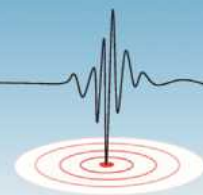




ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



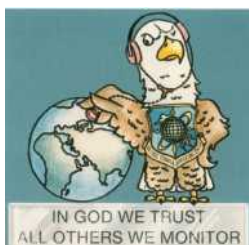
October 2023

Volume 2023, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COLORADO CHAPTER

Upcoming Events

Annual Colorado Chapter Fall/Veterans Dinner
11 November 2023.

Dinner selections are Prime Rib or Chicken Parmesan
with twice baked potato and Italian vegetables.

Location/Time: Aurora Hills Golf Course,
Tin Cup Banquet Room,
50 S. Peoria St. Aurora, CO 80012;

Social hour starts at 1700 (5PM)
Dinner will be served at 1800 (6PM).

Cost: \$35; Children 10 and under Free;
Active Duty Military plus one guest \$28 each.

Dress is business casual.

Please RSVP by email or phone and include your dinner
selection and payment method to Maureen Hampson
no later than 4 November 2023.

You can email to treasurer@aftacco.org
or leave a message at 303-695-0477.

Payment can be made by one of two methods:
PayPal (we will send an invoice to your email),
or Payment will be collected at the dinner
by cash or check made out to Maureen Hampson

We look forward to seeing you there!

February 2024 Breakfast is being planned.
Watch for details soon.





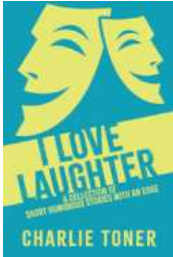
10 September Fall Breakfast Recap

By Bryce Dunn & Ken Behrens

We held our Spring breakfast on 10 September 2023 with 21 people signed up. Attendees included Major Walls, Det 46 Commander, MSgt Logan Muller-White Det 45 Senior Enlisted Leader & Marie, Dave Albers, Ken Behrens & Cyndie Wozniak-Behrens, Pat Burke, Bryce & Sue Dunn, Joncee Feakes, Lonnie & Ginny Gibbons, Maureen Hampson, Bill, Rhonda, & Brooke Kimbrough, Bill Milnor, Rick Phillips, Chuck Toner, and Rob & Libby Whiteley.

President Bryce asked everyone to introduce themselves and give a brief history of their AFTAC work. Joncee Feakes gave a deeply moving talk about Glenn and that AFTAC is truly a family.

After a very good breakfast, MSgt Muller-White, Det 45 SEL and Maj Walls, Det 46 Commander gave us some insight into general Detachment activities.



Toner Book Cover

Bryce asked who had driven the furthest to attend and winning hands down were Bill, Rhonda, and Brooke Kimbrough all the way from Pueblo. He presented Bill with a very “special” 2019 reunion coin.

Chuck Toner talked about his newest book, *I Love Laughter* (available on Amazon for \$12). He read a few jokes from it that served to whet our appetite to make a purchase. Chuck is currently working on his third book about his experiences during his first USAF tour in Korea. It will be published soon.

Bryce said that we had some Chapter business to address. He nominated Ken Behrens, seconded by Lonnie Gibbons to serve as Vice President. Prior to accepting the nomination, Ken stated that he wanted the members to know that his company, MicroBlue Software, LLC provides the database software used by the club for a fee. He went on to say that he would recuse himself from any Chapter transactions involving his company, but would not accept the nomination if anyone had an objection. There was no objection, Bryce called for the vote and Ken was elected unanimously.

The Tin Cup staff did an outstanding job of preparing a wonderful breakfast buffet that was enjoyed by all.



Front Row: Rhonda Kimbrough, Cyndie Wozniak-Behrens, Ginny Gibbons, Maureen Hampson, Joncee Feakes, Lonnie Gibbons
 Back Row: Brooke Kimbrough, Bill Kimbrough, Chuck Toner, Ken Behrens, Pat Burke, Bryce Dunn, Dave Albers, Bill Milnor, Rick Phillips, MSgt Muller-White, Marie, Maj Walls





ECHOES

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10 September Fall Breakfast Pictures

Photos by Sue Dunn





From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President

I had the privilege and pleasure of virtually watching the dedication of the AFTAC Memorial at HQ AFTAC on 4 August 2023. It was a well-organized and touching event. After years of hard work establishing and growing the AFTAC Memorial Corporation, the Chairman and 2021 Alumni of the Year, Lou Seiler, formally dedicated and presented the completed memorial to HQ AFTAC. From Lou: "It was for many, including myself, a very moving and touching event. The AFTACMC Board would like to thank all the alumni and friends of AFTAC that donated the funds and effort that made the memorial a reality."



