

**Volume 16, Issue 3**

**September 2012**

## Updates & Notes

Have you seen or heard from one of our comrades we don't have contact information for? Talked to someone from the past? Travelled and seen something that others in the membership might be interested in?

We would like to have a column or page in each newsletter with notes and updates from the members. To make this work, I need to have emails and pictures from you.

If you are interested in seeing this type of information in our quarterly newsletter, please send me an email with the particulars – who, what, when, where, and why – and include a picture or two if you have them.

I will gladly set aside a column – or page – for you all to share information and news.

*Lynda*

[LTFawcett@hotmail.com](mailto:LTFawcett@hotmail.com)

## Case Lot Sales at Your Local Commissaries

Beale AFB  
Sep 5 – 7                      09:00 – 18:00

McClellan Community  
Sep 6 – 8                      08:30 – 17:00  
Sep 9                            11:00 – 17:00

Travis AFB  
Sep 14 – 16                    09:00 -17:00

You save 5 cents a gallon on gas/diesel when you use your STAR Card at an Exchange service station. During the following periods you save more as listed:

Oct 5 – 7                      10 Cents  
Nov 23 – 25                    15 Cents  
Dec 28 - Jan 4                10 Cents

For those of you who don't have a STAR Card, you can apply for one at your local Exchange if you have Exchange privileges. A word of caution; you may want to use your first purchase for a big ticket item -- appliance, TV, exercise equipment -- because you get 10% off your first purchase.

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## The Prez Sez

### *The President's Column*

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

The Board has been exploring options to reduce Association expenses and preclude dues increases. The largest Association expenditure is producing the Newsletter. The September Newsletter is being delivered to all Association members with a valid email address via the internet. Those members who do not possess email capability will receive a mailed hard copy. Please provide Lynda Fawcett with your comments or questions. Lynda's email address is [LTFawcett@hotmail.com](mailto:LTFawcett@hotmail.com).

The Association received a request from the Hayward Airport Manager for material to be displayed in the Administration Building encompassing the 129<sup>th</sup> Hayward period. The Moffett Museum is also asking for 129<sup>th</sup> display material. The Newsletter contains details on the requests.

The Wing successfully completed the June ORI Phase I Inspection. The ORI Phase II Inspection will be scheduled in 2013. This will provide the Wing time to prepare and meet several operational commitments.

Liliana Ramos, the Mercantile Store Manager, is providing members an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping at reduced prices.

The Association received work of the passing of Ray Cloutier on August 5, 2012, and Myron Tejada on August 21, 2012. The Newsletter contains an obituary piece on Ray and Myron.

Lastly, if you have not paid your annual Association dues, you have until September 30, 2012, at which time your membership will be suspended. Members whose dues are delinquent on December 31, 2012, will have their membership terminated.

September is now upon us and the kids have returned to school. Be alert when you are driving in the vicinity of schools!

Cheers!

*John*

## THE 129TH ALUMNI & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**CCMSgt Liliana Ramos (Ret.)**

The 129th Alumni & Heritage Association (AHA) provides Educational Scholarships to unit members each year. This year we are providing four \$1000 scholarships. Applicants need to be pursuing an Associate's, or Bachelor's degree or enrolled in a vocational school. A current transcript, a statement of work in progress from the educational facility or other evidence of program participation is required for all applicants.

Wing Members applying for a scholarship are required to submit a strong letter of recommendation from their squadron commander with the application. This letter should describe the endorsement reason and brief description of the individual's future potential. Please read the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA Scholarship Program information on our website.

The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is the close of business on Sunday of the November UTA. Applications and the program guidelines can be obtained online at <http://www.129aha.org/scholarship/>.

Completed applications can be submitted to the 129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage Association Scholarship Chair, CCMSgt (ret) Liliana Ramos, by e-mail at [liramos@pacbell.net](mailto:liramos@pacbell.net) or by mailing the application to her home at 1662 Crater Lake Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035. For more information about the scholarships, please e-mail Chief Ramos or call her at (408) 263-5352.

# *TSgt Raymond Dennis Cloutier*

*22 December 1931 - 5 August 2012*



Raymond D. Cloutier of San Ramon, CA, went home to do some important projects for God on August 5th, 2012, at the age of 80. He passed over surrounded by his family after succumbing to cancer. . Raymond was born on December 22, 1931, and raised in Barton, VT, with his parents, 5 brothers and 3 sisters. He graduated from Barton Academy in 1947, and embarked on a 4-year stint in the Air Force where he served in the Korean War on bombers. He served his country with distinction for 11 years and received an honorable discharge as well as several honors, including the National Service Medal. Ray later traveled to California where he attended Pasadena College and UCLA, met and married one of his private pilot students, Francine Kellerman (of Beverly Hills, CA). They shared 49 years of marriage together. They had two beloved daughters: Michele Cloutier-Valdez of Mt Shasta, CA, and Suzanne Cloutier-VanDerwater of Sandy, OR. Raymond's career as a commercial Airline Pilot lasted through many years, many countries, and many airlines. He also worked as a commercial pilot instructor both in the US and abroad. He mentored hundreds of students in flying commercial aircraft in the US, Russia, Turkey and China. Both Ray and Fran enjoyed traveling around the globe. Ray was a lifetime ski bum who was proud to still be sporting his leather ski boots on the slopes into his 70's! Raymond was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and belonged to the National Association of Atomic Veterans. He had a passion for genealogy and was a founding member of L'Association de Cloutiers of North America. He loved a good cup of Peets coffee and a maple bar, as well as a great gin martini (with three olives, of course - for his 'girls'). He will be missed by many for his kind heart, giving nature, and outstanding sense of humor. Raymond is predeceased by his parents Severin and Rose Marie; brothers Gaston and Regent; and sister Bertha. His is survived by brothers Robert, James, and Gaetan; sisters Martha and Rita; wife Francine; and daughters Michele and Suzanne. A celebration of Raymond's Life was held on August 24, 2012, at the Chapel at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette, CA. Donations to Hope Hospice in Dublin, CA are welcome

