

THE LOADER

Official Newsletter of the Professional Loadmaster Association

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Friendship Through Airlift



Professional Loadmaster Association
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In This Issue:

Cabin Report, Secretary, Treasurer, "The Loader" Editor, Articles, GoL Tentative Schedule, GoL, Loadmaster of the Year Award Winners, In Memoriam, Nominees for election PLA Merchandise, Scholarship Information and Scholarship Award Winners

CABIN REPORT

By Kathy Disney



Hey Load! Hope this edition of the Loader finds you all happy and well in this hot summer of 2023! I'm excited to say this is my last Cabin Report. It's been an honor to be part of this professional organization for the past 15 plus years. When John "JP" Salisbury was president, he sold Kyle and I on the organization and we both became Lifetime members right away. I started as the Trailblazer Chapter President which was a fun

and rewarding experience. Got a chance to meet and work with great Loadmasters in Altus. I was elected National President in 2012 following Ron Pierce and charged with filling big shoes! Since then, we have created a web-based database management system to assist with managing memberships, elections and events. We started the William "Bill" Cannon Loadmaster of the Year Award. Since we started the award program, we have recognized 24 Loadmasters for outstanding achievements. It was a pleasure to work the Jim Engelder who ran the Scholarship Committee since its inception – 26 years! To the Vice Presidents, Editors, Webmasters, Secretaries and Public Relation Officers, you are all true professionals and made my job easier. It's a great leadership opportunity, and I hope to see Chapter Officers get involved more in the future. I look forward to watching new leadership take charge and do more great things! I hope Bill Cannon is looking down on us and is proud of what his organization is accomplishing. I am excited to see you all at the GOL in Little Rock, Arkansas, August 16-20, including travel days. We will announce election results, hold our General Membership, announce Loadmaster of the Year Award winners, Scholarship recipients, and have a great time with old friends and making new ones. Thank you, Rock Chapter for hosting again! They always do a fantastic job at putting together a professional and fun conference! The Gathering will be held at the Marriott Hotel located downtown Little Rock. Please register at Professional Loadmaster Association - Home (wildapricot.org) We are still looking for a new Webmaster. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this position please let me know. We hope to have it filled and announced at this GOL. If you would like to donate to this organization in general, for the GOL, or Scholarship program, please go to Professional Loadmaster Association - Donate (wildapricot.org). We are always looking for Loader sponsorer, The Loader is mailed and emailed to individuals all over the world. We offer low-cost sponsor opportunities for not only businesses, but also those individuals wishing to turn their hobby into a stream of cash. Again, it has been an honor and privilege to be part of this organization! See you in Little Rock, Load Clear!

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The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) was formed in the State of Washington as an active membership organization for an exclusive group of professionals recognized as Loadmasters. The PLA is organized and governed by a duly-elected Executive Committee of past and present Loadmasters. In March 1997, the State of Washington issued a Certificate of Incorporation declaring the Professional Loadmaster Association a nonprofit organization. PLA membership is comprised of and limited to current and former military and civilian Loadmasters who have flown as Aircraft Loadmasters performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. A newsletter titled "The Loader" shall be published three times a year to inform the membership of Loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities. The use of "The Loader" newsletter is voluntary. Any comments, views, opinions, or advice expressed in this newsletter are solely the opinions of the individual who expresses them and should not be construed as reflecting the position, views, or policy of the PLA, or its executive members. Neither the PLA nor its current or former agents, members, executive members, employees, officers or representatives shall have any liability or responsibility for any use of or reliance upon any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, including but not limited to liability or responsibility for any direct or indirect omission or negligence. Users of this newsletter agree, in advance, to hold harmless and indemnify the PLA and its agents, members, executive members, employees, officers and representatives from and against and with respect to any and all claims, damages, liabilities, losses and expenses, without limitation, arising from or related to any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, and agree to the above terms in this paragraph.

Cover Photograph:

Welcome back Liberty Chapter!

Members from The Liberty chapter got together to clean up around the C-141 Memorial. Like many chapters The Liberty chapter has been struggling to get back to gether after the pandemic. Great to see you guys See more about this photo and other events in the chapter report section.

Photo credit : Michael Kent, liberty chapter president

Secretary Report

Chris Cummings, Secretary - Would you believe it if I told you more than 100 people have logged into the PLA database since the last issue of The Loader™ hit mailboxes? If you aren't one of those astute Loadmasters - you should take a gander over to the website. While there, why not sign up for the GoL in Little Rock? No time like the present!

PLA Membership - 979 total members

I am excited to see everyone in Arkansas next month! If you're having any trouble updating your profile before then, please give me a call or shoot me a text (845) 475-8457. WhatsApp and Signal are also welcome. MatterMost if you're really slick!

"The Loader" Editor

I appreciate all the support I have been getting as the new editor for "The Loader". I still have so much to learn and part of that is learning what all the Loads want to see. Please email any suggestions you have on how to make our publication better. I am here for you guys so input is always welcome. I had a great time this month when fellow Loadmaster Steven Clark reached out and asked if I wanted to help with a tour of Edwards AFB he was doing with his High Desert ACE academy students. The kids really helped to remind me how great being a Loadmaster is. Sometimes you need a little outside boost. Thank you Steve Clark for reaching out, and thank you fellow PLA member TSGT Andy Hathaway for putting it all together. I always enjoy seeing other Loads!

Contact me at marieanngamache@gmail.com

**Treasurer Report**

Chris Dockery, Treasurer - As of June 15 2023 , the Professional Loadmaster Association has a total of \$4454.11 in checking, and \$25,785.59 in savings. Total Assets \$30,239.70.

