

A newsletter for members of the 129<sup>th</sup> Alumni/Heritage Association

## **BERLIN AIR LIFT 1948**

Looking back over 50 years stretches one's memory. One of our "former" 129<sup>th</sup> members, **John Macia, MSG (Ret)**, at 19 years old and an AF aircraft engine mechanic, recently reminisced about the challenges of this event that lasted from June, 1948 to September, 1949. During this period USAF aircraft and crews made "200,000 flights" into Berlin and moved "2.33 million" tons of supplies. (Because of the Soviet blockade, everything from "toothbrushes to coal" had to be moved by air.) 48 people died during these flights, 31 of these from the United States. Macia's memories, beyond the enormous challenge of aircraft and material deployment, are of the gratitude of the "Berliners" and their ingenuity. "It was remarkable to watch the teams of German women after flights landed, (sometimes only minutes apart) who would come by and try to patch holes in the runway, by hand, with only shovels, gravel and tar."

Now, 50 years later, John and his wife, Roberta, along with other survivors of this event, are going back to Berlin as the guests of the German government to celebrate this occasion and receive tokens of appreciation from the citizens of Berlin.

## AF LODGING RESERVATIONS

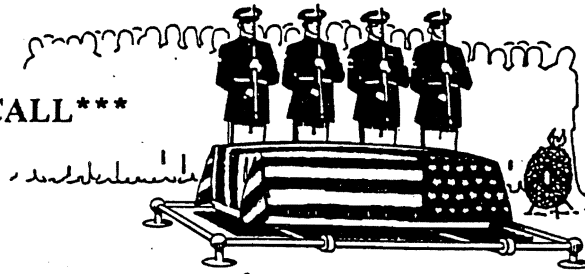
Air Force Lodging Services has a new reservations "toll free" phone number — "1-888-AF LODGE" (1-888-235-6343). After dialing this number, enter the first three (3) letters of the name of the base you are seeking quarters at (i.e. "TRA" for Travis AFB) and you will be connected to their reservations desk. For those of us who are eligible to use this service, it should be very useful.

## CHATTER BOX

- "Joe" Preciado reports that when we visit the Naval Flight Museum, Pensacola, Fl, we'll find that one of our comrades in the 129<sup>th</sup> is honored by pointing out that, during WWII he was one of the Coast Guard's "Flying Chiefs". According to our sources, he flew "multi-engined PBY's"..... WOW, is this really true, Gordy Hazell??
- Ken and Eleanor Moore took a recent trip through No Cal and Oregon and visited Paul and Janie Chabot in Mt. Shasta. They found the Chabot's both very busy. (Paul with his coins and Janie opening a new boutique for local crafters and artists.) In Oregon, they visited Ross and June McKee at their Roseburg home and enjoyed their beautiful gardens. On the way back home they stopped in Fort Bragg and enjoyed sharing an evening with Mayme Martin. She is doing well and was glad to have the Moore's visit.
- GOLDEN WEST, EAA REGIONAL FLY-IN  
Castle AFB, Atwater, CA Sept 25-27, '98

This will be the "first" year for this EAA fly-in, which is planned to become an "OSHKOSH" West event. Everything that happens in Oshkosh, WI and Sun N Fun in Florida will take place at this inaugural event --- "aircraft displays, fly-by's, workshops, etc."..... They are looking for volunteers to support this event. If you are interested, Ken Moore (510-656-1529) has some information.

\*\*\* LAST CALL \*\*\*



A moment to remember and honor our Comrades of the past.

### "LAST CALL" An Explanation

The "Ol Timers Noozze" is intended to be a "voice" reaching out to all members of our Alumni Association to share with each other the news of changing events in our membership community. This feature is included in this "voice" so that we could "celebrate" all of the events that affect the lives and memories of our association family. Please let us know, as you find out, about the passing of any of our members so that we can share this information with our membership and "honor" this event. Thank you.

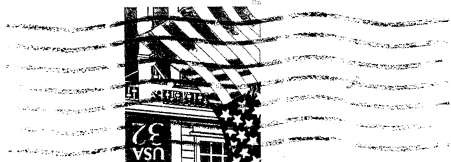
### 129<sup>th</sup> RESCUE WING NEWS

- CMS "Gerry" Hitesman Retires

An old friend of many of us, "Gerry" Hitesman retired from the 129<sup>th</sup> with 41 years of very "active" military service. During this period his "experience" included enlisted service in the USMC, flight time as a C119 Flight Engineer, and many years of hard work and leadership in aircraft maintenance.

- 129<sup>th</sup> Completes First "Expeditionary Unit" Deployment

In April '98 the 129 RQW completed its first "Expeditionary Unit" deployment. (It was the first time the wing was deployed as a "whole" unit rather than in elements or as individuals.) The unit was assigned to "Operation Northern Watch", an ongoing mission in Turkey that enforces NATO policy, preventing Iraqi aircraft from trespassing into the "No Fly" Zones established after "Desert Storm". Members of the unit who participated in this deployment felt it was a very positive experience because it allowed them an opportunity to see the "Total Force Concept" in action.



129<sup>th</sup> Alumni/Heritage Association  
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**1998 DUES** . . . Just a reminder that you check to see if you've forwarded your membership dues for 1998 (\$10.00). To help us keep our records current, please complete the form below and forward it with your check.



**I want to join the gang.**



1998 MEMBERSHIP

DUES \$10.00



PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION  
 MAIL IT TO THE 129th ALUMNI/HERITAGE ASS'N

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ 129th SVC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\*E MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_