AFTAC Memorial Dedication — Lou Seiler

A special heart-felt thank you to Ken Behrens for stepping up to be our newest Vice President. His action will ensure the continuity of our Colorado organization to fulfill and exceed our charter as identified by our founder, Ben Vlassick in 1987: "To establish a single point of contact for Colorado retired and ex-AFTAC personnel, organize willing participants, schedule occasional gatherings and distribute an annual Newsletter." We should add "active duty" to the list, in the past AFTAC active military and civilians have joined and enjoyed our organization including myself (I joined in 1993 while I was still the Det 45 Superintendent and remember helping Bill Braukman and Ed Gardiner work on the Encampment Museum seismic equipment in Bill's garage. That was a fun bunch!).

Since our last newsletter we must sadly report the passing of another highly respected sage and good friend, Glen Feakes. He was one of 18 original Charter members: R.T. Bennett, Richard E. Dalton, Glen Feakes, Lonnie Gibbons, Earnest D. Long, Fred Matthews, Wilbur C. McCallister, Jerry Moxley (MOX), William Osteen, Herbert J. Pabst, Dick Platt, Dennis Ramy, Earl Pierce, Felix Riveria, Stan Schultz, Charles Toner, Ben Vlassick and Ron Zorratti. Chapter members attended his memorial service at Ft. Logan and celebration of life at the historic Montclair Civic Building in Denver. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and wife of 65 years, Joncee. Glen will be sorely missed. Least we forget...



2011 Fall/Veterans Day Dinner — Arch of Steel
Picture by Ken Behrens

Our next Colorado Chapter event is our annual Veterans Day Dinner on 11 November 2023. Last year the Tin Cup Staff served the prime rib the way the individual requested. It was excellent. This year we will have Chicken Parmesan as an alternative. Details are in this newsletter. We hope you can make it.

I thank our small but effective staff, Ken, Maureen and Bill Harris. Thanks guys for another year of success! Additional thanks to the rest of the alumni, especially the Florida Chapter.

Lastly, a shameful plug: Our dues are still only \$5/ year – no change in 37 years. (Lifetime is \$75). The dues are used by the chapter to subsidize event/meals to keep the cost low, Newsletters, Donations (i.e., Grand Encampment Museum) and any other charities decided by the paid members. Join now!

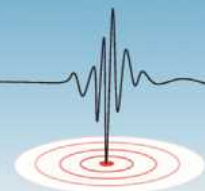
Retiree personnel services available 24/7

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location. To



reach a Total Force Service Center agent, call 800.525.0102 and select the menu option for retired military with personnel inquiries.

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



The AFTAC Memorial

By Lou Seiler, President AFTAC Memorial Corporation

Published in the Florida *Post Monitor* August 2023 Edition
(used by permission)



Lou Seiler
Photo by Malcolm Denmark/Florida Today

The AFTAC Memorial is finally here. AFTAC hosted a ground breaking on February 24, 2023, and slab construction began the next day, followed by granite components installed on

brick included in the second order.

Print a copy of the order form at the AFTACAA Website – **aftacaa.us**

Orders may be placed on-line with payment via Pay-Pal at the link <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/AFTACMC> or using the attached order form and mailed with a check to the address on the form.

May 17, and the brick walkway the following week. On Friday August 4, a formal dedication, to include a wreath laying at the memorial, was held in front of the AFTAC building. Many alumni attended and the whole ceremony was available via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.


It was for many, including myself, a very moving and touching event. The AFTACMC Board would like to thank all the alumni and friends of AFTAC that donated the funds and effort that made the memorial a reality.

We continue to raise funds to have a Lithium-ion sculpture to mount on the center pedestal and to provide for the long-term maintenance of the memorial. This includes the funds necessary to add names to the wall should that become necessary over time. We continue to take brick donations and will periodically be adding these to the brick walkway leading to the memorial.

