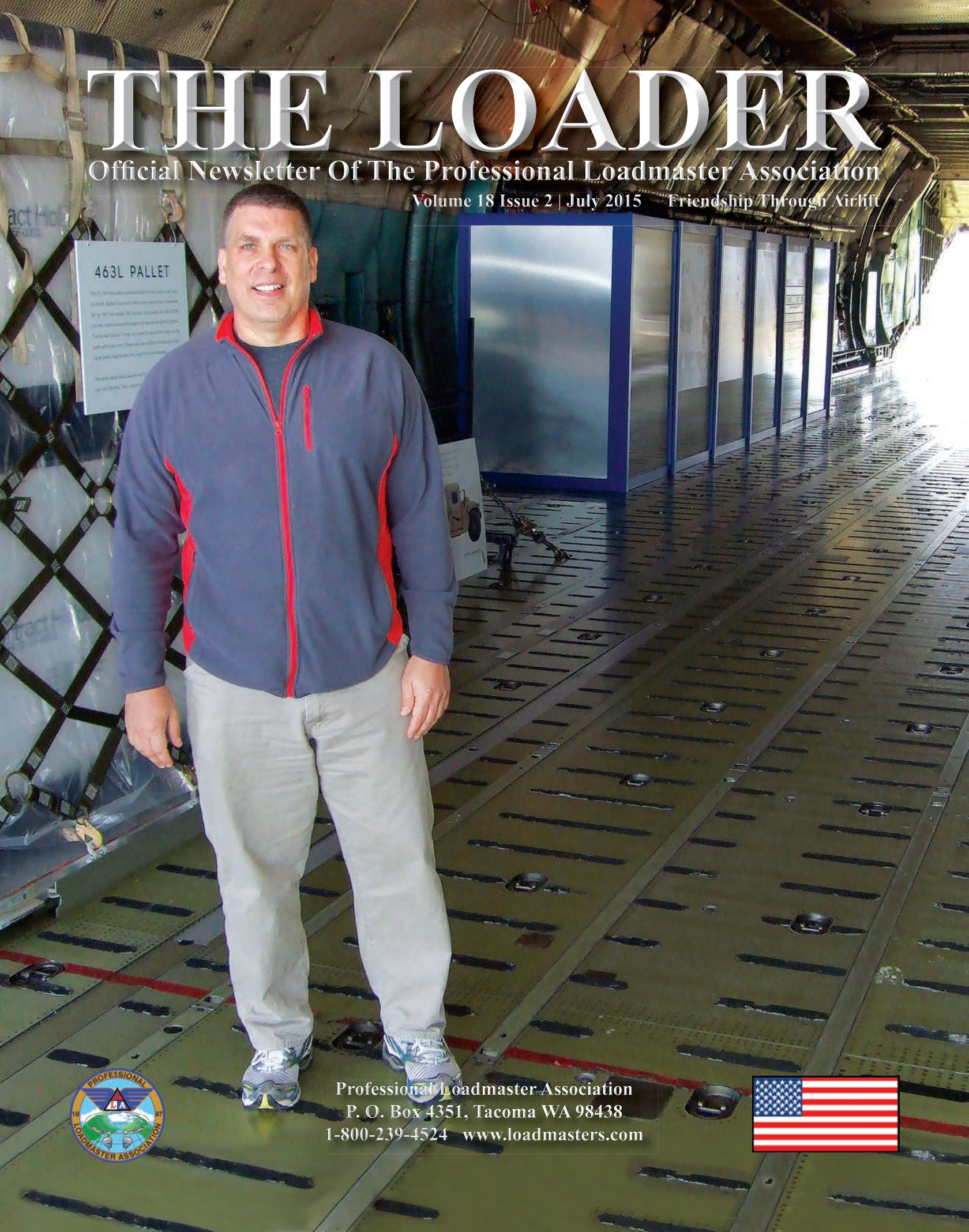


# THE LOADER

Official Newsletter Of The Professional Loadmaster Association

Volume 18 Issue 2 | July 2015 Friendship Through Airlift



Professional Loadmaster Association  
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1-800-239-4524 [www.loadmasters.com](http://www.loadmasters.com)







## CABIN REPORT

Hey Load! Hope this edition of “The Loader” finds you all well! I’d like to address some of the many benefits that are associated with the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) membership. Hopefully all of you are

aware that as a member of the PLA, you and your family are eligible for a chance to earn a scholarship from the PLA. At the last Gathering of Loads in St Louis the membership voted to add another permanent scholarship in Bill Cannon’s name. This means you and your family are now eligible to win one of four scholarships which are awarded annually. We will be awarding two \$1000 and three \$500 scholarships with the next award period ending on April 1st. This is great news for those who are working on a college degree or have family members attending college. The sad news is members and families are not applying for these scholarships. My challenge to each of you is to help spread the word of these opportunities and get people to apply. I encourage each chapter and all members to make this part of your communications and help solicit applications for the scholarships. A scholarship representative from each chapter may be needed here. Perhaps regular communications between the Scholarship committee and the chapter members will help increase applications. After all, free money is always a nice benefit - let’s use it! For more information about scholarships please contact our Scholarship Chairman Jim Engelker at engelkerj@gmail.com. I would also like to remind everyone about the new Annual Loadmaster of the Year Award. This is our opportunity to recognize the great accomplishments of our Loadmasters. Brian Andersen has volunteered to lead the Awards and Recognition Committee. Thank you Brian! I put the request out to each chapter to provide a point of contact to help make this award a success. The POCs will work with the committee to make sure our hard-working Loadmasters are being recognized. The committee and award details are still in development stages with just a few details to iron out. However, the goal is to present the first award at the 2016 Gathering of the Loads in Oklahoma City. Again, to all of you, please help get the word out. If you do not live near a chapter, please do not let that discourage you from submitting information for this award. Chapter representatives and Executive Committee members’ contact information is provided in each Loader, so please feel free to contact any of us for more information. We will be getting the word out to the chapters with details and are still looking for some POCs from each chapter. For more information you may also contact Brian Andersen at brian.andersen67@yahoo.com. The last area I’d like to address is the benefit of networking. I recently heard of another impressive story of a Loadmaster acquiring a highly desired job through networking within the PLA. Whether it is a civilian job or military assignment, I hear positive outcomes by talking and meeting Loadmasters within this organization. I know this happens often, but when I hear these stories it reminds me that members helping members is just another benefit that

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### PLA ADVISORS

President Emeritus	Bill Cannon		
Scholarship Chairman	Jim Engelker	(303) 585-1212	engelkerj@gmail.com
Webmaster	Tom Morawek Ryan Lockhart	(253) 862-7564 (559) 283 7977	tmorawek@tandtec.com ryanslockhart@yahoo.com

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 an aircraft loadmaster performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. The association’s principal reason for being is for the benefit of all loadmasters and their families. The core values of the association are the Flag of the United States, Our Self-confidence, and Our Empathy for each other. Its basic mission is to guide the membership in solidarity, facilitate trust and mutual respect for one another, and inspire personal growth and the pursuit of a purposeful sense of vision for the future of the PLA. The association shall establish scholarship and grant programs to benefit Loadmasters and their family members. Reunions and meetings shall be scheduled and arranged so as to provide maximum participation and productive feedback to as many members as practical. A newsletter titled “The Loader” shall be published three times a year to inform membership of loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association’s current & future business activities.

“The Loader” has space for some advertising. Please contact any of the Executive Committee if you wish to advertise in a future issue.

Full page advertisement:	\$500.00
1/4 page advertisement:	\$125.00
Business Card size advertisement:	\$100.00

Cover Photograph: Liberty Chapter President Michael Kent in the cargo compartment of a C-5A, Serial Number: 69-0014, static display aircraft during a visit to the AMC Museum at Dover AFB DE.

comes with an organization of professionals like we have in the PLA. We need to continue growing this organization to ensure that these stories of networking can continue. So, if your chapter is lacking active, guard, reserve, retiree, or civilian participation, reach out to that group and talk to them about the benefits and the comradery of your chapter and our organization. Remind them of the benefits, the new Loadmaster of the Year award and the opportunity to meet, network, and make friends with other Loadmasters. Load Clear!

