

# THE LOADER

Official Newsletter Of The Professional Loadmaster Association

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Friendship Through Airlift



SSgt Ryan D. Hammond



SRA Quinn L. Johnson-Harris

"TORQE 62 Never Forgotten"



Professional Loadmaster Association  
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## CABIN REPORT

“Friendship Through Airlift.” I’ll be honest. When I first heard our motto more than 15 years ago I wasn’t exactly thrilled. I thought, “we’re Loadmasters dang it...tough, independent, smart, work-hard-play-hard-sweatys. What is this friendship stuff?” I couldn’t have been more wrong about questioning our motto. How many friends and trusted acquaintances do you have outside of airlift? For me, it’s not many. I believe this is how Bill Cannon and the initial Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) cadre interpreted the “Friendship Through Airlift” motto. A motto which describes the bonds we build with those we have something in common with. Not just a common bond of having the best job in the Air Force, deploying to places you would rather not be, or going TDY to all corners of the earth. It’s also the commonality of volunteering to defend this great Nation at all costs. How many friends outside of airlift do you have that are willing to give all for this country? For me, it’s not many. I would not change my Loadmaster job for the world, and I’m sure you wouldn’t either. It’s been a great experience. I’m confident as I write this Cabin Report that I’m not alone with these thoughts. I’m also confident that the aviators we have lost over the years also loved their airlift jobs. I’m confident each of you know aviators who gave all. The most recent is TORQE 62, a C-130 crew out of Dyess AFB TX while deployed to the AOR. Aviators who gave all. Many PLA members consider them friends though airlift. They will be greatly missed by their families, friends and fellow crew-dogs. TORQE 62 - may you all rest in peace and God bless your souls. This “The Loader” issue is filled with many obituaries. Even if you do not personally know these individuals, remember the common bond we all have. Regardless of the airframe, the generation, the war; each of us has a common bond. The PLA offers many benefits to the members through gracious donations, membership’s dues and gatherings. However, the greatest benefit this professional organization offers is friendship. Friendship in the sense of the common bond we all share. I have said this before - this organization prospers though what each of us contributes. It’s not what we get from the PLA, but what we offer the PLA. Sometimes it’s just knowing there is someone else out there who has experienced what we have. We offer a community of professional aviators that are there for each other. I am blessed to be part of this organization! (Continued on Page 10)

**Cover Photograph:** Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond and SRA Quinn Johnson-Harris were 39th Airlift Squadron Loadmasters. According to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing of Bagram Airfield, the C-130J Super Hercules they were on crashed shortly after takeoff from Jalalabad Airfield in eastern Afghanistan.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### PLA ADVISORS

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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 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

## PLA Secretary

### I would like to take this time to publically thank Jim Schatza.

He is my right hand in Tacoma, WA. Your National Secretary is located in Iowa. We have NO members of the Executive Committee located in the State of Washington. The Post Office Box and credit union account are located in Washington state where we are incorporated. Jim checks the Post Office Box for new/renewal membership checks and any correspondence, then deposits the checks to our account. Twice a month he scans the new/renewal checks, scholarship permission letters, etc. and forwards the information to me. Jim also has the association filing cabinet with our records. The last few months he has gotten pretty familiar with the contents looking for items for me. Jim has taken some abuse from individuals for things that are not under the association control. I have passed along the same advice that was given to me by senior management when I became secretary in 2012. "Try your best to let it roll like water off a duck's back." As I was taking over the secretary position, I received several messages from a new member that were rather unpleasant and one of his final comments "It shouldn't take you more than ten minutes to process and send a welcome package for a new member." I would recommend to that individual, be sure and run for the secretary position at the next election. You may have noticed the older obituaries in the July 2015 issue of "The Loader." These members for whatever reason when they passed never made it into a "The Loader" issue, or only had two or three lines probably written by another Load. For the passed members that were active we are continuing the search for memorial bricks and scholarship permission letters. This is where the obituary is very important. If the permission letter was not returned, then we can search for Next of Kin (NOK) thru information in the obit. Four members NOK, from the 2009 - 10 period, were located and permission letters were obtained in that manner. **A huge THANK YOU to Marion Cannon for the 13 issues of "The Loader,"** she sent me, from 1997 thru 2001 they have been digitized and returned to her. This has given us a complete listing of the "In Memoriam" columns. We will continue the search to insure that our passed members are recognized and listed in "The Loader" and those that were active members receive their Memorial Brick and named scholarship.

**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](mailto:Secretary@Loadmasters.com) or [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto: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 online, 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 "The Loader" newsletter is returned to the association by the Post Office, the PLA pays \$2.47 for that return. When we try to contact you for new information and find your phone 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. A big thank you to those, **99 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 LOADMASTERS:** If you know of, or suspect that a PLA member has passed, please contact me and we will take the necessary action.

### PLA MEMBERSHIP

PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF: October 15, 2015  
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS: **976** (10 Lost Loads)

### VIETNAM VETERANS

There is a one-time special offer on membership for any Veterans interested in joining the **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)**. Download the membership application at <http://www.vva.org>. **Until December 31, 2015 LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$100.00.**

**Membership Roster:** If anyone needs to contact a PLA member and needs an address or telephone number please contact me by email or leave a message at: 1 (800) 239-4524.

**(6) NEW MEMBERS listed since the July 2015 issue**  
**(\*Denotes Life Member)**

#### June

Gary Richardson – Florence, NJ

#### July

James King – Tacoma, WA

Dave McHone – Toney, AL

#### August

Jared Beadle – Lakewood, WA

#### September

Luc Rancourt – Pleasant Valley, NY

Joe Shewcourt – Summerville, SC

### (1) LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

\*Michael O. Jones — Esparto, CA

**(46) INACTIVE MEMBERS listed since July 2015 issue**

Jon Baker	Lake Wales, FL	June
Katherine Brumfield	Houston, AK	June
Kevin J. Butler	Scott AFB, IL	August
Mark T. Cavanugh	Altus AFB, OK	May
Carroll Clifford	Vacaville, CA	June
Myra Cross	Sherwood, AR	August
Glenn Cuff	Philadelphia, PA	August
Christopher Cummings	Monroe, NY	August
Michael Delaby	Clearwater, FL	May
David Draper	Ann Arbor, MI	June
Barbara F. Evans	Fruitland Park, FL	July
Jason Fatjo	San Antonio, TX	July
Guadalupe Flores	San Antonio, TX	August
Frederick Fox	Summerville, SC	July
Thomas Freeman	Eagle River, AK	August
Kelsey Gainer	Tacoma, WA	August
Robert P. Gorda	Dover, DE	May
Terrance Greenwood	Honolulu, HI	August
Joseph Hayes	Manchester, NJ	June
Caleb Himpel	JBPHH, HI	July
David Houchin	Yelm, WA	August
Alaa Jabbar	JBSA Lackland, TX	June
William Johnson	Yakima, WA	August
Luke Kaufman	Papillion, NE	June
Albert King	San Antonio, TX	July
Michelle L. Levin	Felton DE	May
Louis Ludwig	Crestview, FL	June
Kristopher Mack	San Antonio, TX	May
Sean Manna	Tacoma, WA	June
Peter McCann	North Easton, MA	August
James McNulty	Navarre, FL	July
Nicholas McVittie	Montrose, MI	August
George Mellema	Ridley Park, PA	May
Andre Morgan	JBPHH, HI	August
Danilo J. Pena	Miami, FL	July
Edward Perkowski	Dover, DE	May
John Porter	Dyess AFB, TX	June
Jeffrey Purvis	Altus, OK	May
Clinton Robbins	Honolulu, HI	July
John Schaefer	Magnolia, DE	July
David Seigny	Maryville, TN	May
Harold R. Sheffield	Monks Corner, SC	May
John A. Shirey	Greenbrier, AR	July
Ryan Thompson	Dover, DE	August
Thomas Todd	Concord, MI	June
Sean Zeringue	Sherwood, AR	August

**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

* <b>Robert B. Burnett</b> – Dulles, VA	Jul 2011
* <b>Christopher S. Clay</b> – Arlington, VA	Nov 2011
* <b>Daniel Downey</b> – Abilene, TX	Jul 2012
* <b>Jack L. Langenstein</b> – Summerville, SC	Jul 2014
* <b>Brian K. Murphy</b> – Dayton, OH	Nov 2014
* <b>Dewhitt Sizemore</b> – Bonita Springs, FL	Nov 2012
* <b>Tony E. Strader</b> – APO AE	Nov 2011
* <b>Lucas J. White</b> – Warner Robins, GA	Nov 2014