Chapter Reports**Aloha Chapter**

The 535 AS and 204 AS Loadmasters have been busy! We have been building our international relationships with Australia and India. Participating in Global Mobility exercises such as Global Dexterity 23-01 at Royal Australia Air Force Base Amberley. Global Dexterity is key to increasing our interoperability with the RAAF in our pacing AOR. Additionally, LMs from our chapter participated in the JBPHH Joint Base Readiness Exercise. Airmen assigned to the 535th Airlift Squadron and the 735th Air Mobility Squadron loaded cargo on a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, during the Joint Base Readiness Exercise, March 1, 2023. JBRE provides realistic training in various operations, enabling our Airmen to provide distinct tools and capabilities needed for mission success in an ever-changing theater. Furthermore, we sent LMs to Yokota AB's Friendship Festival in Japan. There we were able to demonstrate the C-17 capabilities to the people of Japan further tightening our bonds with our partners in the Pacific. Lastly, the 535th and 205th teamed up with the PLA to memorialize a fellow LM that was killed in the line of duty 11 years ago. Staff Sgt. Robert "Danny" Hollister, a loadmaster assigned to the 535th AS, who lost his life in the line of duty March 13, 2012, while participating in Exercise COPE TIGER in Udon Thani, Thailand. Danny was recognized for flying more than 2, 500 hours, including 300 combat hours, while flying more than 550 sorties in his six-year tenure with the unit and the Air Force. The 2 flying squadrons and the Aloha chapter wanted let Danny's family know that he is not forgotten in our community and is "Always a Tiger"



Bill Cannon Chapter

Have a safe summer as we get ready for summer to start in the Northwest.

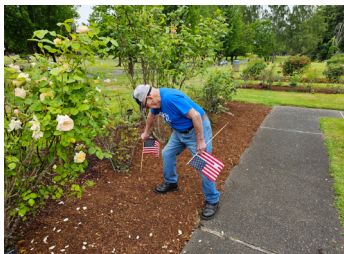
Chapter visited three cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day this year and left a PLA sticker or emblem where appropriate.

Mount Tahoma National Cemetery (Kent WA): Sites Visited; Delbert Keefauver, William Cannon, Harry Brown, Ronald Campeau, Sr., Wallace Johnson, Richard Sheffer, Norman Kepler, Scott Little, Levi Wares, Ronald Cargill, Ray Wallace, Norman Skau, Robert Renaud and James Masura, Sr..



Fir Lane Cemetery (Spanaway WA): Sites Visited; Alfred Hanson, Phillip Dawson, James Logan, Thomas Davis, Oddmund Bang, Harvey Claiborne, Donald Affeldt and Ronald Decato. (PLA Members visiting were Scott Mills, Ron Pierce and Victor Fredlund)

Mountain View Cemetery (Lakewood WA): Sites Visited; Earl Jenkins, Milton Glenn, Richard Jones, Gerald Carr, Jessie Jones, Lucadio Salazar, Joseph Castaneda and Sidney Hyde. (PLA Members visiting were Ron Pierce and Harold Edvalds)



Chapter meetings are second Saturday of the month at McChord Field Golf Course at 1000. Any questions about meetings and other events please contact Ron Pierce rpierce@bohsolutions.com

Gulf Coast Commandos Chapter

In late March we supported the Fort Walton Beach H.S. AFJROTC and approximately 30 cadets as they participated in a memorial Bataan Death March along Navarre Beach. We passed out snacks and drinks at their turn around point. In April we sponsored a hole for the local AMVETS Golf Tournament. All proceeds from the tournament sponsored seniors at a local high school and continued our chapter's push to get more involved with the various veteran organizations. We've hosted a couple of chapter meet ups at Helen Back Pizza, the Crestview AMVETS, and the Fort Walton Beach VFW. We are still actively working to increase chapter membership and participation in our recurring meet ups.

We will have a handful of chapter members attend the Gathering in August. We are excited about the opportunity to network with other PLA members and the schedule of events. We are always looking for new members so if you or someone you know lives in the Florida Panhandle and wants to be part of our chapter please reach out to our chapter email gulfcoastpla@gmail.com



Michael P. Lutzko Chapter

Hello from Exit 7 Greetings from the Liberty Chapter! My name is Michael Kent, and I am the chapter President. Anthony Lilley is our Vice President. Kent Brown is our Treasurer and the East Coast Vice President. Our secretary position is currently vacant. The Liberty Chapter is centered around Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. We are currently holding our meetings in the break room of the 732 AS on the joint base. We are going to have meetings every other month for the near future.

The chapter has been inactive for a few years. We have recently held a couple of meetings. We also had one social gathering and one volunteer event. Our meetings have been centered on how to get more participation. We have also had discussions about finding a charity to attach ourselves with. We are looking to raise money and volunteer with a military related charity. Our next meeting will be 12 July at 1600. Our social gathering was a wings night at Dadz Bar & Grill. We had about 20 members attend this event. It was a great way to get our members reconnected. We had some new members attend an event for the first time. It was good to see some of the younger Loadmasters from the 6TH AS attend. Our chapter would get together at Dadz back in the late 90's when our chapter was first formed. Thanks to Tom Kenny for putting it together. We will hold another get together there soon. Our volunteer event was cleaning up around the C-141 Memorial on the base. I have included a picture of this with the article. The chapter has been maintaining this area for many years. We tried to hold this event in conjunction with the base cleanup day but were not successful. We had a really good turnout for this event. We were able to weed the entire area. We also replaced the mooring chains on the aircraft. They had become very rusty and did not look good. We replaced two of the light bulbs around the plane. We thought that they had burnt out. We later found out that there were some broken wires and that was why there were no lights working. We have a work order for the fix. We worked for a few hours and then had a pizza lunch. Thanks to Kent Brown for providing the pizza. The plane will be getting a fresh coat of paint this summer. It's hard to believe that the mighty Starlifter stopped flying here in 2004. dish or dessert. We will be

back to the memorial again soon. Ted and Sharron Barnes have agreed to host a chapter picnic 9 Sep. We will be putting out more details on this soon. The chapter will provide a few main courses and drinks. We will ask members to bring a side dish or dessert. We are looking forward to this event as we work on getting the chapter fully functioning again. -Michael Kent Liberty Chapter President

Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Our participation in the America Cancer Society, Relay for Life will be held Saturday, 24 June 23 at Vacaville River walk. The location and team participations have changed drastically but we are proud to continue our support and raise donations in support of the cause. I must always thank Gabe Escamilla who relentlessly continues to work as our team captain and does an excellent job. The “King of the Relay” Al Horwedel just recently passed away and is now with his Lord and will be missed by all. He is a legend at the Relay, loved by all and his contributions to the cause was relentless. The “Relay for Life” team and all participants will always have a special place in all our hearts. Al was a great supporter of our chapter and always participated in all our events and volunteered at the Sonoma Raceway well into his eighties. His personality, love of family, love of country, and his ability to chat was priceless. We will all miss this one special and loveable Al.