## PLA Secretary

## MOVING?

**IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE OR TRANSFER, PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND NEW CONTACT INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** We cannot get your "The Loader" newsletter to you or make contact if we don't know where you are. Send an e-mail to Secretary@Loadmasters.com or John H. Moore at buildsmall2@mac.com or leave a free two minute message at 1 (800) 239-4524. Remember to speak slowly and distinctly, so we can copy your information down. Thank you!

**RENEWAL NOTICE: PLEASE RESPOND TO YOUR ELECTRONIC OR MAILED LETTER if you desire to remain an active member and continue receiving "The Loader" newsletter.** There are only two ways to join or renew membership and that is by mail to the P.O. Box or online thru PayPal. We are still receiving on line, new and renewal applications with no way to confirm payments. When paying by PayPal, print and save your receipt to confirm your payment if a question should arise.

**LOST LOAD CANDIDATES:** If your LOADER newsletter is returned to the association by the Post Office, the PLA pays \$2.47 for that return. When trying to contact you for new information and find your telephone has been disconnected and you also have a bad e-mail address, **YOU WILL BE PLACED ON THE LOST LOAD LISTING.**

**ELECTRONIC CONTACT:** If a member has an e-mail address all contact between the Secretary and the member will be conducted electronically. The association has saved on postage due to sending out renewal, grace period, and reinstatement letters, and a big thank you to those, **104 stateside and 7 overseas** members, who have agreed to accept "The Loader" electronically. If you are willing to receive "The Loader" electronically please send me a note with your e-mail address.

**DECEASED MEMBERS:** If you know of, or suspect that a PLA member has passed, please contact me and we will take the necessary action.

**BILL CANNON BENCH DONATIONS:** Thank you to the members who have mailed in donation checks for the bench, to be placed by the Loadmaster Monument at the Museum of the United States Air Force.

## PLA MEMBERSHIP

PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF: June 15, 2015

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS 1014 (10 Lost Loads)

**( 26 ) NEW MEMBERS listed since the March 2015 issue**  
**(\*Denotes Life Member)****February ( 7 )**

Cecil Dickerson	Wasilla, AK
Colin P. Coleman	Honolulu, HI
Parnell G. Fisher	Jacksonville, AR
Thomas Holmes	Gig Harbor, WA
Adam Scripture	Fayetteville, NC
James D. Stegeman	Lakewood, WA
*John Stone	Chugiak, AK

**March ( 14 )**

James Bobbitt	Bowling Green, KY
Justin Davenport	Ewa Beach, HI
*Michael Dunkelberger	Anchorage, AK
Andrew H. Grimes	Wallkill, NY
Zachery Heinen	Anchorage, AK
Casey Jackson	Sanford, NC
Lloyd Llana	Anchorage, AK
Arthur Martin, II	Dunnellion, FL
Paul Mooney	University Place, WA
Eric Pietras	Puyallup, WA
Richard Randall	Kansas City, MO
Butch Reinhart	Chugiak, AK
Garth Rose	Tacoma, WA
Christopher Schroeter	JBER, AK

**April ( 4 )**

Robert W. Barney	Browns Mills, NJ
Kurtis Crawford	Middletown, DE
Harley Ricketts	Scott AFB, IL
*Jeffrey Wilson	Summerville, SC

**May ( 1 )**

Terry A. Zimmerman	Longview, WA
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**( 6 ) LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

*Jason Brown	Anchorage, AK
*Douglas R. Mathes	Anchorage, AK
*Shannon M. Stiff	Fayetteville, NC
*David Thomas	Eagle River, AK
*John Wesley	Mustang, OK
*Gregory A. Verbiski	Kincaid, IL

**( 20 ) IN-ACTIVE MEMBERS listed since March 2015 issue**

William Armistead	Albuquerque, NM	January
Derek Clements	Altus, OK	January
Carol Fletcher	Auburn, CA	April
John A. Flood III	Louisburg, NC	March
Michael Folker	Clayton, DE	February
James Fuller	Summerville, SC	January
David Gabe	Tucson, AZ	January
Conner Gray	Honolulu, HI	January

William Habenick	Kapolei, HI	February
Melvin Lum	Abilene, TX	March
Robert L. Marino, Sr.	Niles, OH	April
Lethaniel N. Martin	Del Valle, TX	April
Hugh McFadden	Williston, FL	March
Roger Moore	Mt. Pleasant, SC	March
Dylan Porras	Ewa Beach, HI	January
Jeffrey G. Price	Albany, KY	February
Michael Schueller	Rathdrum, ID	January
James H. Shaughnessy	Leicester, NY	February
Theodore R. Venturini	Lancaster, CA	April
Gerald J. Zuniga	San Antonio, TX	February

**LOST LOADS (10):** If you know any of the Lost Loads please have them contact us with their current contact information.

**\*Denotes Life Member** — Last address, month and year when they became lost

*John L Branski	Tacoma, WA	Nov 2011
*Jesse L. Burdette	Cabot, AR	Nov 2011
*Robert B. Burnett	Dulles, VA	Jul 2011
*Christopher S. Clay	Arlington, VA	Nov 2011
*Daniel Downey	Abilene, TX	Jul 2012
*Jack L. Langenstein	Summerville, SC	Jul 2014
*Brian K. Murphy	Dayton, OH	Nov 2014
*Dewhitt Sizemore	Bonita Springs, FL	Nov 2012
*Tony E. Strader	APO AE	Nov 2011
*Lucas J. White	Warner Robins, GA	Nov 2014

**ATTENTION: TRAVIS AFB C-141 LOADMASTERS** - Any Load who flew the C-141 at Travis is invited, if interested, to donate for a new plaque/monument to be placed in front of the static display (63-8088) The Golden Bear at the Travis AFB Heritage Center (Museum). The old plaque rotted out and had to be removed. This was the first C-141A delivered to an operational unit, April 23, 1965, and stretched to a C-141B in December 1979. Send any donation checks for the 63-8088 plaque, to: Jimmy Doolittle Foundation, P.O. Box 1565, Travis AFB, CA 94535-0565.

### “The Loader” Editor

Bill Weeper, “The Loader” Editor - Sound Publishing out of Everett WA did a great job of printing the March 2015 of “The Loader” and we will continue to use this company as our publisher. If any of our association members have any concerns about their March or July 2015 issue of “The Loader” please email them to me. I am continuing to work hard to make this the best newsletter that I can. If you have any Loadmaster related website “Links,” I would like to publish them for all our membership to view. If you know of any company that would like to advertise in “The Loader” please send their contact information to any of the Executive Committee or to me. Advertisements will help defer the cost of printing “The Loader.” As stated in previous issues of “The Loader,” one

of my main focuses is obtaining 100% of all chapter inputs. Almost all chapters sent in chapter inputs for this issue of “The Loader.” **Thank You Chapter Presidents or those who wrote articles for them.** Some chapters have been reconstituted and I will do what I can to help promote those chapters through “The Loader.” I am trying to provide interesting subjects but to give you the best issues, I need your input. If you belong to a PLA Chapter please help your Chapter President submit inputs to me (providing Loadmaster stories; old and new, chapter information, personal achievements, photographs, etc.). If you don’t have a chapter, send me your Loadmaster related information directly to: [weeperjr@satx.rr.com](mailto:weeperjr@satx.rr.com).

### Webmaster

PLA Website Update, Ryan Lockhart - Here’s what has been going on with the new website. I expect to finish it by the end of the month (June) or worst case mid-July. I’ve made progress working with the database. The new website will give a fresh look to the Professional Loadmaster Association’s online presence and make finding members and other information easy and quick.

What’s completed:

- New appearance and outline
- Chapter pages were created to add pictures, board member information, and chapter history
- Visitors are able to download digital copies of “The Loader”
- Scholarship information is outlined and applications are available to download
- A secure database of member’s information is stored on the page. Only accessible by a username and password that each member will receive once the site goes live
- Each member will be able to update that information more easily
- New members will automatically be added to the database
- Members with upcoming subscription expiration will be notified via email automatically

To-do list:

- Finish the chapter pages. I still haven’t heard from a majority of the chapters thus leaving these pages empty with no information or pictures.
- Finish integration with PayPal and confirm that process works
- Minor design changes once all content is added
- Functionality test to ensure there are no broken links or appearance issues

Future goals include making a mobile version of the site that would have limited capability, but you’d be able to pull up information and explain what the PLA is to members while away from a computer. I’d like any input from members on features that they would like to see in the site and to get chapter information from the board members, so that I can update their chapter’s page. I can be reached at [ryanslockhart@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanslockhart@yahoo.com) if you have any concerns, comments, or questions.



