

390th SMW Memorial Association



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TITAN TALES

Volume 4, Issue 3

November, 2002

From the desk of the President

Richard Kampa

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I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who attended this year's reunion. Also to those of you who participated in the plans and preparations, it was a job well done. Additional memories were made and "war stories" about these adventures will be embellished. I wonder how many of you that attended tried to determine what the Adam's Mark logo represents. After much research (I asked the bell hops) this is what I found out, two possibilities: The owner was going skiing and when he looked down from his private jet he happened to see the ski runs, one was named Adam and the other Mark and thus the name of the hotel was born. The other possibility: If you take a close look at the logo it looks somewhat like "Bart Simpson" running, but you be the judges.

It was amazing to see the Saturn Rocket at the Cape; its size was tremendous. A closer inspection of its components made one realize that the missile we cared for all those many years never left the bonds of earth during that time, did go into space. The testing and reliability of our system paved the way to the moon. The next place we will explore will be Mars and that will be left to our descendants.

During the last three reunions we have traveled to Las Vegas, Dayton and Orlando, our travels will now bring us back home to the place where it all started some 40 years ago. Fifty-four Titan II missile silos were activated and now only one remains intact and it will be a key

part of our next reunion.

Now I will ask all of our members who couldn't partake in our varied travels to *think Tucson* in 2004. Yes, you can return home and see the old homestead again.

Once again thanks to everyone for their hard work and effort towards the reunion. ♦

Titan II Forever

Reunion Committee

John Lasher, Co-Chair

elainelasher@aol.com

It's over, gone...but not forgotten. Reunion 2002 celebrated the activation of the 390th SMW and was a huge success.

Each of our activities proved to be enjoyable for all. The one thing that seemed to please everyone was a freebee – strolling through one of Florida's largest malls. The mall **JUST** happened to be adjacent to the Adam's Mark, our hotel. Of course, it was free; if you didn't take advantage of all the wonderful sales the stores were conducting.

Our hotel, the Adam's Mark, was outstanding and will be a very hard act to follow for our Tucson 2004 reunion.

Susan and I would like to thank the many people who helped us make 2002 in Orlando a memorable occasion. ♦

Membership

John Lovern

jhlovern@cox.net

As we stated in the last newsletter, some membership dues will be increased in January. The board recommended the increases and the general membership approved it at the reunion in Orlando. Due to the rising cost of postage, office supplies and everything else in general we found it necessary to raise the dues. This is the first time we have had to do this since we became an association and hopefully we will not have to do so again for a long time.

The **active membership** dues were increased from \$15.00 to **\$20.00** and the **associate membership** dues from \$5.00 to **\$10.00**. On the bright side, not all dues were increased; the life membership will remain \$200.00 and additional family members \$10.00.

On to some brighter news, our membership now totals 190, consisting of 58 life members, 117 active members and 15 associates.

Let's welcome the following new members who have come on board since the last newsletter:

General Mike Wiedemer changed his membership from active to life. The General was an Olympic Arena crew-member from 1974 to 1977. The Wing won the Best Titan Wing in both 1974 and 1977 and his crew was the Best Missile Crew in 1977. The General is still on active duty and is stationed in Virginia. **Elbridge "Jay" Malone** is a new life member. Jay was a BMAT in the 571st and then went to MIMS as a Missile Handler/Propulsion team chief. **Sally Varnado** is a new life member and, of course, is the better half of the Lathan/Sally team.

Robert Butler, a new active member, was in MIMS and on the RPIE, Refer & AC Maintenance Team for 571-5, 571-6 & 571-7. Jack "**Budd**" **Justesen**, an active member, was in the wing from 1973 - 1976. He was a Nuclear Weapons Specialist in the RV shop. **Thomas Lafferty** was in the 571st from 1963 - 1966 as a DMCCC. He was on one of the crews for the first Titan OT shot at Vandenberg. **Tom Symonds**, an ACP qualified MCCC was in the wing from 1969 - 1972. His alerts were mainly at 571-1. **Robert Watson** was both a MCCC and DMCCC crew-member in the 570th from 1971 - 1974. **Richard Werner** and **Worthington Fowler** are new active members but did not furnish any 390th history. **Andrew Kelly**, a new associate member, was in the wing from 1967 - 1970. He was on the EOD team. **Kay Byrne** is a new associate member and is also a life member of the 390th Bomb Group.

