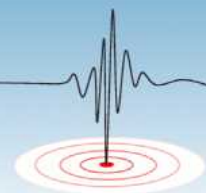


ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



January 2022

Volume 2022, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COLORADO CHAPTER

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST WILL BE AT THE TIN CUP BANQUET ROOM 50 S. PEORIA ST. ON 19 FEBRUARY 2022 SERVED AT 0900.

THE BUFFET WILL INCLUDE EGGS, POTATOES, BACON, SAUSAGE, BISCUITS & GRAVY, TOAST, GREEN CHILI, FRUIT JUICE AND COFFEE.

PLEASE RSVP BY 10 FEBRUARY TO MAUREEN HAMPSON AT 303.695.0477 (LEAVE A MESSAGE).

COST IS \$20 PER PERSON, ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY \$15 AND CHILDREN AGE 10 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

Points to Ponder

I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident — they came by work.

-Thomas A. Edison

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 time and from any location. To reach a Total the menu option for retired military with



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

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





21 November Dinner Recap

By Bryce Dunn, President

On 20 November 2021, the Colorado Chapter held their annual Fall/Veteran's Day dinner. We hosted 26 people including three children. Attendees included our guest speaker, Major General John Barry (USAF Retired) and his wife, Ellen, Major Adam Ross, Det 46 Commander and his family and Captain Nathaniel Anderson, Det 45 Commander. Also attending: Ken & Cyndie B., Patrick B., Al D., Bryce & Sue D., Lonnie & Ginney G., Bill & Rhonda K., Darrel and Wassana K. Earl & Marianne P., Bill S., Chuck T., Tom W. and Guest, and Matthew and Kay W.

Bryce sent a request to the Wings over the Rockies Museum (located in Hangar #1 at old Lowry AFB) for a guest speaker for our dinner and was surprised when John Barry responded that he would be glad to attend. As a 9/11 Pentagon survivor his topic was "Detection Lessons from 9/11" which was well received by all. We presented him with a copy of AFTAC Sage Jack O'Connor's book: *They Touched Our Heroes for the Last Time* which he signed "from one Aviator to another" (Thank you Jack!). We also presented a donation to the Wings Museum from a sponsor on behalf of the Colorado Chapter.

Here is an excerpt from Major General John Barry's Biography:

John L. Barry, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret) is the President and CEO of the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum (WOTR), located in Denver, Colorado since 2017. WOTR is Colorado's Official Air and Space Museum with two locations and in 2018, WOTR was recognized by CNN as one of the top 20 Aviation Museums in the World and USA Today as one of the top 10 Air and Space Museums in the United States.

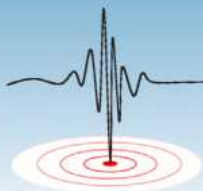
Mr. Barry served as President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) from 2014-2016. He was responsible for 17 standalone and school-based sites serving 2,000 kids each day with 10,000 registered members, 225 full and part-time staff, and a \$16 million annual budget.

General Barry served as Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools for seven years, from 2006-2013. Before returning to Colorado, he served in the United States Air Force for over 30 years as a combat veteran with 270 hours of combat time, fighter pilot, Fighter Weapons School Graduate, winning team member at the international Air-to-Air William Tell Competition, Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and commander multiple times at the squadron, twice at the group command level and twice at the wing command level. He is also a survivor of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon while serving as the lead Strategic Planner for the USAF. He retired in 2004 as a Major General and served his last tour on active duty as Board Member and Executive Director for the Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation. His immediate job for 3 years after the USAF was serving as the Vice President of Defense and Security for SAP, a multi-billion dollar international corporation and leader in industrial software.

Mr. Barry is a 1973 Honor Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, with a double major in International Affairs and Political Science and a Distinguished Graduate of USAF Pilot Training. He received his Master's in Public Administration from Oklahoma University, was a White House Fellow in 1986-1987, attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard on a fellowship in 1993-1994, and is a 2004 graduate of the Broad Superintendent Academy.

