



TACAMO.ORG



*Aviation Shapes the History of TACAMO*



**TRAILING WIRE**

**BREAKING**

**NEWS**

**ENCLOSED**

# BREAKING

**NEWS**



## See Inside the TACAMO E-130J



**Lockheed Martin One Together Event**

**Date: November 10, 2025**

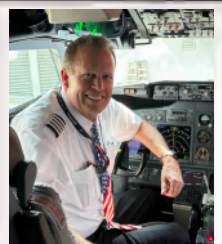
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**DETAIL ON PAGE 13**

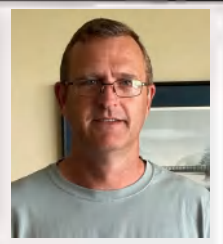
# TCVA Board of Directors & Committee Crew Members




**Mike Vos**  
Executive Director &  
TSA/TCVA Founding Member  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation  
Stand-up Committee



**Dennis Warren**  
"Coach"  
President



**Tony Barnes**  
Vice President  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation  
Stand-up Committee



**Cheryl Vos**  
Vice President Administration &  
Reunion/Event Planner  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation  
Stand-up Committee



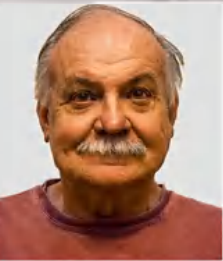
**Jim Meppelink**  
Vice President Awards & Recognition  
& TACAMO Hall of Fame/  
Life Member  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



**John Alger**  
Vice President Merchandising &  
Scholarship Committee  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation  
Stand-up Committee



**Mike Neri**  
Vice President Membership

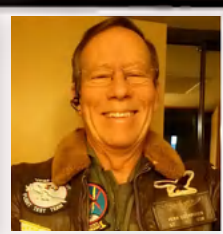


**Joe Caruso**  
Treasurer & Membership  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'

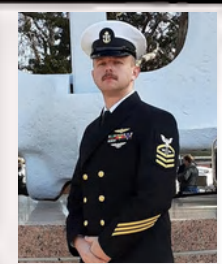


**John Burgoon "Mom"**  
Secretary &  
Scholarship Committee

**Wanted**  
**Active Duty**  
**Representative**



**Vern Lochausen**  
President Emeritus/Historian/  
Life Member  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation  
Stand-up Committee  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



**James Youngblood**  
Historian Assistant



**Cathy Neri**  
Database Builder



**Joan Alger**  
Reunion Planner Assistant

**Wanted**  
**Volunteers**  
**for**  
**Communications**  
**Marketing**  
**Website**  
**Social Media**  
**Newsletter**  
**Museum Exhibits**

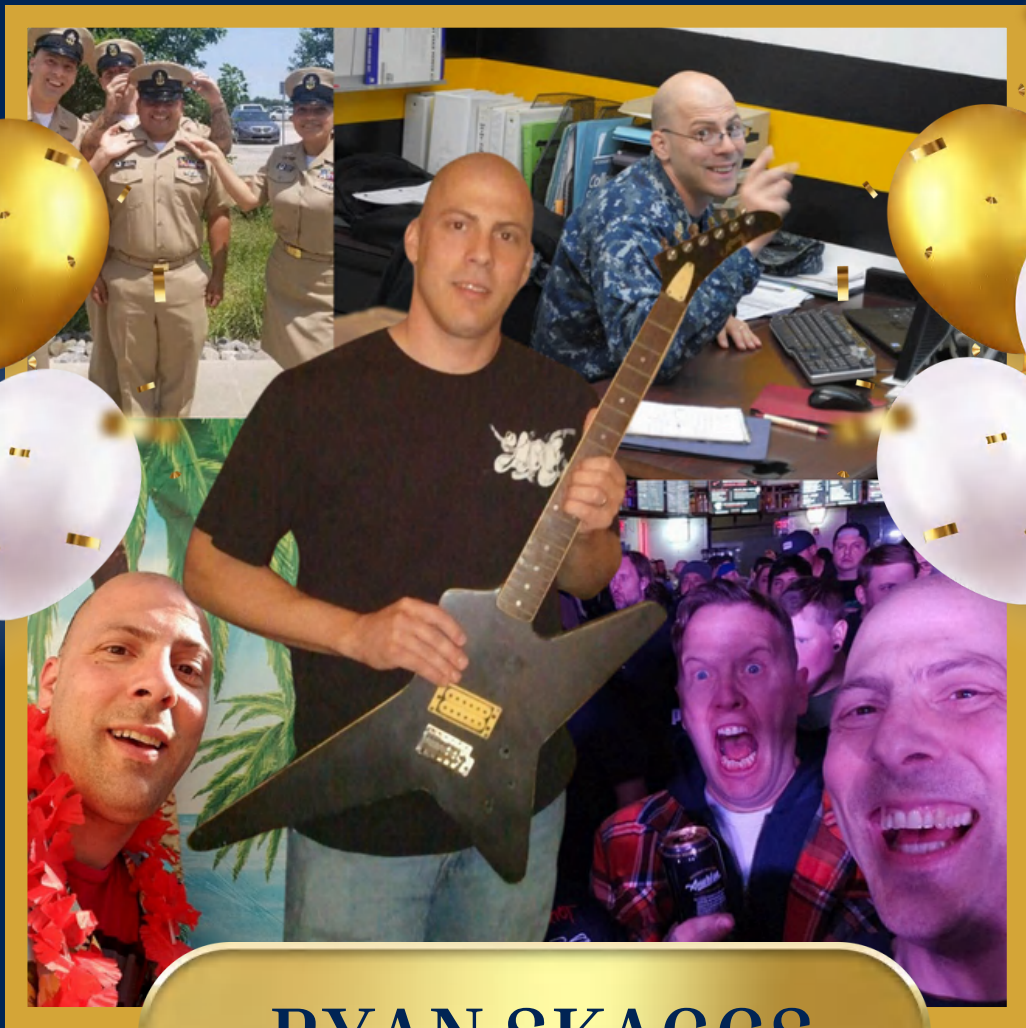
## TSA Founding Members

- President Emeritus - Barry Coyle & TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee in 2014
- Vice President Emeritus - Bill "Buff" Crowell & 2021 TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee
- Executive Director - Mike Vos & Founding member of TSA and TCVA
- Sue Davies
- Franklin Forrest
- Lynwood Zepik
- John Cotter

## Former TSA/TCVA Board of Directors Members

- Jim Gallagher Vice President 2005 to 2018 & 2018 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee
- Vern Lochausen President Emeritus 2005 to 2023 & 2017 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee
- Ryan Skaggs - Active Duty Representative 2022 to 2025





**RYAN SKAGGS**

# RETIREMENT

**from 29 years of Naval  
Service & TCVA's Board Member as  
Active Duty Representative**

TCVA extends our sincere thanks to Ryan Skaggs for his invaluable service on the Board of Directors and his dedicated contributions to the TACAMO Community.



## THE TACAMO FOUNDATION Letter from the Chairman of the Board

TACAMO Community,

I would like to announce the TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) established The TACAMO Foundation (TTF) in November 2024. TTF is a nonprofit corporation with a mission to educate the Nation's public on the history of the Navy's Strategic Deterrence Mission and the vital role the TACAMO Mission contributes to our country's national security. The Foundation will provide support to the TCVA through educational opportunities, assist in public outreach programs, and provide scholarships to students associated with the TACAMO Community.



## THE TACAMO FOUNDATION

I am honored to have been selected as the Chairman for the stand up of The TACAMO Foundation and look forward to growing the Foundation along with the Foundation Board Members. We have a very knowledgeable and determined group of Board Members to include Vern Lochausen, John Alger, George Davis, and Randy Mahoney.

We had an exciting 2024 with the establishment of the Foundation and TCVA's first presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) to VADM Nora Tyson, USN (Ret). During the presentation of the LAA, the Foundation was presented with the first enduring donation that established the VADM Nora Tyson Scholarship, a new scholarship that will be awarded in 2025 and for years to come.

I am glad to report that 2025 has started off just as exciting. The Foundation has received the first legacy donation, a donation that is made as part of an individual's will or trust. Additionally, the Foundation will award a total of 5 scholarships this year to deserving TACAMO Community applicants. Our goal is to continue to increase the number of available scholarships and continue to support our community in meeting the growing cost of higher education.

Whether you are a TACAMO Shipmate, Veteran, Family Member, Civil Service, or an Industry Partner, the TCVA and Foundation appreciate your service and support of the TACAMO Mission. We are proud to be part of the team and look forward to continuing to serve our TACAMO Community.

