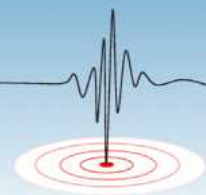




ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



May 2021 Volume 2021, Issue 2 Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COLORADO CHAPTER

2021 FLORIDA REUNION POSPONED UNTIL 2022

ALUMNI, ACTIVE DUTY, CIVILIANS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A LIVE, COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION, IN-PERSON PICNIC
AT MATNEY PARK, 5790 LANTERN CIRCLE, CASTLE ROCK
SATURDAY, 26 JUNE 2021 FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM.

MATNEY PARK IS AN ADA ACCESSIBLE PARK WITH A LARGE PAVILION, A DISC GOLF COURSE, PLAYGROUND WITH SWINGS, INLINE RINK, HORSESHOE COURTS, AND A SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD.

DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON LEASH.

WE WILL HAVE HORSESHOES AND BEAN BAG TOSS.

THE ASSOCIATION WILL FURNISH BURGERS, BRATS, HOT DOGS, CONDIMENTS, LEMONADE, POTATO SALAD, CHIPS AND WATERMELON.

FEEL FREE TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL [PRESIDENT@AFTACCO.ORG](mailto:president@aftacco.org)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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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'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

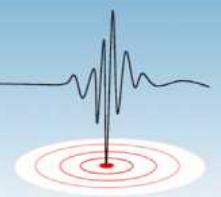
Retiree personnel services available 24/7

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.



2020 Alumni of the Year — Ed Lindsay

From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

(Submitted by Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President)

February 26, 2021, was a memorable day for CMSgt (Ret) Ed Lindsay. On stage in front of a “safety crowd” of around 50, and an online Zoom teleconference of hundreds of current and former AFTAC members, he beamed with pride as he accepted his AFTAC Alumni of the Year Award. The AFTAC Commander, Col Katherine Barber, delivered his well-deserved trophy with a smile and an elbow bump, and he turned to the crowd at the Patrick Space Force Base Theater, pausing for a photo and a smile from his daughter, who was in attendance. Amid the roaring applause, Ed exited the stage, trophy in hand, reflecting on months of dedicated work for the Alumni Association.



Yes, Ed is our 2020 AFTAC Alumni of the Year. This is no easy award to get, and the countless hours Ed has dedicated this year to picking up responsibility for the Sage Shop, and learning the ropes as our newest Webmaster (and so much more), Ed has really kept the skids greased on a challenging year for the Association’s critical missions.

Ed’s selection was announced at our February teleconference meeting, and watching the emotions take their turns across his face was an experience to be remembered. Shock. Glee. More shock. Misty eyes. Gratitude. Above all, Gratitude. That’s Ed Lindsay, and has been the cornerstone of his humble leadership since he swore the oath. Ed runs on service to others, having served in positions of leadership for 30 years – even a stint as our Association President. So this was an easy call.

Thanks go to Bob Wiley, who leads our AOY process and selection committee. Bob, Angelina (Ed's daughter) and I were in the Theater celebrating along with Ed. We wish you all could have been there!

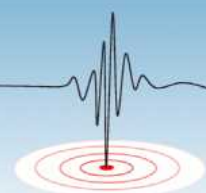
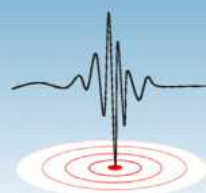


Ed Lindsay & Phil Godfrey



Judy Henderson, Ed Lindsay, & Bob Wiley





Message to the Alumni from the AFTAC Commander

From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)



Colonel Katherine Barber, Commander

Hello AFTAC Alumni Family!

I wish I could say I've met most of you since taking command of AFTAC in June, but as we all know, the ceremony took place at the height of the worldwide pandemic, and we haven't had the opportunity to network, socialize, and gather for

events and celebrations that bring the entire AFTAC family together.

Until the time comes, though, when we can safely congregate in large numbers, I thought I'd take advantage of the "virtual" world and put together a few words for your quarterly newsletter.

Before I arrived at AFTAC, I had frequent conversations with Colonel Hartman about the camaraderie that exists between the past and present workforce, and he told me about incredible relationship the center shares with its Alumni near and far. Learning that AFTAC has an engaged, supportive and involved cadre of former members was something that really warmed my heart as the incoming commander.