We volunteered and participated in the first Race at Sonoma Raceway, NASCAR in June. We always appreciate those that volunteer their time and energy. Arne Suvantne, Ray Sugai, Greg Bloomquist, Bill Bostock, and Mark. The next event we will be supporting is the NHRA at the end of July. This is the only way we raise funds to support our chapter and the volunteer support is appreciated.

We have selected our annual scholarships winners whom we will be honoring RC Jones and Robert (Chick) Cooper. The top two winners are, Connor Bell, son of Dave Bell will be receiving the RC Jones Scholarship and Sophia Schull, granddaughter of Jim French will be receiving the Robert (Chic) Cooper Scholarship. Conner will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/ Neuroscience with a pre-med concentration. Sophia is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Law and attend a Law School. After this year we will have awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to outstanding scholars. We are also looking at ways to help support these years “Gathering of Loads” in Little Rock. We have always and will continue to help support the venue in the best way possible and appreciate Little Rock stepping up and taking on the special event. As always again, I would like to continue to thank our local members that not only continue to participate but cheerfully understand the challenges we all must go through and the support we always have for each other.

We always welcome all Loadmasters from Northern California and Northern Nevada to join our local chapter and are proud of current members that have moved and continue to request they be associated with our chapter. We continue to have monthly meetings the first

Tuesday of each month at Hide-A-Way Grill and Bar in Vacaville CA, but any changes to the meetings will be sent out VIA Email. If you have any question, please contact Mark E. Raymond at mark.raymond@att.net.

The First State

Update from the First State! The high ops tempo has put a hamper on expanding chapter participation, but the Loadmasters are still keeping it professional. During the downtime, the loads have been busy hosting local dignitaries during an aerial refueling flight and showing them exactly what Air Mobility Command does for the United States and our allies. We also had the chance to speak to former Prisoners of War during the Iraq invasion and give them a tour of the C-5M while learning from their experiences. The C-5M Loadmasters have also begun practicing operational defueling which dropped off our books when the SOLL II mission transferred to Charleston. We also have three new commanders in the Ops Group, hopefully they approve the PDTY funding for GOL!

Benjamin Fay – First State Secretary

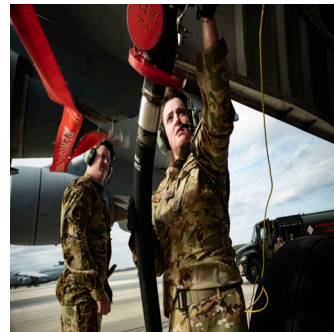


U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.

SrA Tylre LaBreck, 9 AS Loadmaster, monitors clearances as a P-23 fire truck rolls into the mouth of a C-5M Super Galaxy. The 39-foot-long, 12-foot-tall, 10-foot-wide truck fit easily in the cargo compartment of the Air Force’s largest aircraft.



U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.



U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Marco A. Gomez

Amn Wyatt Nagelkirk, a 9 AS Loadmaster, guides a ambulance into their C-5M Super Galaxy at Eglin AFB, Fla. More than 150,000 pounds of equipment was loaded, secured and offloaded in only a few hours

Staff Sgt. Amelia Bradfield and Senior Airman Beau Dormer, 9 AS Loadmasters, secure a fuel hose from an R-11 Refueler onto a C-5M Super Galaxy during a wet wing defuel at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. Aircrew with the 9th AS test out new capabilities that allow the C-5 to act as a mobile fuel station and deposit fuel from the aircraft fuel tanks, into tankers standing by.

Trailblazers Chapter

Eddie Raines, Trailblazers Chapter Secretary-Greetings from Altus, Oklahoma! As the Secretary, I am very excited to update everyone on this chapter. We've had re-elections and have added some new faces to the team. Our new President is Caleb Alexander, he has decided to step up and lead us since our former President will be leaving the great state of Oklahoma and on to greater things. The annual Main Street Rock 'n Rumble in downtown Altus was a blast. We had a big turnout and had a great time with a lot of good people selling a new record of 136 pounds of Pit Beef sandwiches and sold out 4 hours before the event ended, which resulted in just over \$1K made to be used towards future events. We also donated our smoker and a few members to help cook for the Combat Dining-In that was put on back in May. At the moment, we are planning to have another PLA Poker Tournament soon, but we are trying to solidify a date. We have meetings every first Friday of the month at 1500 in the 58th AS on Altus AFB. In conclusion, we've had a few windy days, but it has been business as usual here at Altus AFB. If you have any questions or requests please reach out to one of us: President, Caleb Alexander, benjamin.alexander.4@us.af.mil, Vice President, Alexander "Lime" Green, alexander.green.4@us.af.mil, Treasurer, Erik Hernandez, erik.hernandez.2@us.af.mil or myself, ejraines90@gmail.com. Have a great day and

The Rock Chapter

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters from The Rock Chapter here at Little Rock AFB. Our Chapter President, MSgt Angel Sanchez was tasked with a deployment and has passed over his responsibilities to SMSgt Nathan Winebarger from the 714 TRS. We wish home a safe deployment and a quick return back home. As the home of C-130 airlift, we always have a steady supply of Loadmasters that support and sustain our chapter. We are further bolstered by our tremendous retirees who continue to meet with us for lunch every month. Having the past, present and future meet to share stories and build up the community is the very essence of the Professional Loadmaster Association. Our community is strong and we are proud of the bonds we have made throughout the chapter.