**From March 1999 “The Loader” - NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED** By Bill Cannon, Early in our PLA “Dream Days” - when we thought that our members would anxiously submit articles for our newsletter and every few months we would pullout a variety of articles and create an interesting, thought provoking newsletter for our readers; **WELL. THAT NEVER HAPPENED!** The pool of articles was wishful thinking because only a few will take the time to write, many have said they would write and haven’t and most say; “not my job”!!! My point is someday we will end up with ZERO articles and a newsletter to publish. **DO YOUR PART. IT’S YOUR NEWSLETTER!** We need articles on personal experiences, humor, special ops, background, career broadening etc. We need articles from our young loadmasters, as well as our older ones. This helps to keep us “ole guys” up on the new things that are happening as well as to let the younger loadmasters know the history behind Loadmasters and some of the situations we experienced! **I would really appreciate all your HELP!**

**Note from the Secretary:** The last three years I have had the honor to talk with many of our older Loadmasters, like myself. We resolve the question on the correspondence they sent me, and then the telling of what are known as war stories begin. Among our membership we have Loads that made the FIRST C-124 airdrop at South Pole. Many of our members have been on aircraft that crash landed after being shot up. I talked with a friend from my early days as a student Loadmaster, and told him that he should write about his, three crash landing adventures. He told me that he couldn’t do that because it was bragging. I feel differently, that it is our Loadmaster history, when we are gone so are the historical stories.

### “The Loader” Editor

Bill Weeper, “The Loader” Editor - 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.” 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).

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."

### 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)



## Alamo Chapter

Bill Weeper, Alamo Chapter - Buenos Dias from San Antonio and the Alamo Chapter. The Alamo Chapter has recently changed to quarterly meetings. Andy Vaquera (Chapter President) is still looking for a new place to meet. For the next Alamo Chapter meeting, it looks like it will be held at the 68<sup>th</sup> AS (BRAVO 12 building) during their November 2015 Unit Training Assembly (UTA). David Molinar (Chapter Secretary) will confirm that meeting date/location via text message, US mail and/or email. The Alamo Chapter and 26<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron provided barbecue for the 68<sup>th</sup> AS reunion that was held on October 3, 2015 at VFW Post 76 in San Antonio Texas. Andy Vaquera was on the reunion committee and Ray Snedegar was the guest speaker at the event.



Carrie Briggs is a survivor of the Saigon C-5 Babylift crash. She located Ray Snedegar and they met for the first time at the 68<sup>th</sup> reunion. She was presented an Alamo Chapter baseball cap with the silver wings and Hector Leyva also presented her a baseball cap from the Troop Carrier/TAC Airlift Association

We would again like to thank John Tosh (Museum Director) for allowing us to meet at the Texas Air Museum during the past few years. A presentation of an engraved C-130 window will be made to John at the November 2015 meeting at the 68<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. The Alamo Chapter continues to sponsor a Basic Loadmaster Course (BLM) classroom at the Career Enlisted Aviator/Center of Excellence (CEA/CoE) on Lackland AFB Texas. The Alamo Chapter recently had a fundraiser at the CEA/CoE on August 28, 2015. The chapter and Instructor Loadmasters from the BLM cooked 320 bratwursts and hotdogs, along with sauerkraut, baked beans, chips, and sodas. The chapter would like to thank Andy Vaquera, Norma Vaquera, Hector Leyva, Jerry Zunigas, Bill Weeper, Kathy Disney, Willie Jalomo, Mike Lopez, Don Sawyer and BLM Loadmaster Instructors. An Ipad was raffled, along with other prizes and two cheesecakes. The fundraiser will enable the Alamo Chapter to purchase more picture frames and photographs displaying Loadmaster history and heroes in the sponsored classroom, and to send \$500.00 to the Trailblazers Chapter to support the 2016 Gathering of Loads convention. 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, Hectorl45@msn.com.



Career Enlisted Aviator/Center of Excellence (CEA/CoE) Lackland AFB TX, Basic Loadmaster Course instructors and students after PLA Fundraiser

## Aloha Chapter



Congratulations to Mandie Richardson recipient of the first Aloha Chapter SSgt Danny Hollister scholarship

## Big Country Chapter

SMSgt Kevin S. Letz, Big Country Chapter - Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond was a 39<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Loadmaster and the Secretary of the Big Country Chapter of the Professional Loadmaster Association. SSgt Hammond was elected as secretary a few months prior to his deployment. He helped organize two meetings and helped rally active duty support for our local PLA chapter. Additionally, he helped organize the upcoming unveiling of the PLA memorial at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Phantom Hill near Abilene, Texas. According to the 455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing of Bagram Airfield, the C-130J Super Hercules he was on crashed shortly after takeoff from Jalalabad Airfield in eastern Afghanistan. SSgt Hammond perished along with fellow Loadmaster SrA Quinn Johnson-Harris and Pilots Capt Jordan Pierson and Capt Jonathan Golden. They will all be missed! Other Big Country

Chapter News: The Big Country Chapter will be unveiling the PLA memorial at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Phantom Hill on November 7, 2015, after participating in the annual Abilene Veterans Day Parade. The Big Country Chapter Annual Christmas Party is 1830 on December 9, 2015, at the VFW.



TORQE 62, RIP my brothers, you are missed and will never be forgotten!  
317th Group Loadmasters

SSgt Ricky Wilder, Big Country Chapter, Active Duty Update: - The 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadrons have had a busy quarter. The 39<sup>th</sup> Trailblazers have been preparing for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Our squadron Loadmasters and Instructors have worked hard to all be current and qualified in not only their normal airdrops, but also several advanced airdrops to expand their capabilities downrange. Also in order to hone their skills for the deployment the 39<sup>th</sup> has supported several large exercises such as Red Flag Alaska, and a 7-ship Joint Forcible Entry Exercise. Meanwhile, the 40<sup>th</sup>'s Screaming Eagles have not been sitting idly by as they just launched a Swift Response Exercise, which involves 10 NATO allies across Germany, Italy, and Bulgaria. They will drop Airborne at various locations to support the goal of quick and effective response to crisis situations. In addition, they have recently completed another Joint Airborne Exercise. Both squadrons have had the pleasure of supporting air shows at Niagara Falls and Ellsworth. The Loadmasters honor the retirement of Master Sgt. Bradley Nulf of the 40<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas. "Nulfy" proudly served in the United States Air Force for 20 years as a Loadmaster. In 1995, he began his career on the C-5 at Travis AFB in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Squadron. In 2000, he crosstrained to the C-130E/H and PCS'd to Dyess joining the 40<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. Bradley spent 5 years there before moving on to become a C-130 Schoolhouse Instructor at Little Rock AFB in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Squadron. Finally in 2009, he returned to the 40<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron where he upgraded to the C-130J and retired as an Evaluator Loadmaster. His parting advice to the loadmaster community before he starts his new life was "Enjoy the life of an enlisted aircrew member. Seize every opportunity the Air Force gives you. Your career will be complete in a blink of an eye!"

### Gateway Chapter

Samuel Fredrick - Fellow Loads, Before we update everyone on the happenings within the Gateway Chapter, we would like

to let our brothers and sisters in arms know that we mourn the tragedy of TORQE 62 with them. We are standing by to support in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us. The past few months have seen multiple PCS, and retirements. Including the planning to send off our sitting Chapter President in December. Yet we continue to conduct monthly meetings at the VFW (beverages may be consumed from time to time). We also try to have monthly lunches. In August, we had a "mini-gathering." We had three generations of Loadmasters and their family attend the event. Since we didn't get the pax manifest (darned ATOC) we estimate 45 people attended. Drinks were drank, lies...oh I mean war stories were told and fun was had by all. MSgt Harley Ricketts took charge of planning this event and did a great job. The next big event in the works is another "mini-gathering" for the holidays. If you have any Loadmasters coming to AMC/TACC or anywhere on Scott AFB, please let us know. We want to grow and continue to gather as Loadmasters. Load Clear!