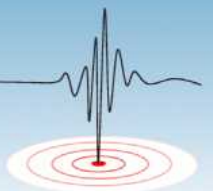
In 2011, John Barry was selected by the Colorado Association of School Executives as the Colorado Superintendent of the Year. In 2013, he was selected as the Communicator of the Year by the Colorado School Public Relations Association. Additionally, John Barry has been recognized as one of the top ten "Tech Savvy Superintendents" in the Nation by eSchool News and also as the Business Person of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. In 2021, John Barry was listed as one of the top 100 CEOs in Colorado as part of the Titan 100 and was selected for a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Colorado Air Force Historical Society.

Barry has served on numerous boards and organizations nationally and in the Denver-Metro area to include: Board Member and Chairman, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum; Colorado Cooperation; School Leaders for America; Public Education and Business Coalition; Rose Foundation, Education Committee; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Junior Achievement; Association of Graduates, USAF Academy. CURRENT: Colorado Forum; Member Council on Foreign Relations; Air Force Historical Society; National Aviation Hall of Fame.



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22 November Dinner Pictures

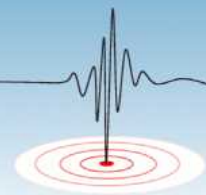
Photos by Ken Behrens





ECHOES

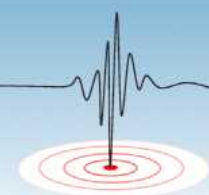
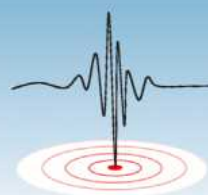
Past — Present — Future



22 November Dinner Pictures

Photos by Ken Behrens





From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President



First of all, thank you for the privilege and support that you all have provided me over the past 5 years. Since February 2017 we have had quite a few venues to enjoy meals and camaraderie, including the 2019 world-wide reunion. Many thanks to those that have made these events possible: Darrel Kline, VP; Bill Schmied, Treasurer; MOX, Editor (may he rest in peace); Ken Behrens, Database, Publisher & Editor; and the “core group” that helped make the 2019 reunion possible.

Since our last *Echoes* in September 21 the only official activity we have had was our November Dinner. Based on the feedback that I received, it was an enjoyable event with a great speaker and the prime rib was good. This was truly an enjoyable evening and unlike many of our November dinners it wasn't snowing.

Our next scheduled activity is our 19 February 2022 Breakfast. Hopefully we have a good turnout, it is always good to see our members catching up and sometimes you overhear parts of a good 99/9S story going on. The breakfast is open to AFTAC'ers/LRD, active-duty military, Civilians and families. The Tin Cup staff takes good care of us as far as service and food. Also, we have enough room there to spread out. Hope to see you there.

About our new Treasurer, Maureen Hampson.

We are fortunate that Maureen has stepped up to be our new treasurer – thank you Maureen. Bill Schmied has done a superb job over the years – including several world-wide reunions and he has our sincere thanks for a job well-done. Maureen's biography is in this Echos edition.

About our Webmaster, Bill Harris.

We do not often mention our webmaster, Bill Harris, but we should. Bill has been our mainstay for communication and archives on our website since its creation and we really appreciate it. Here is Bill's story:

Bill Harris was born and raised in suburban Detroit and dreamed of a way to combine his love of music and technology. After a year of college in upstate Michigan, he transferred to DeVry Institute in Chicago where he got the foundation in electronics that made it possible for him to enter the US Air Force in electronics in 1969. While in basic training, he was offered the chance to enter the 99125 career field and he was off to tech school at Lowry AFB.

After a year at Det 205, he was assigned to Headquarters in Alexandria, then moved with the group to Patrick AFB. Bill separated from the Air Force in 1973 but managed to stay in touch with a few folks.

Bill began a career in radio broadcasting, first as a DJ/newsman and then in 1979, he got his first full time position in Denver as an engineer. While in Denver, largely thanks to the Internet, he reconnected with the AFTAC alumni group there. With lots of help from a friend who was learning to build web sites, he got AFTACCO.org up and running.