As many of you are aware, the next Gathering of Loads is scheduled from 16-19 August here in Little Rock. The team has been hard at work to build an amazing event for everyone. We are pleased to announce that we have finalized our keynote speaker for the event... the Commander of Air Mobility Command, Gen Mike Minihan. His briefing will culminate the incredible program you can see below. If you are interested in attending this year's event, please register at <https://pla.wildapricot.org/sys/website/>. You will be provided additional details on the hotel accommodations and how to receive the group rate.

Finally, we'd like to simply say... thank you. To all of the sponsors who have donated to the Gathering of Loads and to all of the organizations that have supported us, we could not put on this event without you. We look forward to seeing everyone at the event next month and having a drink with all of our fellow Loadmasters around the world. Cheers!"

Aug 16 (Wednesday)

Event	Time	Notes
Registration	1800-1900	
Happy Hour	1900-2000	
Gaming Tourney		Flick Killer Tournament
-		Mickey Spillane

Aug 17 (Thursday)

Event	T	Time	Notes
Welcome Intro		0800-0900	
General Membership meeting/Awards announcement		0900-1000	
		Break	
Chapter Reports		1000-1100	
Mickey		1100-1145	LMs Take Over the world
		Lunch 1200-1300	
Ron Sharp		1300-1400	
WW2 Guest		1400-1530	Mr. Floyd Brantley
Raffle		1530-1600	*Prized TBD*
Cornhole Tourney (Fassler House)			1900

Aug 18 (Friday)

Event	Time	Notes
Afghanistan Evacuation	0800-0900	C-17 LM, Kabul CRG, Scheduler
AFPC	0900-0930	
ANG/AFRC	0930-1000	Break
Loadmaster CFM	1010-1100	
Chief Panel	1100-1200	
	Lunch 1200-1300	
Rescue Sq/AFSOC	1300-1400	
*KEYNOTE	1400-1600	
Baby on Board		
Open Bar Dart/Pool (Flying Saucer)		1900

Aug 19 (Saturday)

Event	Time	Notes
WIC Loadmaster	0800-0900	
TBD	0900-1000	
Hurlburt Test	1000-1100	
	Break	
CRG	1100-1200	
	Lunch	
OFFSITE	1300-1600	*TBD
Banquet 1800-2100		*KEYNOTE - Gen Minihan AMC/CC

Aug 20 (Sunday)

Event	Time	Notes
Hotel Check-out		

IDEA

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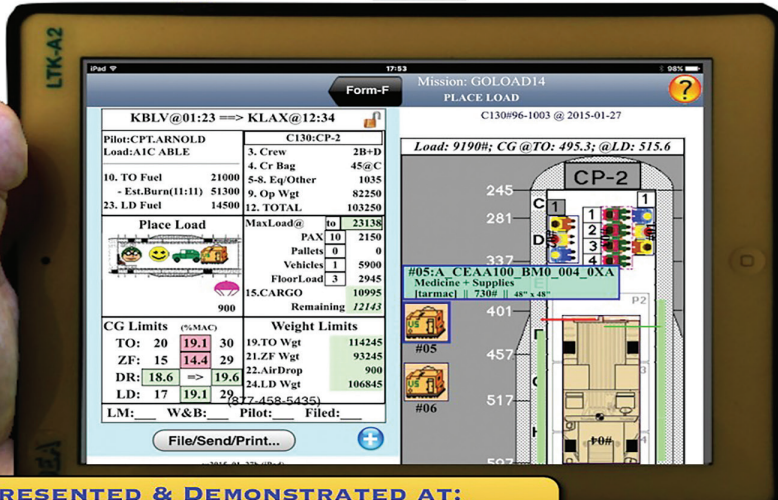
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Sponsor of the Professional Loadmaster Association
 Scholarship Award

The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association (TC/TAA) has graciously agreed to sponsor a Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) Scholarship in Mike Welch's name in perpetuity. The PLA and the scholarship award winners would like to thank TC/TAA for their generous contribution to the scholarship program.

Senior Airman Faith M. Storey

SRA Storey serves as an MC-130J Commando II Loadmaster for the 353rd Special Operations Support Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. She has been at the forefront of the MC-130J Loadmaster community contributing to the development of new combat capabilities. SrA Storey has been vital in shaping procedures for reloading High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems directly from the cargo compartment of the MC-130J and for devising onload procedures of palletized cargo without the use of material handling equipment. Additionally, she has shown exceptional leadership as Ramp Coordinator during multiple Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises which not only helped to modify personnel recovery Tactic, Techniques and Procedures for two Major Commands but also ensured exercise success and strengthened key allied partnerships. Finally, SrA Storey executed an aeromedical evacuation mission for a service member who had sustained traumatic leg injuries after they had been crushed beneath a 1-ton munition. The member promptly airlifted to Japan where they received limb-saving care.

Master Sergeant Jeffery S. Purvis

MSgt Purvis serves as the Loadmaster Superintendent for the 16th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, SC. In this capacity, he leads 54 loadmasters. MSgt Purvis effectively increased the efficiency of the squadron's training and loadmaster development which reduced the squadron's mission-ready upgrade timeline by 76%. Additionally, he deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar as the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Senior Enlisted Leader where he was responsible for leading 115 Airmen from seven different career fields. Furthermore, he led Air Mobility Command's inaugural transition to the Air Force's Force Generation construct and sunset the 816th EAS after 16 years of combat operations. He then capitalized on his deployment experience to create JB Charleston's "Ready Airman Training," a week-long training event that satisfied deployment preparation of eight squadrons from two wings. His efforts led to his nomination for the Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award and his selection as the squadron's Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Congratulations to our winners!!!!