# *MSgt Myron Tejada*

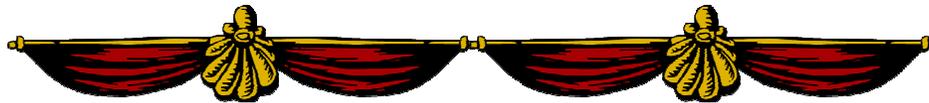
*4 June 1931 - 21 August 2012*



MSgt Myron Tejada, age 81, passed away on August 21, 2012, while undergoing dialysis following a prolonged illness. Myron was born on June 4, 1931, in the Niles District of Fremont, CA. He was raised in Union City and graduated Washington High School. Following high school, Myron enlisted in the Air Force, completing aircraft mechanics training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, and was stationed at Milwaukee, WI, and Terra Haute, IN, before returning to California. Myron joined the 129<sup>th</sup> in 1956 and spent 30 years with the unit.

Myron married his wife, Lucy, on November 5, 1960, at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Union City – the same church he was baptized in as an infant. Myron and Lucy have three children: Marla, Ilyce, and Myron; and two grandsons: Gabriel Jimenez and Colton Taylor Tejada.

Services will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, September 29, 2012, at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587. (510) 471-2609.



# Museum Donations Needed & Wanted

## 129<sup>TH</sup> RQW MUSEUM DISPLAY

Do you have any memorabilia you would like to donate to the 129<sup>th</sup> RQW display at the Moffett Museum? We will proudly display it for you along with a plaque with your name by the item. We have plenty of uniforms already but are in need of items that we can display on the shelves. Thank you very much to all who have generously donated items. Please contact CCMSgt Liliana Ramos at (408) 263-5352 [LilRamos@pacbell.net](mailto:LilRamos@pacbell.net)

A special thank you to Mrs. Santos and her son, Brad Santos, for the many items and uniforms they have donated in Gen Al Santos' name. Gen Santos was the Wing Commander from 1973-1977, serving as the 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing's third Wing Commander. Prior to joining the Wing, he was a WWII pilot who logged 320 flying hours on 66 combat missions. We have a display of Gen Santos' Commando uniform and flight suit at the museum along with various other military paraphernalia and books.

## HAYWARD AIRPORT MUSEUM DISPLAY

**From:** Douglas McNeeley [<mailto:Douglas.McNeeley@hayward-ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** 'j-l.ruppel@att.net'  
**Subject:** 129AHA Artifacts for Display

Dear Col. Ruppel:

I'm the airport manager at Hayward Executive Airport and I'm writing to ask for the assistance of the members of your alumni association. We are designing a new administration building at the airport that should break ground in January 2013 and be completed by December 2013. Our plans include a locked, glass display case for Hayward Airport memorabilia and artifacts. Since the 129<sup>th</sup> was a proud part of the airport's history, I want to investigate the possibility that your members may have material that they may wish to donate for permanent display here. We are particularly interested in 3-dimensional objects such as (but not limited to) aircraft scale models, signs, banners, plaques, flags, clothing such as hats or caps, aircraft manuals, checklists, or old charts.

When you have a moment, please contact me so that we may discuss this further. Thank you for your assistance.

Doug

***Doug McNeeley, Airport Manager***  
*Hayward Executive Airport*  
*20301 Skywest Drive*  
*Hayward, CA 94541-4699*  
*Office: 510.293.5460*  
*Fax: 510.783.4556*  
[douglas.mcneeley@hayward-ca.gov](mailto:douglas.mcneeley@hayward-ca.gov)

# Dondi's Mercantile Store

129<sup>th</sup> AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:LilRamos@pacbell.net)

or online at

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

ITEM	COST	SIZES
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	

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 129<sup>th</sup> who isn't a member yet?

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2012 Dues \$15.00

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ 129<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE DATES FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above information and mail to:  
129<sup>th</sup> 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!!**

Form is available at [www.129aha.org](http://www.129aha.org)

# Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

TSgt Raymond Dennis Cloutier

MSgt Myron Tejada



# New to the Gang

*Our Newest Members*

SSgt Bill Gibson

Capt David Yuers

# Welcome!

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

Application form is available at

[www.129aha.org](http://www.129aha.org)

# DONDI'S MERCANTILE SALE

**Stock Sale!!!!** Call fast before your color or size runs out!

Polo shirts come in Dark Blue and Royal Blue.

We have a few Med, Lrg and X-Lrg.

Men's Logo Polo: \$18

Women's Polo Shirt: \$18

Large AHA Patches: \$8

Hats: \$10

Flashlight/Screwdriver Combo: \$5

Contact Liliana Ramos by calling 408-263-5352 or emailing

[lilramos@pacbell.net](mailto:lilramos@pacbell.net).

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**

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[LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com](mailto:LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com)

**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 129<sup>th</sup> 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@ATT.NET](mailto:J-L.RUPPEL@ATT.NET)



School's Back in Session!  
Watch the Kids!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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