

Volume 11, Issue 1

February 2007

129th RQW 50th Anniversary Coin

Commemorative coins will be available for purchase at the Old Timers Luncheon. Coins are \$5 each. If you don't have your coin yet, now is the perfect opportunity to make the purchase.



Board Election

March 2007

An election for the four at-large Directors is scheduled for 2007. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2007) and Officers are elected in even number years (2008).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, appointed an Election Committee composed of the Vice President, Ken Moore, the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel, and an association member at large. The committee is responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers' Lunch, scheduled for March 28, 2007.

All AHA members in good standing may vote for Director. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2006 membership dues. If your last year's dues were not paid, you are not considered to be in good standing and are not eligible to vote. There are four names on the ballot: CCMS Ed Boddington, CCMS Doug Sale, Lt Col Steve James, and Lt Col Dave Russell. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for four nominees. The nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon.

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 19, 2007, and mailed to:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
4732 Heatherbrae Circle
Sacramento, CA 95842-4328

Mark and mail your ballots today!

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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

The Wing successfully completed the ACC administered ORI Phase II; receiving an over all excellent rating. Congratulations to the 129TH Wing Commander Col Amos Bagdasarian, Operations Group Commander Col (Sel) Mark Sheey and all Wing members.

The Old Timers' lunch is scheduled for March 28th at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Lodge. Brigadier General Gerald Griffin, an Army physician and surgeon, will be the guest speaker. BG Griffin is a true professional with combat zone experience. He took his surgical hospital to Mosul, in northern Iraq, and supported the airborne division fighting there. He will address the challenges he faced while caring for our wounded troops, the Iraqi people – including women and children – and even enemy soldiers. BG Griffin will focus on what happens to our soldiers after they are wounded as they are treated locally and transported to Europe and the U.S.

Lunch is \$15 per person, and reservations must be received no later than March 21, 2007. Please contact Lynda Fawcett if you have questions regarding the luncheon.

Ballots are included in the newsletter for those members in good standing. If you have not paid your 2006 dues, you have not received a ballot. The postage paid ballot must be postmarked by March 19, 2007.

The Association 2007 dues are \$10 and now payable. Statements have been mailed to members with a dues obligation. You may include your dues with your Old Timers' Luncheon reservation.

The Association will award two Wing members 2006 Scholarships. The formal presentation will occur during the Old Timers' lunch. We have been able to increase the scholarships' value because several Association members have provided Scholarship Program contributions. The Board extends special thanks to these members for their generosity and support. Congratulations to the awardees. We wish them continued success in their educational endeavors.

The Prez Sez - cont

Special thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Lynda Fawcett, for all her work on both the newsletter and the luncheon. We much appreciate the time and effort she contributes to the Association.

I'll look forward to chatting with those who attend the Old Timers' lunch. If you cannot attend the lunch please feel free to email your comments to B25jay@sbcglobal.net.

Be sure to mail your ballots and get your lunch reservations in early!

Jay

2006 Scholarship Awards

Lt Col Cindy Kepple

The Association will award two Wing members \$1,000 2006 scholarships. The second scholarship is being awarded with the Bay Area MOAA Chapter's partnership and generous \$500 matching contribution. The winners will receive their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2006 scholarships!

129th AHA

 AIC Krystal Solchaga
Nursing

129th AHA and MOAA

 SrA Daniel Maxey
Oceanography

Cindy

Airmen to See New Combat Medal

Military.com (02/05/2007)

Airmen involved in combat operations, on the ground and in the air, will see the unveiling of the Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM) some time in April. In order for an Airman to wear the AFCAM, a narrative explanation of the Airman's involvement in combat activities must be submitted by a person with first-hand knowledge of the incident. The application will be processed through the chain of command and eventually be approved or disapproved by the Commander of Air Force Forces (COMAFFOR). Airmen can apply for the award to recognize participation in combat activities dating back as far as Sept. 11, 2001.

Officers of the Year - 2007



**Field Grade Officer
of the Year**
Maj Richard Shanahan



**Company Grade
Officer of the Year**
Lt Damon Foss

Outstanding Airmen - 2007

The Wing has selected the Outstanding Airmen for 2007. These individuals will be our guests at the Old Timers Luncheon and will be presented with a one-year membership to the Association. Congratulations and Welcome!