Staff Sergeant Jory D. Linneman

SSgt Linneman serves as the NCOIC of Plans and Exercises for the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI. He began the year by developing the wing's Air Transportation Action Plan. He liaised with 3 base agencies to support 167 requests and advanced complex joint training environments for 5 Air Force Specialty Codes in support of two wings. Additionally, SSgt Linneman was the Loadmaster Subject Matter Expert for the first C-17 landing at Bradshaw Army Airfield wherein he delivered 42,000 pounds of cargo which synchronized 3 Major Commands and 6 squadrons with the National Defense Strategy's Agile Combat Employment Operation vision. Finally, he airlifted 1.8 million pounds of cargo amassing 265 instructor hours, and advanced 9 Loadmaster upgrades. Which cemented Pacific Air Force Command's rapid global mobility mission and increased the squadron's mission-ready force by over 22%. His efforts led to him being selected as the 15th Operations Group Professional of the Year and aided in the squadron to garner the Air Force's Air Force Association Citation of Honor and the Pacific Air Force Command's Joseph Smith Trophy.

Mr. Rocardo Montiel-Torres

Mr. Montiel-Torres serves the Civilian Instructor Loadmaster for the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis AFB, CA. In this role he has been a phenomenal civilian loadmaster and mentor to the squadron. His tireless training efforts and opportunities benefit both brand new loadmasters and qualified mission-ready squadron loadmasters. Additionally, he affords extra instruction to the loadmasters that need it to ensure they are up to speed and ready for the rigors of the career. Mr. Montiel-Torres outstanding efforts garnered him selection as the 60th Operations Group Civilian Category II of the Quarter and the 22nd AS's Civilian Category II of the Year.



Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour 2023



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Carranza

Master Sgt. Shane Hogue, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron loadmaster, and Tech. Sgt. Bryant Stark, 911th Security Forces Squadron raven, take a selfie with grade school students during the Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour in Merida, April 17, 2023. The tour gave the public the opportunity to learn about the aerial weather reconnaissance mission and the importance of being prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. This year the Hurricane Hunters were able to showcase their Reserve Citizen Airmen crew and the WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft. The tour stops were Mexico, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Puerto Rico.



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Carranza



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Carranza

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron received an award of recognition from the Mexican National Water Commission for their hard work in aerial weather reconnaissance, April 17, 2023, in Merida, Mexico.



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Team Travis hosts large scale readiness exercise

Published May 12, 2023

By 2d Lt Casey Sturdivan

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs
TRAVIS AFB, Calif.

The 60th Air Mobility Wing executed Exercise Golden Phoenix, a large-scale readiness exercise synchronizing full spectrum support from installation partner units to include the 821st Contingency Response Group, 621st Contingency Response Wing, and the 349th Air Mobility Reserve Wing at Travis AFB, California, from May 1-12, 2023. This series was held in conjunction with the 621st CRW's Exercise Storm Crow and rehearsed maneuvering the Joint force at tempo with direct support to the readiness exercise (REDEX) executed by the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I-MEF), Camp Pendleton, California. The I-MEF REDEX sought to demonstrate the skillsets to provide distributed operations across a wide range of terrain and generate combat-credible readiness throughout the Joint Dynamic Force Employment integrating service partners throughout the western United States. The 60th Mission Support Group demonstrated Team Travis' support for large force reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) operations. The team executed a three-day bed down of more than 340 U.S. Marines and Sailors. These Sailors and Marines from the I-MEF, alongside 255 Devil Raiders from the 921st Contingency Response Squadron and 35 Airmen from 60th AMW were processed by the 60th AMW Logistics Readiness and Installation Deployment Readiness Cell, through a realistic personnel deployment line exercising all requirements to ready personnel forces. Additionally, the 60th Maintenance Group (MXG) supported operations for more than 60 sorties within the 12-day period, moving 1.53 million pounds of cargo and more than 700 passengers, deploying personnel to three downrange locations. "Everyone had some piece of the puzzle to make it work," said Dale Patterson, 60th MXG, deputy commander. "It's a Total Force Initiative, between active duty, the civilian workforce and the Reserve workforce. One team, no seam. We could not do this without their help." As part of Exercise Storm Crow, the 921st CRS, 621st CRW rapidly deployed to Fort Hunter-Liggett and executed air base opening operations while field testing innovative equipment solutions with industry partners. "Our largest success was demonstrating the ability to assess, open, and operate airfields in a contested environment with the help of our Joint force partners," said Lt. Col. Timothy Kniefel, 921st CRS commander. "This capability will be absolutely critical to the future fight, and we couldn't have done it without the Marines, the 60th AMW, and the unwavering dedication of every single multi-capable CR member on the team." The exercise addressed Air Mobility Command's focus areas to include resilient command and control, navigation, operations and logistics at tempo. The 60th AMW also practiced flexible deterrent and response options, including the ability to land in austere environments and quickly accomplish a mission in dynamic environments. "The expeditionary air base was tasked with taking over the base from contingency response (CR) forces in order to allow them to project the cluster farther forward. We immediately integrated into the CR's



