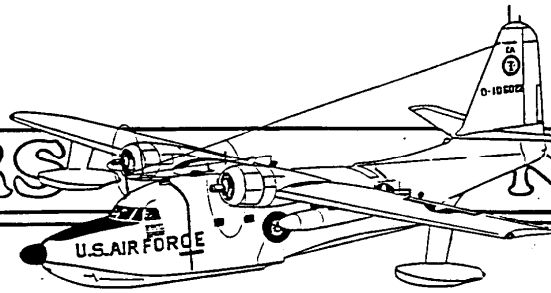


OL TIMERS NOOZZE



Volume 18, Issue 4

December 2014



Merry Christmas

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Board Elections - Directors

March 2015

An election for the four (4) Board Corporation Directors is scheduled for 2015. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Directors are elected in odd number years (2015) and Officers are elected in even number years (2016).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Secretary-Treasurer LtCol Dave Russell; Vice President LtCol Steve James ; association member at large, LtCol Jim Rommelfanger; and Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett. The committee will be 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 Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as a Director. Individuals interested in serving as a Director should complete the form included in this issue. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 20, 2015, to:

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Nominations must be received by January 20, 2015, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots – an email or a self-addressed stamped postcard - will be sent to all members in good standing, with information regarding the Old Timers Luncheon, no later than February 15, 2015. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned no later than March 7, 2015, to be valid. The nominees with the highest number of votes for each office will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers Luncheon.



The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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



The December Newsletter was delayed to allow the Board to deal with several items.

The Board approved relocating the annual Old Timers lunch from Castro Valley to Michaels at Shoreline in Mountain View. The Luncheon attendance has diminished significantly the last three years to 88 attendees in 2014. The Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2015. The February Newsletter will provide details on the lunch menu, registration information, and a map to Michaels. Please mark your calendar for the Luncheon date. The Board looks forward to seeing you.

I have reported the Association's Dues Delinquency problem in the last couple of Newsletters. The Board ordered any member two years in arrears membership be forfeited December 31, 2014. Members who are one year in arrears will have until March 11, 2015, to pay the current dues and any arrears.

The Association will hold an election for the four at-large Director seats. The Newsletter contains information on the nomination and election procedures. The election Committee will accept nominations from December 20, 2014, until January 20, 2015. Ballots will be distributed with the February Newsletter and must be returned by March 7, 2015.

Col Greg Jones, the 129th RQW Commander announced two personnel changes. Col Jeff Magram, the Wing Vice Commander, has been appointed the Director of the Air Division Staff effective April 2015. Lt Col Taft Aujero has been appointed the 129th Operations Group Commander.

The Association was notified of the November passing of MSgt Dan Mensing. The Wing lost SrA Khiem T. Nguyen Veterans Day weekend to a freak accident at Monterey Bay. Obituaries for MSgt Mensing and SrA Nguyen can be found in the Newsletter.

The Board sends Holiday Greetings to you and yours, and wishes you a successful 2015.

Cheers!!!

John



NOMINATION FOR CORPORATION DIRECTOR

Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129th AHA!

Place my name in nomination for Corporation Director.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Rank: _____ Dates of Service in 129th: _____

Signature: _____

Must be received no later than January 20, 2015. Mail to:

COL. JOHN L. RUPPEL, JR. (RET.)

6718 ZERILLO DRIVE

RIVERBANK, CA 95367-2122

2014 Scholarship Awards

CCMSgt Liliana Ramos (Ret.)

Thanks to the generosity of Ron & Patti VandenBerghe, Wells Fargo Bank, and LtCol Charles Fuller, we are able to award scholarships to 11 members of the 129th RQW. Scholarship award checks of \$1,000 will be presented to each of the following young people at the annual Ol' Timers' Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043.

