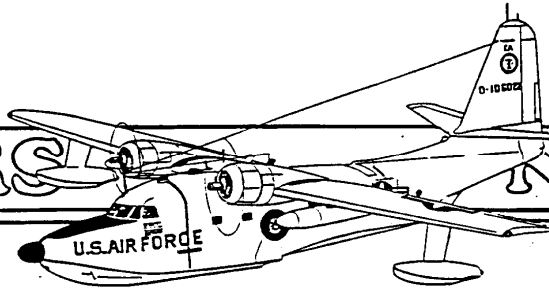


OL TIMERS' NOOZZE



Volume 6, Issue 3

September 2002

Meet the New Command Chief Master Sergeant

Rescue West

Chief Master Sergeant Liliana L. Ramos has been selected as the new Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 129th Rescue Wing. A 1975 graduate of St. Francis High School, Ramos attended basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. In 1977 she left active duty early to join the 129th Rescue Group, California National Guard. She credits good mentors in convincing her to reenlist in the Guard after her initial service ended. She has served in the Air Force for a total of 27 years, 25 of them in the California Air National Guard. Ramos is married to Domingo C. Ramos and they have three sons: Nicholas, Jefferey, and Benjamin.

Congratulations. Chief!

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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

Lt Col Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

The Air Show Network, the organization behind the NASA Air Show, hosted a weekend at Moffett FAF July 27 & 28. Sponsoring concession booths was a great fund-raising opportunity, and we participated again this year. With your support, we staffed 5 booths in conjunction with the Family Support Group. Many thanks to our members, families, and friends who donated many hours and much work over the weekend. Final figures are net yet available, but preliminary calculations indicate there will be approximately \$1,400 in proceeds and tips to split between the 129th AHA Scholarship Fund and the Family Support Group.

While the next annual meeting and Old Timers Luncheon are still several months away, it is time to begin thinking about volunteering. It is once again time to elect members-at-large to the board of directors. If you want to become involved in the operations of the 129th AHA, please let us know. If you want to serve on the board of directors for the next two years, please be prepared to nominate yourself (that is a fancy way of saying "volunteer") when the forms are included in the December Old Timers Nooze.

Jay



Expert Adult Beverage Servers at the Airshow!



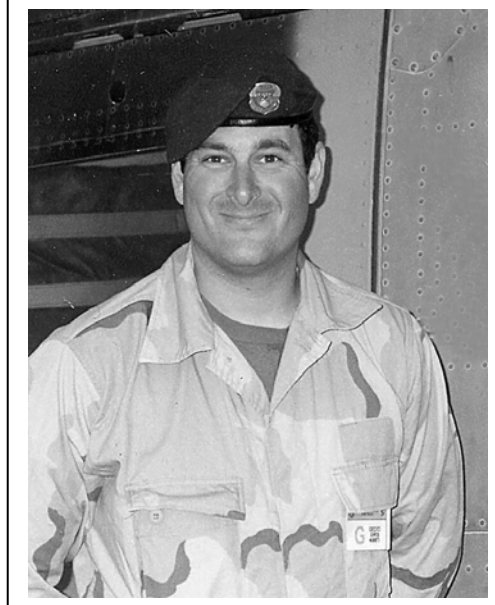
Col Ralph L. Nobriga

7 July 1922 - 23 July 2002

Colonel Ralph L. Nobriga (CA Ret) passed away on July, 23, 2002, at age 80. Nobriga's military career spanned over 3 decades, beginning with Army basic training in July 1944. He enlisted in the California National Guard in 1949, and received his commission as a 2LT in 1951. Col Nobriga served in the 938th Combat Support Squadron, Hamilton AFB, California, until 1970. In early 1970, he joined the 129th Combat Support Squadron, then stationed at Hayward. He remained with the 129th until his retirement in 1975 as commander of the 129th Combat Support Squadron. In civilian life, Ralph was a fireman for the City of Oakland for 28 years.

Col Nobriga was preceded in death by his first wife, Laura. He is survived by his wife, Wynn, and four children: sons Charles, Larry, and John; and daughter Laura Mendonca. He also leaves a brother, Joseph Nobriga, and sister, Leonora Chapman, in addition to 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Internment was at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Col Nobriga was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and several World War II service medals.



TSgt John E. Horton

30 May 1965 - 7 August 2002

Technical Sergeant John (Johnny Luv) E. Horton was killed in a training accident at Ft. Hunter Liggett, California, on August 7, 2002. He was 37. John entered the US Navy in 1984, and joined the 129th RQW in 1990. He earned his pararescue qualification in 1994. As a National Champion Skydiver and an expert skydiving cameraman, Horton had over 1500 jumps and 24 hours of freefall time. John was a qualified combat scuba diver, military freefall jumpmaster, senior parachute rigger (AF and FAA), tandem parachute master and examiner, emergency medical technician, pararescue trauma specialist, pararescue team leader, pararescue trainer and certifier, and tactical weapons specialist. He had deployed with the 129th RQW to Turkey, Kuwait, Uruguay, Iceland, and Spain. John was involved in 20 operational rescue missions resulting in saving the lives of 15 people.

John is survived by his father, John Davis Horton; mother, Joann Horton; step-mother, Marilyn Horton; step-father, Billy Robertson; sister, Suzi Romack; nephew, Nicholas Roti; niece, Lindsey Romack; and his fiancée, Kim Avery. Internment was at Oakhill Cemetery, Cupertino.

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

TSgt Janice Cummins
CMSgt Dale Fitzgerald
Sgt Patrick Gallagher
Col Jeffrey Lawson
SMSgt Kenneth Rogers
MSgt Allen Silver
SSgt Valerie Sober
Col Jeffrey Stuard
MSgt Mary Winfrey

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

129th AHA Jackets Available

Customized with your name and rank!

After much searching we have found a new source of MembersOnly jackets - so we are once again taking orders for 129th AHA jackets. Order forms will be available at the Old Timers Luncheon.

Want to own a really distinctive jacket to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Order your navy blue, MembersOnly, summer-weight poplin jacket today. The left breast has the current wing patch and the original troop carrier group patch (now worn by the Rescue Squadron), with 129 AHA embroidered below. The right breast sports the Air Force Patch with your name embroidered below. Jackets are available for \$70 (\$35 deposit per jacket required).

Order your jacket from Don Delucchi at:

(925) 689-2683
or online at Nonononi@aol.com

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2002 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
129th Alumni & Heritage Association
c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Dr.
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 34¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 34¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
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E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

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