We have been in need of a person to help prospective members with questions regarding our organization and to help convince them that they should join. We now have that person; Henry Stevens has volunteered to be our recruiter. If you know of someone that is interested in joining have them contact Henry or me for information. Henry's e-mail address is sast@ftc-i.net. ♦

Membership Directory Updates

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4572 N. Trocha Alegre
Tucson, AZ 85749

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108 Ridgeway Drive
Decatur, IL 62521
bobtired@aol.com
(217) 475-1305

Mr. John Field
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Worthington Fowler
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Mr. Jack "Budd" Justesen
P.O. Box 88312
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Mr. Andrew Keller
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Mr. Melvin K. F. Lee
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Lakewood, WA 98499
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62 Main Road
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Lathan and Sally Varnado
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Mr. Wilbur J. Walston
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Mr. Richard L. Werner
225 Charles Court
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(321) 773-5339

Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer
396 Lexington Dr.
Ft. Lee, VA 23801

A Little Humor

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day.

*One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?"
"No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday."
And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."*

Titan History

BGen. Joel McKean, retired

Titan II – From Start to START

A teaching career had been the goal all along, and asking for recall to active duty was my ticket to teach at the U.S. Air Force Academy. But wait a minute – we've all heard about, "The needs of the service come first." So the classroom was Shepherd AFB, and the assignment was the 570th SMS at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona.

Martin-Marietta was in the process of getting the first Titan II silo ready to turn over to the Air Force. International events had put more than a little pressure on the company to finish their work so that the missile could be declared "in the green," operationally ready. The successful conclusion of the Cuban missile crisis didn't make our job any less important; it just emphasized the importance of deterrence; and that was the name of the game during the entire lifetime of this missile system. The crisis and crew duty would be remembered many times as Titan II lived on as a part of my Air Force career, but deterrence would remain paramount.

Titan II was the first strategic missile system to facilitate a new strategy of deterrence. As the technology of MIRVed (Multiple Independently-targetable Reentry Vehicles) was developed and incorporated into our strategic missile systems, the U.S. national policy moved from mutual assured destruction (MAD) to one of deterrence based on the ability to respond to any provocation at an appropriate level of force. It no longer had to be all or nothing at all. The idea of crisis stability, based on rational actions by leaders of the two superpowers, helped create an atmosphere in which talks about arms reduction could take place.

The dream of teaching mathematics at the Air Force Academy materialized, but was relatively short lived as I started in January 1972 to deal with the planning aspects of the strategic forces at SAC Headquarters. Although Titan II was but one system of many in our strategic arsenal, it was an important part of the SIOP (Single Integrated Operation Plan). SAC's motto was, "Peace is our profession," and the most effective way to keep the peace was by maintaining a strong deterrent force. We were ready, and the world knew it!

About this time, two agreements were reached between the U.S. and the USSR. One was the ABM Treaty, restricting Anti-Ballistic Missile systems, and the other was the SALT I Agreement (not a treaty). An adequate discussion of the ABM Treaty, particularly in light of what the U.S. needs to do in this arena today, would fill another article, so I'll leave that for another time, but it was an essential element in the historical chain that took us from confrontations like the Cuban missile crisis to becoming the only nuclear superpower with the break up of the Soviet Union and the demise of the Warsaw Pact.

The other significant element of those negotiations was the SALT I

Accord. It was an agreement to freeze our strategic nuclear missiles at their then-current levels. Although the accord received criticism from all sides (it didn't do enough; it did too much; or it didn't treat the sides equally), it did provide a basis for negotiations that would eventually reduce the size of Soviet and U.S. strategic forces in a way that would maintain stability while decreasing the likelihood of nuclear war.

With instructions hammered out in the Washington interagency arena and signed by President Ford, we began talking with the Soviets about significant cuts in our strategic weapon systems, resulting in lower and equal levels of ICBM's, SLBM's, and long-range bombers. Again, I was dealing with the Titan II, creating treaty language to proscribe numbers and provide details for dismantlement of this system by verifiable methods. Titan II had served well as a deterrent to nuclear war. Now it was to serve with equal distinction as a lever to negotiate lower and equal levels of strategic nuclear systems with the Soviets. In June 1979, Presidents Carter and Khrushchev signed the SALT Two Treaty in Vienna. Although SALT Two was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, which is a necessary step in the finalization of any international treaty, both sides abided by it and the groundwork was laid for a new round of talks called START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks). And so we have Titan II, from the start of its deployment to START.