- ✔ BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship
 - SrA Radley Agbalog – 129th LRS
- ✔ BG Charles W. Koenig Scholarship
 - SSgt Sage Savage – 129th RQS
- ✔ Col Ralston D. McKee Scholarship
 - SSgt Felipe Mancera – 129th LR
- ✔ SMSgt Donald Delucchi Scholarship
 - SSgt Kareemah Mata – 129th M)
- ✔ SMSgt Joaquin “Joe” Preciado Scholar
 - TSgt John Groboske – 129th CF
- ✔ Col John R. Breeden Scholarship
 - MSgt Joel Mattenson – 129th M)
- ✔ Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship
 - TSgt Brian Struckan – 129th RQS
- ✔ LtCol John W. O’Sullivan Scholarship
 - A1C Christopher Walker – 129th RQS
- ✔ CMSgt Richard Butow Scholarship
 - TSgt Michael Wang – 129th RQS
- ✔ SMSgt Vaughn H. Clearman Scholarship
 - TSgt Hong Zhou – 129th LRS
- ✔ LtCol Charles E. Fuller Scholarship
 - SMSgt Todd Schneider – 129th MSG



129th RQW History in T-Shirts

by CCMSgt Liliana Ramos (Ret)

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

Here are pictures we have gathered so far.....

129th T-Shirts Through the Years



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 Dave Russell at:
 (209) 551-8077
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 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2015 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!!**

Form is available at www.129aha.org

MSgt Daniel Lavern Mensing

2 December 1949 – 1 November 2014

Daniel "Dan" Mensing, 64, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2014 after complications from pneumonia. He courageously battled multiple sclerosis (MS) for over 25 years prior the recent illness. In addition to serving in the military for over 26 years, he worked as an instrument technician/field service engineer, until the MS prevented him from doing so. Dan is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Julia Mensing; his daughters Olivia Mensing, Brooke Whiteside and her husband Joel and granddaughters, Bryce, and Nicole Mensing. He is also survived by his mother, Betty Mensing, and siblings Sandra Broeder and her husband John; Fred Mensing and his wife Patti; Chris Pankey and her husband Kimo; Susan Thompson and her husband Kent; Tim Mensing and his wife Darla; Xena Wickliffe and her husband Eric; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and many friends. A memorial service was held at on Saturday, December 13th at [Bethany Lutheran Church](#), 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park, California. Please make donations in Dan's memory to [Bethany Lutheran Church](#), or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Northern California. Please sign the guestbook at www.crippenflynn.com



SrA Khiem T. Nguyen

10 February 1990 – 11 November 2014



Senior Airman Khiem T. Nguyen passed unexpectedly while fishing on Veterans' Day, 11 November 2014, in Carmel, California, at the age of 24. Khiem is survived by his parents, Thuy Tran and Austin Nguyen; his son, Kian Nguyen; his brother, Khoa Nguyen; his Grandmother and Grandfather, Jerry and Dorothy Hrabal; and his Grandfather Thanh Tran. He is predeceased by his Grandfather and Grandmother, Van Bi Nguyen and Thi Nu Tran; and his Grandmother Quy Nguyen. Khiem was born in San Jose on 10 February 1990 to Austin Nguyen and Thuy Tran. He began the spectacular journey that is fatherhood when his son Kian Christopher Nguyen was born on 6 June 2007. In 2008, he graduated from Milpitas High School before enlisting into the [United States Air Force](#) as a Knowledge Operator at Moffett Federal Air Field in 2011. Khiem was a devoted father, loving son, dutiful airman, inspirational coach and loyal friend. An active member in his community, he played on multiple soccer leagues and in turn, coached his son's soccer team, The Strikers, to teach the game he cherished. Khiem put 110% into everything he did. He was a problem solver, the go-to guy at the 129th Rescue Wing and a rock to his family and friends, overcoming any difficult or daunting task that arose. "His positivity illuminated our hearts and his words dared us to chase after our dreams. If you knew Khiem, you'd know that he lived his life to the fullest with unwavering passion... His strength, charisma, and leadership unified so many of us. He touched so many lives and will live on in our hearts and memories forever." – A. Dang

Mass was held on 21 November at Our Lady of Peace Church in Santa Clara. Following the mass, the funeral was at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos. Condolences can be sent to <http://www.gofundme.com/h7mtp8>. The family would like to thank everyone for their love, support, effort and dedication through this difficult time.



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

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Happy Holidays!!



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AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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J-L.Ruppel@att.net

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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 129th 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
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

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