### Golden West Chapter

Steve Clark, Golden West Chapter President - We hope all Chapters had a very good summer with various member activities. The Golden West Chapter, would like to extend our Kudos to Chief Steve Collins as Post Commander of Post 421 American Legion in Highland CA. Also, Gordon McDougal on his selection to the 15<sup>th</sup> MAS Hall of Fame and Steve Clark as a member of Honor Flight escorting our Greatest Generation to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans this past July. This event was sponsored by the Gary Sinese Foundation. To all former Nortonites, "The Pelicans of Norton" will be hosting a reunion event March 4 - 6, 2016 in San Bernardino CA. Information will be posted in the coming months on social media, emails and as soon as I can FYI to all. The former Norton AFB presented its first airshow in 23 years in October. Featuring C-17, KC-135 and various air/ground events to the public. On behalf of The Golden West Chapter members, a heartfelt condolence to the family and members of the 39<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB TX. Salute...Taps! In the following months we will have holiday activities and a Christmas luncheon in January. All Loads in the area are welcome to attend. We are always looking to increase membership in the Golden West



Gary Sinese and Golden West Chapter President Steve Clark at National WWII Museum in New Orleans LA

area to keep the Chapter strong and to grow the PLA. We meet the second Saturday of each month at the Pepper Steak Diner, 26589 Highland Ave, Highland CA at 10am. You can contact the chapter at [steve.clark38@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.clark38@yahoo.com).....Load Clear!

### Liberty Chapter

Michael Kent - Liberty Chapter President, Hello from Exit 7 - Greetings from the Liberty Chapter! My name is Mike Kent and I am the chapter President. Shem Miller is Secretary and Kent Brown is our Treasurer and the East Coast Vice President. We have all held numerous posts within the chapter over the years. The Liberty Chapter is centered around 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 about 2 miles from the main gate of the base. We held a summer picnic on July 18th. The event was hosted by JP & Barb Salisbury. We had a great turnout for the event and the weather was perfect. The chapter provided the main courses and members brought a side dishes or dessert. We had several games set up including corn-hole and ladder golf. JP and Barb live on a lake where several canoes were available to take out for a ride. All in all, it was a great day of comradery with our fellow loadmasters.



Liberty Chapter members enjoying our summer picnic.

We had seven members volunteer to help out with the “Grind In The Pines Triathlon” on Aug 9th. This is a recurring event for the chapter and is a good fundraiser. Chapter members were spread out amongst the race course directing racers, handing out water and observing for the participants safety. We made \$200 for this event. This fundraiser was a huge success, I’m sure we will be back next year! We held a raffle recently for a fundraiser. The chapter was given an original signed and numbered copy of Starlifter Liberty salute. This is a picture of 3 C-141’s flying by the Statue of Liberty. There were only 305 original copies of this picture. The picture was won by Lt Col Mark Santilli from the 732 AS. Mark was a C-141 pilot with the 732 AS and 335 AS. We raised a total of \$365 from this event. The chapter has been collecting old military items and clothing for the past year. Several of the items were donated to a military museum located here in New Jersey to be put on display as a proud reminder of our heritage. The remaining items were sold to a collector

for \$160 to help pay for one of our future events. We recently donated \$200 to the Armed Forces Heritage Museum (AFHM). The AFHM was organized to preserve and present the rich history and heritage of all military components that served at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst from the establishment of Fort Dix in 1917 to the present day. AFHM is working to build a world-class museum on the perimeter of the Joint Base that will be accessible to the general public. Visit the website at <http://www.afhnmus.org/> to learn more about this organization or make a donation. Plans are already underway for our next few events. Our annual holiday party in December is just around the corner and the Gathering of Loads will follow next fall so keep your calendars open! We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season.

### Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Mark Raymond, Parker – Aguillon – Payne Chapter President - Our annual SMSgt Irv Mahler \$1,000 Scholarship was awarded to Maerose Humes, granddaughter of Chuck Humes. Chuck has been supporting our chapter since the very beginning and it is much appreciated. Maerose has started her career at Napa Valley community College in the Nursing field. Her outstanding personality and passion for helping people will lead her to many great opportunities. We again are fortunate to have another scholarship winner that has the drive and motivation to do great things with her life. Our sincerest congratulations to Maerose and we know she will excel in all her future endeavors. We would also like to wish Bridgid Lucky, granddaughter of JC Wiley; and Halie Rion, granddaughter Greg Rion, the best of luck in their educational goals. As always our scholarship applicants’ accomplishments and goals are above and beyond their peers. We also continue to encourage all our loadmaster family members to apply for the national scholarship which will be coming up soon. Our chapter had a very successful participation of volunteers at the Sonoma Raceway this year. We supported three (3) major races: NASCAR, NHRA and INDY Car. A special thanks to, Bill Bostock, Joe Brown, Arne Suvantne, Al Horwedel, Rich Larsen, and Jeff Kiba. Their unselfish help is highly appreciated. We are kicking off the 2016 American Cancer Society “Relay for Life” with a social dinner/fund raiser. This event will be held in October at Murello’s Mexican Restaurant in Vacaville. This year we raised over \$21,000 and look forward to raising more next year. Our chapter’s annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015 at the Travis Museum (Heritage Center) at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$15.00 per person with the chapter paying the majority of the costs. All loadmasters are invited to attend, whether you’re a member of the PLA or not. 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](mailto:mark_raymond@att.net) or [mark.raymond@kc10ats.com](mailto:mark.raymond@kc10ats.com).

### Northwest Chapter

Michael Weber, Northwest Chapter President - Greetings from the Northwest Chapter! We have meetings on the second week



of the month. Two of the three months per quarter we have at one of the flying Squadrons to accommodate more people and the third month we will continue to have on base on a Saturday morning. This past quarter flew right by. We had a couple of events during this awesome summer. The first event was a brick laying ceremony at Memorial Park on JBLM-McChord Field, which honored the families of Keppler, McFarland, and Castaneda. Retired Chief Victor Fredlund was our Emcee for the event and did a fantastic job on this event to pay tribute to these fine Loads. Following the ceremony we had a reception with the families and friends to say thanks for their sacrifices. The second event consisted of having BBQ. The event took place on a Wednesday during lunchtime at Heritage Hill on McChord Field. It was a great mix of active duty and retired Loadmasters. All in all it was a fantastic event and received positive feedback. We are planning to have more of these types of events in the future. Chapter elected officials are as follows: 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, 253-537-8996, halmed\_slaved@yahoo.com; Treasurer, Victor Fredlund, 1841 Trosper Rd SW #8, Tumwater WA 98512-6964, Tel. 360-705-3755, victorfredlund@msn.com; Secretary, Neil Aronson, 1718 Clorindi Circle, Gig Harbor, WA 98335-7393. Tel. 253-459-0996, aronsonn@gmail.com.



Victor Fredlund (Emcee) and Northwest Chapter members attending a brick laying ceremony at Memorial Park on JBLM-McChord Field WA

### Trailblazers Chapter

Danny South, Trailblazer Chapter President - Greetings from the Trailblazer chapter! I know most of you are probably wondering about the Gathering of the Loads and honestly that is 90% of what we spend our time talking about. We just confirmed the guest speaker, Mr. Glen Nickel. He is currently the director of SOCNORTH Deputy Director of Operations but before that he was in the original class of delta operators and was on the C-130 that burned to the ground in the Iranian desert. I had the pleasure of hearing him talk during my recent trip to the NCOA at Peterson AFB CO and thought he would be a perfect fit to tell war stories with a bunch of loadmasters. We hope to have a registration website up in the coming months as well as the registration fee for the event. Until the next "The Loader," LOAD CLEAR.

### Scholarship Update



Two of the 2015 PLA Scholarship winners: Howard S. Davis \$500.00 Scholarship winner Dawn E. Martin (left) and Benedetto D. Renzi \$500.00 Scholarship winner Jamie Patton (right)

### Basic Loadmaster Course (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. Due to recent overage of Loadmaster manning, our decreased student throughput has decreased from 450 students to approximately 350 for fiscal year 2016. Our cadre of instructors still incorporates civilian (1), reservists (2) and active duty (6) 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, 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 on instilling the pride and passion to our Loadmaster students and express the importance of their input to the world's greatest Air Force. The instructor cadre uses the "train your replacement" mentality to provide instruction to world class students to our Loadmaster force. We take any opportunity to mentor the new Airmen and help increase morale. The BLM cadre linked up with the Alamo Chapter to host the "Second Annual Brat Burn" for the students where food was provided and prizes were raffled off such as iPad and gift certificates to local restaurants. The proceeds were sent to help adjust pricing for the 2016 Gather of the Loads in Oklahoma City. Please be confident that the legacy of Loadmasters is being passed on at the very beginning. We welcome feedback anytime to help equip our future Loadmasters and to provide a more solid foundation for our career field.