Titan II, although never launched in anger, was an essential link in the historical chain that stretched from the Cold War to significant arms reduction treaties and the eventual demise of the Warsaw Pact. The thousands of men and women who made this possible by serving with distinction can be proud indeed. ♦

*"For all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these:
It might have been."*

--John Greenleaf Whittier

Advanced to Memory



Dennie Lee Hettinger, MSGT – October 2002

Please assist us in reporting deaths, if you know someone whose name should be recorded please let us know.

Titan Missile Museum

Becky Roberts, AZAEROF@mindspring.com



THANK YOU, 390TH! All the staff and volunteers at the Titan Missile Museum wish to thank the 390th SMW Memorial Association for its generous contribution to the Building Fund. A check for \$500 was presented to the Museum at the reunion in Orlando. And by the way, I was glad I was able to attend, as it is always great to be able to visit with your members. Your organization is made up of the "cream of the crop"! The trip to the Kennedy Space Center was super, I only wish I could have spent another full day there.

It would be interesting to find out if the 390th set a record for the most people to sleep through a Casino Cruise. Must have been the motion sickness pills!

The Capital Campaign is finally getting back on track to raise funds for the building. General Ronald Fogleman has consented to be the Campaign Chairman. He has already enlisted the support of two of the CINC SACS and will probably get more. Our Foundation Development Director, Sandi Moomey, is busy working on the packets.

The Land Use Committee has been tasked with finding a way to cut costs in order to be able to start construction by next summer. The total budget, which includes furnishings, exhibits, landscaping, parking lot lighting and endowment, totals well over one million dollars. Rather than abandon the plan that incorporates everything our learning center should include, we are looking at ways to phase in the building, with the first phase covering all critical items.

Titan's Educational Outreach Committee has been busy working on the school group tour. Phase 1, which is mostly a learning process for our docents, is currently being implemented. Also, the Junior Missiler program has been well received by our visitors with children, currently the Committee is looking for grants to fund the next year's printing.

On November 1st the Museum's hours change to seven days per week, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, and they will remain until spring. More hours open means an increase in the need for volunteers, so if you need to get out of the house, come join us! ♦



Dick Kampa,
President,
presenting check
to Becky Roberts

From the Members

Unholy Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony

Generally remembered as God-fearing people who fled religious persecution in Europe, the Pilgrims who helped settle Massachusetts had a reputation for piety. But a few of them turned out to be troublemakers as soon as their ship, the *Mayflower*, set sail in 1620. These troublemaking ways often continued in Plymouth Colony, making criminal justice an issue in Plymouth earlier than colony leaders might have imagined it would be.

John Billington, one of the most notorious *Mayflower* passengers, eventually was convicted of murder in 1630 and became the first man hanged in Massachusetts. According to the memoirs of colonial governor William Bradford, Billington's family was "one of the profanest" on board the *Mayflower*, and his behavior is said to be one of the reasons the original settlers drew up the *Mayflower* Compact.

Hastily drawn up as the *Mayflower* was en route to the New World, the *Mayflower* Compact was an agreement to establish the laws and necessary governing structures needed to preserve order among the colonists. Billington was among the 41 male passengers who ratified it with their signatures.

The Compact itself was a very general document. When it came time to punish Billington for murder, Governor Bradford sought the advice of Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop, and other of the "ablest gentlemen," to be sure that Billington received a fair trial, was convicted by "plain and notorious evidence," and deserved execution.

The principles of criminal justice in the colonies were tested again in 1638, when Arthur Peach, whom fellow settlers described as a "lusty fellow," was hanged for murdering an Indian. Like Billington, Peach was a longtime troublemaker, but after he stabbed a member of the Narragansett tribe, colonists debated whether an Englishman should die for taking the life of an Indian. It finally was decided that Peach should hang, in part to assuage the Narragansett tribe and avoid a war. ♦

In search of.....