Take Charge And Move Out  
CAPT Tony Barnes, USN (Ret)



L to R: George Davis, Vern Lochausen, Dr. Randy Mahoney, Tony Barnes, and John Alger



LAUNCHING  
SOON

# TACAMO Scholarships



*Coming soon*

*First to fly the Merc" Group Scholarship*



Last to Fly EC-130 Hercs Crew



TACAMO Chiefs Future Leaders Scholarship



William "Buff" Crowell II Scholarship Fund dedicated to a Founding Member of TSA/TCVA



VADM Nora W. Tyson Scholarship



Vern and Colleen Lochausen Scholarship "Excellence in Technology & Arts" dedicated to a Founding Member of TCVA

## The TACAMO Scholarships

### Mission Statement:

The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) will award annual scholarships to students in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) related curriculum or technical certification (example: HVAC, Automotive Technician, Sous Chef, etc.).

Detailed Information can be found by going to <https://www.tacamo.org/scholarships>

TCVA Scholarships are available to:

- Active Duty personnel under the command of STRATCOMMWING 1.
- Children and Grandchildren, Step-children and Step-grandchildren of TCVA members

### Scholarships Awarded

2024 - Jacob Estes & Aubrey Russell  
[tacamo.org/scholarships/awarded](https://tacamo.org/scholarships/awarded)

**2025**

Announcement of five Scholarships Awarded

## TACAMO Scholarship Application Form

[\*\*LINK\*\*](#)

TCVA Scholarships are available to:

- Active Duty personnel under the command of STRATCOMMWING 1.
- Children and Grandchildren, Step-children and Step-grandchildren of TCVA members

TCVA Scholarship Application Form Instructions:

- The supporting commentator will be referred to as the "Sponsor".
- The Sponsor's supporting comments will be validated for authenticity.
- The Student's school choice will be validated for accreditation and enrollment status.



# TCVA



## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2025

- **APR**
  - 11th - AVCM Skaggs, TCVA Active Duty Representative & VQ-3 MMCPO Retirement Ceremony
  - 17th - TACAMO Weapons School (TWS) Change of Command
  - Scholarship applications are screened & awardees are selected
- **MAY**
  - 2nd - “Old Timers Meet and Greet the Fleet” Gathering, Tinker Event Center, 1400-1700
  - 9th - VQ-3 Change of Command, 1000
  - 22nd - VQ-4 Change of Command, 1000, Hangar Bay 3
  - 31st - Award for Excellence in Service (AES) Applications Open
  - Hall of Fame Selectees are notified
- **JUNE**
  - 21st - TACAMO Memorial Day - TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Life Celebration
  - 28th & 29<sup>th</sup> - Tinker Airshow
  - 31st - Award for Excellence in Service (AES) Applications Close
- **JULY**
  - 4th - TCVA announces current year Hall of Fame inductees
- **AUG**
  - 8th - SCW-1 Change of Command
  - 31st - Award for Excellence in Service (AES) Awards are Announced
- **OCT**
  - 9th - 250th Navy Birthday Ball, 1800-2300, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73111
- **NOV 6 to 12**
  - **EVENT: TCVA Reunion in Marietta, GA**

### 2027

- **June 18 to 26**
  - **EVENT: Hawaii Reunion Oahu & the Big Island**



# One Tour Wonder, Pam Vaughn Valdez Shares with the World



Pam Vaughn Valdez spoke at the Royal Aeronautical Society's International Women's Day Conference 2025 in London! Organized by the Women in Aviation, Aerospace and Space Committee and proudly sponsored by GKN Aerospace, this year's theme, "Accelerate Action," highlights the urgency of breaking down systemic barriers and biases to achieve true gender equality in our industry.

Pam shared the inspirational story of Hedy Lamarr, the actress who invented and patented frequency hopping in 1942. Frequency hopping is the backbone of the TACAMO VERDIN System, as well as cellphones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, and many military communication systems.

I especially enjoyed meeting the students who are studying aviation disciplines - keep up the good work ladies

## Pam Vaughn Valdez, Career Aerospace Logistician & Former VP, Boeing

**History:** Six years enlisted in VQ-4, in 1984 she joined Boeing as E-6 avionics maintenance training instructor, led program execution for several defense services programs, including E-6 Training and E-6 Flight Test.

Pam retired from The Boeing Company as Vice President of Air Force Services. Pam is a career aerospace logistician with 36 years at Boeing and 6 years in the US Navy. She has led logistics programs for fighters, tankers, trainers, helicopters, attack, reconnaissance, and special mission aircraft. Her passion is aircraft training and training equipment.

She holds licenses as a pilot, A&P mechanic, and FCC avionics technician. She is a Fellow in the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Pam is currently on the Boards of USO Northwest, Museum of Flight and the Royal Aeronautical Society Seattle Branch.



## New USO Lounge on USS Nimitz Aircraft Carrier

Pamela P. Valdez Chair, USO-NW Council Member and USO Northwest Council Members opened an onboard USO lounge on the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier at Bremerton. It was a great ceremony and ship tour. Well done to all involved. This lounge will provide comfort to thousands of sailors.



### Mission Statement

The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

USO Northwest (USO-NW)

### USO Northwest Centers

- Sea-Tac USO Airport Center - Sea-Tac International Airport
- Portland USO Airport Center- Portland International Airport
- Shali USO Center - McChord Field, JBLM
- Camp Lewis USO Center - Fort Lewis, JBLM
- Mobile USO Program - Washington and Oregon
- USS Nimitz aircraft carrier - Bremerton





# TACAMO

## 2025

### THE OLD TIMERS RETURN TO "MEET AND GREET THE FLEET"

Mark your Calendar. Time to refresh memories and friendships, share comradery, and meet and thank the present day warfighters.

#### *02024 Gathering*

*The TACAMO Old Timer's "Meet and greet" - "Grip and grin" Fly In at the Tinker Club was a great success. The TACAMO Fleet showed in full force as did Old Timers from the TACAMO Guam, Hawaii, Pax River and of course Tinker Eras.*

*In a new tradition the TACAMO Old Timers presented Commodore Windeler with "The TACAMO EAGLE" in appreciation and recognition of his leadership of this indomitable TACAMO War fighting Force.*

*Photos of Old Timers 20 years ago Shadow 1 (Cdr" Rocket " Maser) and Shadow 2 (Gary " Combat" Foster) pictured with present day Skipper Kirby "Doogie" Williams, and XO Cody "Queen" Scarborough.*



# 2

**MAY, FRIDAY  
1400 - 1700**


**At Tinker Club  
4555 S. Air Depot  
Blvd, OKC**



**From Commodore Captain Britton "Britt" Windeler:  
We had a great showing last year of JOs, DHs, and  
COs/XOs; they all had a good time and I fully expect  
another great turnout this year!**

# Capt. Adam "Lurch" Scott retires after 30 years of honorable military service.



 MWR Pax River  
Yesterday at 3:47 AM · 🌐

The spring golf season has begun 🌞🍷🏌️‍♂️

Welcome to PMA-271, who has the distinction of being Cedar Point Golf Course's first outing of the year! They're celebrating a change of command and honoring Capt. Adam Scott, who's retiring after 30 years. Fair winds & following seas, Capt. Scott 🙏🚢

**HAPPY Retirement!**

**From the TACAMO Community**  
**TACAMO ACTIVE DUTY**

TCVA had a memorable encounter with Lurch (LT Scott) and the TACAMO crew back in 2014! The brief interaction at the reunion in Marietta, GA, was exciting for both the crew and the attendees, especially when the alert was launched that cut the visit short. Those kind of moments—where past and present meet, even briefly—often make reunions special.

Captain Scott and his wife, Charlotte may you have many fun filled years in retirement.



**TCVA's active duty ambassadors TACAMOLANT Crew 4**  
TACAMO active duty members have been present at TCVA reunions for the past four years. 2011 Pax River, 2012 OKG, 2013 Seattle, WA & 2014 Marietta, GA. We never know when they will appear, but all attending the reunion enjoy meeting the future TACAMO Veterans. Looking forward to them joining us in Hawaii 2016.

# CAPT Roger 'Raji' Davis assumed Command from retiring CAPT Adam 'Lurch' Scott.



Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office

**CHANGE OF COMMAND & RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

in which  
**CAPTAIN ADAM T. SCOTT**  
 will be relieved by  
**CAPTAIN ROGER A. DAVIS**

Friday, March 21, 2025  
 Naval Air Station Patuxent River



The Friday, March 21, 2025, Change of Command & Retirement Ceremony for the U.S. Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271). (U.S. Navy photo by Peter Fitzpatrick)

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, MD – The U.S. Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) held a change of command today, during which Capt. Roger "Raji" Davis relieved Capt. Adam "Lurch" Scott. Scott is retiring after 30 years of honorable military service.

Marine Corps Brig. Gen. David Walsh, the program executive officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs (PEO(A)), presided over the ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland. The event drew hundreds, including many current and former members of the "Take Charge and Move Out" (TACAMO) community, named for the mission flown by the E-6B Mercury.

The ceremony took place at the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 20 hangar, the center of E-6 flight testing.

