

Volume 18, Issue 3

October 2014

## myPay Update

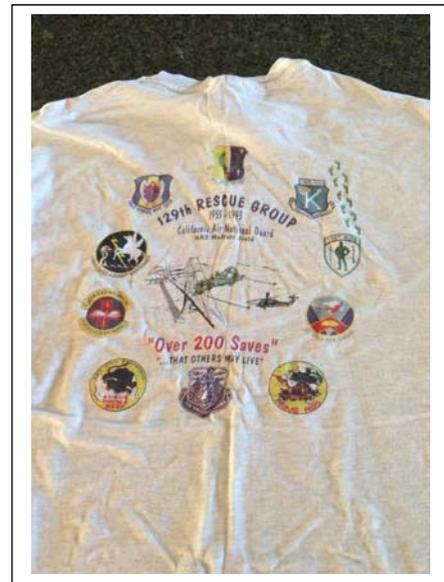
myPay has gotten easier to use! Password requirements have been reduced from 15 to 9 characters. Once you have established a password, it will remain current for up to 150 days. Update your account now so you have easy access in tax season!

For more information on creating a myPay password, check out <http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/password.html>.

The link will offer you detailed instructions and video support.

Having problems creating your password? Check out <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/mypayinfo/tipsandtricks.html> for additional help.

## T-Shirt Photos Needed



Do you have old 129th T-shirts filled with memories laying around the house? We will be capturing 129th history through T-shirt photos. Be a part of capturing the history! Simply take a picture of your T-shirt and email it to [lilramos@pacbell.net](mailto:lilramos@pacbell.net)



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## The Prez Sez

*The President's Column*

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

***The Association mailed 44 delinquent dues notices September 4<sup>th</sup>. We have received only 13 responses after more than a month. This is not being written to the Association majority, but to individual members who have simply ignored the notices. We operate solely on member support. The current membership is 300, and the loss of approximately 30 individuals will seriously impact our operation. If you received a dues notice, please take a moment and send a check – and consider including your 2015 dues. If you have decided not to continue, please let us know so no more resources are wasted!!***

Colonel Gregory Jones assumed command of the 129<sup>th</sup> RQW on July 12, 2014, at a formal change of command ceremony. Colonel Jones becomes the sixteenth 129<sup>th</sup> commander. He was serving as DOD Liaison to the National Science Foundation when appointed 129<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander. Col Jones held several leadership positions in the 146<sup>th</sup> AW prior to his Guard Bureau assignment. Colonel Steve Butow has been appointed Vice Chief of Staff, Joint Staff for the California Military Department. The Association welcomes Colonel Jones, and wishes him much success.

The 162<sup>nd</sup> CCG headquarters has relocated to a new facility at Beale Air Force Base. The newsletter contains details on the relocation.

The Association lost a long term supporter with the passing of Colonel Jere Wolf on August 3, 2014. We were informed of the passing of Barbara Edmonds, wife of LtCol George Edmonds, on July 19, 2014. Articles on Barbara Edmonds and Colonel Wolf can be found in the newsletter.

Cheers!!!

*John*

## Retired Air Force Pilot Survives Dramatic Plane Crash

CBS NEWS - September 8, 2014, 3:14 PM

<http://www.georgianewsday.com/news/regional/28776-8-retired-military-pilot-saved-by-jet-skiers-in-astonishing-rescue-after-his-banner-plane-crashes-into-the-waters-off-miami-beach.html>

A retired military pilot is ready to return to the sky, even after a dramatic plane crash off Miami Beach.

A cell phone video captured Vietnam War veteran Brian Haggerty being brought back to shore moments after he crashed his plane in the water, reports CBS affiliate WFOR's Natalia Zea.

"We heard this huge crash, and we looked over and half the plane was already in the water," Carolyn Kent said.

Witnesses say the former U.S. Army aircraft, now serving as a banner plane, plunged into the ocean about 100 yards from the shore with Haggerty still inside.

Haggerty said he spent 21 years flying for the U.S. Air Force, and as his plane fell out of the sky, panicking never crossed his mind.

"I got a radio call off and then I thought, 'Okay, I'm going to be dead in 5 seconds,'" Haggerty said.

He said his engine was failing and the plane was going down, so he prepared himself for an ocean splash down, away from any innocent bystanders.