Airman of the Year

SrA Westly Hammond
129th Maintenance Sq



NCO of the Year

SSgt Erik Blackburn
129th Operations Support
Flight



Sr NCO of the Year

MSgt Roscoe Presley
129th Security Forces Sq



1st Sgt of the Year

MSgt Chris Underwood
129th Maintenance Sq

Many vets may be missing out on special compensation

Air Force Retiree News Service

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) – Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive Combat-Related Special Compensation.

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation, said Ann Lacey of the CRSC office at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

“Don’t let the term ‘combat’ throw you; there are many circumstances which are combat related that could justify approval of extra tax-free money for you!” she said.

CRSC is designed to restore military retirement pay that has been offset by Department of Veterans Affairs compensation when evidence exists to confirm the associated disabilities are combat related. For example, if a veteran is currently rated for a disability of 10 percent with the VA, he or she receives a check from the VA for \$115 each month, but his or her retired pay is reduced by that same amount. If that disability is found to be combat-related by the CRSC review board, he or she would continue to receive the monthly check from the VA for \$115 along with the remainder of the retired pay, but begin to receive an additional monthly check from CRSC for \$115.

Many disabilities that resulted from conditions during peacetime may meet the criteria for CRSC, said Ms. Lacey. As examples she cites an aircraft mechanic who works on the flight line and begins to lose his hearing while in-service; a personnel technician who dives for cover during a simulated air raid and injures her shoulder; and a pararescue journeyman who makes a peacetime parachute jump and breaks his ankle upon landing.

“If you’re not sure the circumstances surrounding your disability meet the combat-related criteria, it would be beneficial for you to apply for CRSC and let the board make a determination for you,” Ms. Lacey said.

Special Compensation (continued)

There are a few prerequisites to consider before submitting a CRSC application. To meet the basic eligibility criteria to be considered for CRSC, veterans must:

- Be retired with 20 (or more) years of active-duty military service, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve
- Be receiving military retired pay. Veterans who waived military retirement pay for Civil Service credit are not eligible to apply for CRSC.
- Have a compensable VA disability rating of 10 percent or higher.
- Receive military retired pay that is reduced by VA disability payments.

Copies of the Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation, DD Form 2860, and more information on the program can be downloaded from the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>. People can call the Air Force CRSC office toll free at (800) 616-3775 for assistance, or e-mail them at afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil.

Ms. Lacey believes applying is worth the effort.

“It will take a little time to complete the application and make copies of your documentation, but it could mean qualifying for monthly tax-free compensation for the rest of your life,” she said.

Money Talk

The Secretary – Treasurer's Report

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

The annual financial statement is presented below. The current dues assessment provides the required funds to support the various programs and insure financial liquidity. The Board revised the Scholarship Program award policy limiting awards to the funds generated in any one business year. Additionally, the number of scholarships was decreased but the amount was increased to encourage more applications and insure an adequate reserve is maintained. If you have questions or comments, please contact me by email or at the Old Timers' Luncheon. Your continued support is appreciated

129th Alumni and Heritage Association Financial Statement 2006

EXPENSES

Newsletter	1,570.16
Old Timers' Luncheon	1,487.57
Commemorative Coins	1,695.75
Mercantile Store Program	133.74
Scholarships	1,753.10
Board Expense	0.00
Secretary – Treasurer Expense	97.15
Membership	350.19

Total 2006 Expenses 7,087.66

Total 2006 Income 7,317.00

Total 2006 Expenses 7,087.66

Net 2006 Income 229.37

INCOME

Memberships	2,433.00
Dues Trust	340.00
Scholarship Contributions	1,680.00
Logo Lapel Pins	20.00
Old Timers' Luncheon	1,530.00
Mercantile Store Program	209.00
Commemorative Coins	1,105.00