Air Force photo by Heide Couch U.S. Air

operating schedule and began manning shifts." said Maj. Cal San Filippo, expeditionary air base detachment commander. "The team wasted no time." The exercise also highlighted the progress of the 60th AMW's multi-capable airmen initiatives, with personnel demonstrating their ability to accomplish tasks outside of their core Air Force specialty code. "Each Airman had the opportunity to contribute to infrastructure, communications, base defense, and aerial port activities," said San Filippo. "Airmen within the expeditionary air base were intentionally challenged to operate outside of their comfort zone to learn expeditionary skills that help reduce the overall footprint." Throughout the exercise, the 60th Medical Group also demonstrated casualty receiving hospital capabilities to include processing deploying personnel, patient movements, and establishing and operating a contingency En-Route Patient Staging System (ERPSS) with room for 10 patients. This rehearsal included direct synchronization with 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron members, simulating the reception of casualties from a deployed location. "When we say 'Team Travis', we truly mean it's a total force effort," said Maj Jami Gunnels, 349th Air Mobility Wing plans. "It is our duty as the Reserve component to support the installation, providing that critical subject matter expertise and backfilling those essential positions. Exercise Golden Phoenix was no exception. Our Reserve teams integrated directly into the mission set, providing a large spectrum of support and operational functions." The exercise culminated with a maximum aircraft generation event demonstrating the installation's ability to ready and launch 21 aircraft in rapid succession, supporting 42 real-world and exercise missions showcasing Team Travis' resolute posture as the Gateway to the Pacific. "We've never launched this many jets at a time. I can't think of a better way to end the exercise," said Capt. Keegan Reynolds, C-17 instructor pilot and lead mission planner. "Every aircraft that was prepared to take off was green and it did." This provided further opportunity for Airmen to hone readiness capabilities in a response to potential real-world contingencies. During the integrated effort, mobility aircraft not only support exercise operations but also broke off to support multiple MAF mission requirements. "It's an incredible team effort. It really starts with all the support agencies that back our team up to all our maintainers," said Lt Col Tom Reynolds, 60th MXG deputy commander. "They've been working 24 hours around the clock to produce the airlift needed for this exercise. They've done an incredible job and we're incredibly proud." Overall, the exercise validated the 60th AMW's capability as an integrated joint mobility force, using the full range of the Department of Defense's capabilities in synchronization.



U.S. Air Force photo by Nicholas Pilch



U.S. Air Force photo by Nicholas Pilch

Loadmaster Makes History at 106th Rescue Wing

Story published May 20 2023

By Staff Sgt. Sean Madden
106th Rescue Wing/Public Affairs



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Madden

For the first time at the 106th Rescue Wing, a loadmaster was presented the prestigious Air National Guard 2022 Henry "Red" Erwin Outstanding NCO Aircrew Member of the Year Award in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., May 6, 2023. Tech Sgt. Ryan Rutz, an aircraft Loadmaster assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, received the award for outstanding performance in the Career Enlisted Aviator field as a non-commissioned officer (NCO), competing against all Career Enlisted Aviator submissions within the Air National Guard and will now compete at the Headquarters Air Force level,

According to the Congressional Medal of Order Society, Henry Eugene "Red" Erwin was the radio operator of a B-29 Superfortress bomber leading a formation to attack Koriyama, Japan, April 12, 1945. Erwin saved his aircraft and crew by disposing of an incendiary device that malfunctioned, ignited and made its way into aircraft cabin, severely injuring Erwin in the process. Smoke filled the cabin, obscuring the pilot's view and the phosphorus device, burning at over 1,000 degrees, threatened to burn through the floor into the bomb bay where it could detonate the explosive payload. Erwin engulfed in flames, blinded and permanently disfigured, carried the burning device to the flight deck and hurled it out the co-pilot's window. For his heroism and gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, Erwin was awarded the Medal of Honor. The Air Force created the Henry E. Erwin Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Member of the Year Award in 1997. The award is presented annually to an Airman, NCO and senior NCO in the active-duty or reserve forces. "Being able to combine two of my passions and earn a living doing them is a dream come true. It doesn't even feel like a job." The 106th RQW is home to a special warfare squadron with pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, specializing in rescue and recovery, and deploys for domestic and overseas operations. For full article go to <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/447585/loadmaster-makes-history-106th-rescue-wing>

In Memorium

The Professional Loadmaster Association offers condolences to the families and friends of the following Loadmasters whose deaths have been reported to our association.

Allen George Horwedel, passed away after a short illness on June 20, 2023. His smile and ability to chat with anyone gave joy to all that knew him. Al was a loving husband, awesome Dad, silly grandfather, and amazing friend. He passed away in the comfort of his own home at 92 yrs old. Al was born May 1, 1931 in Avon Lake, Ohio. He graduated High School in 1950 and entered the US Air Force. Al married his lovely wife Norma in 1958. Together, they raised four beautiful children Joe (wife Linda), George (wife Donna), Jaci (husband John) Parsons, and John. Al was blessed with five grandkids, and two great-grandkids. Please see McCune Garden Chapel's website for funeral details go to: <http://m.mccunechapel.com/obituaries/events?obituaryId=28307525>

TSG Jennifer Ellen Harper-Craig, USAF (Ret.), 48, the wife of Brian Craig, passed away on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at her home in Jay, Florida, where she was surrounded by her loved ones. Jennifer was born on April 8, 1975, to Sue Marie Harper and Jerald Russell Hicks in Columbia, South Carolina. Jenn served globally in imminent danger and combat zones, in which South Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan were just a few. As a combat C-17 Loadmaster, she distinguished herself as a standout. Officers and enlisted routinely requested Jenn on crews where "giving the mission your best", mattered. After her flying days, Jenn answered the call of what was perhaps her greatest military achievement. She volunteered to serve as an Equal Opportunity Office Non-Commissioned Officer where she leveraged her passion for helping families in distress. She overcame bureaucracies and red tape daily to deliver for the Airmen and their dependents. For full obituary please go to <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/27937268/jennifer-ellen-harper>

Trevor M. Smith, CMSgt (Retired), National President – Trevor was born at Eglin AFB, Florida and he grew up in New Mexico. He joined the Air Force shortly after graduating high school. He served from 1993-2022 in various positions up to and including as a Command Chief for the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock AFB, AR. He was a loadmaster for 27 years of his career, flying on C-130E, H and Js, MC-130Js and C-17s. He finished his career with over 8,200 flight hours. Currently, Trevor is working as a Project Manager for an Abilene, TX custom home builder.

Trevor has been active in the PLA since 2003 when he was stationed at Altus AFB, OK. While there he served as the Secretary and President of the Trailblazers Chapter. He was also the Secretary of the Bill Cannon Chapter at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. Trevor is now an active member of the Michael P. Lutzko Chapter in Abilene, TX. He is also the current Central Region Vice President.

Trevor has a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Education and 2 CCAF Associates Degrees.

Trevor is married to the former Malissa A. Williams from Clyde, TX. They have 3 children together; Tyler, Amberly and Jaily.