Billie Sue Wei, daughter of William J. Weatherall, deceased, is looking for information about her Dad and pictures that appeared in the Desert Airman. Billie Sue thinks her Dad was in Plans and Scheduling, if you know anything at all that will help her please contact her at:

bswxall@yahoo.com OR
P.O. Box 95
Humboldt, TN 38343

Carrie Raus is looking for her brother, Michael Raus, 57. Michael was stationed at DM and served in the 390th. If you have any information that will help Carrie, please contact her at (616) 895-5054. ♦

Then and Now

We would like all of you to participate, please send us your "Then & Now" pictures.



Ted noble
1963



Ted and Lynn noble
2002

As Yogi Bera would say, "Everybody came here from someplace".

In my case I was "drafted" into missile school from an Electronic Warfare EB-47 Wing. While at Sheppard AFB I had the good fortune to renew my friendship with Dick Oliver (one of my 30 roommates at ROTC summer camp 14 years in the past-yes, we finally recognized each other) and met John Powers. All of us were headed to the 390th.

The first week at the 390th all the potential Deputies and Commanders were placed in one room and the BMATs and MFTs in another. We were to get acquainted and later we would select our fellow crewmembers. During the first few days of this process a happy, smiling face would appear in the doorway to see how things were going with the MCCCs and DMCCs. Then a second happy, smiling face appeared and checked out the process. When it came time to select our crews happy smiling face #1 appeared and introduced himself as Sgt. John Lovern and happy smiling face #2 as Airman Jerry Chandler. He "advised" me that OUR crew was already formed and he was my BMAT, Airman Chandler was my MFT and Lt. Ben Cervin was to be OUR Deputy. Crew R-130 was officially formed and no one could have done a better job of forming a crew than John! We not only clicked personality wise but professionally as well. We came out of ORT as HQ and as a crew and 5 months later became the first line crew to be assigned to Standboard.

In early 1965 John was reassigned to help another crew "get organized" and SMST Huffman joined S-130 as BMAT. Soon afterward Captain

Cervin was transferred to the Missile Procedures Trainer and Captain Jim Bridges joined us as Deputy. Thanks to Mrs. Huffman all members of Crew S-130 will never, ever forget those fresh baked pecan rolls for post changeover briefings and those wonderful German chocolate cakes for snacks that she would send for the alert tours. Thanks again, Mrs. Huffman!!!

At the end of 1965 I was reassigned to SAC Headquarters and had to leave behind some very wonderful friends. Without equivocation, in the 390th I was privileged to serve with some of the best and finest people of my career. When I arrived in SAC I found Roger Smith (original 390th Deputy on Chief of Standboard crew) and in the next few months the following 390th "Greats" arrived: Clyde Younger (former Chief of Standboard), Norm Miner (former Standboard), John Shults (Standboard Deputy and later MCCC), Jay Kelley (Deputy), Cort Taylor (MCCC), John Haley (MCCC), and Don Sherman (MCCC). I also had the privilege of working closely with two future 390th "Greats", Ed Northrup and John Chambers.

My assignment was Chief, Reentry Systems Branch of Plans. The big project was looking over the shoulders of Systems Command and General Electric to make sure the Minuteman III warheads and Penetration Aids were designed and built the way SAC wanted them. When I received word that all Reserve Officers with 20 years active, were to retire, Minuteman III was going operational. It was a good feeling to have worked with a system from design to placement in the silos. On 1 July 1970 I packed my bags and moved to California where I became a Middle School Math and Science teacher for the next 25 years (except for 1 ½ years spent working for a small aerospace company that had a contract for the second generation of Minuteman III Penetration Aids). My teaching years went faster than the time spent in the Air Force.

In June 1994, Lynn and I bought 4 ½ acres of dirt in a gated community in the town of Loomis, California (near Sacramento) and accepted the challenge of building the house and getting the landscaping done lot line to lot line. To fill the space we constructed a four-hole golf course. Strictly pitch and putt with a couple of 100-yard holes. We play back and forth to make a very challenging nine holes. I now have a new career, greens keeper! If you are ever in the area **PLEASE give us a call!** I promise there will never be any delay in getting a tee time for you. ♦

Editor's Note

Our thanks to Roy H. Johanson, Jr., NASA guest speaker at the reunion, who presented an in depth view of the people and work involved to prepare for a trip to Mars and back. It was a peek into what the future may hold for us relative to Mars.