Loadmaster instructors and students after BLM/Alamo Chatper fundraiser

### PLA Mural Painted By BLM Students

A mural for the Professional Loadmaster Association classroom at the Basic Loadmaster Course, was created by some of the courses recent Loadmaster graduates.



Sabrina Konen, Brittin Kimmel and Max Broman in front of a mural painted by them at the Basic Loadmaster Course

### 2016 Gathering of Loads Convention

Gathering of Loads Convention

September 15, 2016 - September 18, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn

328 E Sheridan Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73194

OKC Bricktown 2016!

Hosted by the Trailblazer Chapter.

This event will be updated as planning continues.

Trailblazers 2016 Gathering of Loads Convention (Facebook):

[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)

### Cabin Report (Continued From Page 2)

I'd also like to congratulate CMSgt Ronald Campeau and CMSgt Chris Dockery on their recent retirements. They are both great supporters of this organization. CMSgt Campeau was our National Secretary for several years and CMSgt Dockery is still the National Treasurer. Congratulations to you both and good luck on your future endeavors!

### C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters



Mark Smith, Ted Venturini, Marion Cannon (for Bill Cannon), Mike Welch, Jim Lis & Dave Fincher - C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters

**Airlift/Tanker Association announces 2015 Hall of Fame Award Winner – the C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters** - By A/TA Secretary on July 30, 2015: The Airlift/Tanker Association (A/TA) Hall of Fame (HOF) was established in October 1988 to honor those individuals who have demonstrated superior or sustained performance to the advancement of Air Mobility. Upon selection and induction into the A/TA Hall of Fame, a bronze bust of the inductee is placed in the Mobility Memorial Park at Scott Air Force Base, IL. In addition, an induction and award ceremony will occur during the next annual A/TA Convention. A/TA is pleased to announce that the 2015 Hall of Fame Award recognizes the six C-17A "Pathfinder Loadmasters." Collectively, the C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters were instrumental in providing the unparalleled leadership and expertise necessary to guide McDonnell Douglas and Military Airlift Command to produce the C-17 Globemaster III. The C-17 is the first cargo transport aircraft specifically designed for a one loadmaster operation, thus setting the standard for all future mobility aircraft development. The six C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters are:

CMSgt William (Bill) M. Cannon, USAF (Ret) – Deceased

CMSgt Marion (Dave) D. Fincher, USAF (Ret)

CMSgt Michael (Mike) M. Welch, USAF (Ret)

CMSgt James (Jim) Lis, USAF (Ret)

CMSgt Mark A. Smith, USAF (Ret)

MSgt Theodore (Ted) R. Venturini, USAF (Ret)

"In the 25 years since first flight, their dedication is in the history books. Strategic or Tactical, civil or military support, our country or the world at large, the value of the C-17 has been proven time, and time again. These six NCOs made that happen!" Gen Duane Cassidy, USAF (Ret), Former A/TA Chairman and Hall of Fame Inductee. Beginning in 1981, the McDonnell Douglas C-17A Globemaster III cargo compartment evolved from a concept into a multifaceted, fully integrated system design that exceeded Military Airlift Command operational requirements at that time. The Pathfinder Loadmasters' recommendations prior to and during the C-17A Preliminary Design Review in 1985 and Critical Design review in 1988 were critical in the evolution of new airlift aircraft requirements. These included numerous



hands-on cargo compartment mockup evaluations, workload demonstrations, aerial delivery and aeromedical evacuation demonstrations, plus human factors assessments that directly influenced the final C-17A cargo compartment design. These six C-17A Pathfinder Loadmasters were the cornerstone for the successful design, development, production, test, and evaluation of the cargo compartment of one of the most technically advanced and successful air mobility aircraft ever produced. "All you have to do is look at everything the C-17 has done over the last two decades to realize our nation would not have been successful without the C-17. The way the airplane's cargo bay was designed to handle every mission from humanitarian, to airdrop, to aeromedical, to the basic cargo mission was absolutely essential and we owe a debt of gratitude to those Loadmasters who made it fit every mission." A/TA Chairman Art Lichte, Gen, USAF (Ret). Their combined Aircrew

Loadmaster experience totals over 150 years, including greater than 55,000 flying hours on 21 different aircraft. Their unique backgrounds were critical to ensuring that the one - Loadmaster aircrew concept became a reality on the C-17A. This "Band of Loadmasters" group effort resulted in revolutionary design improvements and advancement to America's airlift capability and set a benchmark for air mobility aircraft for years to come. The overall success of the C-17A Globemaster III can be attributed to many individuals with varied skillsets over the past 35 years; however, the success, operational utility, advancement, and growth of the "business end" of the C-17A will always be attributed to Bill, Dave, Mike, Jim, Mark and Ted. "Words can never thank these six Loadmasters for their contributions and dedication to ensuring the C-17 cargo bay is user friendly for aircrew and aerial port personnel." A/TA President Mike Reynolds, CMSgt, USAF (Ret).

### Bill Cannon Bench Update

Bill Cannon Bench Update, Erin Manley - The Bill Cannon bench that will be placed next to the Professional Loadmaster Association monument at the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force is on its way from overseas. There will be nothing on the bench and it will be engraved or lasered after it gets to Dodd's Monument in Dayton OH. After a design is chosen, the information will be sent to Kathy Disney for her to share and make a final decision.



New cement pads on each side of the PLA monument at the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force. The Bill Cannon bench will be placed on one of these pads

### International - RAF Air Loadmaster Association



#### Friendship Through Airlift

The ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR LOADMASTER ASSOCIATION (ALMA) is honoring fallen comrades at St. Clement Danes - the Central Church of the Royal Air Force - with a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. Located in the heart of London, the ceremony will take place on Sunday May 08, 2016 at 1100hrs. Members of the Professional Loadmaster Association are cordially invited to join the ALMA in this day of reflection and celebration. Saint Clement Danes Church has a shrine and Book of Remembrance to the 16,000 USAF service personnel who died on active service during WWII. There is excellent en-suite accommodation available at the Victory Services Club <http://www.vsc.co.uk/> or the Union Jack Club <http://www.ujclub.co.uk/>. Both clubs cater for non-commissioned members of the Armed Forces and are aware of the forthcoming event, but there is a need to book early in order to avoid disappointment. For more information please contact [kathydisney1@yahoo.com](mailto:kathydisney1@yahoo.com) or Dr. Josh Stewart at [dr.j.stewart1881@gmail.com](mailto:dr.j.stewart1881@gmail.com) (RAFALMA Goodwill Ambassador).

#### C-5 aircraft at Moffett Field

301st Public Affairs Detachment, Travis AFB, Fairfield CA, Story by SSgt Tina Villalobos: – A smattering of rain drops briefly dampened the tarmac at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield,