Scott took command as program manager of PMA-271 in January 2021, leading over 500 acquisition professionals in the sustainment, modernization and recapitalization of the Navy's E-6B and future E-130J aircraft. During his tenure, he led the program office to dramatically reduce turnaround times on the E-6B modification, maintenance and depot lines, secure funding for additional depot lines, and award a \$3.5 billion contract for the development of the E-130J. Along the way, he and PMA-271 became models for the application of the Navy's "Get Real, Get Better" principles, winning the 2023 Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Commander's Award in that category.



Scott is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. He is a decorated naval aviator who has dedicated his career to the nation's airborne nuclear deterrence mission.

Vice Adm. Carl Chebi, commander of Naval Air Systems Command, was the guest speaker.

"Congratulations on a tremendously successful career and thank you for your dedicated and faithful service to our great country," said Chebi. "You truly made a difference and you performed magnificently. The United States Navy and naval aviation is far better today because of your many dedicated and faithful years of service."

Scott is succeeded by Davis, a TACAMO veteran who most recently served as the E-6B Level 1 Integrated Product Team Lead at PMA-271. In that role, he led the sustainment and modernization of the E-6B fleet.

*Continued on page 12*



# TACAMO Program Office Holds Change of Command



Continued from page 11

Photos by (U.S. Navy photo by Peter Fitzpatrick)

Article by **NAVAIR**



*Capt. Roger Davis speaks after taking command of the U.S. Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) during a ceremony on Friday, March 21, 2025.*

Davis received his officer commission in 2003 and graduated from U.S. Naval Test Pilot in 2008. He has served in a variety of roles in the squadrons that test and operate the E-6B fleet, including commanding Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3 from 2021-2022.

He takes the helm at a critical time for the program's nuclear deterrence mission, especially as the team works to field the E-130J, the successor to the E-6B for the TACAMO mission.

"The next four years will see the need for our TACAMO warfighters to be ready in a way we haven't seen before, ready to be in the forefront of our nation's nuclear deterrence strategy," said Davis. "This community is the foundation that will enable that readiness, supporting those warfighters that fly today, and preparing a system that will endure in the future."

PMA-271 is headquartered at NAS Patuxent River with support personnel at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Its mission is to deliver and support survivable, reliable and enduring airborne command, control and communications for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command. The E-6 is a dual-role aircraft that flies the no-fail TACAMO and Looking Glass missions. TACAMO provides alternate communications with the Navy's nuclear forces in the event ground-based communications become inoperable. Looking Glass facilitates the launch of U.S. land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles using an airborne launch control system (ALCS). The ALCS serves as an around-the-clock standby in the event that U.S. Strategic Command or launch control centers on the ground become incapacitated. The E-130J will relieve the E-6B of the TACAMO mission.

In his parting words, Scott encouraged the PMA-271 team to continue its work to ensure the first mission of the Department of Defense: protecting the homeland by providing assured strategic nuclear deterrence.

"Stay in the fight. Don't give up," said Scott. "Today closes one long, 30-year chapter of our journey. I look forward to seeing what the next chapter looks like."



*Capt. Roger Davis receives his Command Ashore pin from his wife after taking command of PMA-271.*



*Capt. Adam Scott is applauded following his retirement from the Navy with 34 years of service.*



*(Left) Capt. Adam Scott escorts his wife, Charlotte as he is piped ashore for the final time*

**You ask,  
“Can we see E- the  
new TACAMO 130J  
on the  
production line”?**

**YES!**

**JOIN US**



@

**the  
2025 Reunion**

## Lockheed Martin One Together Event

- **Date:** November 10, 2025
- **Time:** 1000 - 1400
- **Location:** Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Plant, Marietta, GA
- **Agenda:**
  - Briefing: Overview of Lockheed Martin and its operations
  - Plant Tour: A guided look at the NEW TACAMO E-130J
  - Lunch: Ballpark-style lunch following the tour

This tour has been arranged by TCVA board members and Lockheed Martin Director, Kevin McGowin, providing a unique opportunity for members and their spouses to gain an in-depth look at cutting-edge aviation technology.



# TACAMO Reunion 2025

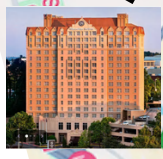
## Tentative Schedule



Georgia-built  
TACAMO's New  
EC-130J's



Tour Lockheed-Martin  
15 minute drive



## Sponsors



### THUR NOV 6:

- Early Bird Check-in
- Gather in the Hotel bar for Happy Hour 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

### FRI NOV 7:

- Sheraton Guest:
  - FREE full breakfast provided with room rate
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. >> Registration
- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. >> **Buffet Dinner at Welcome Gathering** with Cash Bar

### SAT NOV 8:

- Sheraton Guest:
  - FREE full breakfast provided with room rate
- 10 a.m. to Noon >> Quarters: TCVA Members Meeting
- 3 p.m. >> Tour of Truist Field Ballpark, Home of the Braves ending in the Monument Garden for a special presentation. The tour last one and a half to two hours.
- Enjoy an evening at the Battery >> Shop, Play, & Dine Out
  - Discounts and parking <https://batteryatl.com/> - <https://www.batteryatl.com/heroes>
  - Park at Battery: Non-event days parking is free for the first 2 hours
  - Walk from the hotel to the Battery is a 15-20 a minute walk.

### SUN NOV 9:

- Sheraton Guest:
  - FREE full breakfast provided with room rate
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. >> **TACAMO Hall of Fame Buffet Lunch** with Cash Bar & Open mic for Hall of Fame members.
- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. >> Social Time
- 4 p.m. >> Flight Suit Liberty

### MON NOV 10:

- Sheraton Guest:
  - FREE full breakfast provided with room rate
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. >> Lockheed-Martin Tour & possible Time in Herc Simulator
- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. >> Evening Gathering

### TUES NOV 11: PLE Day

- Sheraton Guest:
  - FREE full breakfast provided with room rate
- TBA: TACAMO Attendees may walk or observe the Veterans Day Parade
- TBA: PLE Outing Dinner at 57th Fighter Group <https://www.57threstaurant.com/>

**Meet-ups are being scheduled for:**  
VQ-3 VQ-4 VQ-7 Here Meres

Registration Coming Soon  
<https://www.tacamo.org/2025-tacamo-reunion>

## TACAMO Sea Stories Episode I When the Cold War Went Hot

### TACAMO - Sea Stories

#### EPISODE 1 GENESIS

 <https://www.>

*Sponsored by*



**Collins Aerospace**  
An RTX Business



Arthur Collins was a pioneering American radio engineer and inventor, best known for developing innovative radio equipment and techniques. Early Life and Education Arthur Collins was born in 1909 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He demonstrated an early interest in electronics and radio communication. **Career-** Collins founded Collins Radio Company in 1933, producing high-quality radio broadcasting equipment; **Key Achievements-** 1. Developed the Collins S-Line, a modular radio system. 2. Introduced the Collins 51J-4, a widely used amateur radio transmitter. 3. Contributed to the development of single-sideband modulation (SSB); **Legacy-** Arthur Collins' contributions significantly impacted radio technology, earning him numerous awards and recognition within the industry.

[View the video by clicking \*\*HERE\*\*](#)

### Possible Future Video Topics

- 24/7 coverage and its logistics
- 707/E-6 decision
- 888 Ed Hampshire experiences; hangar queen and essential AC bus story
- 889 - upgrades test bed; reliable
- 890 - emergency landed on a Pacific island golf course; crashed in a cornfield; Remnants became the training center
- 891 - hero of the story; flew around the world; EMP hardening; ASW test platform; Fat Albert; museum piece; JATO takeoff
- Dave Smith story of French nuke test and golf course landing
- E-6 test & development (broken tail stories)
- E-6 Transition (BA)
- EMP hardening
- French Fry Stories
- G series aircraft (LM)
- Individual aircraft histories
- Gone Fishing event
- Liberty Calls - brief descriptions of places we dropped in on. Maybe an episode each for Atlantic and Pacific.
- Lyle Bercier
- Move to Tinker (practical and political)
- Navy Programs impact on TACAMO – High level intro into HF, FSBS, TAC I to HPTS
- November '79 incident
- Ron Carlson
- Soviet response to TACAMO
- TAC III
- TAC IV
- The 4 G's
- TIP/TIP II
- Why/How VLF

# Website Designer Volunteer Job Description



## Aviation Shapes the History of TACAMO

The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) is looking for a talented for a Website Designer to come on board and help us take our website to the next level. The right candidate will have a strong background in web development using the WIX platform and a good understanding of the latest trends and technologies. If you're a motivated self-starter with a passion for web development, we want to hear from you!