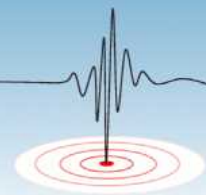
He is 'mostly' retired from full time engineering management, but he is still involved with the industry doing project work for his former group of stations.

He and his wife Gem have been married over 50 years and live in Albuquerque New Mexico where it snows a lot less than Denver or Michigan!

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Bryce Dunn
President





New Chapter Treasurer

By Maureen Hampson

A little about our next treasurer.

Maureen Hampson served 13 years, for the command, in personnel. Prior to coming to AFTAC, in 1972, she was stationed at Plattsburgh AFB NY as a personnel specialist and relocated to Keesler AFB MS in 1976, as an instructor, in the personnel school.

She began her tenure at Patrick in 1979 where she was responsible for ensuring there were support troops... admin specialists, supply specialist...assigned at all the locations throughout the command.

In 1982, she relocated to Lindsey AS Germany as the sole personnel technician for five overseas locations in Europe.

Due to the closure of Lindsey AS, she was then assigned to Det 057 and worked for Bill Schmied for a couple of years prior to his retirement.

Maureen retired from Lowry in February 1992 and remained in Aurora. She is married to Alan Hampson who was a 99105 prior to his retirement in June 1993. They have one adult son.



Mark Your Calendars

2022 WORLDWIDE REUNION 18 to 22 May

Hosted by the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association

Reunion Headquarters: Radisson Resort at the Port

8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

FL AFTACAA Chair/POC: Sean P. Ryan Email: oceanblueview@yahoo.com, Cell: 321-591-9053 (Unlisted)

FL AFTACAA Co-Chair/POC: Phil Godfrey Email: afsophil@gmail.com, Cell: 321-446-8775 (Unlisted)

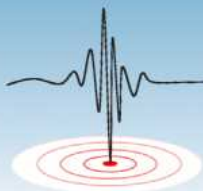
WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Colorado Chapter February General Membership Breakfast 19 February served at 09:00

Tin Cup Banquet Room 50 S. Peoria St. on 19 February 2022

RSVP to Maureen Hampson by 10 February

303-695-0477 (leave a message)



2021 AFTAC Open House

By Ed Lindsay

Published in the 2021 December *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

On 3 December, HQ AFTAC held an Open House. They invited family members and Alumni to participate in the event. The theme was, "The Grinch stole AFTAC." The Alumni had about 26 people who signed up to attend.

The day started off with a bonus. The highly anticipated opening of the Heritage Hall was conducted at 10am. Dr Mike Young has been working to make this facility a premier location to reflect the great history of AFTAC. It captures much of the atmosphere that many of us experienced at the multitude of Detachments around the world. It even is set up with a kitchen and a bar. The plaque from the old Kudu club from Det 423 is a part of the décor. It was a "by invite" only event and the Alumni were well represented. Past AFTAC Superintendents Larry Silhanek and Lloyd French were there, as were previous Alumni Presidents Bob Wiley, Frank Hall, Lou Seiler, and Ed Lindsay. Vice Commander, Richard Beckman, performed the ribbon cutting. There were refreshments. Some amazing relics were also highlighted in this wonderful area for AFTAC's history.

Another bonus was that the Chief select list had been released that morning. Chief selects Rachel Hammer and Jason Whisennand were honored.

The unit had tours that were limited to 50 people, due to COVID protocol. Every 30 minutes a group was taken into the HQs to visit the Heritage Hall and the Operations floor. It was a short tour, but it was good to see how AFTAC is keeping the mission going.

While we waited for the tours, there were food trucks and the USO provided pizza, cake, and cookie decorating. There were also photos with Santa and the Grinch. There were some bounce houses for the kids and some games to play.

It was good to get back in the building and talk to those that are now executing the mission. We hope to be able to again visit the building and the Heritage Hall next May during the 2022 WorldWide Reunion.