Kent Brown/ East Coast Vice President- Retired in 2000 from the 6th AS, McGuire AFB, NJ, currently living in Browns Mills, outside JBMDL. Spent my entire career at McGuire, divided among the 6th & ALCE/TALCE for 13 years of that. Married for 32 years to Anne (Wright) Brown, one of the first female loadmasters in the USAF, she is retired also. Currently PLA East Coast Vice-President, Liberty chapter treasurer and past president.

Mark E. Raymond / West Coast Vice President - Mark was born in Grand Forks ND and grew up between Minnesota and North Dakota. Mark attended Bemidji State College in Bemidji MN for one year after High School. He enlisted in the Air Force in December 1969 and retired in December 1999 from 15th Air Force after 30 years, as a loadmaster. Mark has been working on the KC-10 Aircrew Training System as the Training System Support Center Manager and as a Quality Assurance Manager with Boeing, FlightSafety, and Pinnacle Solutions Inc. since his Air Force retirement. Mark has been an active member of the PLA since Bill Cannon established the PLA back in 1997. Mark, along with Karl Himkamp established the first chapter outside the Great State of Washington in 1998. Mark has been the Chapter President of the Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter since it was founded and the West Coast Vice-President since 2006. Our chapter is named after the Loadmasters that gave their lives in the C-5 that crashed in Saigon in 1975, Bill Parker, Felizardo Aguillon, and Wendel Payne. Mark is proud to report his chapter has been going strong ever since it was founded in 1998. Our chapter continues to take part in the American Cancer, Relay for Life for many years and have donated over \$300,000 for the cause to "Save Lives, Celebrate Lives & Lead the Fight for a World without Cancer". Our chapter also has been awarding scholarships to Loadmaster family members and has given over \$10,000 to worthy recipients through the years. Mark has a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and a master's degree in aviation operations. Mark is married to the former Hsiuhua Sandy Wu from Keelung, Taiwan and has two grown children, Julie (Carlo), and Alicia (Alex), and four grandchildren, Emma, Rocco, and the twins AJ and Abram.

Mark would appreciate your vote as West Coast Vice President so we can continue to keep the Loadmaster discipline, a powerful force not only in the Air Force but in the civilian community.



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NEW LOADMASTER CHALLENGE COIN

The Liberty Chapter has done it again. We've got a new, redesigned LOADMASTER challenge coin. It's a 2 in. pallet shiny coin with all the features of previous coins, but better. It is made by the same people that did the C-141 Last Flight coin from 2006. The coin price is the same \$10 each, but shipping has gone up to \$11 for a Priority small flat rate box, I can get 5 to 30 in a box, but insurance above \$100 will be extra. If you chose the Priority small flat rate box, I will include some PLA & loadmaster swag. Smaller quantities 1-4 can be had for shipping of \$6. Contact me at kabrown9@comcast.net. Payment will be with PayPal, friends & family only, so we don't get charged any fees. Use the above email. Kent Brown



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Scholarship Manager

JP Salisbury

chiefjp125@gmail.com

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) offers five scholarships annually for College and/or Vocational/Technical School after high school graduation. Current college or vocational/technical students may apply to complete their educational endeavor. We have two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each named in honor of John L. Levitow and Bill Cannon. These are permanent scholarships. Three additional \$500.00 scholarships, each named for a different deceased Loadmaster, will be awarded each year. Candidates for the selection process must be from PLA members in good standing and their family members (sons, daughters or grandchildren), and are limited to one scholarship per applicant. If exceptional circumstances should arise, the Executive Committee will handle them accordingly. For more information on scholarships go to <http://www.loadmasters.com/scholarships>. Applications, located on the PLA website, may be applied for by emailing JP at chiefjp125@gmail.com. **Timeline for Scholarships:** Scholarship applications are due by close of business on April 1, 2024. Please review the PLA scholarship information on the PLA website. Take the time to complete an application, include your photograph and email it, in PDF format, to JP Salisbury. All scholarship applications received after that date will be returned. Announcement of the scholarship award to the individual participant shall be

no later than the middle of May of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of scholarships awarded shall be published each year in the July issue of "The Loader" newsletter.

When completing your PLA application you will need to know the PLA membership number and date for the sponsor. Please contact Chris Cummings at cchris1686@gmail.com to obtain this information."

Additional Scholarship Name Selection: Selection of names to be honored for upcoming additional scholarships shall be provided by December of the year before scholarship announcement.



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Application form can be found at:
<https://pla.wildapricot.org/Awards-and-Scholarships>
Send to: chiefjp@gmail.com

The 2023 Scholarship Committee has completed its review of applications and have selected the following for the scholarships

Madalyn Benware \$1,000.00 John Levitow Scholarship

College: Texas Christian University

Major: Biology

PLA connection: Howard Berg, Father Membership #23/Lifetime.

My name is Madelyn Benware, my date of birth is September 16, 2004. I was born in Plano, Texas to my parents Leslie and Anthony Benware. I am a current high school senior, I will graduate in May with a high school diploma and begin my college career at Texas Christian University with a major of biology and a minor in chemistry. I am admitted into the John V. Roach Honors College at TCU, and will be attending class in the biomedical sciences and engineering school on campus. My awards and achievements include Junior National Honors Society member, National Honor Society member, high positions on the student council in both middle school and high school, honor roll student, varsity volleyball MVP, earned Seal of Biliteracy. I started working at Frenchies Modern Nail Care in New Braunfels, Texas in 2020, I still currently work there as a concierge; cleaning, taking care of the salon and working avidly in customer service. My hobbies include volleyball, beach volleyball, community service, boating, fishing, and anything that has to do with the beach! I would like to attend college in order to further my education, with this education I hope to go on to medical school in order to achieve a doctorate degree and move on to residency to be a pediatric anesthesiologist. I have always been fascinated with health care and the studies around it. My brother overcame birth issues with a 1% chance of living, I have had my fair share of surgeries, anesthesiologists are the minds behind the successfulness of these operations and I aspire to become that helping hand. In my health science studies at school we had various health care workers talk to us about their careers and try to inspire us to possibly take one up in the future. An anesthesiologist elaborated on her time in the field and the lives she held in her grasp as she worked with a plethora of people. Her speech resonate with me today and has truly made me feel like this career is where I am meant to be in the future. I strive for greatness in everything I do in life, this career would help me live by that every day. Financially, my family does not have the funds to pay for my dream school, TCU. I am working hard for scholarships and grants in order to hopefully not owe student debt or a moral debt to my parents and this college is truly where I see myself for the next 4, maybe more, years and I will do anything to help with the cost.