Scholarship Donations can be made to our PLA Headquarters:  
P.O. Box 4351 Tacoma WA 98438

Write "Scholarship Fund" on checks. Remember every little bit counts  
toward keeping this program ongoing.

#### Scholarship Manager

Jim Engelker  
10925 County Road 29  
Ovid, CO 80744  
[engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com)

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) offers five scholarships annually for college and/or vocational/technical school after high school graduation. 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/scholarship.htm>. Applications, located on the PLA website, may be applied for through Jim Engelker at [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com).

Timeline for Scholarships: Submission of all scholarship applications is due to [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com) by the close of business on April 1st Mountain Daylight Time of the year before scholarship announcement. 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. Remember our scholarship fund will be used to support two scholarships of \$1000 and three \$500.00 scholarships a year to PLA members and their family members.

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.

Scholarship Update: The selection committee would like to encourage every chapter to talk to their members about the scholarships and encourage them to take advantage of this rare opportunity for our Loadmasters and their family members - past, present, and future - to further their education with a scholarship that honors our fallen Loadmasters. While the application is time-consuming, the selection committee needs the information from the application to make an appropriate selection. Specifically, the committee is looking for information about the applicant and his or her commitment towards the work required to complete a collegiate degree. There are a lot of Loadmasters with children who are considering college; and there are numerous scholarships from which to choose. But the PLA scholarship is specifically and uniquely designed to support our own. When completing your PLA application you will need to know the PLA membership # and date. Please contact John Moore at [Secretary@Loadmasters.com](mailto:Secretary@Loadmasters.com) or [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com) to obtain this information." **The Scholarship winners for 2015 are: Halie Rion** - John Levitow \$1000.00 Scholarship, Major: Nursing, Colleges: University of Texas @Arlington, University of Colorado @Colorado Springs, University of Colorado @ Denver, PLA Member: Gregory Rion - Grandfather. **Jamie Patton** - Benedetto D. Renzi \$500.00 Scholarship, Major: Masters in Psychology - Applied Behavior, College: Kaplan University, PLA Member: Christopher S. Patton - Husband. **Dawn E. Martin** - Howard S. Davis \$500.00 Scholarship, Major: Business Administration, College: AMC, PLA Member: Ryan T. Martin - Husband.

### Bill Canon Bench Update

Bill Cannon Bench Update - Erin Manley met with Dodd's Monument Company at the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force in May 2015. She saw that the cement for the Bill Cannon's bench had been poured and also the cement had been poured on the other side next to the existing PLA monument, which is for future use. This was the only way to secure the left and right side of the PLA monument. The bench has been ordered and takes 2 - 3 months to get in. Ray Snedegar and Erin Manley have walked around viewing similar benches, taking some pictures and thinking of ideas of what to put on Bill Cannon's bench. Dodd's monument will then computerize what they give them and they will then send the information to Kathy Disney for her to share and make a final decision. We have some time because of how long it takes to get the bench from overseas.



New cement pads on each side of the PLA monument at the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force

### East Coast VP

East Coast Vice President/Liberty Chapter Treasurer Kent Brown - We all need to get involved. As a member of the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) we all need to stand up and involve ourselves in the organization. For the ones that live near a military base where we have one of our 14 chapters it is easy to stay involved. For those that are not near a chapter you can still do your part. If you live near a chapter help to keep that chapter alive by getting involved with meetings and events the chapter involves itself in. Those chapters that are not having monthly meetings or events, step up and contact your fellow loadmasters in the area and get that chapter reinvigorated and do some great things for the community. If you aren't near a chapter you can still help us by recruiting in your community. Going out to be with others, maybe some of the people were in another service or even the USAF and were loadmasters but don't know anything about us, enlighten them. Visiting another state on vacation you may run into old friends or make new ones that may be eligible to join us. Our national secretary John Moore does a great job of trying to keep us all on track. He takes great pride in his job and is trying to keep us running in a straight line. He needs your help. When he sends you a renewal notice, either by e-mail or snail mail, please respond in a timely manner. If you have no desire to stay a member of the PLA please let him know. Even better, when you get a renewal notice join for a 3 year or lifetime membership. Since we are spread out from the east coast to west, snail mail sent to the secretary may take time to get to him, so if he doesn't respond fast it's because our mailing address is in Washington State and John lives in Iowa. John has help in Seattle WA from Jim Schatza, who forwards mail and deposit checks in the bank there. Please help us help you to keep this great organization running. "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." .....African Proverb

### West Coast VP

West Coast Vice President, Mark E. Raymond - One of my duties is to work with all the West Coast Chapters to assist them in the best way possible. I feel I have not done a very good job of that, but I am working on doing better. I have been sending out emails but haven't always been successful in making valuable contact. I will continue to reach out and help as much as possible. The Denali Chapter in Alaska has been re-engaging with a whole new cadre of loads. JD Bartlemus and new Chapter President Lloyd Llana are totally committed to getting this chapter going and reaching out to their local loadmasters for participation. The Northwest Chapter in Washington State continues to be active and has been working hard to get the active duty more involved. Not an uncommon challenge in any of our chapters. They have recently changed Executive positions: President, Mike Weber; Vice-President, Harold Edvalds; Secretary, Neil Aronson; and Treasurer, Victor Fredlund. Steve Clark continues to keep the Golden West Chapter active in Riverside, California. Haven't heard much from the The Aloha Chapter but being assured that Keith Roscoe is keeping the chapter alive and active. The Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter, my chapter, was the first

chapter to form outside of the Northwest Chapter in 1998. The chapter has cancelled very few monthly meetings and continue to support a \$1,000 scholarship each year and raise donations for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life. Kent Brown's, East Coast Vice President, message last "The Loader" was basically right on regarding the Gathering Of Loads (GOL), and the participation in it. I will not repeat it but I do know the time and effort it takes to organize and facilitate the GOL and the commitment we all need to have when we attend. As I had mentioned above, it has been a challenge to get our active duty loadmasters involved in the chapters. This has been an on-going issue and we have yet to get any answers. I like the Northwest Chapter's efforts to get the active duty more involved by having them serve as executive members. I have visited each of the active duty squadrons at Travis more than once and left brochures, business cards, applications, and Loaders. I have had one person contact me. I never pressure any Loadmaster to join our association. Everyone has different aspirations and interests, especially in their off-time. I personally don't think there is another group of professionals that have so much to share and so much in common. The comradery of the Professional Loadmaster Association is unmatched. It has been an honor to be associated with and actively involved to support the vision of our founder, Bill Cannon.

### Former PLA Secretary, Ron Campeau Retiring

Retirement on the Horizon for CMSgt Ronald A. Campeau Jr. Chief Ronald A. Campeau Jr. joined the Air Force Reserves on March 10, 1975 as a loadmaster in the 313<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron and has been at McChord AFB, WA his entire career. When the 728<sup>th</sup> AS moved to McChord AFB after the closure of Norton AFB, CA; he was selected as the Loadmaster Superintendent from 1991-1995. In August of 1995 he returned to the 313<sup>th</sup> AS and was the NCOIC of Loadmaster training as an Air Reserve Technician. For the last 14 years he has been the Resource Manager and Chief Loadmaster in the 313<sup>th</sup> AS. He flew the C-141A, B & C model Starlifter from 1975 to 2002 at which time he transitioned to the C-17A. He has over 11,000 hours combined flying time. He is currently a life member of the Professional Loadmaster Association and volunteered as the previous PLA National Secretary for the growing organization for 5-plus years. Chief Campeau will retire in October 2015 with more than 40-years' experience as Examiner Airdrop Loadmaster. His retirement ceremony will be at the Lakewood Elks on October 17, 2015, more information to follow. "I have enjoyed the Loadmaster career field and want to say the best part of the Job was the people and other loadmasters I have had the pleasure to know and work with over the years! I wish all of you and you're families the best!" Retirement Checklist- "Completed" (LM)

### Alamo Chapter

Alamo Chapter, Bill Weeper - Buenos Dias from San Antonio and the Alamo Chapter. The Alamo Chapter has recently changed to quarterly meetings. Andy Vaquera is still looking for a new place to meet and will announce the next meeting location via text message and email. The Alamo Chapter and the 26<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port will be providing BBQ for the 68<sup>th</sup> AS reunion being held on October 3, 2015 at VFW Post 76 in San Antonio Texas. Andy Vaquera is on the reunion committee. Ray Snedegar will be a guest speaker at the event. The Alamo Chapter continues to sponsor a BLM classroom at the CEA/CoE on Lackland AFB Texas. The Alamo Chapter will be purchasing more picture frames and photographs displaying Loadmaster history and heroes in the sponsored classroom. If you would like to help the Alamo Chapter with this classroom financially or materially, please contact Andy Vaquera at (210) 559-7487, andyvaquera@sbcglobal.net or Hector Leyva at (210) 767-8160, Hector145@msn.com.