FROM Ed Lindsay, President, AFTACAA

Hot off the desk of Lou Seiler, the President of the AFTAC Memorial Corporation Chairman:

The AFTAC Memorial Corporation is preparing the second order for bricks to be placed in the walkway to the AFTAC Memorial. If you have been thinking of or planning to place an order for a Brick, now is the time to do so to have that



AFTAC

MEMORIAL CORPORATION

The Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) Memorial is a project managed by the AFTAC Memorial Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to design, construct and maintain a memorial on the AFTAC HQ campus located at Patrick AFB, FL. This memorial will be dedicated to all those who lost their lives in service of the AFTAC mission since its inception in 1947, and will provide a solemn location to honor and remember these patriots.

The Memorial consists of a path leading to a sculpture, a memorial monolith and a bench. The path, comprised of bricks inlaid with the names and messages from contributors, heads west, passing our nation's Flag and chasing the sun, for the sun never sets on the AFTAC mission, leading to the memorial monolith. Across the top of the monolith is inscribed: "This memorial is dedicated to all those who have given their lives in support of the Long Range Detection mission, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Below this will be inscribed the names of those who have passed while supporting the mission. The monument imbues the solemn dignity by which all AFTAC members, past and present, honor their sacrifices.

The AFTAC Memorial Corporation is a Florida not for profit, 501(3)c corporation. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and has no governmental status.

Colonel Frank Hall
Hq PACTOA
Jul 1982 - Jul 1985

\$150 - 4x8 Brick \$50 - Mini Replica

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

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*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick.

Michael Steskal
Dedicated to those
who have passed
in service to the
AFTAC mission
since 1947

\$300 - 8x8 Brick \$50 - Mini Replica

6 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

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*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick.

Your Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

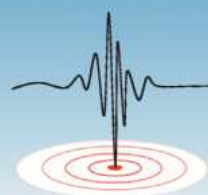
Mail form and payment to:

AFTAC Memorial Corporation
2822 Englewood Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940

Please make checks payable to:
AFTAC Memorial Corporation

On Line donations: <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/aftacmc>





ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



AFTAC Always Had My Back

By Marv Owen, Cs/Ds Area Technician, 1969-2014

Published in the Florida Post Monitor August 2023 Edition
(used by permission)

Loved the story by my friend Mike Clark. It brought back so many memories, some long suppressed. I was right there and at the same time though we did not know each other then. Our experiences to a point were almost identical (I was in flight #670, Mike). Mike made it sound easy but for some it was a bit difficult and just a slightly bit different.

I was from Smalltown NC with little accomplishment other than first prize chickens at the county fair and jobs at local gas stations. I guess I was smart but not worldly. I'd never heard the "f-word" used extensively and didn't know it was the only word in the English language that could be used as a noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, etc. I was totally overwhelmed by basic training but did manage to make it to day-5 of week-1. That afternoon, we retired to the barracks and I headed for the shower, leaving my fatigues hanging on the bunk bed post. I was summoned from the shower only to be greeted by three NCOs standing around my bunk. One had my wallet and another asked if my TI had briefed us on security. Nothing more. They returned my wallet and left. The next morning, I was standing dorm guard when my TI arrived. Fifteen minutes passed and I heard the screech of my name to get my (butt) up to his office. I charged in with a "Sir, you called me, sir." That started a 15-minute ordeal on how to properly enter his office which is another story I'll not attempt to cover here. He scolded me for the wallet incident and presented me with an unsatisfactory (the infamous "U") for my first week. Two "U"s and you're set back; and the legend was that set back once is to be set back again and again and never to get out of basic. We actually saw a couple of airmen from a more advanced flight transit our flight on the way back to a greener flight. I had just picked up my first "U" and had five more opportunities to get my second and from a TI who had my number. I was looking at a career in basic training.

Enter AFTAC. On day-2 of week-2, I was ordered to a job interview. I was extremely depressed. As Mike described, the rep, in my case, Major Jack Tucker, showed me pics of austere sites, talked about remote tours, and possible hardships away from civilization. Wanting to drop off the face of the earth at that moment, I jumped at everything he offered. He showed me a chart of class lengths and alpha designators and I picked "Z". He then exhibited the personal concern I learned to so appreciate later in my career and he asked if I was having problems. Do ya think! I told him of the wallet incident and my security violation and the "U." I remember his laugh and expression "Security violation?! Airman Owen, that is not a security

violation and you have nothing to worry about with us or your career with us. We have your back and we'll see you at Lowry." He gave me a document for my TI which indicated my class date and need to report to school on time (or else the wrath of the entire DoD would smite you, your family, and all your loved ones). Later that day: "Owen, get your (butt) up here now!" To which, and to my credit, I did properly report to his office. "What did this Major want with a dumb ___ like you?" "Sir, he gave me a class date and a job, sir." "What kind of job, you dumb----?" "Sir, I'm going to be a 'Z', sir." A look of incredulity, then: "A 'z'? You're a f----g 'z' alright, a f----g zero. Get out of here." And from that point forward, even though I kept stepping off on the wrong foot, not reporting properly for pay, screwing up my to-the-rear- march, marching alongside the flight rather than within it, and falling into the water, my TI knew he was dealing with a much greater power and never awarded that second "U." And I knew I owed my existence to one organization and I would dedicate myself to paying it back.