I have been in the Air Force for over 23 years now. If you had asked me what I would be doing in 23 years when I received my commission from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Georgia my answer would not have been "Commander of AFTAC." However, in my early 20s I was clearly naïve, short sighted, and unimaginative. I would not have predicted I would get to travel to places like Kosovo, Italy, Germany, England, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Qatar, Afghanistan, and more. Today I couldn't be more excited and proud to be a part of such an august institution. Every conversation with Dr. Mike Young, the current AFTAC Historian, impresses upon me the incredible legacy you all have left.

Before COVID struck, I was researching as much as I could about AFTAC and its geographically-separated locations around the world, and was anxious about the prospect of visiting our Airmen at our overseas detachments and locations throughout the U.S. But much like everything else, the coronavirus brought travel to a screeching halt. I know many of our Alumni have been stationed at several of our foreign operating locations – some still operational, others long gone – and I'm sure you have some great stories to tell of the experiences and places you've traveled to. I'd love to hear about your adventures whenever we're able to get together again!

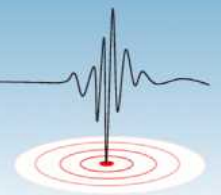
The past year has been unprecedented in so many ways, but the men and women of AFTAC faced the challenges head-on and continued to execute our critical mission uninterrupted. I am so proud of our Airmen – military and civilian – and continue to be amazed at their resilience, skill, expertise and ability to get the job done despite significant hurdles. You should be proud of them, too – they are following the lead of their predecessors (YOU!) and carrying on your legacy through the work they perform 24/7/365.

I would be remiss if I didn't call out a few people by name to say how much I appreciate the effort put forth to serve as the conduit between the alumni and us here at the Center – the AFTAC Alumni Association Board: President Phil Godfrey, Vice President Rob Christman, Treasurer Sean Ryan, and Secretary Arlin Massey. Thank you for your steadfast work and willingness to volunteer your time – we are grateful!

I hope 2021 will bring you all good health and prosperity! I look forward to seeing the curve flattened, vaccines delivered, positive cases virtually non-existent, and the chance to return to social gatherings in a safe and healthy environment. In the meantime, thank you again for all you do in support of this great organization ... you are an invaluable part of our AFTAC family!

Cheers,
Col Barber





Message to the Alumni from the AFTAC Command Chief

From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

Chief Master Sergeant Amy L. Long, Command Chief



Greetings and salutations, AFTAC Alumni!

The past 12+ months have been quite a ride for us – as a nation, an organization, and as Airmen. Through all the COVID challenges, AFTAC has continued to succeed, innovate, and improve in myriad areas.

Normally, the Commander and I would update the Alumni on the status of AFTAC through BBQs, picnics, the Snowball, Open House and other connection points. We have not had those opportunities since the pandemic began, but that doesn't lessen our responsibility to you all to stay in touch and connected.

When Colonel Barber took command, one of her first honors was to induct Dr. William Junek as AFTAC's newest Chief Scientist. Together, they are focused on modernizing our building, systems, software, and data strategy in addition to maintaining the phenomenal care and morale of our workforce.

We are hopeful that the pandemic environment will allow for an Open House once again this December and we can invite you to the grand opening of our Heritage Hall. Dr. Mike Young, our Historian, is dedicated to bringing in the rich legacy of the missions and members of AFTAC's history for display in our new Heritage Hall. It will be a warm and inviting place to hold ceremonies and gatherings in the best traditions of AFTAC – with food and

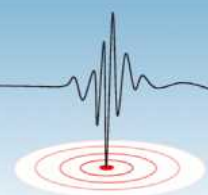
drink and music and comfortable seating surrounded by history. We are even planning to have a large touchscreen table to view videos, pictures, and biographies of our 70+ years of heritage.

AFTAC is a reflection of American society and as such we are committed to continuing to improving our organization to be a place of dignity and respect. All AFTAC members are a part of the AFTAC family and we will stay vigilant and pursue efforts to make this true for every person. We have created a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position to equip the center with resources to focus on our strengths in areas of belonging, connectedness, and parity. We've revitalized our DEI council and they are an advisory and participative board who have already begun holding lunchbox chats, invigorated monthly cultural awareness campaigns, and held meetings dedicated to small groups to discuss matters that are important to all AFTAC members.