### Aloha Chapter

Aloha Chapter Secretary, Ryan Lockhart - Aloha ke akua! First off we would like to thank Ryan Martin for his hard work and dedication while at Hickam and acting as the Aloha Chapter Treasurer. Secondly, Jesse Richardson will be taking over the position. Welcome to the team Jesse! Our Aloha Chapter loadmasters have been hard at work helping the humanitarian aid mission in Nepal. SSgt. Dylan Porras spent 20 days staging in Thailand and Guam, running out-and-backs to Nepal delivering support equipment and humanitarian relief. The 204<sup>th</sup> AS members in our Chapter are now airdrop qualified and capable of supporting that mission. We will be accepting applications for our first chapter scholarship shortly, funding the tuition for our spring semester applicants. If any PLA members are in the area, be sure to reach out! Aloha



Hickam C-17 supports humanitarian aid mission to Nepal (Photo - Dylan Porras)

### Big Country Chapter

Big Country Historian, Bennie Lopez - After a long period of waiting, The Big Country Chapter was approved by the Texas Veterans Land Board to donate a memorial plaque at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene, Texas. The memorial plaque is to be completed in July 2015. The Big Country Chapter meets

on the first Saturday of every other month at 11:00 am. The next meeting will on July 11, 2015 at VFW Post 6873 due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Our chapter officers are: President, Michael P Lutzko, 325-829-4026, michaellutzko@yahoo.com; Vice President, vacant; Secretary, vacant; Treasurer, Robert Staples, 325-673-1249, staf1134@aol.com; Chaplain, Robert Leet, 325-698-7057, nursebob1@sbcglobal.net; Historian, Bennie R Lopez, 972-345-5066 ybL40@sbcglobal.net.

### Denali Chapter

Denali Chapter President, Lloyd Llaneza - Here is a quick excerpt of what the Denali Chapter is doing. The Denali Chapter is back! We are working hard to get the chapter back up and rolling after many years of inactivity. We have held several meetings at the 249<sup>th</sup>/517<sup>th</sup> AS Hardstand and have some great ideas in the works for community involvement and fundraising. However, summer is the busiest time of the year in Alaska with all of the hunting, fishing, and family activities that present themselves, so maximum participation from our members may not be realistic until things slow down a bit. We really can't blame them; Alaska's got record breaking heat across the state and everyone is anxious to have their adventures while it holds out. On March 18, 2015 Daniel Torgerson had his fini flight here at Elmendorf, AK. He was the Loadmaster Superintendent for the 517<sup>th</sup> AS and has been instrumental in developing the Total Force Integration (TFI) relationship with both squadrons (517<sup>th</sup>/249<sup>th</sup>) since the beginning of the C-17 start up here at Elmendorf, AK. His dedication, personality, and selflessness have made the relationships between active duty and the Air National Guard more rooted and stronger than any normal TFI relationships. He is sorely missed and his legacy here is hard to match. Chapter officers are: President, MSgt Lloyd Llaneza; Vice President, SMSgt (Ret) JD Bartlemus; Treasurer, TSgt Doug Mathes; Secretary, MSgt Brian Johnson; Sergeant at Arms, MSgt Dave Thomas. We have our Chapter meetings at our TFI Hardstand room (break room) usually once a month. If you have any questions about the chapter or would like to attend one of our meetings please contact me at my email: Highflt808@aol.com or telephone: 907-250-5018.



Denali Chapter President Lloyd Llaneza with Alaskan catch of the day





Denali Chapter member Daniel Torgerson Fini Flight at Elmendorf, AK

### Golden West Chapter

Golden West Chapter President, Steve Clark - Greetings from the Golden West Chapter. Our Chapter along with local veteran groups in the So Cal area are sending support for Assembly Bill 1275 that exempts military retirement pay from California State income tax. Ernie Vasquez is our point man on this issue. A very much deserved Kudos to TSgt Paul Garcia for an outstanding job as Flight Test Loadmaster at Edwards AFB. He has moved on to the Beeliners, 21<sup>st</sup> AS at Travis AFB. Nicole Corace, 729<sup>th</sup> AS March ARB, has completed Flight Attendant Course for American/US Airways - best wishes for a new career. In September we will be attending a Vietnam Air War presentation at Chino Planes of Fame Museum to include aircraft involved in the conflict and Q and A. Also for those of you who participated in the final evacuation of personnel from Vietnam, PBS has a special documentary on this event on local PBS stations. Sadly for former Nortonites, Col Paul Green (Tuskegee Airman and Base Commander) passed away February 24, 2015. He is at rest at National Cemetery in Riverside Ca.....Salute - Taps! We are hoping to get more new Loads on board this summer. The chapter is planning a BBQ. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Pepper Steak Diner, 26589 Highland Ave, Highland CA @1000Hrs. Contact Chapter at steve.clark38@yahoo.com...Load Clear!

### Liberty Chapter

Liberty Chapter President Michael Kent - Hello from Exit 7. Greetings from the Liberty Chapter! My name is Mike Kent and I am the Liberty Chapter President. The other officers within our chapter are Secretary Shem Miller and Treasurer Kent Brown. Kent also serves as the East Coast Vice President. We are centered on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. We hold our meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown, NJ. We meet for breakfast at 0900 and have our meeting at 1000. The diner is located approximately 2 miles from the main gate. We headed to Dover AFB on April 18, 2015 to tour the AMC Museum. Instead of a meeting, a group of members and some friends took a 90 minute trip to Dover. They have open aircraft day the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. We were lucky that day because the museum was hosting some WW II Vets that jumped into France as part of D-Day. One soldier actually jumped out of the C-47

that belongs to the museum. We got to listen to his story and ask a few questions. After 4 hours of touring the museum we had lunch at a local barbecue restaurant. We had 11 members volunteer for a community service project May 16, 2015. We participated in the Pemberton Township Clean Communities Day. We helped clean up trash and collect recyclable material from the Mirror Lake section of the town. There was a large turnout for this event comprised of different groups from the base and residents from the town. We have participated in this event in the past and will continue to do so in the future. We worked from 0800 - 1200 and then met back at the firehouse for pizza. The chapter received a small grant for our efforts. We helped out with the New Jersey Honor Flight event again this year on June 6, 2015. This is our second year helping out. We had two members volunteer as Guardians this year. Guardians spend the entire day with the Veterans and assist them with anything they need. The two Veterans we escorted both served during WW II. We also had 5 members volunteer to help out at the High School from where the event departs. They helped to check people in, load and unload buses and helped serve dinner. This event gives free tours of the war memorials in Washington DC to Veterans. This year we toured the Air Force, WW II, Korean and Vietnam memorials. The chapter also donated \$500.00 for this wonderful event. I have included a photo with some of our chapter members and our Veterans. On Jun 13<sup>th</sup> we had a clean up at the C-141 Starlifter Memorial. We tried to do this earlier in the year but the weather did not cooperate. We had a nice turnout that included a Pilot, a Flight Doc, Several Flight Engineers and many Loadmasters. We spent 3 hours cleaning up flower beds, weeding and doing general clean up. We also reset some edging that had heaved up over the winter. The chapter has also taken over the memorial bricks at the site. You can order an engraved brick to be placed in the walkway around the memorial. We plan on doing the clean up several times a year. We will be having a summer picnic July 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will be hosted by JP and Barb Salisbury. We have been planning this for awhile and have been spreading the word in hope of a good turnout. The picnic will be free. JP and Barb live on a lake and boating and fishing will be available. This event is open to everyone and their families, not just members. Hope you have a great summer.