### Website Designer Duties:

- Manage all aspects of the association's online presence, including website, social media presence, blogs, and SEO
- Review, plan, and develop website strategy and content
- Develop and manage social media pages
- Maintain all web content, including articles, blogs, and landing pages
- Maintain and update SEO tools
- Maintain, update, and protect website security
- Research and optimize the website for increased traffic
- Respond to incoming WIX messages in a timely manner
- Manage access to member-only pages

### Website Designer Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain the website, including content, design, updates, technology, and systems
- Provide content to the TCVA Secretary for proofreading before posting
- Provide ongoing, conduct regular web quality assurance checks
- Develop and maintain the website calendar and process, and assist the reunion planner with event postings

### Requirements And Skills:

- A background in website management, communications, journalism, or related field
- Expert knowledge of website programming languages and graphic design software
- Skilled in constructing persuasive, compelling, and easy-to-read web content
- Ability to maintain and update the website with new content
- Strong ability to think critically and creatively about web communications
- Hours per week could be one to five hours depending on content

**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**



# Contributions




**TACAMO Community Veterans Assn**  
 Jeffery V. Harbin · 5h · 🌐  
 On the wall at the Houston Hobby USO



Submitted by Vern  
 Lochausen  
**BIG BRAVO**  
 ZULU to 4 NTSU  
 pioneers OinCs Fish  
 Pohl and Mark  
 Peterson and key  
 staff Brian  
 O'Callaghan and  
 John Jordan!  
 Together they filled  
 in the history record  
 of their service with  
 our B707 trainers.

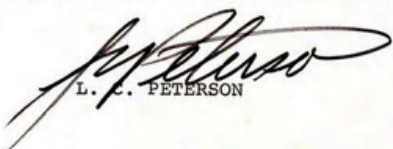


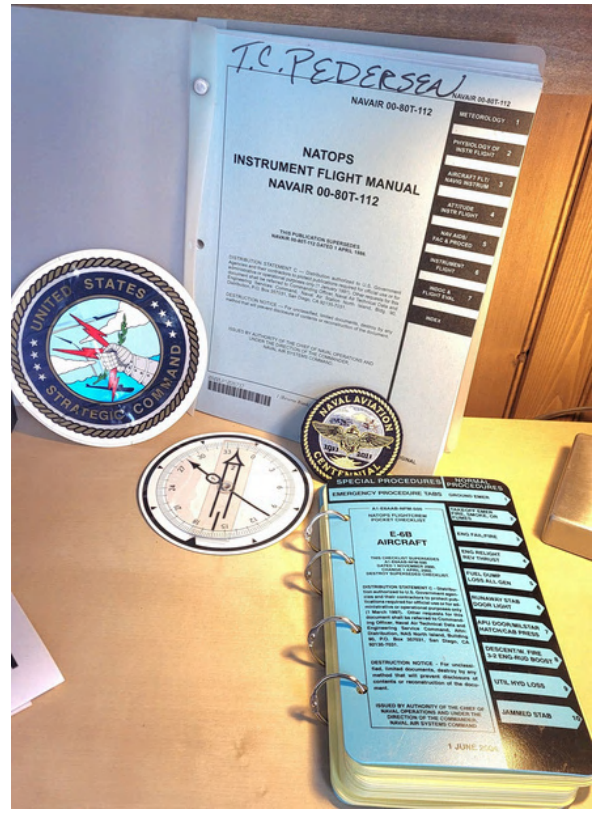
 **FLEET AIR RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON FOUR**  
 NAVAL AIR STATION  
 PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670

IN REPLY REFER TO  
 VQ4:01:CES:lmc  
 1650  
 SER 0342  
 MAR 09 1976

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron FOUR  
 To: AME3 Edward B. EBERLE, USN,  
 Subj: Letter of Commendation

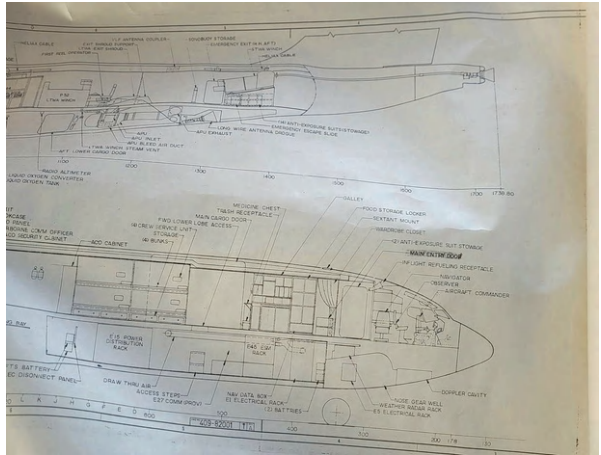
1. It is with great pleasure that I commend you for your outstanding professional performance while working on the night maintenance shift at Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron FOUR on 23 January 1976.
2. At approximately 2000, the odor of smoke was detected in the area of aircraft BUNO 156172, located in the north side of Hangar 109. Immediately thereafter, smoke was observed coming from the port paratroop door of the aircraft. Subsequently, the fire bill was activated at the sound of the hangar fire alarm. At that time, the aircraft was surrounded by check stands and the hangar doors were closed. It was necessary that immediate decisive action be taken to prevent possibly severe damage to the aircraft and hangar.
3. In response to this critical situation, you acted in a totally professional manner, aiding in the effort to locate the source of the smoke, removing check stands and ground support equipment, opening the hangar doors, alerting personnel to the danger of fire, coordinating the arrival of the fire department and directing the fire trucks to the scene of the fire. Your prompt response to this emergency prevented a small fire from becoming a major catastrophe.
4. Your superior performance during this critical time is in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service. On behalf of the entire squadron, it is a personal pleasure to commend you for your performance and devotion to duty. "Well Done."

  
 L. C. PETERSON



Submitted by Vern Lochausen  
 Pax Museum TACAMO Gallery exists  
 because of generous donations by our  
 Veterans. New donations by former Ironman  
 One and Commodore Tim 'T1' Pedersen.  
 Thanks Brother!!!

Submitted by Ed Eberle  
 Who else in this group was at VQ-4 when this happened, and does anyone else remember it. I came across this and thought I would share it  
 Vern Lochausen was the PAO then and put it together for presentation...Skipper Peterson was a solid people person and never missed a chance to present a BZ.



Simple Flying

## US Navy E-130J TACAMO



## Full Story Can be Found at

By Dr. Omar Memon

<https://simpleflying.com/5-fast-facts-us-navy-e-130j-tacamo/>

1

What's in the name?  
Take Charge and Move  
Out (TACAMO) ...

2

Entering production  
Scheduled for delivery in  
2026  
The production of the US  
Navy's first E-130J has  
begun under the TACAMO  
program. Last week, the  
Defense Post ...

3

Replacing the E-6B Mercury  
The E-6B fleet will remain active  
into the 2030s  
The E-130J is designed to  
replace the aging ...

4

A coordinated mission  
Multiple offices and commands  
are involved  
The aircraft will also be used  
for the coordination of launch  
sequences between the ...

5

An extraordinary communication  
platform  
A wide range of communication  
frequency

- Very low frequency (VLF)
- Advanced extremely high  
frequency (AEHF)

The E-130J is capable of  
electromagnetic pulse (EMP)  
hardening and cybersecurity  
hardening, along with an  
improved...

Read more at <https://www.navair.navy.mil/.../TACAMO.../Mon-10212024-1046>



Rendering courtesy of Lockheed Martin Corp.

**BIG NEWS:** The U.S. Navy's new TACAMO platform to succeed the E-6B Mercury will be named ... drumroll, please ... E-130J! The E-130J is the aircraft's mission design series (MDS):

- E = special electronic installation
- 130 = the design number and reflects the aircraft's origins as the EC-130
- J = the series, demonstrating that it will be modified from a proven C-130J-30 Super Hercules airframe

NAVAIR's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) is procuring the E-130J through the TACAMO Recapitalization Program, with contract award is scheduled for January 2025.



# Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta TACAMO Reunion 2025

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by calling Marriott Reservations at 1-888-236-2427  
or clicking on [Book Now](#)

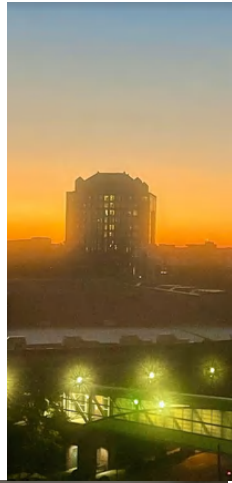
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Start Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2025

End Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

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**Last Day to Book: Wednesday, October 08, 2025**



**2025 TACAMO Reunion**  
Sheraton Suites Galleria-Marietta, GA  
Dates: November 6 to 12

Tentative Schedule

<https://www.tacamo.org/2025-tacamo-reunion>



1. PLAY DINES
2. MARKET LAWN
3. ENTRY GARDEN
4. FASHION RUNWAY
5. FASHION LAWN
6. FLEX PROGRAM VENUE (INFLATABLE)
7. SCREEN ON THE GREEN
8. AQUATIC PERFORMANCE
9. WATER PLAZA
10. RECREATION PIER
11. ROCKY PLAY
12. HOME RUN FOUNTAIN
13. PEACH ARC
14. WIND FIELD
15. BALL PARK
16. FIELD OF DREAMS (LEARNING PATH)
17. OFFICE QUAD
18. WEDDING GARDEN
19. CHERRY ORCHARD
20. FARMERS MARKET
21. PARKING COURT
22. RETAIL COURT - EAST
23. RETAIL COURT - CENTRAL
24. MAIN STREET
25. RETAIL COURT - WEST
26. PINE FOREST (PERIPHERAL)

ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN



# TACAMO Reunion 2025 Dining & Shopping Near the Sheraton



## THE BATTERY ATLANTA



**THE BATTERY ATLANTA™**  
The Battery Atlanta™ offers an unprecedented entertainment experience 365 days a year. The 2.25-million-square-foot mixed-use destination features some of Atlanta's most acclaimed chefs and a diverse blend of culinary options to please foodies and families alike. In addition, visitors can sip cocktails from some of the area's renowned mixologists, shop for the hottest new styles at unique retailers, bowl a few games or ride a mechanical bull.