California, as soldiers from several Army Reserve units worked alongside Airmen to complete their mission of moving troops and vehicles from Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield to Moffett Air Field, in Sunnyvale, California. The joint force units were part of the “Big Logistics Over-The-Shore, West” exercise that took place July 25 - Aug 7. Soldiers from across the United States, and as far away as Puerto Rico, converged on three main Bay Area locations of California, including Alameda, the Military Ocean Terminal Concord (MOTCO), and Camp Parks in Dublin. The exercise allowed soldiers to engage in hands-on training to provide an understanding of the intricacies of moving troops and equipment into theater. “We were tasked by the 311th [Expeditionary Sustainment Command, assistant chief of staff, operations and training], Col. McLaughlin, to come up with a real-world airlift mission,” said Chief Warrant Officer three (CW3), Eugene Peters, of Sacramento, California, of the 1397th Deployment and Distribution Support Battalion, Vallejo, California. “We developed today’s mission based on the methodology that we actually used to move Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, from stateside to theater. We moved the vehicles by ship and then by air to the intended location. The Big Logistics Over-the-Shore, West exercise involves the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force all working together on one opportunity.” The military mantra of ‘train as we fight’ also rang true for the Air Force personnel taking part in the exercise. “When I was deployed to Afghanistan, we transported 250 helicopters out of Afghanistan for the Army,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Kristen Lewis, Loadmaster Instructor, 312 Airlift Squadron from Redding, California. “We train to fight, and we fight to win. This training, having the Air Force, the Army and the Navy working together, was amazing. Any kind of cross-training we can have among the different branches of service is great. It was valuable training for everyone. One of the best things about it is that it allowed us all to see the big picture and how everything works together.” One of the soldiers responsible for driving the HMMWVs aboard the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft was Spc. Elvin Santiago, a 22-year-old soldier from 390th Transportation Company, from St. Germain, Puerto Rico. Santiago found working with the Air Force very rewarding. “There were five Soldiers from my unit on the flight to Moffett Field,” said Santiago. “We learned how important it is to follow instructions with regard to tying down vehicles and to have everything well planned out. The Air Force is very organized and safe. They do their jobs very efficiently, and they’re very good at providing instructions. I admire what they do. Having the hands-on training really helps as well, because you get to actually apply what you are learning. It was a very rewarding experience.” Big Logistics Over-the-Shore, West allows the Army, Air Force, and Navy to experience working together and to understand the importance of synergy among the joint force team in accomplishing missions around the world. “Everything throughout Big Logistics Over-the-Shore, West has exceeded my expectations,” said Peters. “The soldiers did a fantastic job. The support from the command was outstanding. The command would say, ‘this is your task—go for it,’ and allow us to collaborate and get the job done.”



Airmen guide soldiers off C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft at Moffett Field in Fairfield, Calif., during movement of HMMWVs and soldiers from Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., to Moffett Air Field in Sunnyvale, Calif., Aug. 4, 2015, during the Big Logistics Over-The-Shore exercise, July 25-Aug. 7, 2015. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos)

**Loading A Pave Hawk**



Helicopter Maintenance Unit prepares to load an HH-60G Pave Hawk onto a C-17 Globemaster III during rapid-on, rapid-off training July 30, 2015, at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. The 41st HMU conducted the training to ensure the rescue mission readiness of the 23d Wing. (Photo by A1C Dillian Bamman)

**Loadmaster Training**



A Loadmaster with the 169th Airlift Squadron marshals a Humvee down a C-130 ramp during training at the 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria, Ill., Aug. 1, 2015. The training was conducted to ensure that the loadmasters are always on mission and ready for real-world scenarios. (US ANG photo by TSgt Dawn Rademake)

**Swift Response 2015**

914th AW, Niagara Falls NY, Story by SSgt Matthew Burke: - Ten minutes! The green lights come on inside the C-130 Hercules and jumpers from the 173 Airborne Brigade line the cargo space. “It’s really chaotic,” said SSgt Pat Englishby, Loadmaster, 328th AS. “We’re dropping a lot of troops, in a short amount of time, in not-ideal conditions. You gotta be on your game.” More than 50 personnel from the 914th AW traveled to Ramstein AB, Germany, from Aug 17-Sept 1, 2015 to participate in Swift Response 2015, a multinational training exercise involving 11 NATO nations. This training provided participants with the opportunity to integrate assets from multiple allied nations high-readiness forces to train as a cohesive and interoperable team. Throughout their time in Germany, Loadmasters assigned to the 328 AS from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station conducted training on many scenarios that demonstrate the unit’s versatility. Aircraft dropped personnel, supplies and heavy equipment. “We dropped a 32-foot heavy platform, which was exciting,” said SRA Elizabeth Canfield, Loadmaster, 328 AS. “Often times we use training platforms, roughly eight feet long, so when you have something the size of the cargo compartment, leaving the aircraft--it’s pretty intense.” Exercises such as Swift Response are extremely beneficial to improving the interoperability of our allies and partners by providing vital opportunities to train as we fight. In real-world contingencies all DOD services work together in a joint environment to accomplish the mission. Loadmasters and Jumpmasters work in tandem to ensure soldiers reach the drop zone on time and on-target. “We’re working quickly, but we’re very focused,” said Englishby. “It’s important that everything, and everyone, exits the aircraft safely.” Swift Response 2015 was the largest airborne operation since the end of World War II. Over the course of the four-week exercise thousands of personnel were transported across several countries as U.S. Air Force C-130s facilitated airdrops and air landings of paratroopers and equipment in support of a forcible entry exercise. “I want to say we have the best job in the Air Force, but I don’t want to sound arrogant,” said Canfield, laughing.” We get to see all of the gear that goes out the back of the plane--we get to make it happen. It’s pretty cool to be a part of something so historic.”



SSgt Pat Englishby and SRA Ken Zidell, Loadmasters, 328th AS, review C-130 checklist procedures at Ramstein AB, Germany. (Photo by SSgt Matthew Burke)

## LINKS

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

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

Air Commando Association:  
<http://www.specialoperations.net/Spooky.htm>

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

**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 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/>

Aircraft Loadmasters:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2324368340/?fref=nf>

Basic Loadmaster Course:

<https://www.facebook.com/Basic-Loadmaster-Course-BLM-106703039372617/>

Vietnam Airlifters:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193653244015188/>

## REUNIONS

**March 4, 2016 - March 6, 2016: 14th MAS Reunion - Return to the Roost** at the Hilton Garden Inn, San Bernardino CA.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/601286186676165/>

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



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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 death has been reported to our association.**

**ROBERT FITZSIMMONS** (Inactive) On April 21, 2015 he passed away peacefully in his home at 3:50pm. He is remembered by his wife of 23 years, Patricia Fitzsimmons, his 7 beautiful daughters, 1 son, 23 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His spirit for life, the outdoors, hunting and fishing will be the memories that live on in our hearts forever.

**JAMES "JIM" ROSSI**, (Inactive) Colton, CA, died June 26, 2015.

Duane A. Jacobs Sr., age 83, of North Tonawanda, September 9, 2015 in Northgate Nursing Home, under the care of Niagara Hospice. [http://www.niagara-gazette.com/obituaries/duane-a-jacobs-sr/article\\_79b16688-5734-11e5-a0b2-2b8f27445d8a.html](http://www.niagara-gazette.com/obituaries/duane-a-jacobs-sr/article_79b16688-5734-11e5-a0b2-2b8f27445d8a.html)

SSgt. Don Stewart, 50 years after death, Vietnam airman is finally home, C-123 Loadmaster with the 315th Air Commando Group remains returned home. [http://www.fayobserver.com/military/years-after-death-vietnam-airman-from-harnett-county-is-finally/article\\_fe99b7cc-ed5e-5120-a9c3-e0ee0e82c6a5.html?mode=story](http://www.fayobserver.com/military/years-after-death-vietnam-airman-from-harnett-county-is-finally/article_fe99b7cc-ed5e-5120-a9c3-e0ee0e82c6a5.html?mode=story)

CMSgt Edwin E. Morgan, Vietnam War Airman's Remains Identified - Defense Department forensic scientists identified the remains of CMSgt Morgan, 38, of Eagle Spring, N.C., an airman who had been missing in action since the Vietnam War, announced the Pentagon. DOD returned Morgan's remains to his family; his burial with full military honors took place on June 27 in Rockwell, N.C. Morgan was the Loadmaster of an AC-47D gunship that departed Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, on March 13, 1966, on an armed reconnaissance mission along the Vietnam-Laos border. The airplane never returned. The Pentagon listed Morgan as missing in action, and a military review board later changed his status to presumed dead. In February 1997, a joint US-Lao team located a crash site in Xekong Province, Laos. Between February 2010 and May 2014, joint US/Lao teams surveyed and excavated the site, recovering human remains, military equipment, and aircraft wreckage that led to Morgan's identification.