Liberty Chapter members at the New Jersey Honor Flight event





Liberty Chapter members on trip to AMC museum at Dover AFB



Liberty Chapter members at C-141 Memorial clean up

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Kyle Anderson - Greetings from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter! These past few months have been busy ones for the JAI Loadmasters at the 43<sup>rd</sup> OSS, and it doesn't look like it's going to slow down anytime soon. We welcomed 6 fellow JAI Loadmasters from Dyess and McChord to assist with the recent Joint Operations Access Exercise (JOAX), which was the largest in 20 years, and showcased over 4,000 US and British Paratroopers. The talented group of Loadmasters were able to Pre/Post Inspect over 480 tons of airdrop equipment capping off with ZERO airdrop malfunctions. Shortly after the JOAX the 43<sup>rd</sup> OSS JAI Loadmasters rolled right into All-American Week/Airshow at Ft. Bragg, NC. Again, these Loadmasters performed flawlessly as they inspected 40xCDS, 8xDRAS (Dual Row Airdrop System), and 1xHE for a combined total of 163 tons. During their inspections they uncovered 116 rigging errors, which resulted in ZERO airdrop malfunctions again. A round of applause for these deserving Loadmasters. In other news, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter's own, SSgt Kasumi Anderson, recently began her journey to becoming a Physician Assistant at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. SSgt Kasumi Anderson served as the Secretary for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter for many years, and was a C-130 Loadmaster for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Squadron and a JAI Loadmaster for the 43<sup>rd</sup> OSS. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter wishes her the best of luck in her new career path, and we know she will always be a Loadmaster a heart. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter meets at

the Mckellar's Lodge on Ft Bragg usually during lunch once a month. Chapter officers are: President, Sheldon Cary; Vice President, Alex Walters; Treasurer, Shannon Stiff; and Secretary, Casey Jackson.

### Northwest Chapter

Northwest Chapter President, Michael Weber - Hope all is well with all others! The Northwest Chapter had a couple gatherings over the memorial weekend to pay tribute to those no longer with us. For the future, we are planning a summer barbecue for mid-to late August, it should be a pretty good time with an over view of Heritage Hill on McChord (no Rodeo☺). We are also in the planning stages of a Brick Laying ceremony on base for some fallen Loadmasters in the past few years. Plans are to have their families available for the dedication. President, Michael Weber, 4302 Goldcrest Drive NW, Olympia WA 98502-9015, Tel. (253) 861-5595, weberm77@yahoo.com; Vice President, Harold Edvalds, 1702 90th St. Tacoma WA 98444-3122; Secretary/Treasurer, Victor Fredlund; 1841 Trosper Rd SW #8, Tumwater WA 98512-6964, Tel. (360) 705-3755, victorfredlund@msn.com.

### Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Parker - Aguillon - Payne Chapter President, Mark Raymond - The annual American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, in Vacaville, California will be held on June 20 - 21, 2015. As of June 10, 2015, we have raised over \$18,000. Last year we raised over \$21,000 and since 2003 over \$200,000 in donations. Joe Brown has been doing a great job as our team Captain with Al Horwedel assisting. We are looking for a new volunteer to be our Relay Captain for next year. Our annual SMS Irv Mahler \$1,000 Scholarship applications have been sent out and we will make the final selection in July 2015. We have been so fortunate to have all of our scholarship winners over the past few years continue to excel in their educational goals. We look forward to supporting and helping members of our local loadmaster families to make sure they have every opportunity to meet and exceed their educational goals. We have also been fortunate to have another national scholarship winner this year. Halie Rion, the granddaughter of Greg Rion, won the \$1,000.00 scholarship. Great job Halie! We wish her the best in all her future endeavors. We are planning on another scholarship presentation social event sometime toward the end of July 2015 to make the presentation of this year's \$1,000 scholarship winner. More information will be available at the end of June 2015. Our chapter continues to volunteer out at the Sonoma Raceway each year to help us fund our Scholarships and social events. The races are upon us and we have 3 major events to support this summer: NASCAR: June 26 - 28, 2015, NHRA: July 31 - August 1, 2015, and INDY CAR: August 26 - 30, 2016. We can always use more volunteers. As you all may know, our chapter is named after the three Loadmasters who died during "Operation Babylift" April 4, 1975: Felizardo Aguillon; Wendle Payne; and William Parker. Ray Snedegar, who survived the crash, has been giving outstanding briefings on the accident throughout the years. A new book published by BlueLine Publishing, "Operation Babylift: Mission Accomplished" is the memoir of Regina Aune who served as Chief Medical Officer

on the flight and was co-written by one of the infants she saved, who became Aryn Lockhart. Ray, Regina, and Aryn traveled together to Vietnam last year and returned to the crash site and the orphanage that Aryn was in. A must read book. We have been having our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at Delta Breeze Club (NCO Club), on Travis AFB for just about the entire seventeen years we have been a chapter. Thanks again to all the great members who continue to support our chapter and the Professional Loadmaster Association. If you have any question, please contact Mark E. Raymond at mark\_raymond@att.net or mark\_raymond@kc10ats.com.



American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, in Vacaville, California

### The First State Chapter

First State Chapter President, Ryan Thompson - Greetings from the First State Chapter. Big changes are coming to Dover AFB in July. With the runway resurfacing continuing, the remaining runway will shut down to 6000 feet of usable runway. This will have a significant impact on both weapon systems here. The C-5 will begin moving their aircraft to McGuire AFB and crews will have to ride a bus there for their missions. The C-17's will also be impacted with a reduced runway; they will be staying but will have to have many divert options for adverse weather conditions. On June 13th members from the 9<sup>th</sup> Airlift squadron provided a tour for the AMC museum members. Tour guides became tourists, receiving a guided tour of the C-5M. Members from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron returned 6 fallen Nepalese soldiers that had perished in a Marine helicopter crash. The soldiers were brought to the port mortuary for the investigation. The crew was received by the Nepalese Army and members from the U.S. embassy. We are looking for new meeting locations for the PLA, if anyone has any suggestion please contact me at Ryan.Thompson7015@gmail.com.

### Trailblazers Chapter

Trailblazers Chapter President, Danny South - Howdy Loads! The Trailblazers Chapter has been extremely busy the last few weeks and things don't seem to be slowing down for the next year. Our BBQ that we sell to raise funds have really taken off and is being requested by other organizations for spouses parties and other events. For those who don't know, we will be hosting the Gathering of Loads (GOL) convention for 2016, so save the date for September 15 - 18, 2016. We are currently looking at guest speakers. If anyone has a recommendation or knows someone with a unique story, let us know. We would

like to know what other people would like to see. Just so we are clear we won't be asking anyone to come to Altus OK. Instead we will be having the GOL at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oklahoma City OK. I really look forward to seeing a lot of you at the convention. Trailblazers Chapter board members are: VP, Trinidad Gutierrez; Ways and Means, Norm Metz and Ryan Gewinner; and the Treasurer is Laura Bourdlais.

### BLM Update

Greetings from Lackland AFB, home of the Basic Loadmaster Course (BLM) located within the 344<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron's Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence. Over the past couple years there have been some changes to the course. Student throughput has decreased from approximately 600 students per year to approximately 450 active duty, guard, reserve and international students. This decrease has also affected the number of instructors. We have gone from 13 to 8 in the BLM course and we have three other Loadmaster instructors currently teaching the Aircrew Fundamentals Course. Our cadre of instructors still incorporates civilian (1), reservists (2) and active duty (5) from all three airframes. Our current course of instruction includes loadmaster career ladder, aircraft systems, customer relations, passenger briefings, customs requirements, principles of airdrop, safety and hazardous materials handling. Students learn formulas for calculating vehicle and aircraft center of gravity, weight and balance computation, and load planning; as well as the effects of load shifts and removing cargo and cargo loading. Also emphasized are shoring requirements, cargo restraint, and chart "E" familiarization; as well as concentrated and palletized load planning. A final portion of the course focuses on aircraft loading and actual task performance on a C-130 aircraft training device. Students must pass all progress checks and score better than 85 percent on each end-of-block examination to graduate. We pride ourselves in producing world class students for our loadmaster force. Our job is to determine if loadmaster candidates have the academic discipline and the right skill sets to become successful in their next phase of training. We welcome feedback anytime to help equip our future loadmasters and to provide a more solid foundation for our career field.