AFTAC Vice Commander Colonel Richard Beckman - Opens the Heritage Hall

Left to right: Chiefs Manchee, Adam Dunn (9S), select Hammer, select Whisennand, Chad Madore (9S), Jordan Lloyd (9S), Ed Lindsay, Lloyd French, and Larry Silhanek





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
Brown, Brian Keith "The Dawg"	22 Aug 1963	25 Nov 2021	NV
Carson, Yuko Oyaizu	14 Jun 1944	01 Aug 2021	CA
Harvey, Monroe Clayton "Harv"	26 Oct 1937	27 Nov 2021	WY
Marshall, Joe Donald	02 Mar 1938	16 Oct 2021	FL
Meisenheimer, Robert Anthony "Bob"	13 Nov 1933	10 Jan 2022	FL
Rogers, William Curtis "Bill"	19 Jan 1934	27 Aug 2021	CO
Wonner, Michael H.	12 Jun 1942	24 Aug 2021	AZ
Woodcock Jr., Richard Lee "Rick"	10 Sep 1942	02 Dec 2021	NC



Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher

January is a very busy month for me. I volunteer at the National Western Stock Show and I work from 0500 hours until approximately 1400 hours for the 16 days of the show. I insist on taking both Wednesdays off as mental health breaks to keep my sanity. I am the dispatcher for all the volunteer radio traffic, handling everything from wet cleanups to lost children. Well, it really is the parents who are lost, the kids always know exactly where they are! This show will be my 20th serving as a volunteer.

I started the set up of the dispatch office on 03 January which includes allocating all the radios that the volunteers use to their respective work areas. I have written a database program to track the use of all the radios, leased vehicles, and document the radio traffic. I use one of my all-in-one machines to run the software. I also provide a laser printer for printing the attendance reports and the itineraries of the judges who require transportation to/from DIA by the leased vehicle drivers.



My last day of work is on 24 January when we break down the office and inventory the radio equipment that we have leased for return to the vendor.

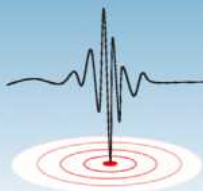
Perhaps this will give you a flavor for why I am sometimes late in responding to emails or phone calls.

Speaking of phones, I have finally been dragged kicking and screaming into using a smart phone. Now I can communicate with the grand kids because they only text and rarely use dial tone. All of them have welcomed me to the 21st century. I still feel uncomfortable in keeping everything on one device which can get lost or broken. I do back it up regularly just like I do to all of my computers to satisfy my paranoia.

I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy during this blasted COVID outbreak. Cyndie and I have managed to avoid coming down with this Wuhan virus. We have had a lot of volunteers at the stock show who have had to cancel their shifts because of either exposure to an infected person or gotten it themselves. Denver mayor Hancock placed a mask mandate on all staff and volunteers, but exempted the exhibitors, vendors, and contestants in the various competitions. Apparently the virus knows not to infect those folks. There was a rumor floating around that the mayor was going to send in checkers who would take pictures of any staff or volunteer not complying, levying a \$5000 fine per person per occurrence. So much for equal treatment under the law by granting exemptions to some but not all.