#### **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.

**ORDEAN C. ANDERSON** 58, of Abilene TX, died Friday, August 8, 2003 in Jones County, TX. Born Dec 13, 1944 in Waynesboro, PA, he was the son of Elva Loy Sellers Anderson of Greencastle, PA, and the late Charles Omer Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a member of the United Church of Christ, Greencastle. Retired as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force after 26 years of service, he began his career in the Air Force as a Security Specialist. He served tours at Westover AFB in Massachusetts, Da Nang AB in the Republic of Vietnam, Grand Forks AFB in South Dakota and Offutt AFB in Nebraska. Mr. Anderson then became a C-130 Aircraft Loadmaster with tours of duty in Mildenhall England and Dyess AFB, Texas. During his last two years of service he was a First Sergeant at Dyess AFB TX. Military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one Silver and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. After retiring from the Air Force, he completed a associates degree at Cisco Junior College in Texas. He then worked at the Texas Attorney General's office in Abilene, where he was employed at the time of his death. A member of the 774th TAS Association, he was also a member of the Professional Loadmaster Association in Dyess AFB, Abilene. A founding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Martin Denson Post 6873 of Abilene, he was the president of the West Harley Owners Group Chapter of the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club of Abilene. In addition to his mother, surviving are his wife, Marty Anderson of Abilene; a son, Dell, Husband of Cayla, of Phoenix, AZ; a daughter, Tarra Anderson of Abilene; three grandchildren; and a brother, Cy of Greencastle. A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Sept. 7 in the social hall of Grace United Church, 128 E. Baltimore St., Greencastle. The family will meet with friends one hour prior to the service in the church. Funeral Service was Aug 11 in First Baptist Church, Abilene. Norman Archibald officiated. Burial was in Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories, Abilene. Arrangements were handled by Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home, Abilene.

**\*LARRY H. BARBOUR**, 62, of 195 Running Cedar Road died Sunday, July 15, 2001, at Duke University Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, 2001, at Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Woodland Cemetery with Military honors. Mr. Barbour was born in Harnett County, was a member of Four Oaks Baptist Church and was a former owner and operator of Interstate Battery System of Central North Carolina for 18 years. He was retired with 22 years service from the Air Force and was a Vietnam Veteran. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Professional Military Education Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and Air Force Good Conduct Medal. He was an international archery champion and he raised, bred and trained champion dogs. He was preceded in death by his father, Hugh Arthur Barbour, Survivors include his wife, Shirley Forrester Barbour of the home; mother Lottie Godwin Barbour of Four Oaks; Laura van Mourik, Lana Barbour and Lonnie Barbour of Greensboro and Lisa McCaffrey of Hawaii; stepdaughters Tina Thomas of Greensboro and Terry Bass of Summerfield; two brothers, Gene Barbour of Nokesville, Va., and John Barbour of Clarksburg, W. Va.; a sister, the Rev. Dr. Diana Greene of Gamer; four grandchildren; and six step-grandchildren. The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2001, at Colonial Funeral Home and other times at the residence. Memorials may be made to Ellisboro Baptist Church Building Fund, 1604 Ellisboro Road, Madison, NC 27025.

**\*RUFUS J. BIGFORD**, Retired Air Force Master Sergeant, 72, died at his Fayetteville residence Saturday, Oct 1, 2005. Mr. Bigford served in the North Carolina National Guard, the Navy, and the Air Force. He was a Navy veteran of the Korean War and an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as Standards and Evaluations flight instructor and was the NCOIC of Bigford College for Loadmasters at the 3rd Aerial Port Squadron, Pope Air Force Base. Mr. Bigford retired from active duty in 1972. He then served in management with Binswanger Glass Co. until he retired from work altogether in 1999. After attending Massey Hill High School, Mr. Bigford enlisted as a member of the N.C. National Guard Company K, 119th Infantry, 30th Division, Old Hickory, in 1949. In 1952 he enlisted in the Navy and served aboard the USS Graffias, AF-29, as a Boatswains Mate Third Class. Upon joining the Air Force in 1956, he served as a Loadmaster on C-82, C-119, C-124, and C-130 aircraft. Additionally, he served as an Air Force instructor for the Army Transportation Training Unit. Mr. Bigford participated in the first six missions to McMurdo Sound, Antarctica for Operation Deep Freeze; he was a flight crewmember for the first ever parachute drop over the South Pole. He was a member of the Professional Loadmaster Association. Mr. Bigford received the following awards Command Aircrew Wings; Air Force Commendation Medal, two awards; Army–Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, four awards; Navy Unit Commendation; Combat Readiness Award and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, two awards; and Army–Air Force Good Conduct Medal, two awards. He also received the Navy Good Conduct Medal; Japan Occupation Medal, extended National Defense Medal, two awards; Korean Service, three awards; Antarctica Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two awards; Vietnam Service Medal; Air Force Longevity Service, five awards; Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation; United Nations Service Medal — Korea; China Service Medal; and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. Mr. Bigford is survived by his wife, Patricia Simmons Bigford of the home; three sons, Rufus D. Bigford of McMinnville, TN, Eric T. Bigford of Trinity, and Andre’ Bigford of Fayetteville; two sisters, Rochelle Featherstone of Michigan and Roxie Sewell of Fayetteville; a brother, Roland Bigford of Thomasville; and five grandchildren. The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Highland Funeral Service & Crematory. The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Northwood Temple Church. Burial with military honors will be in Lafayette Memorial Park, with the Rev. Hedgepeth officiating. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Research Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101; or to Boy Scouts of America, 717 Hope Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Services entrusted to Highland Funeral Service & Crematory.

**ROSCOE BOOZER**, Long time Tacoma resident was called home on Friday February 18th, 2005 at the age of 74. A resourceful, bright, cheerful, and compassionate gentleman was born on July 12th, 1930 to Agnes and James Boozer of Marianna, AR. He later was adopted by the late Ola Thomas of Chicago, IL. He graduated from Dunbar Technical High School in 1948 and joined the United States Air Force in 1951. He met his wife of 49 years, Florence Wilhelmenia Butler of Greenville, SC when stationed at Donaldson AFB (Greenville), they were wed in 1955. They later moved to Tacoma, WA (McChord AFB) in 1965 as a result of a military assignment. Roscoe retired in 1974 as a Tech Sergeant after 23 years of dedicated service. He served with the 7th Air Transportation Squadron as an Aircraft Loadmaster and traveled extensively throughout the world. Following his retirement he was employed by Huntleigh Services of Seattle, Washington. He was a dedicated member of the following organizations: Life member - VFW Post 969 (Tacoma, WA), Professional Loadmaster Association, American Legion, Eagles (Tacoma, WA), and the Progressive Investment Club (Tacoma, WA), Master Mason of the Egyptian Lodge #44 (Tacoma, WA). He was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award as a member of the 32nd Air Division (Combat Cargo), and received the Million Miler Certificate of Achievement and status of “Airman of the World.” This position comes only to those who have constantly displayed the initiative to progress in their chosen profession of aviation. Roscoe was a devoted husband and loving father. He is survived by his wife Florence Wilhelmenia “Billie” Boozer of Tacoma, WA; his son Marc Boozer of San Francisco, CA; and was preceded by his son Milton Boozer, Tacoma, WA, who passed in 1997. A sister Jane Mitchell of Burnham, IL; a step sister Birdie Darnell of Chicago, IL; special in-laws Jennelle Travis of Lancaster, PA, Leontine Ivory of Greenville, SC; Ernest Butler of Greenville, SC; and a host



of loving relatives and friends. All donations are requested to be made to the Tacoma Food Bank. Donations will provide assistance to families in need. Memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM, Monday, February 28, 2005 in the Mountain View Celebration of Life Center. A celebration and remembrance reception will be held following the memorial service from 2:30-5:00 PM at Amvets, 5717 South Tyler, Tacoma, WA.

**\*RODNEY ELLIS CLAPPER** of Lillian, AL went to our lord July 12th 2009. He was born in Baltimore Maryland and moved to Pensacola, FL at the age of 12. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1960. He married the love of his life on June 16th of 1961. While he pursued his passion for flight as a Loadmaster, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as other awards while defending his God, his country, and his family in Vietnam. He retired from the service after 20 years of dedication. He is preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Catherine and John Barnes, as well as his brothers, Robert and Ronnie "Yank" Clapper. He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years Edna "Cookie" Clapper, Sons Robbie and Russell "Bo" Clapper, and his precious daughter Ronica Hardin. He is also survived by a special son "Rusty Walker" and his wife Debbie, along with his 9 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and many friends. His capacity to love, share, and help so many people was endless and he touched many lives. His legacy will live on forever. Visitation will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Thursday 16, 2009 at Oak Lawn Funeral Home with services starting at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Union Hill Cemetery. Oak Lawn Funeral Home entrusted with arrangements.