2015 BLM & Aircrew Fundamentals Course Instructors - Bottom Row: SSgt Albert "JR" King, MSgt Kathy Disney, TSgt Jason Fatjo, Top Row: MSgt Daniel Factuar, TSgt Chris Koch, Mr. Don Sawyer, SrA Max Labarre, SSgt Kris Mack, SSgt Joel Juarez, TSgt James Grove, TSgt Travis Brite not present



### After The Crash

Karl Hinkamp - A few months ago, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released the Group Chairman's Factual Report on the April 2013 crash of a B-747 at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Not long after, over coffee or beers, in e-mails, and posted on internet message boards, the predictable comments were made, heard, sent and received. The comments were nearly identical to those made after previous civilian cargo plane crashes where cargo was alleged, or in fact, a causal or contributing factor. Not all paths to becoming a Loadmaster are through the military services. There are many Loadmasters working for airlines who were never in the military. Those I have worked with were experienced, capable, and very knowledgeable. Being a Loadmaster in the airline industry is, in many aspects, the same as in the military, but not in all. Equipment, procedures and terminology are different in the airlines; and as stated in the NTSB report, Loadmaster is not a certified position<sup>i</sup> in the Code of Federal Regulations and is not tracked by the FAA<sup>ii</sup>. Whether in the military or the civilian airline industry, seasoned, experienced Loadmasters are developed over time. We were all new and inexperienced in the job at one time. However, it would seem advantageous to an employer to hire its Loadmasters from a group that already has years, or even decades, of experience. In the past, the military was a primary source of pilots for the airline industry. The same cannot necessarily be said about Loadmasters. Why is that? Is industry unaware of the large number of Loadmasters that already possess depth of experience and broad capabilities? Perhaps. According to the NTSB report, a National Aviation Safety Inspection Program assessment said of the incident airline, "they were having problems training and hiring loadmasters...."<sup>iii</sup> I believe that outside of the Loadmaster community, there is lack of understanding of what Loadmasters actually do. One example is the transcript of minutes from a 2003 Alaska State Legislature committee meeting concerning Senate Bill No. 54, in which Loadmasters are discussed<sup>iv</sup>. The comments of ten people from the legislature and airline industry

were highlighted. Only one State Representative and one attorney seemed, to me, to have an accurate understanding of Loadmaster duties. It is interesting to note that no Loadmaster is mentioned as having attended the meeting. The NTSB report raises many complex institutional issues, in both government and industry, with respect to Loadmaster operations, management and oversight. As highly experienced members of a professional organization, how can we influence future policies with regard to these issues? I hope you find prevention of further unfortunate crashes worthy of discussion, not over coffee or beers, but more importantly, at chapter and executive meetings of our organization, the Professional Loadmaster Association.

<sup>i</sup> National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Ops Factual Report, DCA13MA081, pp 16, 78, 79.

<sup>ii</sup> National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Ops Factual Report, DCA13MA081, p 16.

<sup>iii</sup> National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Ops Factual Report, DCA13MA081, p 79.

<sup>iv</sup> 23rd Legislature(2003-2004), Committee Minutes, HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE, Mar 17, 2003, SB 54-OVERTIME PAY FOR AIRLINE EMPLOYEES, retrieved June, 2015.

### Rodeo 2015 competition canceled

Posted 4/24/2015 from Air Mobility Command Public Affairs, Scott Air Force Base, IL - This year's Air Mobility Command (AMC) Rodeo readiness competition has been cancelled. General Darren McDew, AMC commander, decided to cancel the competition scheduled for August at McChord Field, Wash., largely because of the high current operations tempo for mobility Airmen, and budget constraints. The last Rodeo event was held at McChord Field in July 2011. Rodeo competitions are held to train and improve the abilities of U.S. and international partners' air mobility operations skills while building international relationships. All participants are being notified of the cancellation through appropriate channels.

#### Liberty Chapter Loadmaster Coins

Mailed for \$10 each plus priority shipping of \$5.80. Thirty in one box for that shipping cost. If chapters want 30 or more, sold for \$9 each with shipping included. Cheaper alternative is to ship up to three, for \$4.00 shipping first class mail. Send a check made out to Liberty Chapter PLA, or USPS postal Money Order made out to Kent Brown, 28 Pineview Dr., Browns Mills, NJ 08015-6850.

#### PLA Coins

The new coins have both Friendship Through Airlift and Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow around the circle on the back and now they are in full color! The US Flag is in color and unchanged. The box below the flag is empty so you may have whatever you wish engraved in it. The PLA coin is \$10.00 If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: [secretary@loadmasters.com](mailto:secretary@loadmasters.com)

#### PLA Pins and Patches

PLA Coins, Pins and Patches are available through the National Secretary. The PLA Pin is \$7.00 and the Patch is \$10.00 each, including mailing. If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: [secretary@loadmasters.com](mailto:secretary@loadmasters.com)



Professional Loadmaster Association:  
[www.loadmasters.com](http://www.loadmasters.com)

Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association:  
<http://www.troopcarrier.org/>

Airlift Tanker Association:  
<http://www2.atalink.org/>

C-130 Hercules.net:  
<http://www.c-130hercules.net/content.php>

C-141 Flying Squadrons:  
<http://www.c141flyingsquadrons.com/>

**PLA Loadmaster Monument Dedication Video:** Kent Brown Liberty Chapter, posted a 20 minute video of the Dedication Ceremony that took place at the Museum of the US Air Force, Dayton, Ohio on September 21, 2012: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS5N1ZoB\\_Pk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS5N1ZoB_Pk)

**The Loadmasters - C-5 Galaxy Delivering Troops and Cargo Across the Globe Video:** <http://www.defense.gov/home/features/video/player.aspx?oSEBNgWIoVs>

### FACEBOOK & OTHER LINKS

Professional Loadmaster Association:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158506894161061/>

Alamo:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alamo-chapter-of-the-Professional-Loadmaster-Association-PLA/1523886031175487>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/901763776518434/>

Big Country:  
<https://www.facebook.com/BigCountryPLA>

Denali:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Denali.Pla>

Gateway:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/PLA-Gateway-Chapter/52855915723573>

Liberty:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122389717788338/>

Northwest:  
<https://www.facebook.com/PLANorthwestchapter>

Parker-Aguillon-Payne:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/loadmasters/>

Southeast:  
<https://www.facebook.com/southeast.pla?fref=ts>

The First State:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/PLA-First-State-Chapter/482364305225584>

The Rock:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/therockpla/>

Trailblazers:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/platrailblazer/>

Trailblazers 2016 Gathering of Loads Convention:  
[https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1615103915423228/?ref=newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular&feed\\_story\\_type=263&action\\_history=null](https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1615103915423228/?ref=newsfeed_story_type=regular&feed_story_type=263&action_history=null)

### REUNIONS

**Sep 9–13: Annual Spooky aka Puff the Dragon, Vietnam 65–69, AC–47 GUNSHIP Reunion;** in San Antonio, TX; POC: Junior Skinner, 706–636–5275; juniorskinner@spookyac47gunship.com; for info go to website [www.spookyac47gunship.com](http://www.spookyac47gunship.com) (Main speaker, Spooky 71 Pilot Ken Carpenter who submitted John L. Levitow for the Medal of Honor, possible, additional speaker John Levitow, Jr.)

**Sep 10–13: 317th Troop Carrier Wing Veterans Reunion,** all eras; in Savannah, GA; POC: Jim Timmons, 758 221<sup>st</sup> Street, Pasadena, MD 21122, 410–255–2735; jimt0708@aol.com (Open to all veterans who served in or under the 317th)

**May 5-8, 2016: Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Reunion** at the Wyndham in North Little Rock, Arkansas.