Recently, at an Executive Leader Offsite, we reviewed our Mission and Vision statements and through careful consideration have adopted the following:
 AFTAC Mission: Deliver unique nuclear and WMD expertise to outsmart our adversaries
 AFTAC Vision: Be the experts! #scienceforconsequence

Every day that I walk into the AFTAC building, I am humbled and honored to serve with the women and men who make a difference to our center, our community, our partners, and our nation. Thank you all for your service and your continued support of Team AFTAC's members, mission and families!





From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President

First of all, sincere condolences to Bill Schmied and Frank Lepus on the loss of their wives. Sue and I along with other alumni attended their Funeral Mass with great sorrow. We also lost a great one – Mike Minamoto this year, we will keep them in our thoughts.

We have been in a “COVID” mode for over a year now and I believe we are about to come out of hibernation. We scheduled a live, in-person picnic at Matney Park in Castle Rock and hope to see you there. Also, hopefully we can hold our November Fall/Veterans dinner this year, stay tuned.

Congratulations to Ed Lindsay, our newest Alumni of the Year. Sue and I watched as he was surprised at the announcement at the February Florida Chapter monthly meeting. We also watched him receive his award at the virtual commander’s call with Colonel Katharine Barber on 26 February. Way to go Ed, you deserve the title of “2020 Alumni of the Year”. Thank you for all you have done for all of the Chapters, the active duty and their families.

The latest issue of the POMO and the West Coast Chapter Newsletter are outstanding. Read them if you get a chance and feel free to provide feedback to them on how they are doing.



Please let us know how we are doing, Ken works hard to get our newsletter out for the alumni enjoyment.

If you have anything you want to share stories, far-side tales, and suggestions or just to say hi, send a note to Ken.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Bryce Dunn
President



Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher

I join our President Bryce in sending heartfelt condolences to Bill Schmied and Frank Lepus for the loss of their wives and to Mike Minamoto's family for his passing. They will be missed by the entire Alumni family.

It appears that the COVID-19 lock-down is finally coming to an end with most of the metro area going to code Blue that removes the restrictions we have been living under. I fervently hope everyone gets vaccinated so we achieve the herd immunity that will truly put 2020 into our rear-view mirror. I am looking forward to eliminate wearing a mask because I miss seeing people's faces and smiles. I included an email received from Frank Calenda that outlines various sources for vaccines in case some of you have not been able to find a way to get a shot. I surely hope that it is a moot point now!



I will take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Ryan Cress, PhD to our family. He has been named the Director of the Harkins Laboratory Complex replacing Jeff Moore who

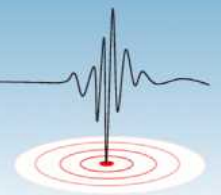
has moved to a new position at the Pentagon. I am looking forward to meeting Ryan at our picnic in June if he is able to attend. Be sure to extend your welcome to him as well.

Speaking of the picnic, I am so grateful that Bryce has put the planning for a picnic into an actual event instead of a virtual meeting like we have been forced to use. I suppose the virtual meetings are the best alternative to not meeting at all. At least one can see and hear the others on the screen, but it just isn't the same as an in-person event. Several of us attended the virtual February get-together. We had a good time getting caught up with what was happening in our lives then.

I am adding my congratulations to Ed Lindsay for the well deserved honor of being chosen as the 2020 Alumni of the Year. He was one of the people who made our Colorado Reunion a big success by agreeing to MC the event. He has never turned down a request to help out the Alumni Association. Thanks Ed, for all that you do for us!