"It was apparent that I wasn't going to get it started again, so I looked clear to make sure that nobody was in front of me, boats or swimmers or anything," Haggerty said. "It was clear that I didn't want to hurt anybody, and I just made a radio call. 'Engine quit, I'm going in the water.'"

That's when he said his military training kicked in. Activating his life vest, then exiting the plane at a point clear of any wreckage. A group of jet skiers noticed him in the water and were able to bring him safely back to shore.

Thanks to his quick thinking, Haggerty survived and no one else was injured. He said he's a bit beat up but ready to get back to work.

"I'll probably try to get on schedule and tow a banner this week, although my wife told me I'm not," he said, smiling.

The NTSB is investigating what caused the aircraft to lose power. The small plane was built in 1951, but the pilot said it had been well maintained.

# **TRICARE UPDATES**

## ***TRICARE for Guard and Reservists***

TRICARE now has insurance plans available for all retired Reservists and Guards regardless of age. For full information about these plans including covered services and costs see their web site at [www.tricare.mil/welcome/enroll](http://www.tricare.mil/welcome/enroll).

SOURCE: *Military Officer* May 2014 Pg. 25 -"Benefits Brief"

## ***TRICARE Nurse Advice Line***

If you are a TRICARE beneficiary within the continental US, Alaska and Hawaii, and have urgent care questions or needs, you may now access the Nurse Advice Line to receive guidance and advice. This line is manned by a team of registered nurses, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can help you determine if self-care is appropriate or if you should be seen by a health care provider. To contact this service, call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-874-2273 and select Option 1.

SOURCE: Walter Reed Medical Center News Release, 22 July 2014

## ***New Website for TRICARE Benefit Information***

[TRICARE.mil](http://TRICARE.mil) recently unveiled their newly designed website. The changes provide for easier navigation and faster access to partner's secure services. There is also a new section on life-changing events. Learn more about your health benefits and stay up to date on changes by visiting the new website at <http://www.tricare.mil/>.

SOURCE: [HEALTH.MIL@freelists.org](mailto:HEALTH.MIL@freelists.org)

# Beale Total Force Team Gathers at ANG Ribbon Cutting

*by Staff Sgt. Brenda Davis  
940th Wing Public Affairs*

10/5/2014 - **BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, California**

Yesterday, the California Air National Guard celebrated the construction of a \$6.1 million-dollar, 10,800 square-foot facility in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

The new headquarters building will house the 162nd Communication Group in a move that joins California Air National Guard with the active duty and reserve forces stationed on Beale.

"Co-locating with active and reserve components represents the future of the Air Force continuum of service," said Brig. Gen. Jon Kelk, California Air National Guard commander. "It's a great fit for us and for the total force."

Completion of this project also allows the Air Force and Air National Guard to close the North Highlands Air National Guard Station in Sacramento, saving approximately \$3.3 million dollars in facilities operations and maintenance costs over the next five years.

"The new building is designed so we can not only improve our current operations," Kelk added, "but also grow as the Air Force adapts to new missions."

The 162nd Communications Group consists of the headquarters and nine geographically separated units that span across California, with four of those units already co-located at Beale.

"The Air Force has successfully integrated the three elements of the guard, reserve and active forces," said Rep. John Garamendi, 3rd Congressional District. "Today's event represents one more step in that direction."

The 162nd is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Its history is marked with contributions to all the modern conflicts our nation has faced while also responding to a wide array of national and state contingencies.

"We are excited about our new home," said Col. Marilyn Rios, 162nd Combat Communications Group commander. "We are fully committed to reinforcing our partnership with such an exceptional team of professionals here at Beale."