## Sheraton Suites Galleria



## Mike Vos Shares His Journey: Don't Give Up on Your Disability Claims

Several years ago, TCVA provided a valuable package of evidence to assist members with their Hearing Loss and Tinnitus disability claims to the VA. Many veterans found success with this support, but others, including myself, faced denial. My denial was rooted in the difficulty of proving a “nexus”—the link between my 40+ years of service-related exposure and my current hearing loss. After several unsuccessful attempts and a cease-and-desist letter from the VA, I became frustrated and, at one point, considered giving up.

However, everything changed when I shared my story with a friend connected to a VA evaluator. I learned that a “nexus” opinion letter from a supportive audiologist or physician could be the critical piece of the puzzle. With this new insight, I’ve begun seeking a professional who can help strengthen my case.

I’m now urging fellow veterans who’ve been denied disability claims—whether for hearing loss, PTSD, or other service-related injuries—not to give up. Keep fighting for your rights. It may not be easy, but it’s worth it. We deserve the recognition and compensation for the sacrifices we’ve made.

Stay strong, shipmates, and don’t let frustration stop you. Keep pushing forward to get what you rightfully deserve.



**For those of you that qualify for VA Healthcare, here’s a link to learn more of how to get hearing aids through that program. Who Is Eligible for Hearing Aids from VA? [military.com](http://military.com)**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to overhaul its disability ratings criteria for mental health conditions, sleep apnea, and tinnitus. This significant change aims to ensure that compensation better matches veterans’ medical conditions and needs, according to VA officials. However, the implications for veterans claiming conditions like tinnitus and sleep apnea are concerning.

Under the new system, conditions such as tinnitus and sleep apnea will lose their previous status. Veterans will now need to prove that these injuries are directly linked to a specific cause of disease. It won’t be enough to simply establish a connection to service; veterans will also have to show that a specific disease caused the condition. For example, if hazardous noise exposure is claimed as the cause of tinnitus, veterans will need to demonstrate how exposure to loud sounds (like those over 90dB for more than 8 hours a day) caused the disease. This raises an important question: how do we prove that hazardous noise exposure itself is a disease? The details are unclear, and this could complicate claims.

The changes are still under review, but, as noted in the recent article, “Officials say the changes, which would go into effect after a period for public comment and a final version is published, are likely to result in higher disability ratings for veterans with mental health conditions. However, fewer veterans will qualify for disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea.”

Veterans already receiving disability benefits for these conditions won’t see their ratings downgraded, officials say. However, the publication of these potential changes suggests the VA is moving toward closing the door on conditions like tinnitus and sleep apnea as qualifying disabilities for future claims.

Many of our shipmates have long suffered from tinnitus and hearing loss. It is indisputable that these conditions were likely caused by exposure to hazardous noise levels from the C-130s, where we spent countless hours in defense of our country. With these impending changes to disability eligibility, now is the time to act.

This is a “last call” for any veterans with tinnitus or hearing loss to file their claims before these conditions are removed from the list of eligible disabilities. The urgency cannot be overstated.

TCVA urges you to file your claim immediately through your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to ensure that your case is considered under the current rules. If you haven’t yet filed, time is of the essence. We hope that your claim will be “grandfathered” under the current system before the changes take effect.

For more information on how to find a VSO. *Please visit the link.. <https://nvf.org/veteran-service-officers/>* Additionally, you can reach out to TCVA for support. Our members have contributed valuable evidence—both anecdotal and objective—that has helped others with their VA disability claims. Once you’ve filed your claim with the VA, please contact us at [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com) to request evidence packages that can support your case. Several of our members have successfully obtained disability status for hearing loss and tinnitus, but others have been denied without clear reasons or proper evidence.

We stand together, shipmates. Let’s ensure that our service-related injuries are recognized and compensated. Stay strong!

# E-6 "First Class" - New Era Began



*Submitted by Mark Barber*

The "First Class" was the first class to go through the training pipeline at NTSU Waco Texas. Where we participated in Ground, Simulator, and Flight training and provide feedback to NTSU (Naval Training Support Unit) whose CO was CDR. Jack Pohl. The "first Class" consisted of; LCDR John "Irish" Keilty and LT Paul "Pud" Remington our E-6 Test Pilots. LT Don "Troll" Thorstensen and LCDR Mark "Scooby" Barber "PEP Boys" who had spent a year as part of the Pilot Exchange Program with the Air Force flying EC-135s. AEC Dan "Danno" Shore and ADC Dorsey "Face" Martin Who had flown with an Air Force KC-10 Squadron that had an air-refueling mission. We went through Systems training, Flight Procedures, and Simulators on the ground. Simulator training included air-refueling training as well. Then we did our flight training in TC-18 aircraft, which were Boeing 707s the navy had purchased, refurbished, and configured to closely resemble the E-6s. We did actual air-refueling against Air Force tankers during the flight portion of training.



(Above) In front of the building  
(Left to Right) Shore, Thorstensen, Remington, Keilty, Barber, Martin



(Left) The Sim Bay (Left to Right) Shore, Keilty, Remington, Thorstensen, Barber, Martin



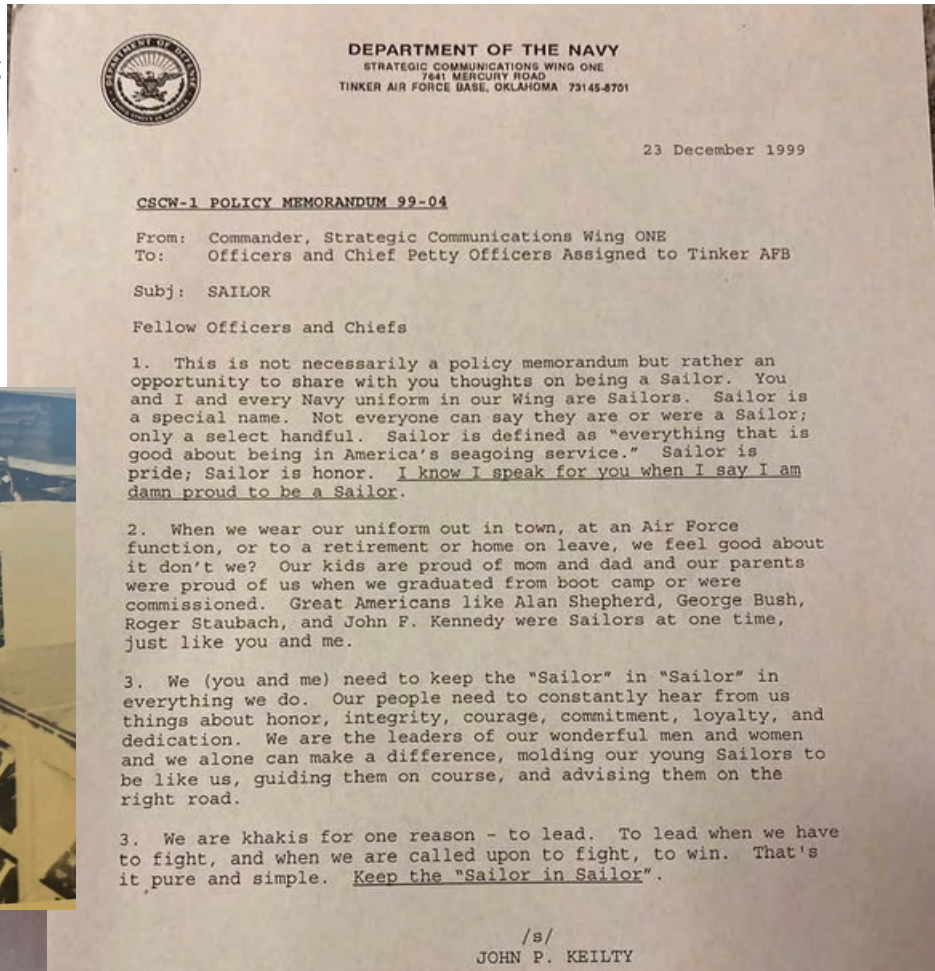
# CSCW-1 Policy Memorandum 99-04

## from John "Irish" Keilty



Submitted by David Meron  
 25 years ago on December 23rd, the Wing Commodore sent this letter to the Wing, he also sent it to me while we were stationed in Colorado Springs. So many years later and I am still proud to be a Sailor.