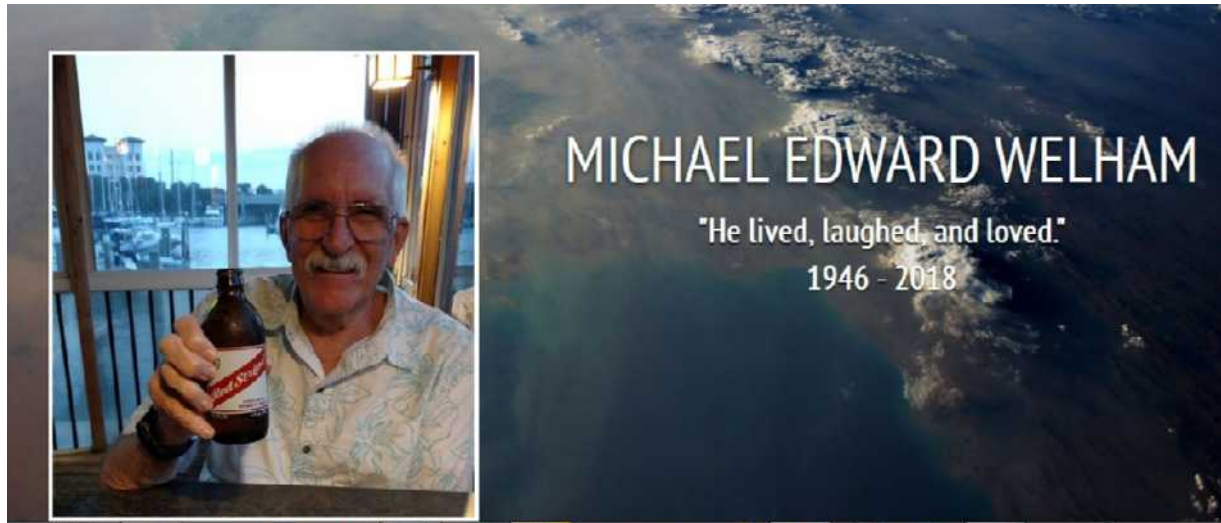
As usual, I welcome hearing your ideas for articles, submissions for publication, with proper attribution if a reprint from another source, and your suggestions for improving my work on the newsletter.





Alumnus in Space (Update)

By Bryce Dunn



Celestis Memorial Spaceflight #17 – Horizon mission was successfully launched on 24 January 2021.

Why is that important to some Alumni? One of our own, Major Michael Welham was aboard.

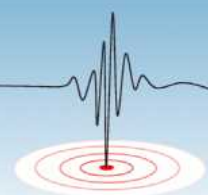
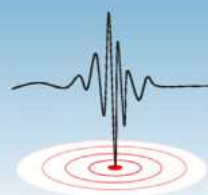
Mike was battling pancreatic cancer. During his last few weeks, Mike told his wife that he didn't really want a funeral and preferred to be remembered as he was before the cancer. So together Mike and his wife found out about Celestis from good, old-fashioned googling. This option sounded so unique and was a way to honor Mike and his work with NASA.

His ashes were in a capsule with 103 others aboard the Spaceflight Industries Sherpa-FX 1 spacecraft, one of the payloads included on the Falcon 9 rocket "Transporter 1" mission.



Rest in peace Mike we will miss you!





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, Mildred E.	26 Oct 1935	03 Oct 2020	CA
Bertelmann, Roy Kuhihiwa	01 Oct 1926	23 Mar 2021	TX
Borowski, Joseph J. "Joe"	07 May 1941	25 Mar 2021	ID
Creery, Clark	12 Mar 1942	28 Mar 2021	FL
Daniels, Jr., David J.	1943	18 Jan 2021	FL
Johnson, Joseph M. "Joe"	1930	14 Apr 2021	CA
Lepus, Diana	1940	19 Mar 2021	CO
Mapps, David		22 Dec 2010	AZ
Minamoto, Mitsuo "Mike"	11 Mar 1926	04 Feb 2021	CO
Moxley, Jurell "Mox"	01 Sep 1937	28 Jan 2021	CO
Osborne, Robert "Bob"		05 May 2020	CA
Perkins, Norvel	11 Oct 1976	16 Apr 2021	FL
Rice, Justin	14 Jul 2003	13 Mar 2021	FL
Schmied, Sue Ellen	11 Jun 1946	22 Feb 2021	CO
Stevens, Jr., Otis	24 Dec 1940	17 Jan 2021	KY
Wagley, Jack	28 May 1930	06 Feb 2021	MI



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

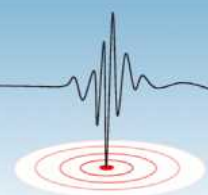


Mark Your Calendars

26 June 2021 Alumni Picnic 1100 to 1500 hrs Matney Park, 5790 Lantern Circle, Castle Rock
 Details on page 1

2021 WORLDWIDE REUNION POSTPONED

Hosted by the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association
 New Date Targeted for the Spring of 2022



Mail Call

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Long but informative.