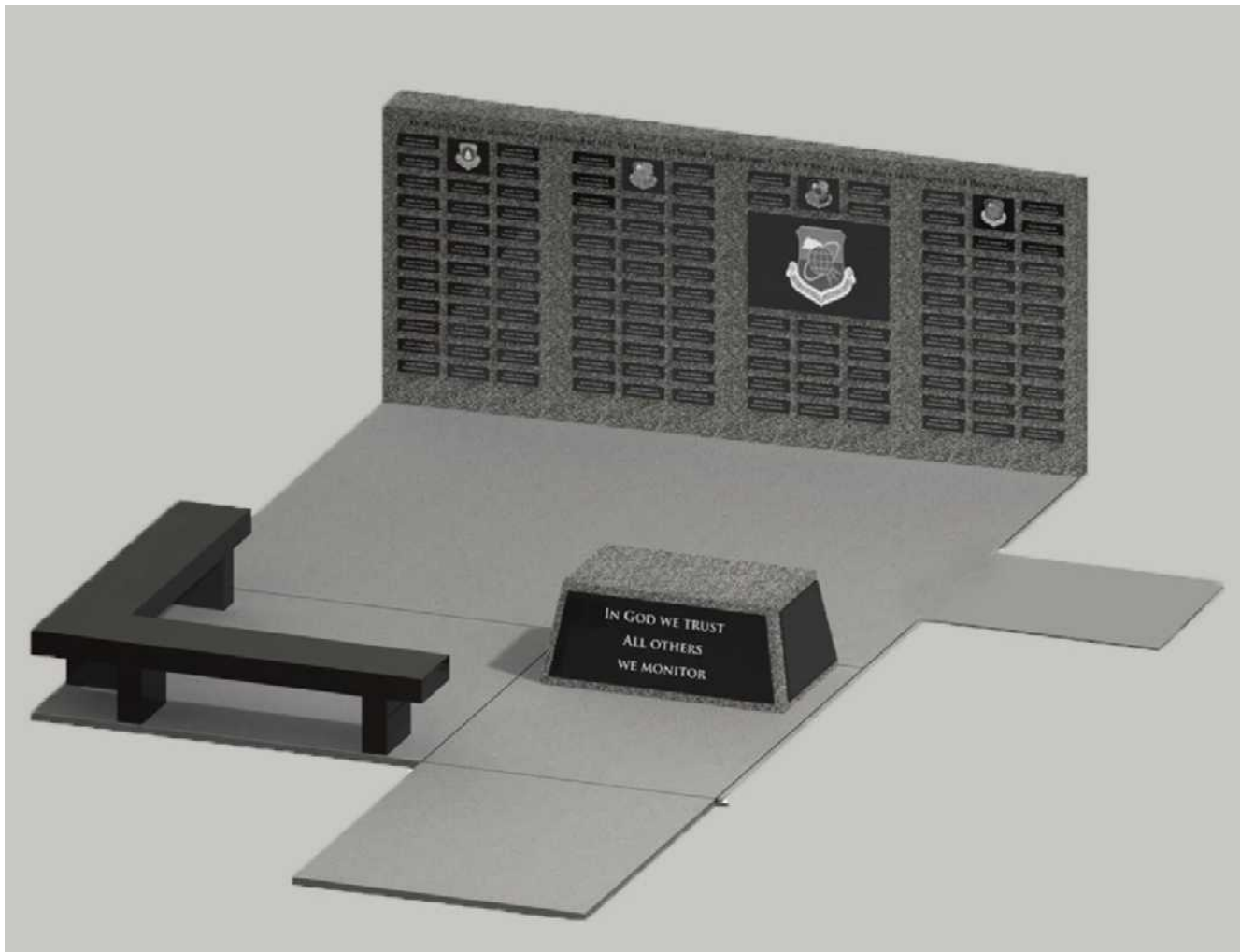
As always, please send me any information you would like to have included in the newsletter. I appreciate any and all suggestions to improve the content and layout of the publication.





AFTAC Memorial

“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.”



With all cost estimates in for the construction and installation of the memorial, we are currently more than half way there with \$53,000 in the building fund, but we need a final \$40,000 more to be able to sign contracts for completion of the project. Once the contracts are signed, the memorial is scheduled to be completed within 6 months of contract sign.

For all of those who have contributed to date, a hearty thank you! For those yet to contribute, please consider how you can help to honor your comrades who have passed while serving the AFTAC mission.

You can make a straight donation of cash or purchase a brick for the walkway. Every donation helps, no matter the size. A little amount by a large number can get us there. Thanks for your consideration.

A direct donation by check made out to “AFTAC Memorial Corporation,” and mailed to:

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

A brick may be ordered through the web site: <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>



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 "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