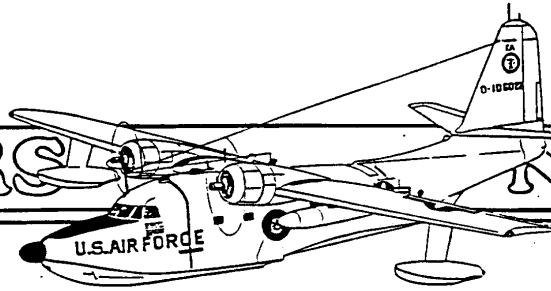


OL TIMERS' NOOZZE



Volume 14, Issue 1

February 2010

2009 Tax Form, Pay Statement Availability Schedule

CLEVELAND (AFRNS) – Air Force retirees with a myPay online account can now download their annual account statements. Internal Revenue Service 1099R forms for retirees and annuitants will be posted December 14, 2009.

Retirees who rely on the U.S. Postal Service for DFAS correspondence can expect to see their account statements soon as they are now in the mail, while tax forms will be mailed December 11, 2009. For annuitants, account statements and 1099R forms begin mailing December 14, 2009.

Statements and forms are mailed to the address on file with DFAS.

Retirees with questions about account statements or tax forms should call the DFAS Contact Center at 800-321-1080. (Courtesy of DFAS)



Board Elections - Officers

March 2010

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer - is scheduled for 2010. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2010) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2011).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Director CCMSgt Liliana Ramos; Secretary-Treasurer Lt Col Dave Russell; association member at large, CCMSgt Ken Moore; and Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Officers will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers Lunch, scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

All AHA members in good standing may vote for Officers. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2009 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 three names on the ballot: Col John L. Ruppel, President; Lt Col Steven L. James, Vice President; and Lt Col David P. Russell, Secretary-Treasurer. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for three nominees. The nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Officers, 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 15, 2010, and mailed to:

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

Mark and mail your ballots today!

Inside This Issue

1	2009 Tax Forms / Board Officer Elections
2	Pres Sez / 2009 Scholarship Awards
3	2010 Outstanding Airmen of the Year
4	2009 Old Timers Luncheon – Map & Registration
6	Money Talk – Secretary-Treasurer's Report
7 & 8	All Hands Meeting – Veterans Benefits Meeting
8	Lt Col Rhys Hunt – OTL Guest Speaker
9	Aid & Attendance Benefit
9	TriCare University
10	Dondi's Mercantile Shop / Member Application
11	Rescue Egram / TriCare Vaccines
11	New to the Gang
12	Board of Directors / Missing in Action

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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

The Newsletter contains the 2010 election ballot. Please take a moment and vote. The Board expended nearly \$100 providing ballots with prepaid postage to facilitate easy voting.

Annual dues notices were mailed the first week of February. The Board set the 2010 dues at \$15, and payment should be received by March 24, 2010. If you plan to attend the annual Old Timers luncheon, dues maybe paid that day. Prepaid dues are accepted for more than one year with the understanding if there is a dues change you will be billed for the difference.

The Newsletter contains reservation details and a map for the March 24 Old Timers luncheon to be held at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall. If you plan to attend, register early so we can provide the caterer an accurate lunch number. The guest speaker is Lt Col Rhys Hunt, 129th Rescue Squadron Director of Operations, who will speak on the Squadron's recent Afghanistan deployment. The 2010 129th RQW Outstanding Airmen of the year will be honored with a one year Association membership.

The Board is providing the 2009 Financial Report which reflects the revenue and expenditures for fiscal 2009. The Report states the Association's financial position and reflects an unencumbered balance of approximately \$2,000. Questions should be addressed to Dave Russell or John Ruppel.

The Board approved four scholarship awards which will be presented at the luncheon. The four scholarships honor four former Wing members, Brigadier General Albert Santos, SMSgt Donald Delucchi, Lt Col John Kenney, and Col Lina Ruppel. The \$1,000 scholarships were provided by the generosity of two Association members. The award winner's names can be found in the Newsletter. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Scholarship Committee Chairperson Cindy Kepple and Board Committee representative Liliana Ramos for their efforts.

Our newsletter editor, Lynda, has provided some useful information on 1099s, TriCare, and CalVet & VA benefits.

I look forward to chatting with those members who are able to attend the Old Timers luncheon,
Cheers!!!

John

2009 Scholarship Awards

Lt Col Cindy Kepple

The Association will award four Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. The BG Albert R. Santos, SMSgt Donald Delucchi, and Lt Col John W. Kenney scholarships have been funded by Ronald & Patricia VandenBerghe. The Col Lina A. Ruppel scholarship has been funded by Lt Col Charles Fuller. The winners will receive their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2009 scholarships!

BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship

✚ SrA Earl Prevoznak – 131st RQS

SMSgt Donald Delucchi Scholarship

✚ SrA Jaime Enea (Carr) – 129th SFS

Lt Col John W. Kenney Scholarship

✚ AIC Matthew Webster – 129th SFS

Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship

✚ AIC Kayla Sather – 129th MDG

Cindy

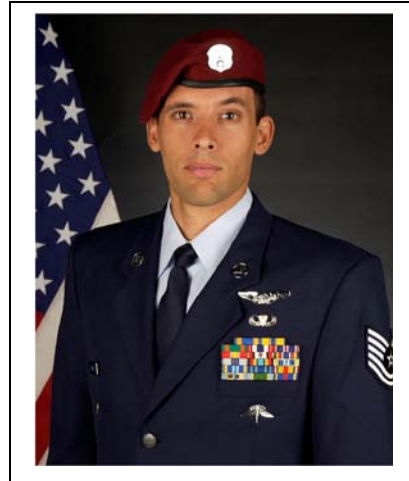


Outstanding Airmen - 2010

The Wing has selected the Outstanding Airmen for 2010.
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
SSgt Leslie Zapata



NCO of the Year
TSgt Seth M. Zweben

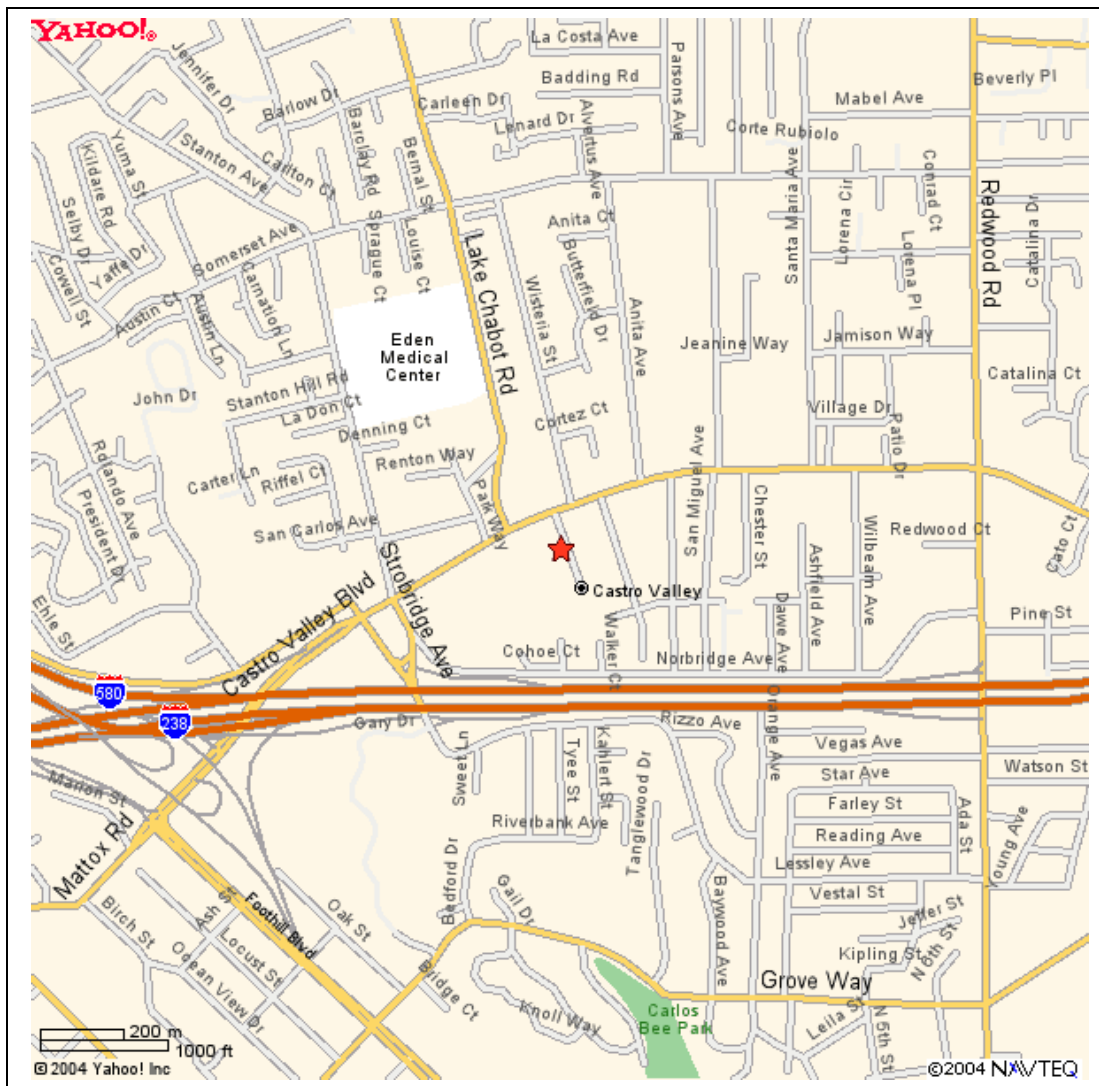


California
Sr NCO of the Year
SMSgt Jason E. Red



1st Sergeant of the Year
MSgt Byron F. Yerzy

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 Strobbridge Avenue Exit
 - Turn Right on Strobbridge 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 24, 2010

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
\$18.00
- 1330 Hrs** **129th AHA Annual Meeting**
Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Directors
Presentation of Scholarship Awards
- 1400 Hrs** **Invited Guest Speaker**
Lt Col Rhys Hunt, Director of Operations, 129th Rescue Squadron
- 1430 Hrs** **Raffle and Social Hour**

Spouses and guests are welcome!

P.O.C. Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446

Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 20, 2010

Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name: _____

_____ Lunch (\$18.00) _____ 2010 Membership Dues (\$15.00)

Guest's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Number of Souls Attending: _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$18.00 per person - Lunch): _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$15.00 – 2010 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

Money Talk

The Secretary – Treasurer's Report

Lt Col Dave Russell (Ret.)

The annual financial statement is presented below. The dues assessment has been increased for the first times since the Association's foundation to provide the required funds to support the various programs and insure financial liquidity. The Board continued the Scholarship Program award policy limiting awards to the funds generated in any one business year. Additionally, the award amount was maintained at \$1,000 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 2009

EXPENSES	2009	INCOME	2009
Membership	\$ 387.94	Memberships	\$ 2,322.00
Newsletter	\$ 3,070.90	Dues Trust	\$ 530.00
Scholarships	\$ 3,172.00	Scholarship	\$ 6,879.00
Board Expense	\$ 194.75	Commemorative Coins	\$ 30.00