All Adults in the U.S. Eligible to Make a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment on April 19, 2021



The President recently announced that all adults in the United States are eligible to make appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as of April 19th.

COVID-19 Vaccine for Eligible Adults at DOD Vaccination Sites

As of April 19, all Department of Defense (DOD) beneficiaries can make an appointment, as available, to get the COVID-19 vaccine at DOD vaccination sites. As a TRICARE beneficiary, you are eligible and authorized to get a vaccine at any DOD vaccination site.

You can get a COVID-19 vaccine at any military hospital, clinic, or DOD vaccination site that offers the vaccine, even if it's not where you normally get care.

- The number of open appointments will vary by vaccination site. This is because sites are getting different amounts of vaccine doses.
- Visit the TRICARE DOD COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments page to see what appointment tools your military hospital or clinic is using.

If you're in a priority tier and you haven't gotten your vaccine yet, you should make your appointment now.

If you get the vaccine, you'll reduce your risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19.

Where Else Can I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

You have other options on where to get the vaccine, depending on local availability. Appointments are required at most locations.

Visit VaccineFinder.org to find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines near you. For some states, information is still limited; providers and pharmacies will continue to update locations in the coming weeks.

Besides going to a DOD vaccination site, you can also get a COVID-19 vaccine at:

- Your state or local health department COVID-19 vaccination

sites

- Your civilian provider
- Retail pharmacies
 - To see a list of pharmacies that may have COVID-19 vaccines, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program page.
 - You can get a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost at TRICARE network and non-network pharmacies.

COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments at DOD Vaccination Sites

DOD vaccination sites may extend their hours, including evenings and weekends, to offer more vaccine appointments.

The TRICARE DOD COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments website shows how to request an appointment at a DOD vaccination site. Visit www.tricare.mil/VaccineAppointments to see which appointment tools each DOD vaccination site is using and use one of those tools to make an appointment.

If a site isn't listed, visit your local military hospital or clinic's website for information.

What Does the COVID-19 Vaccine Cost?

The vaccine itself is offered at no cost, but based on your plan and status (active duty or retiree), there may be a cost for an office visit to a TRICARE-authorized or network provider or if you require follow-on care.

While there is no charge for the vaccine, if you get a vaccine while seeking care (a diabetes check-in, for example), then a visit copayment or cost-share will apply.

COVID-19 Vaccine Documentation

You must bring your vaccination card to your second vaccine appointment for record keeping.

Once the COVID-19 vaccination process is completed, submit documentation to your provider so it can be added to your health record.

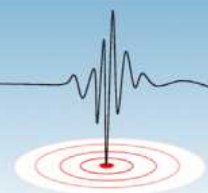
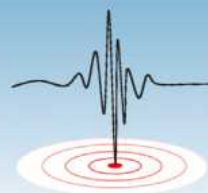
Additional Resources for You

For more information, check out these resources:

- VaccineFinder.org
- TRICARE COVID-19 Vaccine News
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine News
- CDC Federal Retail Pharmacy Program
- State and Territory Health Department Websites

Frank Calenda (via AFTAC-LRD eAlert)





AFTAC Memorial

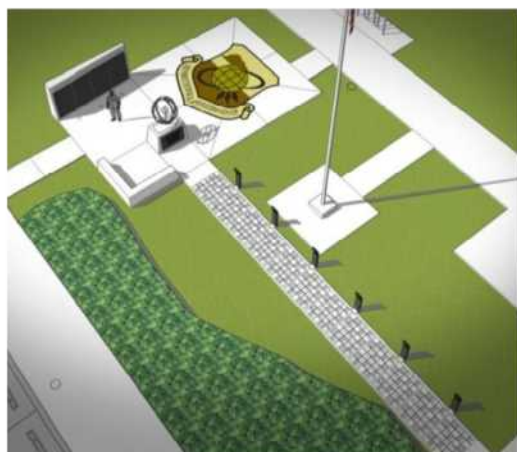
From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

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