Though it didn't get a lot better in fundies, I was in a nurturing group of truly exceptional individuals. My class had electrical engineers, techs who worked for companies like GE, radio engineers, and me who always thought of electricity as the devil's creation to be respected but never examined. My first day of fundies, I was asked to measure the wall outlet with a PSM-6--couldn't do it but my instructor took the time to show me how. More than once, during end of block exams, the instructor would pass by, look at my answers, and hint that I should look at number 6 again, so I changed my answer. He would then reappear, and suggest I look at number 6 again and so, I would change it again. And so, it went. They had my back. When we returned from fundies break and readied for the big secret mission brief, I was again totally overwhelmed, my emotions were racing. The briefer was talking but my mind was in overdrive. Then the briefer mentioned "derbis" and our various missions included going after "derbis." That struck me. In my mind, I was going after those "derbises" whatever they were and I was going to be the best at fulfilling the "derbis" mission--whatever a "derbis" was. Then the briefer caught himself and said "Have I been saying 'derbis'? I meant 'debris' excuse me, it's debris, not derbis". So much for my shooting "derbises" on the fly. Then I saw my system, the Z2. It was the most impressive thing ever fielded, arguably the most sophisticated, and right off the bridge of the starship Enterprise. Operating it was like a game show and I excelled but couldn't overcome my fundies performance and lowest ranking among my



AFTAC Always Had My Back

Continued from page 6

seven classmates. When the assignments came down, the instructor said he knew where the number one was going and where Owen was going. Only the middle guys would fight it out. He was right and I headed home on my way to Turkey. While on leave I got a call to sit tight, my assignment was cancelled, and told to proceed to Det 125, Edwards AFB. My married classmates who didn't want remotes all would up with remotes and the only guy who wanted to drop off the face of the planet wound up in Southern California--go figure. On top of that, Det 125 was home to a Z1, with Z2 coming six months later. (By the way, I eventually made it to Turkey on a multi-directorate fact-finding tour 23 years later.) I jumped out of Det 125 and made my way to ground-based air sampling. I guess spending my teen years working at a gas station gave me a natural affinity for this machinery. So, I turned my back on the most advanced system ever deployed and opted for the most basic system and a career devoted to the GFU. Along the way, I encountered the most wonderful people, both up and down the chain.

In the Pacific theater, I could do no wrong, my PACTOA Commander Col Frank Hall always had my back. Later at HQ and when getting comfortable with MSgt, AFTAC/LG

Col Hall said you better worry, you're wasting those general's endorsements I've been pushing so get your butt in gear and get promoted or else--I did. When faced with a medical discharge for cardiac problems at year 19, AFTAC/DP Col Richard Moline visited me at Wilford Hall and said not to worry, we have your back. When finally facing my end of enlisted days without a clue what to do next, AFTAC/TM Chuck McBrearty said not to worry, we have your back and created my civilian position. McB continued to provide top cover for many years afterwards. Honorable mention goes to those many supervisors who looked at me in frustration and said they didn't know, and sometimes didn't want to know, what I was doing but we have your back. A special thanks to those special NCOs who worked the mission, who simply sensed what I wanted, and always had my back. Thank-you, all. It's a philosophy and respect I tried to express to anyone who entered my little world. My father worked for the county garage and always said that he had found a home and would never leave. I felt the same about AFTAC and my need to pay it back for teaching me and for rescuing me from Lackland purgatory. On the last day of my 45th year with AFTAC, I realized my debt had been paid. So, I quit.



Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher



Summer has flown by before I even realized it was happening. Cyndie and I decided to forgo our annual trip to Encampment because of the crazy fluctuations in the gas prices. We hope more stable gas pricing will allow us to make the trip in 2024.