Old Timers Lunch	\$ 1,780.00	Old Timers Lunch	\$ 1,780.00
Mercantile Store	\$ 147.65	Mercantile Store	\$ 476.00
Deployment Bag Project	\$ 755.29	Deployment Bag Project	\$ 652.00
Laut Memorial	\$ 271.53	Laut Memorial	\$ 500.00
Bank Adjustment	\$ 22.00	Bank Adjustment	\$ -
Total 2009 Expenses	\$ 9,802.06	Total 2009 Deposit Income	\$ 13,169.00
Total 2009 Deposit Income	\$ 13,169.00	Bank Bal 12/31/08	\$ 12,284.55
Dues Trust Transfer Income	\$ 480.00	2009 Income	\$ 13,169.00
Total 2009 Income	\$ 13,649.00	2009 Expense	\$ (9,802.06)
Total 2009 Expenses	\$ (9,802.06)	Bank Bal 12/31/09	\$ 15,651.49
2009 +/-	\$ 3,846.94	Encumbrances:	2009
		Scholarship Program	\$ 9,382.34
		Scholarship Awards 2009	\$ 3,000.00
		Prepaid Dues	\$ 1,335.00
		Subtotal Encumbrances	\$ 13,717.34
		Unencumbered Bal	\$ 1,934.15
		Funds Total	\$ 15,651.49

↓ ↓
Feb. 17th
6pm - 8pm

• Questions? Call -
(800) 952-5626 press 4
or (916) 653-2573

All Hands Meeting!

Veterans, their family
and friends, come join us for an
all-hands meeting to discuss
information regarding benefits and
services available to all veterans...
especially those recently returning
from active duty!



↓ ↓
Monterey Peninsula
College
Lecture Forum Room 103
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

ADVISORY

Contact: JP Tremblay
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-1355
January 27, 2010

Veterans All-Hands Meeting to be Held at Monterey Peninsula College

An all-hands meeting, sponsored by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), to provide veterans with topical information regarding their benefits and services, especially for those recently returning from active duty.

DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2010

TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Monterey Peninsula College
Lecture Forum Room 103
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Representatives from CalVet, local elected officials, veterans, and students

This is the first of several Veterans All-Hands Meetings taking place throughout California this year. These meetings are designed to provide a forum for providing current information regarding benefits and services available to veterans. Also provided will be information of great importance to veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Note to editors: This Advisory and previous CalVet news releases, advisories and newsletters are available on our website at www.calvet.ca.gov and via email from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.