**NEIL A. CURRY**, age 68, of Sumner, died Jan. 7, 2001. He was born Nov. 24, 1932 in Oskaloosa, Iowa and resided in western Washington for the last 40 years. He retired from the South County Journal in 1998 after 36 years as a composing room employee. Neil served as a Loadmaster in the US Air Force for 9 years, primarily stationed in Hawaii. He was preceded in death by his sister Francine and survived by his wife Dorothy (Such), stepsons Keith Skore (Karren) and Greg Skore (Kathy), 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Services will be Wed., Jan. 10th at 11:00 am at Community Presbyterian Church in Buckley, with interment at Evergreen Memorial Park in Enumclaw. Service directed by Weeks Whitmore Funeral Home. Pub Date: 1/9/2001.

**RONALD P. DECATO** of Tacoma was born February 24, 1918 to Fred and Florida DeCato in Providence, Rhode Island. He passed away January 5, 2000 of natural causes. Ron grew up in New England and attended Catholic School in Canada, where he enjoyed hockey and his lifelong love for nature flourished. He met Theresa A. Turcotte and the two were married in 1946 in Skowhegan, Maine. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 27 years. During WWII he endured over three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp and was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. For his sacrifice to his country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and numerous other medals and awards. He retired from the Air Force and worked in Civil Service at Ft. Lewis for 10 years following his military duty. He also was honored as a Veteran in three wars. In retirement he enjoyed golfing, traveling, fishing and never forgot to feed his ducks and geese. He was a devout Catholic and a member of the congregation at St. John of the Woods Catholic Church in Tacoma. He lived a full and diverse life, dedicating every moment to his family, his country and God. Ron was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Theresa, in 1996. He is survived by his 7 children: daughters Dawn and husband Steve Boesel of Olympia, Gale and husband Harold Hileman of Portland, OR, Tammy DeCato and Tim Thompson of Tacoma, Lisa and Bill Williamson of Tacoma; sons Craig DeCato and Theresa McGuire of Puyallup, Mark DeCato of Sumner, and Brian and wife Kim DeCato of Tacoma. Also survived by 11 grandchildren: Greg Boesel and Melissa Boesel Sutton; Billy, Aaron and Ryan Williamson; Allison Mae Thompson; Wendi, Brian Jr., Nick, Kevin and Ashley DeCato. Family graveside services and full military honors were held on Tuesday, January 11, 2000 at Fir Lane Memorial Park, 924 E. 176th St. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ron's name to the Association for Service Disabled Veterans or St. John of the Woods Catholic Church. A poem called Granddaddy By Ashley Aron - Fighting for our freedom was one thing he knew well. Serving our country for many years, Oh, the stories he could tell. He was a very courageous man, the bravest I ever knew. Surviving the Death March of Bataan during World War II. The faith he had, it kept him strong. "Help is on the way." Waiting for so very long, each and every painful day. And when the war came to an end, the time came to depart. My Grandfather was this great man, who felt forgiveness in his heart.

**JEFFERY DEAN EHLER**, 40, Beebe, AR, died suddenly Thursday, October 26, 2006 in a Searcy, AR hospital. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 29 at Bates Rolf Funeral Home Chapel in New Boston, with Dr. Ken Cox officiating. Burial was in Read Hill Cemetery under the direction of Bates Rolf Funeral Home. Jeffrey D. Ehler was born July 31, 1966 in Waukon, IA. Prior to graduation from high school, Jeffrey enlisted in the Air Force in December 1984 under the delayed enlistment program and departed for basic training in August 1985. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant. He flew six different mission design series aircraft and accumulated over 6,000 flying hours during his career. Jeffery served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He received numerous awards and decorations for meritorious service. Jeffery retired in June 2005 from the Air Force after serving 20 years. He was employed by C.A.E. as a Loadmaster Instructor. Jeffery enjoyed boating and being with family and friends. Survivors include his wife, Carole Torian Ehler and one son, Zachery Ehler, both of Beebe, AR; his mother and stepfather, Carol and Pat Byrnes, Waterloo; his mother-in-law, Maxine Torian, New Boston, TX; one brother, Robert (Amalia) Ehler, East Liverspool, OH; three sisters, Debbie (Gary) Sproule, Mesa, AZ, Barbara (Bill) Martini, Eyota, MN, Diane Sjileny (Dennis Kuehn), Lawler; nieces and nephews, Monica and Derrick Sproule, Teresa, K-Lee, Billy Martini, Nicole, Vanessa and Joey Shileny, Robbie and Ryan Ehler. Memorials may be made

to the charity of the person's choice.

**RODNEY DEAN HUNNEWELL**, Sept. 13, 1925 - Aug. 8, 2010. Born in Huntington Park, Calif., to Dove Finley and Roland Hunnewell, Rod attended Van Nuys High School. In 1943, at the age of 18, he joined the Navy and during WWII he served in the South Pacific. He left the Navy in 1946. In 1947 he married Darlene Steiner. Over the years, while working for the City of Los Angeles, Rod volunteered in the California Air National Guard, 146th Airlift wing, and retired from the Air Force Reserves. Rod retired from the Department of Water and Power in the 1980s. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Darlene; sons, Rodney Dennis of Reno, Nev.; Richard; Ronald, wife Catherine; daughters, Vicki Hunnewell; Teresa Hunnewell-Sidlinger, husband Michael, all of Simi Valley; grandchildren, Robert Ferguson, wife Keri; Nicholas Ferguson; Catrina Hunnewell Morgan, husband Joseph; Troy Hunnewell; Ryan Hunnewell; and niece, Tanya Steiner Hunnewell. Resource: Ventura County Star from August 15 to 18, 2010.

**JACOB ROSS JONES**, 64, born August 30, 1936 in Peoria, IL, passed away November 19, 2000 in Tacoma, WA. Jake was a retired Loadmaster Technician with the United States Air Force. He most truly enjoyed golfing, a good book and the company of his friends. Jake is survived by his daughter Jaleta (Jack) Coy of Puyallup, WA; 3 grandchildren; longtime companion Catherine Repp of Tacoma, WA; sister Imogene (Leo) Malone of Ottawa, IL; brother John Jones of Maui, HI; nieces, nephews; and his friends of Amvets Post No. 1. In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorial donations to be made to Amvets Post No. 1, 5717 S. Tyler St., Tacoma, WA 98409. Memorial services will be held Monday, November 27, 2000 at 3 PM at the Amvets Post No. 1, 5717 South Tyler Street, Tacoma, WA. Arrangements by Mountain View Funeral Home, 584-0252.

**DOUGLAS O. MCLEAN**, loving husband of 34 years to Ann J. McLean, passed away peacefully and comfortably, surrounded by his family on Sept. 30, 2006. He was born on Dec. 5, 1934. Doug is survived by his mother, Malheta; three daughters, LeTanya, Barbara and Nicole; two sons, Stephen and Mark; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. An avid and passionate gardener who loved growing roses, exotic plants and fruit trees, Doug always dreamed of creating a park-like wonderland for his many grandchildren to run and play. Doug was a twenty-year military veteran who, loved flying, had a fondness for jazz, golf and spending his free time in the outdoors tending to his garden. More than these passions, his life was dedicated to being the most loving husband, caring father and doting grandfather. He will forever live on in our memories. A military service is planned at the National Cemetery in Kent, Washington.

**FREDERICK GUSTAV STARK** died on June 19, 2012. Was born on December 8, 1929 in Westside, Iowa, the son of Gustav and Irmagard (Koepke) Stark he was the fourth son of five boys. Fred spent most of his youth working on his father's farm. When the opportunity was presented for him to join the United States Air Force he took it in 1950. Soon after joining the USAF he was transferred to France where he met a beautiful French woman, Yvette Charlotte Morain. They began a new life together that lasted 60 years. Fred and Yvette raised seven children together, five boys and two girls. The military took Fred away often serving in both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. In 1969, the family was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California. This is where Fred participated in one of his proudest career achievements as Chief Loadmaster for the C-5 Testing Team. After 23 years, Fred retired from the Air Force in 1973 as a Chief Master Sergeant with multiple commendations. The family relocated to San Diego, California. Once in San Diego, Fred started a 10 year career with the California Transportation Department achieving the rank of Sergeant while working at the Coronado Bay Bridge. During these years he went back to school and received two college degrees attending night classes while supporting his family. After retiring from Cal Trans, he and Yvette spent their retirement years traveling to Europe, Hawaii, and many destinations throughout the United States. Fred loved his Chargers Football on Sundays and could always be counted on to watch the game. He was always friendly, and would share his quick wit with everyone. He loved to talk about his military days and was very proud of his service to the Air Force. His smile was huge and his heart was open to love at the end of his life. He is survived by his wife Yvette C. Stark, Daughters Danielle Tetreault and Patricia Sanders, Sons Patrick Stark, Frederick W. Stark, Robert Stark, David Stark, and Dennis Stark. granddaughters Yvette Trott, Elise Michal, and Heather Tetreault, Grandsons Jacob and Aaron Stark and great-granddaughters Oliva and Riveria Stark, along with many family members throughout the Mid-West. Memorial Service at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, July 11, 2012.