Brig. Gen. Jon Kelk, California Air National Guard commander, Col. Marilyn Rios, 162nd Combat Communications Group commander and Rep. John Garamendi, 3rd Congressional District cut the ribbon at the new 162nd Combat Communications Group headquarters, Sept. 4, 2014 at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. The building will save approximately \$3.3 million dollars in costs over the next five years. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth McCann/Released)

# 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 Dave Russell at:  
 (209) 551-8077  
[DPRussell11@comcast.net](mailto:DPRussell11@comcast.net)  
 or online at  
<http://www.129aha.org>

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket or Vest	\$65 - \$80	
Polo Shirts - Blackhawk & 130	\$25 & up	Special Order
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 2014 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)

# *Barbara Sumiko Edmonds*

*Passed 19 July 2014*



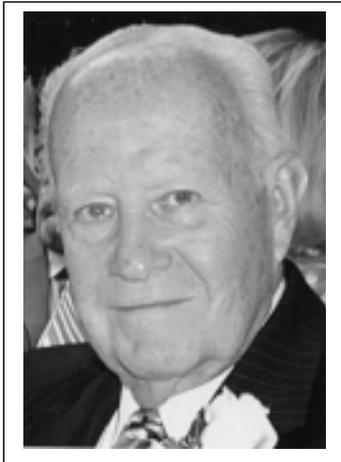
Barbara Sumiko Edmonds, passed away peacefully at home with her family on July 19, 2014, at the age of 52 after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. Barb was a super band mom, dedicated drum corps volunteer, team mom, active member of many community service organizations, recipient of many service awards, and a loyal Cal graduate. She rallied the support of the community to raise awareness and money for pancreatic cancer research. Her generous spirit and infectious smile will be missed by all.

Beloved wife of George Edmonds; loving mother to William and Sarah; adored companion to Kira, her Wheaton Terrier. Devoted daughter of George and Elsie Oyama; cherished aunt to Laura, Olivia and Eric; and sister of Lois. Preceded in death by her sister Nancy.

Memorial service was held Saturday, August 23, 2014, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4243 Manuela Ave, Palo Alto. Donations may be made online to <http://cancer.stanford.edu/help/gift.html> or checks may be sent to Stanford Cancer Center, C/O Cheryl Cho-Phan, MD, 875 Blake Wilbur Drive, MC 5826, Stanford, CA 94305. All donations should state in memory of Barbara Edmonds and apply to GHBKV (Dr. Cheryl Cho-Phan GI Cancer Research).

# *Col Charles Jere Wolf*

*28 June 1935 –3 August 2014*



Col. Charles Jere Wolf, USAF, Retired, was born in Johnstown, PA on June 28, 1935. Jere died on August 3, 2014, in his home surrounded by his loving family. He now lives in the company of his Savior, Jesus Christ. Jere moved to California with his parents, Boyd & Ida Wolf, when he was 12 years old. He graduated from Chaffey High School in 1953. He attended Chaffey College & joined the Air National Guard in 1953. In 1955 he married Doreen, and they were happily married for 59 years. Jere served his country in the California Air National Guard and United States Air Force, for 42 years. Jere & Doreen moved to Victorville in 1996, after Jere retired from active duty, USAF. They have had an active and happy retirement in Victorville. Jere is survived by his wife Doreen and two daughters, two grandsons, and two great grandsons: Cynthia Wolf Olufson, mother of Brian Olufson, who is married to Annalee - they have two sons, Dylan & Hunter; Melanie Wolf Zimmers and husband Michael have one son – Steven; also a friend who is like a daughter, Karen; and brother-in-law Terald Goodwin. Jere loved his family and was always ready to help and give good advice. Jere was a life-long Lutheran & current member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Victorville Masonic Lodge #634, Fontana Masonic #653 & Past Master of both. He was a member of Al Malaikah Shrine Temple, Apple Valley Shrine Club, Legion of Honor, Sojourners, Scottish Rite, York Rite, and other related organizations. He enjoyed the fellowship & friendship of many people. Jere & Doreen enjoyed the Al Malaikah RV club and had some fun experiences with the RV Shrine Club. He was a member of the Military Officer Association of America. Jere received his BA from Southern Illinois University. He made many friends across the country through his services to his country. He will be remembered for his integrity & ethical values, and his unflinching love of his family. He was interred at Riverside Memorial Cemetery on Aug. 11, 2014. Donations may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, kitchen fund. 16138 Malino Dr., Victorville, CA 92395 or the Los Angeles Unit Shriners Hospital for Children, 3160 Geneva St., Los Angeles, CA 90020.

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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## Watch out for little Trick-or-Treaters!



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### 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 or change your email address.

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. 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 – or when you change your email address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)  
6718 Zerillo Drive  
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E-mail: [J-L.RUPPEL@ATT.NET](mailto:J-L.RUPPEL@ATT.NET)