the Aurora Hills Tin Cup banquet room. Keep a lookout for details about the event, reservations, and menu that will be published in the near future.

A new slate of officers to be elected in the February 2022 breakfast meeting is still being solicited. Our President Bryce and Vice President Darrel have served for a long time and both have said that it is time for someone new take over the reins leading the association. Please give serious thought to this appeal and send your name to any staff member listed on page 1 of this newsletter. Our Treasurer Bill and Assistant Treasurer Maureen have consented to continue serving in this very important office.

I add my congratulations to the three new inductees Mike Clark, Tony DeMarco, and Eunice Harris (posthumously) to the AFTAC Wall of Honor. They have demonstrated all of the attributes of excellence that have made AFTAC the elite organization it has become. Please read the article by Susan Romano about their accomplishments starting on page 2 of this newsletter.

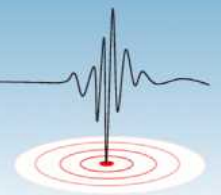
I close with the usual request for suggestions for article topics and improvements to the newsletter. You may send them to me via email to EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org, with a phone call at 303.755.0903, or text message to 303.437.0903. Remember this is your newsletter and what is important to you is what we strive to publish.





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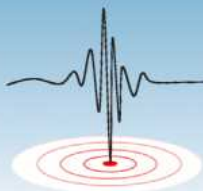
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Picnic Pictures

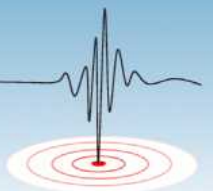
Photos by Ken Behrens





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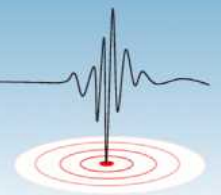
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Breakfast Pictures

Photos by Ken Behrens





Taps

The following deceased alumni and family members have not been reported in previous *Echoes*. Additional information can be found at the Florida website (<https://aftacaa.us/>) or at the West Coast Chapter (<http://www.aftacwcc.org/>).

Name	Birth	Death	State
Anderson, Evelyn H.	07 Nov 1919	09 Dec 2019	PA
Angelo, Joan C.	1946	16 Jun 2021	FL
Bobowicz, Thomas "Tom"	1955	15 May 2021	FL
Buoni, Fred	15 Jul 1934	01 Aug 2021	FL
Gulliver, David		12 Sep 2021	FL
Kelley, Carolann	1935	19 Aug 2021	FL
Land, Robert "Bob"	29 Jan 1949	28 Jun 2021	CA
Platt, Gayla C.	Sep 1943	2021	FL
Seegraves, Barry Finley	1951	19 Aug 2021	FL
Sills, Taryn Dorothy Brown	1959	10 Sep 2021	FL
Smejkal, Wenzel A.		23 Jul 2021	WI
Stake, Becky Jeanne		01 Sep 2021	
Stern, Beth	1938	23 Jun 2021	GA
Vlassick, Virginia "Ginger"	19 Nov 1936	15 May 2021	CO



To those in uniform serving today and to those who have served in the past, we honor you today and every day.



Mark Your Calendars

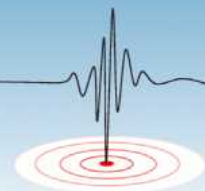
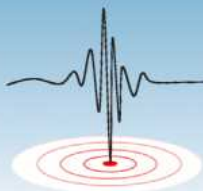
20 November 2021 Alumni November Dinner, Aurora Hills Tin Cup, 50 S. Peoria St., Aurora
Details Soon

03 December 2021 AFTAC HQ Open House

2022 WORLDWIDE REUNION IS ON!

Hosted by the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association

18 May — 22 May 2022 at the Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd., Cape Canaveral, FL



AFTAC Memorial

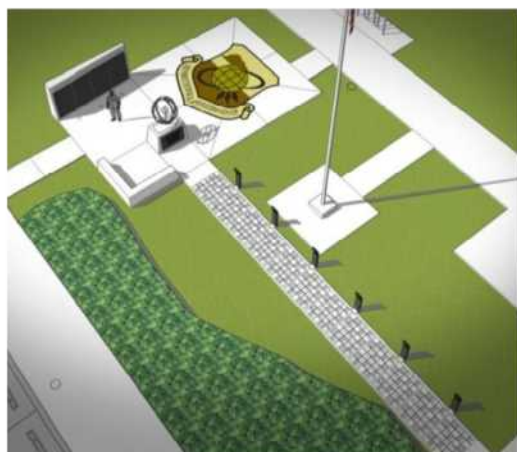
From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

THE AFTAC MEMORIAL

By Lou Seiler, President AFTAC Memorial Corporation

Email - lseiler@cfl.rr.com

The AFTAC memorial Corporation (AFTACMC) (a Florida non-profit 501(C)3 corporation) has for the past 32 months been conducting a fund raising to construct a memorial to those AFTACers who have passed away while serving in AFTAC. The proposed design has previously been published in the Post Monitor and is on the AFTAC Web Site (AFTACAA.US). When we began the process there was a large voicing of approval and comments of "when can we contribute?." Well, that time has definitely here!



In total, 56 donations have been received to date in support the building of the memorial. Individual donors number 49 and 7 are organizations. The individual donations range from \$30.00 to \$10,150.00. Organization donations range from \$300.00 to \$10,000.00. The FL Alumni Chapter numbers around 583, CO Chapter around 100 and CA Chapter around 140 members. The e-all (email roster) has approximately 1100 listings.

As of the date of this article, the AFTACMC has approximately \$43,000.00 in the building fund (including two pledges). The estimated cost to build the proposed Memorial is \$150,000 to \$180,000. So you can see we are still a long way off.

I know that many, if not all, have very fond memories of their time in AFTAC, many with their entire military and/or civilian service time in AFTAC. Many of you have known and/or have served with those members who have died while working at AFTAC.

So once again we ask each of you to look deep into your heart and soul, as well as your checkbook to consider a donation to make this Memorial happen. It can only happen with YOUR help.

Donations in any amount are appreciated, the designation levels are \$1-\$149 – Donor, \$150-999- Brick , \$1000-2400- Bronze, \$2500-\$4999- Silver, \$5000-\$9999- Gold, and \$10,000-up – Platinum Donations for any amount can be made by a check made out to "AFTAC Memorial Corporation" and mailed to

AFTAC Memorial Corporation
P.O. Box 372012
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Or you may also go to the website <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>

From there you may download a donation form, order a brick on-line, or make a donation only, and pay through PayPal using your credit card or through your own PayPal account.

We are asking for your help to build a lasting Memorial to the men and women who have served AFTAC for the past 73 years, and continuing into the future. It is your decision to make!



Ken Behrens, Editor
2153 S. Scranton Way
Aurora, CO 80014-5307



MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime) TO:
AFTAC Alumni Association
P.O. Box 254892 Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

MAIL WEST COAST DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime) TO:
AFTACAA-WCC
c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

For Colorado Membership Application, Change of Address, or Dues Payment

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone No: _____ Mobile No: _____

Email: _____

Unless advised to the contrary, personal information listed above is releasable to other AFTAC/LRD members.
DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12 MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE DURING THE EXPIRATION MONTH. (PLEASE check your dues expiration date on the label above or in the email if you receive the electronic newsletter.)
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Bill Schmied".
MAIL TO: Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St, Aurora, CO 80010-1310.
Membership & dues questions may be directed to Bill Schmied at Email Address: treasurer@aftacco.org