**JERRY JOHN WEEKS**, 68, of Great Falls, MT, a retired Air Force administrative technician, died of natural causes Saturday, April 10, 2010, at a local hospital. Visitation is 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Schnider Funeral Home. Services are 4 p.m. Friday at First Congregational United Church of Christ, with inurnment of ashes in the church columbarium. Jerry John Weeks was born Oct 20, 1941, in Fairhope, AL, to Sidney and Rose (Collins) Weeks. He graduated from high school in Magnolia Springs, AL., in 1961, and joined the Air Force that year. He served 20 years, starting in Greenland and retiring from Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT, on May 31, 1981. He received a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam. After his retirement from the Air Force, Jerry formed L&J Communications and enjoyed a second career in radio sales. He married Lynne Kosmerl in June 1978, and together they enjoyed camping, fishing, gardening and spending time with family and friends. In their retirement years, they traveled all over the United States and to several foreign countries. He attended the First Congregational ICC and was a member of the Fraternal Order

of Eagles. Jerry is survived by his wife, Lynne Weeks of Great Falls; a stepdaughter, Christine Kosmerl of Mesa, AZ.; a stepson, David Kosmerl of Gilbert, AZ; his sister, Bonnie (Mike) Jenkins of Harpers Ferry, WV; four step-grandchildren, Calvin, Jonah, Micah and Taryn Kosmerl, all of Gilbert; a sister-in-law, Ginger Weeks of Boxboro, MA; a niece, Jessica (Alvin) Gonzalez of West Roxbury, MA; a favorite uncle and aunt, Huey and Jeannie Collins of Magnolia Springs; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Andrew Weeks; and both sets of grandparents. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Congregational UCC Memorial Fund, 2900 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405. Condolences may be posted online at [www.schniderfuneralhome.com](http://www.schniderfuneralhome.com) and or [www.gftribune.com/obituaries](http://www.gftribune.com/obituaries). Published in Great Falls Tribune from Apr 12 to 13, 2010.

**\*GARY PAUL WHITMAN**, Retired Master Sergeant, 43, of Mountain Home, ID, died Friday, Aug 6, 1999, at home. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug 11, at Summers Funeral Homes, McMurtrey Chapel, Mountain Home. Viewing will be held Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the funeral home. Gary was born June 19, 1956, at Great Lakes Naval Base, IL, to Earl T. Jr. and Betty Whitman. As an Air Force dependent he traveled to Europe and stateside until 1968 when his father was assigned to Mountain Home AFB. Gary attended school in Mountain Home, and graduated in May 1974, and entered active duty in the Air Force in June 1974. In December 1977, he began training as a C-5 Loadmaster. In July 1978, he was assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> MAS at Travis AFB, Calif. In 1983, he was selected as an Airlift Control Element (ALCE) Loadmaster with the 60<sup>th</sup> MAW. Five years later, he was reassigned as a C-130 loadmaster to the 5th Mobile APS, RAF Mildenhall, England. There he spent four years flying, airdropping, and deploying throughout North Africa, Middle East, Europe, and Scandinavia along with the duties of unit NCOIC of joint airdrop inspections. In August 1990 his unit deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield/Storm where he performed duties as load team chief, senior information controller. In March he returned to the 75th MAS, later renamed 21st ALS, and back to C-5s. Their next and final orders were at Scott AFB, IL, where Gary had experienced some of the most challenging and exciting times of his career after being selected as the commands Special Activities Director, later Superintendent of the Special Activities Division. His many decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal from the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. On August 16, 1986, he married his best friend Sharon Barker, where they were both stationed at Travis AFB, CA. They made their first home in Vacaville, CA, before getting orders to England. While he was stationed at Mildenhall AB and Sharon was stationed at Lakenheath AB, they had their first child, Russell. After their tour in England they returned to Vacaville for three years where Christopher was born. Gary is survived by his wife, Sharon Whitman, sons Russell and Christopher, his parents Earl T. Jr. and Betty Whitman; sister Lisa and her husband, Russ Anderson, nephews Matt and Nick. Gary retired from the Air Force on July 1, 1998, in Mountain Home. He and his family built their home and he began a job with the Elmore County Juvenile Probation Office. His time with us was short; he really loved what he was doing there. He also became the Elmore County Disaster Services Coordinator and was really beginning to enjoy the work involved with that position. He was a member of the Elmore County Search and Rescue. Gary was very passionate about his family and everything he chose to do. He loved the outdoors and was an avid backpacker, camper, and runner. Recently, he had tried rock climbing and loved those experiences. All that knew him know that he never knew a stranger. He was loved as a wonderful husband, father, son, brother, and friend, and will be missed by all. Memorials may be made to the Elmore County Search and Rescue/Elmore Sheriff's Office, 125 S. 5th E, Mountain Home, ID 83647.

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The PLA Secretary is seeking information on deceased members **CHARLES E. BUCHER** (Big Country), **\*RODNEY E. CLAPPER** (Alabama), **\*DONNA M. DOBBINS** (Liberty), **\*DONALD J. FLAVIN** (Big Country), **CLAUDE "FRENCHY" FERRAND** (Big Country), **\*ELMORE JACKSON** (Southeast), **\*ROBERT C. JOHNSON** (Indiana), **\*EDWARD R. MEZA** (Alamo), **ROBERT C. RODEMEYER** (Golden West), **\*HAROLD G. TILTON, JR.** (Alamo). 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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## THANK YOU

From the posted notice in the July 2015 "The Loader," a gigantic **thank you** to Lifetime members **\*Reynold Albright** for contact information on the daughter of **David G. Torbush**, and to **\*Robert "Stu" Russell** for the **\*Gary P. Whitman** family contact information. Replacement condolence and scholarship permission letters were sent and signed permission letters were returned. A big **Thank you** also to **Big Country Chapter President Michael Lutzko**, **Golden West Chapter President Steve Clark**, and **Mid Atlantic Chapter Vice President Alex Walters** for their assistance in the continuing attempt to locate family members for scholarship permission.

**“The Loader”**  
Professional Loadmaster Association  
P.O. Box 4351  
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**Address Service Requested**

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Last Thought - For All the Pilots, Navigators, Engineers, Loadmasters and other Aircrew: Once the wings go on, they never come off whether they can be seen or not. It fuses to... the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline, and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts can ever sleep through the `call of the wild` that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night. When a good pilot or aircrew leaves the `job` and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder. We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is. Because we flew, we envy no man on earth. Author Unknown

**In This Issue.... Cabin Report, Secretary Report, “The Loader” Editor, , Scholarship, Memorabilia, Chapter Reports, BLM Update, C-17 Pathfinder Loadmasters, Bill Cannon Bench Update, International - RAF Air Loadmaster Association, Articles, 2015 - 2016 PLA Roster, Links, & In-Memoriam**

**Professional Loadmaster Association Registration Card/Personal Data Change**  
(Please Print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: WORK \_\_\_\_\_ HOME \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY/BASE/UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
AIRCRAFT FLOWN \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORED BY (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTIVE \_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_ RESERVE \_\_\_ ANG \_\_\_ OTHER (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: ONE YEAR - \$20.00, THREE YEARS - \$50.00, LIFETIME - \$250.00**

Please enclose Check or Money Order. Send to:

**PROFESSIONAL LOADMASTER ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 4351  
**Tacoma, WA 98438**  
1-800-239-4524

You should receive your welcome package in 2-3 weeks. Thank you for your membership and Welcome to your organization

**Web Address: [www.Loadmasters.com](http://www.Loadmasters.com)**