Total 2006 Income 7,317.00

Bank Balance 12/31/05 10,570.61

2006 Income 7,317.00

2006 Expenses 7,087.66

Bank Balance 12/31/06 10,799.95

Encumbrances

Scholarship Program 3,933.18

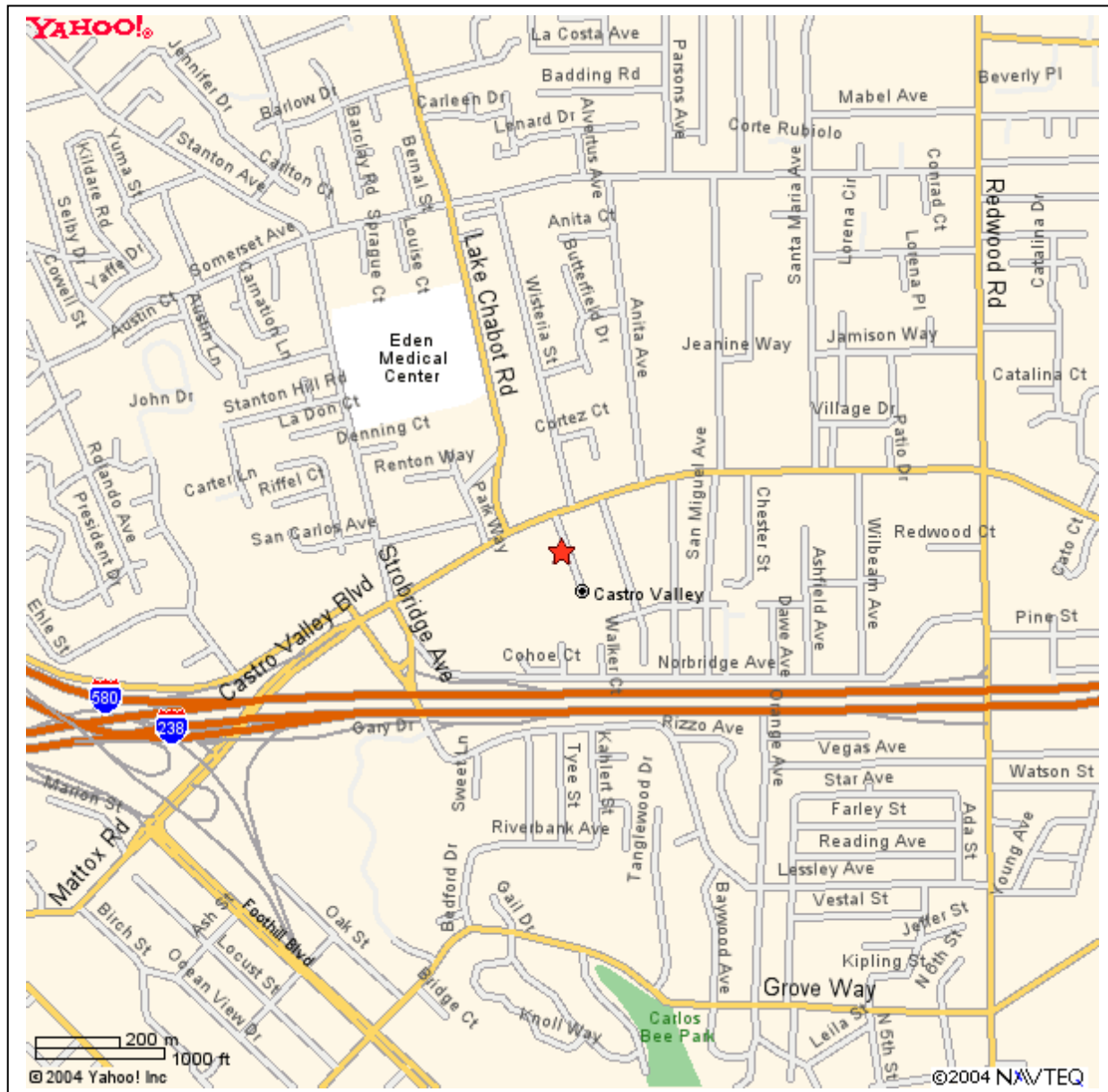
Scholarship Awards 2006 1,700.00

Prepaid Dues 880.00

Total 6,513.18

Unencumbered Balance 4,286.77

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall
20835 Rutledge Road
Castro Valley, CA 94546



Driving Directions to the Castro Valley Moose Hall – 20835 Rutledge Road

- From 580 West
 - Take the Strobridge Avenue Exit
 - Turn Right on Strobridge Avenue
 - Turn Right on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road.
- From 580 East
 - Take the Castro Valley Boulevard Exit (towards Hayward)
 - Turn Left on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road



The Annual
129th AHA Old Timers Luncheon
March 28, 2007

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall
20835 Rutledge Road
(510) 537-0830

- 1130 Hrs At the Bar**
Trim Adjustment, Hangar Flying, Ramp Rumors,
Old Buddies Checklist
- 1215 Hrs Gear Down & Locked Lunch**
Roast Beef and Chicken Buffet with all the trimmings
\$15.00
- 1330 Hrs 129th AHA Annual Meeting**
Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Directors
Presentation of Scholarship Awards
- 1400 Hrs Invited Guest Speaker**
Brigadier General Gerald Griffin, US Army Physician & Surgeon
- 1430 Hrs Raffle and Social Hour**

Spouses and guests are welcome!