Thanks to my first Ops Officer when I was an OS3, CAPT Jerry Becker and my first XO when I was an Ensign, CAPT John Keilty for instilling this in me.



John Keilty to Super Dave  
 And thanks to great Americans and Sailors like you who carried the torch and continue to carry the torch. Make no mistake Super Dave there are a ton of Airmen down there in Altus who are very impressed with the Sailor who will teach them not only how to fly but how to serve honorably and care for their people and your example will carry their day in the future. Thanks for this trip down memory lane. Those were great days. Thank you for your professionalism and friendship. Merry Christmas.

# Spotlight on a TACAMO Shipmate General James Scanlan, USAF (Ret)



In this issue of “Spotlight on a TACAMO Shipmate,” I am going to do something different. Usually we talk about a TACAMO Warfighter who has had an outstanding career and had a significant impact in service to TACAMO. Well this time I want to talk about a TACAMO Warfighter who had an outstanding career in TACAMO and then an outstanding career in the United States Air Force. Of course many of you already know who I am talking about - Major General Jim “Scammer” Scanlan. This is his remarkable story.

After graduating as a Wildcat from Villanova in 1985, Jim landed at Barbers Point in 1987 as an NFO. He wasted no time proving to be an expert in the TACAMO mission and a superstar when it came to caring for the Sailors who flew and maintained the EC-130 Hercules. He had all the qualifications - MC/ACO, Nav, Instructor/Evaluator. Everyone of us



knew “Scammer” was headed for greatness. He just had that way about him (after all, he was HOF Pud Remington trained.) Leaving VQ-3, he took shore duty orders to Arlington, Va. to be Aviation Initial Assignments Detailer. He was quickly earning a reputation as a problem solver and a “real deal” at networking and relationship building. In other words a real Professional (after all, he was HOF Peggy Klein trained)

In 1993, Jim decided to make a warfare specialty change-a lifelong dream to be a Naval Aviator. After another “Wings of Gold”, it was back to TACAMO.. Talk about the making of a superstar! One of the most knowledgeable mission commanders in TACAMO, he was making a mark-a huge mark. Again achieving all the qualifications in the front seat, back in the Ironman squadron, flying the E-6A as AC, IP, MC, Evaluator. Again Scammer, taking great care of sailors, as Assistant Maintenance Officer. And of course, TACAMO needed Scammer in N3 at the Wing, flying with the Rag, training pilots in the TC-18. He then took orders back to the Fleet, and walked across the campus to the Shadows of VQ-4, for his Department Head tour as Training then OPS Boss and E-6A Pilot Evaluator.

In 1999, Jim and Laura made the tough decision to separate from the Navy and he commissioned a Major in the AF Reserve flying KC-10. Jim went on to lead 4 operational commands-Flight, Squadron, Group and Wing Commander. In 2012 Jim was promoted to BG and 4 years later to MG. In the AF he did it all. Duty assignments at the CENTCOM Joint Ops Center, MacDill, 440th Airlift Wing Command at Pope Field, 76th Air Refueling Squadron and the AF Expeditionary Center at McGuire, Special Ops at Hurlburt, and finishing up as Assistant Air Education and Training down in San Antonio. Jim also was Deputy for Presidential Inauguration Support in Washington DC. Amazing !

7500 Flight hours and 135 combat hours. Wow! What a career. 35 years of leadership “by example” and steadfast and relentless professionalism. He was a back seater and a front seater. He was a Sailor and an Airman. He was a Combat Veteran. He was a “Sailor’s Sailor”. He is a great American!

Jim Scanlan is a legend. Sure he has had a great and almost unprecedented career but let me tell you why I really wanted to spotlight the General for our TCVA readers. He personally impacted in a big way the morale, readiness, careers and lives of thousands of TACAMO Sailors back in the 80’s and 90’s. Many of us were “Scanlan trained” and we took that advantage into our own careers which made us better sailors and better human beings. Jim Scanlan is one of those TACAMO Sailors who went to work every day to make a difference in the mission and lives of others. He knew every Sailor and their family by name in squadrons that he served. He taught us all how to be experts in the mission, how to fly and fight and win, how to lead and how to take great care of your troops. Many SOQ/SOY nominations had his signature. When Sailors needed a recommendation letter Jim was ready with the pen. He was one of the most highly sought after officers in the Air Wing to do reenlistments and retirements. He was a TACAMO TOP GUN!

General Scanlan, your dedicated and many distinguished contributions to our TACAMO community do not go unnoticed and their impact and influence on our mission effectiveness and readiness will be felt for generations to come.

And I should, of course, include Laura, Jim’s lovely wife, and her tremendous contribution as well, as she was there for Jim’s entire 35 years of service. Laura was a Villanova Wildcat, Class of 1986 and they are coming up on their 38th wedding anniversary. Together they raised three awesome kids who all live within an hour of Jim and Laura in Philadelphia. Chris graduated from Hampshire College and works in IT, Cailyn graduated from High Point University and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and works as an OB/GYN and Meredith also graduated from High Point and works at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Oh by the way Congrats on the Super Bowl Champion Eagles Scammer!  
*Submitted by John “Irish” Keilty*



# Coordinator Volunteer Job Description

The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) is looking for a talented Marketing/Communications Coordinator Manager. The TCVA Marketing/Communications Coordinator Manager coordinates the organization's marketing/communications activities and initiatives and oversees the creation of promotional materials to build and develop the TCVA brand identity.



## Communications/Marketing Coordinator Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Develop strategic marketing initiatives and activities.
- Implement marketing plans that include print and online content.
- Create branded advertising campaigns and support marketing and design by coordinating and collating content from TCVA committee chairpersons.
- Traffic advertising efforts to the appropriate TCVA committee chairperson.
- Develop and manage the TCVA Board of Directors' internal communications system
- Create, maintain, and strengthen TCVA's overall brand through media avenues.
- Organize and streamline service offerings into user-friendly concepts.
- Maintain strict confidentiality of sensitive information.
- Simplify complex data into a user-friendly format such as graphs, charts, and other visual aids for TCVA members and the Board of Directors.
- Respond to incoming emails in a timely manner

## Communications/Marketing Coordinator Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in marketing/communications or related (desired), or two years' experience in content management, creative writing, advertising concepts, and media negotiations.
- Critical thinker with strong problem-solving and research proficiencies.
- Ability to comprehend and interpret competitor strategies.
- Ability to gather large amounts of data and convert it into meaningful analysis.
- Solid organizational skills and detail oriented.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet strict deadlines.
- Creative mind with superb written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to simplify complex information into a user-friendly format.
- Proficient in Canva graphic software and WIX.

**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

# TACAMO and the Blues



By Vern Lochausen  
TCVA President Emeritus and Historian

It may not be well known that the relationship between big wing, niche mission TACAMO, and Naval Aviation mainstream, the forefront of excellence in precision flying goes way back. For CERTAIN with CDR Jack “Rico” Keilty flying in his second year as Blues Number Two, that relationship is well-known and close. Irish and Rico have put together a string of really cool events for TACAMO veterans with the Blues and their demanding tour schedule. Rico told a group of us as such an event in Seattle, “You guys are like my family, the ones I learned from as a kid, the ones whose dedication to the Navy and each other that have helped me reach this service opportunity.”

## Here’s the rest of story...

The Blues started out with a variety of two and four engine, reciprocating engine, support birds, that carried team members, support equipment, tools, and supplies from event to event. These aircraft included the R4D (Douglas C-47s), the R5C Curtis Commandos (C-46), the R5D Douglas Skymasters (C-54s), and lastly the C-121 Lockheed Super Constellation. Those birds proudly sported Blues characteristically flashy paint schemes and their crews sported the Blues attire and crisp military movements, so much a part of the Blues showmanship. Keeping up with the technology, the Blues switched to a four-engine turboprop C-130 Hercules, 1970s to present. And THAT is where TACAMO got involved in supporting the Blues. Only when attending some Navy meetings in the CNATT classroom spaces at Tinker, did I realize the Blues had been supported by some TACAMO Hercs. On the passage way wall I saw an older Blues giveaway poster framed and displayed showing our original prototype, later test/pilot proficiency/logistics support bird BUNO 149806.

## FAT ALBERT

806 was apparently the first Blues bird to proudly have this assigned moniker/call sign. In the 1970's Blues jet, F-4J Phantom II, not small jet but sleek, and the Herc looks well ‘of surplus size.’ 806 had already served in the early 60s as then LT Jerry O. Tuttle’s platform for developing the first TACAMO airborne Very Low Frequency transmit platform. Developed at Addison Field in Dallas by Art Collins’ Collins Radio, the system with Tuttle and Navy/Collins test crew aboard, flew all over the Atlantic basin, to some really remote places and the same in the Pacific. The resulting monitoring results from receiver sites and subs all over the globe showed VLF could reach it all. But 806 wasn’t done with TACAMO just yet. Before VQ-3 was commissioned in Guam, she and 806 had flown with VR-21 at Barbers. The TACAMO II, Roll On/Roll Off system was carried by 806 and her descendants, the 151888-891



EC-130G brothers. JATO, Jet Assisted Take Off rockets were part of the TACAMO game then. When not proving out TACAMO, these birds worked their VR transport missions, with the RO/RO gear stored in the Hangar. With VQ-3 commissioned in 1968 and receiving the four new EC-130Qs of the 156 series, by 1974 she transferred to the Blues and donned the traditional Blue Angels ‘uniform’ of Navy Blue and Gold.