The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association (TC/TAA) was formed in 2006 as an organization of veterans of the troop carrier and tactical airlift missions and their successors. The TC/TAA is a recognized wartime veterans organization. Membership is open to all troop carrier and tactical airlift veterans; others may join as Associate Members. One of the purposes of the TC/TAA is to educate the public - including young men and women of today's U.S. Air Force - about the rich heritage of the troop carrier mission and the tactical airlift mission. The IX Troop Carrier Command emblem symbolizes that heritage.

TC/TAA  
 3727 Hill Family Lane  
 Missouri City, TX 77459  
[www.troopcarrier.org](http://www.troopcarrier.org)



Underlined name denotes a PLA Member, \* Denotes PLA Life Member

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

Charles Edgar (Charlie) Bucher, 82, passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2015 in Abilene TX. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 2:30p.m. at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Faith, 5701 Hwy 277 South, Abilene. Charlie was born on January 29, 1933 in Arlington, TX to Charles Hudson and Rebecca Minerva (Bailey) Bucher. He attended Southside Elementary, Arlington High School, and Arlington State College. He was in Boy Scouts of America from the age of 12 to 17. After graduating from high school, he worked for Texas Electric Service Company and in 1952 entered the Air Force until 1956. Charlie was self-employed in the wholesale gasoline business for 8 years and worked for General Motors in Arlington for 7 years. From 1956 to 1970 he was in the Air Force Reserve and then returned to active duty at Dyess Air Force Base in 1991. He was a loadmaster on the C-130 for approximately 26 years and flew extensively around the world. After retiring from the Air Force in 1991, he attended Cisco Jr. College and attained two associate degrees. Charlie was married to Nina Ruth Riley from 1951 to 1969 and they have two daughters together; Ruth Etta and Sandra Lynn. From December 1969 until January 2001, he was married to Charlie Burns Bucher until her death. On June 12, 2007 he married Sue (Godwin) Jackson. HIS GREATEST PASSION/LOVE???" One word"" "J-E-E-P-S". This began when he was 16. His uncle owned a jeep and this is when the story began. Charlie has fabricated and built jeeps form old to new. Jeeping was his golf game, fishing, hunting, etc. Charlie had wonderful parents and this is the very reason he was the good man he was"" good natured, laid back, a good friend to anyone in general"" anyone who knew Charlie loved him. He would do "just about anything" for anyone if they needed help. AND on his epitaph it will read""""I LIVE, I LOVE, I RIDE, I AM. J-E-E-P !!! He is preceded in death by his parents; and the mother of his children, Nina Ruth (Riley) Bucher. Survivors include his wife, Sue (Godwin) Jackson Bucher; daughters, Ruth Etta (Bucher) Burton and Sandra Lynn (Bucher) Elliott; sisters, Betty Jo and Billye Jean; stepsons, Brooks Wiley Colson and Mark Wayne Jackson; stepdaughters, Waynell Miller Burkett, Judy Kay (Jackson) Cross, Jan Sue (Jackson) Davis, and Cat Colson; grandsons, James Michael Elliott and Aaron Lasater; granddaughters, Michelle Kendrick and Tasha (Burton) Blakely; 11 step grandchildren; 3 step great-grandchildren; and one great grandson. In lieu of flowers, if you would like, Charlie would love donations to: Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758518, Topeka, KS 66675. You may view and sign the guestbook at [www.elliott-hamil.com](http://www.elliott-hamil.com).

Earl M. Jenkins, USAF, MSgt, Retired, 84, passed away on January 7, 2015 in Tacoma, WA. Earl was born on June 6, 1930 in Switzerland, Florida. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force from August 2, 1948 until retirement on July 31, 1974. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. Earl graduated from Ft. Steilacoom Community College in 1976.

Then he worked for the United States Postal Service until full retirement on May 31, 1992. Earl had a total of forty two years of honorable government service. Earl is survived by his sons Michael Morris, Jeffrey Jenkins, Denis Sprague; daughters Jane Kustok, Lisa Jenkins-Pacasum and Constance Klien, six grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by brother James Jenkins. Funeral services will be held at 1pm, Friday, January 16, 2015 at Mountain View Garden Chapel with full military honors.

\*Donald L. Keller, Born May 9, 1935, 75, of Germantown, TN passed away March 13, 2011 at the Veteran's Nursing Home in Humboldt, TN. Mr. Keller was a US Air Force Veteran. He was a Loadmaster Supervisor for the U.S. Government and was retired from the Tennessee Air National Guard in Memphis, TN, with a total of 38 years of military service. He is survived by his wife, soul mate and best friend, Charlene Graham Keller of Germantown, TN; his mother, Lillian Keller of Mountain Home, AR; one son, Christopher Keller of Conway, AR; his loving daughter, Karen Keller Johnson of Germantown TN; four grandchildren; Drew Johnson, Katie Johnson, Shelby Johnson Baker and Evan Johnson; two sisters, Patsy Keller Fletcher of Alco, AR and Phyllis Keller Wheeler of Springfield, MO. Visitation will be Tuesday, March 15th from 6:00—8:00 pm at Roller-Citizens Funeral and Wednesday from 11:00 - 11:30 and services starting at 11:30 in their chapel with interment at 1:30 pm at West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery in Memphis. In lieu of flowers the family ask for memorials be made to Horseshoe Lake Baptist Church at Horseshoe Lake, AR or Page-Robbins Adult Daycare in Collierville, TN.

Reynaldo Silva, born October 31, 1929 embraced God on January 26, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 85. He was preceded in death by his parents Guillermo and Hortencia Silva; sister Rosalinda Cortinas and brother Ramiro Silva. He is survived by his loving wife Alice P. Silva; daughters Norma A. Almanza (Andrew), and Ana M. Santana; sons David A. Silva, and Roland A. Silva (Gloria); grandchildren Rene and Aaron Almanza; David and Zachry Arambula; Desiree, Ryane and Jared Silva. Reynaldo will be dearly missed but never forgotten. SERVICES: Visitation will begin at 4:00 pm on Monday, February 9, 2015 with a Rosary to be recited at 7:00 pm at Palm Heights Mortuary. Funeral Procession will depart at 9:15 am on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 for a 10:00 am Mass at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

\*Harold G. Tilton, Jr., a resident of San Antonio, TX, passed while visiting his daughter Emily in Whitepark, Dysart, Westmeath Ireland, on April 25, 2015. Deeply regretted by his heartbroken daughter Emily, son-in-law Peter, grandchildren Morgan and Conor, his mother Helen Tilton, sisters, Barbara

Hollar and her husband Richard Hollar and Pam Thom, brother Russell, nephews Alex Hollar and Jim Dilk's, relatives and friends. Reposing at their residence tomorrow Sunday from 3pm - 7pm. Removal on Monday morning to St. Michaels Church, Castletown Geoghegan for funeral mass at 12 noon. Burial afterwards in adjoining cemetery.

#### OLDER OBITUARIES:

Editors Note: In this section older obituaries have been listed by the PLA Secretary John Moore because they were not available when the member passed away. John has made a tremendous effort to find and list these PLA members obituaries so that you will know that these members have passed but are not forgotten.