P.O.C. Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446
Ed Boddington (209) 536-1777

Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 26, 2007

Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name: _____

_____ Lunch (\$15.00) _____ 2007 Membership Dues (\$10.00)

Guest's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Number of Souls Attending: _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$15.00 per person - Lunch): _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$10.00 – 2007 Membership Dues): _____

Make Check Payable To: 129th AHA
Mail Check and Reservation Form To:
Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
4732 Heatherbrae Circle
Sacramento, CA 95842-4328

Dondi's Mercantile Store

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Ken Moore for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129th AHA related items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Ken Moore at:
(510) 656-1529
or online at sirsgtst@pacbell.net

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket	\$70 - \$75	
Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Embroidered Logo	\$10	
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Silk-screened Logo	\$5	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 th Aircraft Collage	\$10	
129 th 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2007 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!!**

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

SSgt Richard D. Zalon

TSgt Jerry D. Catanzano

A2C John Eelsing

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!

2007 UTA Schedule

6-7 January 2007

7-8 July 2007

NO February Drill

4-5 August 2007

3-4 March 2007

8-9 September 2007

14-15 April 2007

13-14 October 2007

5-6 May 2007

3-4 November 2007

2-3 June 2007

1-2 December 2007

Reserve, Guard Time Limit Lifted (Military.com 01/12/2007)

The Pentagon has abandoned its limit on the time a Citizen-Soldier can be required to serve on active duty, officials said Thursday, a major change that reflects an Army stretched thin by longer-than-expected combat in Iraq.

Until now, the Pentagon's policy on the Guard or Reserve was that members' cumulative time on active duty for the Iraq or Afghan wars could not exceed 24 months. That cumulative limit is now lifted; the remaining limit is on the length of any single mobilization, which may not exceed 24 consecutive months.

In other words, a Citizen-Soldier could be mobilized for a 24-month stretch in Iraq or Afghanistan, then demobilized and allowed to return to civilian life, only to be mobilized a second time for as much as an additional 24 months. In practice, the Pentagon intends to limit all future mobilizations to 12 months.

Members of the Guard combat brigades that have served in Iraq in recent years spent 18 months on active duty - about six months in pre-deployment training in the United States, followed by about 12 months in Iraq. Under the old policy, they could not be sent back to Iraq because their cumulative time on active duty would exceed 24 months. Now that cumulative limit has been lifted, giving the Pentagon more flexibility. The new approach, Pace said, is to squeeze the training, deployment and demobilization into a maximum of 12 months.

Although the Pentagon's goal is to mobilize Guard and Reserve units no more frequently than one year out of six, the demands of wartime will require calling up some units more often than that. They provided no details on how many units would be remobilized at the faster pace or when that would begin to happen.

To allow for more cohesion among Guard and Reserve units sent into combat, they will be deployed as whole units, rather than as partial units or as individuals plugged into a unit they do not normally train with.

Extra pay will be provided for Guard and Reserve troops who are required to mobilize more than once in six years; active-duty troops who get less than two years between overseas deployments also will get extra pay. Details were not provided.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

LTC Jesse Craddock – (650) 968-0446
B25jay@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

CCMS Ken Moore – (510) 656-1529
sirsgtst@pacbell.net

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J-L.RUPPEL@worldnet.att.net

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Cindy_kepple@yahoo.com

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SLJames@backgroundprofiles.com

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douglas.sale@sbcglobal.net

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129th Alumni & Heritage Assn.
C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS SERVICE 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.

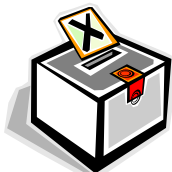
The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 39¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 39¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost 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.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERBANK, CA
PERMIT #20



Mail Your Ballot Today!!
See You at the OTL!!