Thank you so much for considering my application



“When everything seems to be against you, remember that an airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” — Henry Ford



Conner Bell \$1,000.00 Bill Cannon Scholarship
College: University of Ohio, Mercy College, Kent State University, Bowling Green University

Major: Biology with a Pre-med Concentration

PLA connection: Dave Bell, father, membership # 309, lifetime
My name is Connor Bell. I was born December 6th, 2004 in Toledo, Ohio. My parents, Dave and Vonnie Bell, are USAF veterans. My father is a retired C141 Load master. I will graduate from high school on May 20, 2023 and my career goal is to become a physician. In 2009 when I was 4 years old, I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer), resulting in my left leg being amputated. I have been in remission for almost 14 years, have a black belt in karate and love to snowboard. Currently, I am an assistant karate instructor. My personal journey battling cancer and my limb loss led me to become interested in medicine. Ultimately, I enrolled in my high school medical technology program and have been in this program for both my junior and senior years. Through this program, I have become First Aid, CPR, AED and STNA certified. I will receive my phlebotomy certification in May 2023. I am an active member of HOSA (Future Health Professionals), competing and advancing in multiple HOSA regional, state and international competitions. I will begin pursuing my BS in Biology with a pre-med concentration in the fall of 2023 at The University of Toledo Jesup Scott Honors College. I would be very honored and appreciative to receive the Professional Loadmaster Association Scholarship to help offset some of my college tuition. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 2023 Scholarship Committee has completed its review of applications and have selected the following for the scholarships

Ivan Keil \$1,000.00 Mike Welch Scholarship

College: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Major: Project Management

PLA connection: Himself, #67143375, Exp 10/16/2023

My name is Ivan Keil, and I was born on September 23rd, 2001, on Whidbey Island in Washington state. My parents are Naomi and Larry Keil. This past May, I earned my Associates Degree in Aviation Operations from the Community College of the Air Force, but before than I graduated from South Anchorage High School. Now, I am working towards my B.S in Project Management from Embry Riddle. Some awards and achievements I earned are my Eagle Scout, Private Pilot License, Tailwheel Endorsement, Airman of the Quarter for my Squadron (4th Quarter of 2021), and Honor Grad (BMT). I enjoy flying around Alaska, fishing, hiking, biking, and bowling. My future aspiration for a career is to commission in the Alaska Air Guard and earn my CFI and teach people to fly. I would greatly benefit financially from this scholarship because trying to earn a college degree and continue my career in aviation are both quite expensive.



Kate Menlove \$500.00 AFRC1A2Reserve Command Chiefs

College: submitted: University of Utah SJ Quinney College of Law

Major: Law

PLA Connection: James Matlock, Grandfather, #359, Life-time
My name is Kate Menlove, I was born in Utah on 09/09/1996, and my parents are Aaron and Francie Mallock Menlove. My grandfather, James Mallock, is in the PLA. I am a first-year student at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and I am excited to continue my studies in the law. In my undergraduate experience getting a B.A. in Linguistics, I was in the presidency of the Humanities to Business club and I earned an ORCA grant by writing an academic paper on German Jewish women at the turn of the century. I enjoy traveling and have spent extended time in Germany and walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. These travel experiences, along with my Linguistics degree, helped me achieve fluency in German and an elementary level in Spanish. In my experiences abroad, I met many people who did not have resources to help themselves in the legal field. The protests in 2020 showed me that there are many people in my own country who also need assistance in these areas, and do not have the same opportunities that I have. Additionally, my work in a corporate finance office showed me the impact the legal field can have in that area as well. I decided to pursue a law degree with this realization that I could help fill a gap and I am looking forward to beginning my career. I was working as a client services associate at a financial wealth management firm near Portland, Oregon when I knew I didn't want to continue in that field. Though I was successful in the job, I earned a Client Will-Do award with company wide recognition, it wasn't what I wanted to do long-term. I knew that I wanted to pursue a career more focused on helping others and decided to go back to school to earn a J.D. I am happy to be back in my home state where I can hike and ski to my heart's content, and also learn the legal system to help others who do not have the opportunity to learn as I do. My future dream job is working at a small legal firm where I can get a lot of client interaction and service the community with my knowledge. I am working on finding what interests me the most and what I am most passionate about, so I hope to find that within the next year of school and work towards it.

I should financially receive this scholarship because I do not receive financial help from my family and graduate school is a significant cost compared to undergraduate. I am starting a job in May and that will help, but any additional help is welcome and needed. I would like to graduate with as little debt as I can manage.



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OFFICIAL BALLOT & VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: The 2023 Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) National elections are underway! There are four national committee positions up for election - President (El Presidente), East Coast Region Vice President, Central Region Vice President (Vicepresidente), and West Coast Region Vice President. While we only have one nomination for each position, we encourage all members to cast a “vote of confidence” for those nominees. To vote cut out the ballot and put it in an envelope and mail to the election Chairman (address provided.) If you would like to know more about the individuals running, you will find a short bio on each member in the July issue of The LOADER. Please submit your vote by 31 July 2023. By using this voting method, you agree you are a PLA member in good standing.

Load Clear!

Anthony Zalucki
PLA Election Chairman
P. O. Box 4351
Tacoma WA 98438-0351

*Voting can also be done on our web page:
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