Alvin J. Bradley Age 75, resident of Highland, CA for 40 years, passed away at home December 23, 2009. He was born in Hartford, CT, growing up in West Haven, CT. Retired after twenty-nine years with the USAF, followed by a second retirement from Riverside County Weight & Measures. Most of his military career was spent with the Military Airlift Command, with recognition being given for logging over 15,000 flying hours. He served an overseas tour in Vietnam, also one in the Azores, and three consecutive years as a flight attendant on the crew for the USO Christmas Show tour around the world. Big Al was an avid bowler after retirement chalking up two perfect games, two eight hundred series, and eleven strikes in a row, in the past decade. He also loved fishing, the beach, nature and travel. His gift was a quick wit and wonderful, genuine sense of humor. He made sure to get a smile or chuckle daily from everyone he met; outwardly, always joking and laughing, a true optimist. Al is survived by his wife, Barbara of 53 years; sons: David and Duane; daughters Renee Mc Donald, Joyce, Patricia, Kimberly, Nancy, Bobbi Coleman; and a brother, Edward Bradley, along with eighteen grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to your favorite charity. Memorial Service: A celebration of life – Wednesday, January 6, 2010; 10am at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino, CA; followed by Graveside Services at Riverside National Cemetery; 22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA, Staging Area #3, at 12:30 pm Condolences may be sent online at [bobbittchapel.com](http://bobbittchapel.com)

Warren "Bruce" Cease, a resident of Beach Lake, PA, died Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at his home. He was 78. The son of the late Earl and Jean Worrell Cease, he was born in Wilkes-Barre on January 18, 1927. Cease made a career of the Air Force for 22 years and was a veteran of WW II, Korea and the Vietnam War. In 1972 his family moved to Honesdale and owned and operated Bruce's Halfway House in Indian Orchard for 10 years. He was a member of local VFW Post 531. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, the former Amy R. Kersetter, at home; his sons, Stephen of Fallston, MD, James of Beach lake and Thomas of Johnstown; a sister, Doris Schaffer of Honesdale; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers, James, Earl "Jack," William Cease and Charlie Whitesell. Services were held on Monday, October 17 at the Hessling Funeral Home

in Honesdale with Pastor Becky Sweet of the Central United Methodist Church officiating. The service was followed by a veteran's service by the VFW Post 531. As per his request, cremation was held at Maple Hill Crematory in Archbald, PA.

Philip A. Garay, age 64, passed away January 5, 2010. He was a San Antonio native and a 1964 graduate of Brackenridge High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam. Phil was a 16 year veteran of The Planning Department of the City of San Antonio. He was a member of the Jack Sellers Bexar County Palomino Patrol, Bexar County Riders, and the Professional Loadmasters Association San Antonio Chapter. He is survived by his wife Gloria Garay; Philip Joseph Garay, Lisa Rhynes and husband Russell, Stephen Garay; grandchildren, Cody and Clay Rhymes; sisters, Virginia Vidal, Hortencia Felan and husband Joe; brothers Joe Garay and wife Stella, David Garay and wife Joann, Juan Garay and wife Sunny; sister-in-law, Janie Ramon and husband Rudy; numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be at Sunset Northwest Funeral Home on Bandera Road on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. with a rosary at 7:00 P.M. Funeral mass will be at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at St. Dominic Catholic Church, 5919 Ingram Rd. With interment to follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with military honors. Please visit [www.sunsetnwchapel.com](http://www.sunsetnwchapel.com) for an online memorial and tributes.

Leon Hall, Sr. Age 78, passed away at his home, surrounded by his loving family, on October 24, 2010. Born in Guin, Alabama, Leon was the eldest of seven children. He served 30 years in the Air Force, retiring from Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California, in 1982. He was a devoted Christian from the age of 14, and faithfully served the Lord as a member of the Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Louise Hall; five children; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. He was predeceased by two siblings (Barbara Jean and Pete). Surviving siblings: Evelena, Wilma Jean, Annelle and Annette. Visitation: Friday, October 29, 2010, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Mark B. Shaw Funeral, 1525 N. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404. Memorial: Saturday, October 30, 2010 - 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Mt. View Church of Christ, 1354 Mt. View, San Bernardino, CA 92405. Graveside: Saturday, October 30, 2010 - 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Mt. View Cemetery, 570 East Highland Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404.

Frutoso Inez Talamantes, born January 21, 1937 peacefully embraced God on January 13, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas. He now joins his parents Juan and Maria Talamantes. He is survived by his wife of 29 years Rachel S. Talamantes; daughters Anna Maria Talamantes and Melinda Estrada; sons Jay Frutoso Talamantes, and Gerardo Ortiz, sisters Maria (William) Clark, and Vivian (Douglas) Young; brothers Fermin (Frances), and Hector (Lupe) Talamantes. Frutoso will be missed by everyone who knew him. In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial contributions be made in memory of Frutoso Inez Talamantes to American Diabetes Association San Antonio, TX, 8610 N. New Braufels, Suite 400, San Antonio, TX 78217, (210)



829-1765. Visitation will begin at 2:00 pm with a Rosary at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at Palm Heights Mortuary. Funeral Procession will depart at 9:15 am on Monday, January 18, 2010 for a mass at 10:00 am at St. Leo's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. You may sign the on-line guest book at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) under the obituary section.

Arthurell Thomas, 71 of Vacaville, passed away on April 6, 2009. He was born on August 12, 1937, in Memphis, TN. Arthurell spent 24 years serving his country in the U. S. Air Force, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. After retirement from the Air Force, he attended and graduated from Sacramento State University with a B.A. in International Affairs. He loved his service in the Air Force and also loved playing Senior Softball. Arthurell is survived by his wife of 39 years, Della R. Thomas; daughters, Patricia Johnson, Tammy R. Thomas, Kimberly Thomas and Yvette Y. Thomas; brother, Odell Finizee of Detroit, MI; and grandchildren, Quiana, Constancio, Eric, Phillip, Lauren, Maquael, Zsannenn and Alexander, great grandchildren, Douglas, Danielle, Xavier, D'Eric, Dwanyne and Gloria; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; Oscar Clemmons and Marjorie B. Finizee. A visitation with the family will take place on Thursday, April 9, from 10 to 11 am at Vacaville First Baptist Church, located at 1127 Davis Street, followed by Military Honors and a Celebration of Life Service at 11 am, at the same location. Mr. Thomas's interment will be private. Arrangements by Vaca Hills Chapel Funeral Home 446-3233.

Stephen G. Turner, 82, died at Rapid City Regional Hospital Auxiliary Hospice House on Thursday, May 20, 2010. Stephen was born on July 13, 1927, in Grafton, WV, to Charles Greer and Eva (Behan) Turner. He grew up in Grafton and graduated high school there. He served in the Army Air Corps and US Air Force from 1945 to 1961, retiring as a Technical Sergeant. On June 1, 1955 he was united in marriage to Kathleen Voss in Clark, SD. After retiring from the Air Force, Stephen was employed for 21 years with the US Postal Service as a letter carrier and supervisor. He retired in 1982. Stephen was a member of the Elks Lodge 1187 and Blessed Sacrament Church. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing and bowling. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Turner, Rapid City; a son Steve (Lynn) Turner, Rapid City; a daughter, Becky (Randy) Hall, Mead, CO, a brother, Charles (Gloria) Turner, Missouri, 4 grandchildren, Emilee Turner, Dustin Turner, Sara Turner, and Kody Hall and family friend, Barbara Patterson. Visitation will be from 5 until 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home with a Christian wake service following. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Mat 24, at Blessed Sacrament Church with Rev. Dan Juelfs presiding. Burial, with military honors provided by Ellsworth AFB Honor Guard, will be at 12:30 p.m. at Black Hills National Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Rapid City Regional Hospital Auxiliary Hospice House, 224 Elk Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

\*Laure M. Williams, a man who loved and served his country, died Jun 10, 2010. He served in the US Army, Marine Corps, and retired from the Air Force in 1973. As a younger man he served his country in Korea and Vietnam. He was very proud to be an Air Force Loadmaster. He was born August 30, 1932 in Kettle Falls, WA, to Paul and Mary Williams. Lauren and his wife Delma lived in Kent, WA for over 20 years with their 3 children, Debbie, Kathy, and Steve. Lauren and Delma moved to Crescent Bar Resort in semi-retirement. Delma died in 2005, and he moved back to Renton, WA, where he could be closer to family and friends. He will be having services at Mt. Tahoma National Cemetery, where Lauren and Delma will be put in the Columbaria Niche Wall with all the veterans and their families. Services will be held at 11:00 am ending promptly at 11:30 am, Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at Mt. Tahoma National Cemetery, 18600 S.E. 240th Street, Kent, WA, 98042. Following the services, there will be a gathering of family and friends at Leisure Estates, 201 Union Avenue, SE, Renton, WA 98059.

The PLA Secretary is seeking information on deceased members \*EDWARD R. MEZA (Alamo), ROBERT C. RODEMEYER (Golden West), and DAVID G. TORBUSH (Gateway). We need permission to name a scholarship after them, but don't have any information on next of kin (mailing address, telephone number, email address, etc). If anyone has any contact information please contact John H. Moore at [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com)

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