Listed are several web sites he provided for us that you may wish to visit:

Launches - www.ksc.nasa.gov

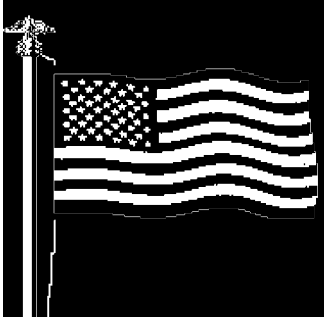
Solar System - ww.gsfc.nasa.gov

Spacecraft - www.jpl.nasa.gov

Mars - www.mars2030.com

Manned Missions - www.jsc.nasa.gov

General - www.space.com



Origins of Veteran's Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all Wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans

Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of WW II and Korea, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National Ceremonies Held at Arlington

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Every year the President of the United States urges **All Americans** to honor the commitment of our Veterans through appropriate public ceremonies.



390th SMWMA Reunion Orlando, FL, 2002



* All pictures are identified from left to right and counter clockwise



Joel and Carol McKean



Becky Roberts, Ardy Tackett, Sally & Lathan Varnado, Hilda Lovern, Joann & Larry Tice



Dolores Brown with the only catch of the day (hers)



The rest of the fishermen, Jose Brown, Ardy Tackett, and Jerry Truitt.



Rick Merrill & Richard Werner



Glen Washington & Ardy Tackett



Pam Kampa, Ardy Tackett, , Worthy Fowler, Tom Skinner, Dick Kampa



Lathan & Sally Varnado, Henry Stevens, Joel & Carol McKean, John & Hilda Lovern, Sally Stevens



James & Charlotte Pelzer and John & Pauline Wehe



Worthy Fowler, Jack Moon, Kathy & Tom Skinner



Kathy Skinner & Barbara Hansen



Sally Tackett & Mrs. Washington



Marie & George Richard



Sally Taylor, Joel McKean, Cort Taylor, Jack Moon and Carol McKean



Bill & Corky Grant



John & Susan Lasher



Roy & Sharon Johanson



Marie Richard & Kathy Skinner who selected the centerpieces



Henry Stevens performing the invocation and remembering 9/11/01



Jim Bridges & John Lovern



Bill & Carol Quednow



Bill Shaff, Ardy & Sally Tackett, Pamela Shaff and Lathan Varnado



John & Pauline Wehe, Doris & Carl Stidsen, Sue Monnes, Dennis Laughlin and Sandra & Danny Kitchens



“Pete” & Jerry Truitt



Barry Hansen & Tom Skinner



Dolores and Jose Brown

THINK TUCSON 2004



20th Deactivation Reunion
9/29/0-4 - 10/03/04

390th SMWMA Country Store

Since we have had many requests for items that have been sold at the previous reunions the board decided to use the newsletter to make them available to you anytime. Let's face it we can use the money! These items may be viewed on our web page <http://390smw.org>.

Listed below are the items and their prices, please be sure to **add \$3.00 postage** to your order:

Knit golf shirt with 390th insignia in upper left, and 1962/1984 on either side. Sizes *medium, large, xlarge, 2x and 3x*, price is **\$25.00**.

Ball caps, white with the same logo as above in blue, one size fits all, **\$5.00**

390th SMWMA hat pin \$4.00 NEW – Postage only \$1.00

Address Book. The book is the size of a credit card and about as thick, is accordion pleated and opens to regular name and address format. It also has the insignia on the front and is gold in color, price **\$2.00**

Wing insignia refrigerator magnets, **\$2.50**

Round Red or Blue key rings with 390th insignia in center and 390th SMWMA circling it, \$1.50 – **Postage only \$1.00**

Italian Marble 390th Wing Insignia Paperweight, **\$8.00**

Purchase 1 each of the items above as a package for \$40.00 plus shipping.

To purchase any of these items:

Write to Box 17916, Tucson, AZ 85731,
Call (520) 886-7157 and leave a message or send a fax,
Order from the 390th web page (<http://390smw.org>)

390th SMW Memorial Association
P. O. Box 17916
Tucson, AZ 85731

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Happy Thanksgiving