From the Blues PAO and Chief Flight Engineers, we learned all about Fat Albert 806 and all the Hercs that followed. 806 served honorably, in full Blues ‘regalia’ and performed many a JATO for the crowds up until 1988. With brief assignments in VXE-6, VMGR-352, and VX-20, 806 finally was retired to Tucson. For the next 3 years, the Blues got along with ‘loaner’ Hercs, painted in traditional dull Navy grey,

*Continued on page 28*



Continued from page 27

with call signs like Christine (I think you know what THAT means) and Ernie, bearing #9 on the vertical fin. But THEN in 1991, an appropriate year, TACAMO EC-130G, 151891 was attached to the Blues. She too wore the full Blue Angels regalia and was appropriately named Fat Albert. 891 is famous in her own right for escapades with Ron Carlson (around the world in 1964) and first VQ-3 Skipper Ed Preston, of French nuclear test and “How I landed on a golf course on Rorotonga Island” fame. If that weren’t enough fame, 891 was the dedicated TACAMO test bird at Pax, following in 806’s wake in pioneering new systems for TACAMO like EMP hardening and reliable SATCOM systems for orbits.

From 1991 to 1996, 891 completed her ‘active duty service’ with the Blues, retiring to the next door National Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola. She remained there on the Museum line and enjoyed a brief period of TACAMO veterans love and respect capped by the Ron Carlson 891 celebration put on by TCVA in June of 2019. The famous 891 JATO at the 1966 Guam Air Show, captured in an oil painting commissioned by then Lockheed Tech Rep Frank Baker was briefly ‘shown’ to 891 and the assembled crowd. Ron related his tales of 891 and his First Tech Jack Reese and Radioman Dav Smith who sent the MayDay as the golf course approach was shot. Finally Ron was joined by USMC Major Dave Michaels and his Flight Engineer Hendo Reid. They tried hard to outdo Ron’s stories by first relating all the loving care supporting and polishing the bird and then the Major saying “Millions of people saw her do her thing and were awed by this Herc.” His description of an airshow JATO and the push over at zero Gs kept the crowd spellbound. Ron Carlson flew the first JATO in her in 67 and the Major the last one in 2002. Bookends.

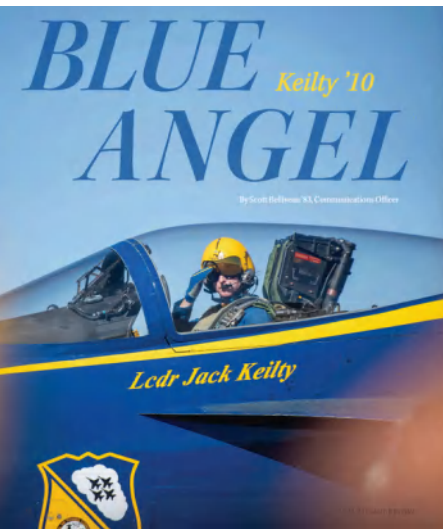
## TACAMO SAILORS

But it wasn’t just 806 and 891 that served in the Blues, treating airshow visitors all over the class act that is the Blues, a great many AWESOME TACAMO Sailors have done so too. They kept the jets and Fat Albert flying, looking like new cars off the showroom floor, and executed their own ‘on deck maneuvers’ that add to the trademark performance of the Blue Angels. Unfortunately, I don’t know all of them but I have served with many of them. Before and after TACAMO and the Blues, those Sailors EXCELLED. You don’t get assigned to the Blues without screening, recommendations, and board selection. My list, now added to by the miracle of our FACEBOOK page includes Jerry Barkley, Rocket Maser, Terry Frank, Ed Primeau, Joe Mascaro, Tim Miller, and of course JACK Keilty, son of John “Irish” Keilty.

There’s more to the story though. True sea story. In the 80s’ while VQ-3 was standing up to 100% Airborne, Skipper Joe Gerard made an entrance at a Happy Hour for the Blues at Barbers, hosted by the Base. Joe came in a ‘blues’ flight suit smoking a big cigar, boasting about his “Sierra Hotel” Ironman squadron. I don’t recall anyone outside of VQ-3 being impressed. And when the Merc broke her tail in production flight test, Herc crews got OPHELD and Merc crews had nothing to do. As Skipper, I authorized our Supply Officer to outfit all Merc only flyers with Blues flight suits. I had hoped it would add to morale. It clearly set them apart and the Merc JO’s used the opportunity to start “Flight Suit Friday”. Thanks to the Blues for sharing some small part of their ‘act’ to help TACAMO Sailors in those darker days.



# Blues #2 Salute by VMI



Submitted by John "Irish" & Kim Keilty:

Many of you know our son, Commander Jack Keilty, United States Navy, and the road he took to becoming a Blue Angel was not always easy. It was full of bumps that he had to overcome with commitment, toughness, and dedication. This is his second and final year with the team, and one thing I know for sure is that he, along with the team, has brought immense joy and happiness all across America. Jack has inspired thousands of young people along the way.

His university, the Virginia Military Institute, published this wonderful article detailing his journey. It's very well done, and I thought you all would enjoy reading it. Irish said: "Your Momma and I are incredibly proud of you, Rico."



Keilty's position as the wing's landing safety officer. Keilty, who had twice been a squadron LSO, accepted and was deployed in support of three operations. "I especially liked being the wing LSO," he recalled. "It is a distinct job in that you are responsible to only two people: The air wing commander and the carrier's captain. Bringing aircraft and their crews safely aboard is a great responsibility," he said, "and I was now responsible for every aircraft in the wing." When he completed the tour in 2021, he received the prestigious Commander John "Bug" Roach LSO of the Year Award for the entire U.S. Navy. In April 2021, he joined VFA 211 for his department head tour and made a 10-month deployment to the Mediterranean.

In early 2023, a fellow aviator urged him to reapply to the Blue Angels. While his career had been satisfying and successful, he thought, "Why not put a bow on it?" This time, he was successful. "It was a huge surprise," he remembers. "Again, I was more senior in rank than the aviators the squadron usually chooses." That difference was enhanced when, during his initial training, he was selected for early promotion to commander—the same rank as the squadron's commanding officer—which he pinned on in October 2024.

Asked what struck him upon reporting to the Blue Angels in late 2023, Keilty said, "The fact that we represent the 800,000 active-duty and reserve sailors and Marines. For thousands of people, we are the only representatives of the sea services they ever see firsthand—and so we are determined to do our very best at all times."

The squadron's schedule is demanding. During its 2024 season, which started in March, it performed hundreds of times, including 64 public demonstrations in 32 cities across the United States. Between these demonstrations, the squadron's aviators conduct "outreach," e.g., visiting schools and hospitals. They have one day off—Mondays—and practice daily, sometimes multiple times a day. "Practice is essential to our success and, more important, safety," explained Keilty. "Flying, especially the precise flying we do, is like any other performing art. You must keep the reps up to keep your skills sharp."

There is a mental element to it, as well, says Keilty. "We document every demonstration and every practice session and then review it closely.



We also have a thorough briefing and debriefing. Throughout, we stress the need to be honest with each other and ourselves about how we can improve. That builds trust among us, and then we build on that trust." A high level of mutual trust is essential, considering the demands of the demonstrations. For example, when in the famous Blue Angels "diamond formation," four aircraft are conducting intricate maneuvers with separations often as close as 18 inches.

Flying for the Blue Angels is physically demanding. During the practice sessions and the 45-minute demonstrations, the pilots do not wear the customary "g-suit," the garment worn by pilots to counter the effects of high levels of acceleration force (or "G-force").

"It is essential, therefore, that we are physically fit. So, we follow a strict workout regimen to strengthen our legs and core."

A unique aspect of the control system in the aircraft that the Blue Angels fly demands the pilots also develop their biceps and forearms. "The Super Hornet is a fly-by-wire aircraft, meaning it doesn't take much pressure on the stick to maneuver," he explained. "But the nature of what we do demands a precise feel on the stick. So, there is a weighted spring exerting 45 pounds of forward pull on the control stick when we fly."

Keilty says there are other challenges. "If you have a tough flight, you cannot let that distract you from being a good representative of the squadron and, as I alluded to earlier, the Navy and the Marines. Put another way, having an off day in the cockpit doesn't mean you can have an off day on the crowd line after a show or during a school visit."