Lieutenant Colonel Rhys Hunt **2010 Old Timers Luncheon Guest Speaker**

Rhys Hunt is the Director of Operations for the 129th Rescue Squadron, California Air National Guard. His flying career began with the U.S. Air Force in 1996. He is a dual-rated Evaluator Pilot with more than 4,000 hours in various helicopters, including the HH-60G, AS-350, S-76 and S-92. He lives in Burbank, California, where he flies for ABC and Fox News in his off-time. Colonel Hunt recently commanded the 129th "Pedros" Expeditionary Rescue Squadron in Regional Command-South, Afghanistan.

VETERANS NEWS & INFORMATION

Aid and Attendance

Regardless of your personal status, consider passing this along to all veterans, families of veterans or individuals with veterans in their family.

"Aid and Attendance" is an underutilized special monthly pension benefit offered by the Veterans Administration for veterans and surviving spouses who require in-home care or live in nursing homes.

To qualify, a veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which is during a period of war, and must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

The veteran's benefit is \$18,234 annually (paid monthly), and increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent. The surviving spouse benefit is \$11,715 annually.

For more information, call 1-800-827-1000. Visit <http://www.va.gov> (type "Aid and Attendance" in the search block), or contact your local VA office.

Apply on-line at <http://vabenfits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

'Tricare University' Offers Benefit Education

Release No. 01-09-10

Jan. 27, 2010

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) – If you are new to Tricare and eager to learn about your health care benefits or an old hand who wants to know the latest changes, Tricare University is the place to go.

Tricare University offers free online courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at www.tricare.mil/tricareu.

"The courses can be taken anytime and you can learn at your own pace," said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity. "It's the simplest way to learn about your Tricare benefit."

Of the different courses online, the Tricare Public Course provides the quickest and easiest way to get a general overview and basic knowledge of Tricare programs. There is no registration for this course and it is accessible to anyone who wants to know more about Tricare.

The Tricare Fundamentals Course is much more in-depth as it is primarily designed for benefit counselors and family support staff who provide counseling and assistance to Tricare beneficiaries. Topics covered include Tricare eligibility, Tricare programs and plans and online resources. Registration is needed to take the course and "graduates" who pass the test at the end of the course receive a certificate from Tricare.

To take one of the offered courses, go to www.tricare.mil/tricareu and click "online training" for a list of options. (Courtesy of Tricare)

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 Liliana Ramos 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 and vests 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 Liliana Ramos at:

(408) 263-5352

LilRamos@pacbell.net

or online at

<http://www.129aha.org>

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket or Vest	\$65 - \$80	
Logo Polo Shirts - Men's & Ladies	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap	\$15	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
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.

All profits are used for 129 AHA benefit projects.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2010 Dues \$15.00

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!!**



The print Rescuegram has been discontinued as of January 2010. Anyone can subscribe to the electronic newsletter by sending an email to

129ROW.PA@ang.af.mil

You can access the Rescue Egram at

<http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/news/>

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

Col Charles K. Cross	MSgt Richard Fetro
Maj John Hazlett	SSgt Celia Houghton
MSgt Donald Jeffries	TSgt Wayne Kennedy
SrA Howard Kim	MSgt Joe A. Love
MSgt Joe Manio	SMSgt Jason E. Red
SrA Henry Wright	MSgt Byron F. Yerzy
SSgt Leslie Zapata	TSgt Seth M. Zweben

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!

Three Vaccines Available at TriCare Network Pharmacies

Release No. 12-08-09
Dec. 29, 2009

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Tricare beneficiaries can now receive select vaccines with no out-of-pocket expense at retail pharmacies.

For the first time ever, beneficiaries can visit Tricare retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all beneficiaries eligible to use the Tricare retail pharmacy benefit.

Other vaccines must still be administered in a doctor's office or authorized convenience clinic to be fully covered by Tricare's preventive health services cost-share waiver.

"Vaccines are the most effective defense against the seasonal and H1N1 flu and pneumonia," said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, Tricare's chief pharmacy officer. "We hope this new, convenient and affordable option encourages Tricare beneficiaries to get their vaccinations."

To receive the vaccines, beneficiaries should call their local Tricare retail network pharmacy to make sure it participates in the vaccine program and has the vaccine in stock. To locate a participating retail network pharmacy, go to www.express-scripts.com/Tricare or call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303. (Courtesy of Tricare)

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AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 – nor do they return it to us. They charge us 75¢ for providing your forwarding address. Then we update your file, but you do not get a newsletter until next edition unless you request an electronic copy. 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



See You At the OTL!!