As was mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, there was no objection to my election as Vice President to help Bryce and be able to conduct meetings if he is not able to attend. As I pointed out at the meeting, I will recuse myself from any action taken by the organization that involves my company. It will be my honor to serve in the office. I sincerely thank the members for giving me this opportunity. I hope that I can perform the job to everyone's satisfaction.

The executive committee has decided that we will publish the *Echoes* newsletter three times a year, namely, February, May, and October. The cost of postage keeps going up and we need to keep our Treasury solvent.

I am truly saddened by the passing of our charter member Glen Feakes. He and Joncee have been faithful members of the Alumni Chapter. When I worked on the Encampment book, he provided a lot of help making that project successful. We will miss him greatly.

As always, please send me suggestions for improving *Echoes* and ideas for articles for publication with proper attribution if it is copyrighted material.



We're ALL on the Web!

AFTAC Alumni Association-Colorado: www.aftacco.org

Colorado Document Library: www.microbluesoftware.com/DocLibrary/AFTACDocLibrary.nsf

Florida AFTAC Alumni Association: www.aftacaa.us

West Coast AFTACAA-WCC: www.aftacwcc.org

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



Taps

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



| Name | Birth | Death | State |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Browning, Robert W. "Bob" | | 17 May 2022 | CO |
| Caldwell, Robert E. "Bob" | 23 Feb 1946 | 05 Nov 2022 | PA |
| Desrosier, Charles Phillip "Charlie" | 07 Oct 1936 | 01 Feb 2018 | FL |
| Feakes, Glen Allen | 15 Aug 1931 | 19 Jul 2023 | CO |
| Johnson, Brent "BJ" | | 06 Jul 2023 | AZ |
| Landry, Tannie Hamilton | 08 Jul 1944 | 08 Apr 2023 | FL |
| Lindstedt, Phillip J. "Phil" | 23 Jan 1959 | 20 Aug 2023 | FL |
| McCloskey Jr., Charles Stuart | 06 Mar 1932 | 08 Jul 2023 | FL |
| Mosley, Donald Ray "Ray" | 16 Oct 1931 | 08 Mar 2023 | VA |
| Overby, Donald Ray "Don" | 19 May 1937 | 08 Jul 2023 | NC |
| Penton, Darlene Pinedale VFW Mgr | 24 Jan 1937 | 16 Feb 2023 | WY |
| Rogers, William Curtis "Bill" | 19 Jan 1934 | 27 Aug 2021 | CO |
| Sweet, Richard E. "Rick" | 15 Sep 1945 | 27 Aug 2023 | CO |
| Vickers, Eddie Jack | 19 Jul 1935 | 01 Aug 2023 | FL |
| Williamson, Donald Nash "Donnie" | 01 Dec 1934 | 04 Jul 2023 | WI |
| Woods, Dale F. | | 09 Jun 2022 | |

GLEN ALLEN FEAKES 15 August 1931 – 19 July 2023 Charter Member AFTAC Alumni Colorado Chapter



Glen Allen Feakes, grew up in the Fennimore, Wisconsin, and was a 1949 graduate of Fennimore High School. After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Air Force and was assigned to various locations in the United States and abroad during and after the Korean war. In 1957, he was stationed at the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) in Encampment, Wyoming. There he met his future wife, Joncee Arliene Newsom; they married on 22 February 1958. The two of them were stationed in multiple overseas locations including Alice Springs, Australia, and twice in Toledo, Spain, which resulted in numerous memories and long-term friendships. He retired from the military as a Master Sergeant in 1971 and used his military benefits to pursue higher education at the University of Colorado at Denver, receiving bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering and International Business in 1974. This training led him to a second career in civilian contracting work with the Department of Defense, Defense Contracts Administration Services Office (DCASO).

Throughout his retirement, Glen was an active member of the AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado. He loved his family, the mountains, fishing and hunting, patio gardening, opening presents on Christmas morning, traveling, and exploring locations around the world. He is survived by his wife, Joncee, their son, Randell, and his wife, Diann, their daughter, Debra, and her husband, Alejandro, and their grandchildren. Full Obituary available at <https://www.newcomerdenver.com/Obituary/266519/Glen-Feakes/Denver-CO>



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). **Lifetime Membership is available for \$75.** MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Maureen Hampson".

MAIL TO: Maureen Hampson, 1371 S Victor St., Aurora, CO 80012-4341.
Membership & dues questions may be directed to Maureen Hampson at Email Address: treasurer@aftacco.org