"You spend a lot of time away from your family. I am fortunate that my wife, Mekele, and children are thoroughly invested in the experience. They are proud of the entire team and love being around it."

Although the aviators are the "face" of the Blue Angels, the support staff is essential to the squadron's success. "All the people and the equipment we need travel with us because we often are far from a naval air station. Furthermore, a normal strike fighter squadron has 240 personnel; we have 160, only 60 of whom travel to each show site. So, the people who keep us flying often work very long hours." What do the people on the support team have in common? "They are highly motivated and have an irreplaceable 'can-do' attitude. Let's say we need a

part that is hundreds of miles away. The crew of the squadron's C-130J transport, "Fat Albert," won't hesitate to fly overnight to get it. Those guys are my heroes."

As to the Blue Angels "off-season," Keilty explained, "We really don't have one. After we return to Pensacola, we keep flying because we can't let our skills atrophy."

"It is important that we maintain a strong institutional memory," he continued. "So, usually, two or three of the pilots will leave at the end of the season. The rest will welcome the new aviators, and the 2025 Blue Angels will begin to take shape."

How does that happen? "We start with the basics and then take 10 days off at Christmas. On Jan. 4, we head to El Centro Naval Air Facility in California, where we are welcomed by families and 100% focused on preparing for the season. We fly two or three times a day, 6 days a week. To give you an idea of how intense that is, if I were with a squadron in the fleet, I'd fly on average 20 times a month."

This schedule is necessary because the new season begins in early March. "In that short time, we have to build the skills, trust, and confidence we need to operate successfully and safely." This year, Keilty also will be an instructor. "We'll have a new boss who flies Blue Angels Number 1. When I arrived, the commanding officer taught me, the new Blue Angels Number 2, the ropes. Now, it's my turn to teach boss."

What's next for Keilty? "This will be my final season. The Navy and the Marine Corps usually cap tours at 2 years." In late November 2025, Keilty will depart Pensacola. He'll return to the fleet in July 2026 as the executive officer of (VFA) 25 and take command of the squadron in fall 2027.

Keilty concluded by bringing things back to the Institute. "I cannot thank Tom Mortenson and many others enough for seeing something in me and giving me a shot at being a cadet. My cadetship was fundamental to my success. VMI gave me a vector that I have followed since I was in barracks. I tell high school students that anything they want to do starts with a goal. VMI provides the structure and the opportunities that give people of strong character, drive, and ambition every chance to reach their goals."

Every year in early November, the Blue Angels—officially, the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron—perform their traditional Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. It marks the squadron's return home after a season that began in early March and took it to more than 20 states. For US Navy Cmdr. Jack Keilty '10, it had a personal significance: It concluded his first season flying with the Blue Angels.

Keilty considers being a Blue Angel—specifically, Blue Angel No. 2—an amazing privilege. But, he says, when he was younger, his goal was a bit different. "I wanted to be a fighter pilot." In a sense, he inherited his desire to fly. His father was a career naval aviator. An uncle was a naval aviator, as was a great-great uncle who served during World War I. Furthermore, his mother served as a Navy air traffic controller.

Earlier in his life, Keilty was headed to the Naval Academy or another top institution. Then came high school. "I trained 15 and, suddenly, sports and other things took precedence, and I was having a little too much fun." Keilty's grades dropped into the Cs. "My dad, who was one of my high school teachers and coaches, just would say things like, 'You might want to work a little harder. If you don't, at some point, you will wish you did.'"

In his senior year, as Keilty puts it, "I realized I was close to squandering the chance to achieve my dream. When I told my father this, he simply asked, 'What's your plan?'"

Keilty first refocused on academics, going from a C student to an A student. The next step: Choosing a school. "Two of my paternal uncles—Kevin '83 and Tim '86—went VMI graduates. So, VMI seemed something of a family institution." Once Keilty found his sights on VMI, "there was never a doubt where I was going."

He traveled to VMI with his two alumni uncles. "Both Vern Belzer ('72) and Tom Mortenson at admissions were welcoming but honest. Colonel Mortenson told me, frankly, that I didn't have the grades to gain admission." But Mortenson made him an offer: If he enrolled at a college and did well, he would be admitted—if he also participated in the Summer Transition Program. Keilty agreed. He took several college-level courses at a local school, including calculus and physics, and passed them all with a grade of B or better. In spring 2006, he was admitted and, as agreed, attended STP.

Asked why he persisted, Keilty said, "VMI has an amazing history, and its alumni have made significant contributions to the country. Its ROTC program was one of the most prestigious in the country. It was,

as I said before, a family school. Finally, it is an experience that comprehensively challenges you, and that made it something that I knew, after graduation, I'd be proud to have done."

Sports played a role, too. "I loved playing football. So, I walked out and made the team, which surprised me because I'm not a big guy. Perhaps the then-head coach, Jim Rind, liked how I always made the effort." Keilty earned his letter but left after two seasons because of a knee injury and a determination to focus more on academics.

"I was never close to getting academic status, but the executive officer of the NROTC unit, Commander Mark Martin, told me during my first Class year that, while top-flight grades certainly got the unit's attention, so, too, did a commitment to improvement." Keilty applied that advice: "I made sure the unit could see I was working my hardest." His commitment earned him a NROTC scholarship at the end of his first Class year. Keilty kept applying himself diligently to his studies. "I realized I could do more academically than I had previously thought, and I made the dean's list a couple of times." Keilty's perseverance paid off in his first Class year, when he received a coveted flight slot.

After graduation, he reported to NAS Pensacola for naval flight training. There, his dedication again paid off: with assignments to carrier aviation and fighter training. After training on the F/A-18C Hornet, he joined Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83. In July 2018, he completed his first carrier deployment aboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), flying in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Keilty then reported to another squadron as an instructor pilot on the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet.

In 2019, Keilty applied to join the Blue Angels. The initial process, he says, is somewhat like "rushing" a fraternity: Three times between March and May, approximately 40 to 50 qualified applicants travel at their own expense to where the squadron is performing to meet its members. "They are trying to get a handle on which applicants will be best suited for this unique line of work."

Then, five applicants are invited to Pensacola for a 4-day process that includes strength tests and what Keilty describes as "a pressure-cooker interview." Keilty was a finalist but wasn't selected. Afterward, he thought "that door [the Blue Angels] had closed. I thought so because except for the commanding officer, the squadron's aviators usually are senior lieutenants who, while with the squadron, will become lieutenant commanders."

In March 2020, the commander of Carrier Air Wing 17 offered

**"VMI gave me a vector that I have followed since I was in barracks."**



As a member of the famed Blue Angels, Jack Keilty '10 daily takes on the myriad challenges of precision flying, coupled with a rigorous schedule. His time as a cadet provided the foundation of how he approaches them.—Photos courtesy Keilty/U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

# Take Time to See #2 Fly with the Blues



# 2025

## Blues Schedule

### April

5 · 6 | Lakeland, FL | Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo  
12 · 13 | MCAS Beaufort, SC | MCAS Beaufort Air Show  
26 · 27 | Augusta, GA | Augusta Air Show

### May

3 · 4 | NAS Corpus Christi, TX | NAS Corpus Christi Air Show - *Irish will be attending with the VQ-3 Softball Champs*  
10 · 11 | Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL | Fort Lauderdale Air Show  
17 · 18 | Martinsburg, WV | West Virginia's Greatest Air Show  
21 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show  
23 | U.S. Naval Academy Graduation Flyover  
24 · 25 | Middletown, PA | Middletown Air Show

### June

7 · 8 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show  
14 · 15 | Ocean City, MD | O.C. Air Show  
21 · 22 | Belleville, MI | Belleville Air Show  
28 · 29 | Eau Claire, WI | Chippewa Valley Air Show

### July

5 · 6 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo  
12 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show  
19 · 20 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show

### August

2 · 3 | Seattle, WA | Boeing Seafair Air Show  
9 · 10 | MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI | Kaneohe Bay Air Show  
*Irish and Kim will be attending with Mike & Cheryl Vos and John & Joan Alger*  
16 · 17 | Twin Falls, ID | Twin Falls Air Show  
23 · 24 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show  
30 · 31 | Branson, MO | Branson Wings of Pride Air Show

### September

6 · 7 | Portsmouth, NH | Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show  
20 · 21 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show  
27 · 28 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

### October

4 · 5 | Salinas, CA | California International Airshow  
11 · 12 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week  
18 · 19 | Rome, GA | Wings Over North Georgia  
25 · 26 | Lake Charles, LA | Chennault International Air Show

### November

1 · 2 | Punta Gorda, FL | Florida International Air Show  
7 · 8 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show



(Left) Submitted by John Keilty on Mar 15 -- Season two has started. Pics after the opening El Centro California Airshow. Got to meet Jack's barber and his maintenance team. Sailors are among America's finest. Always a great honor to see Rico and the entire team whose professionalism and character is so very moving to me. Way to go Deuce!!!! "Brakes ready now- Burner ready now!" Keep your knots up Rico.



# Help Needed



## Master List of "ALL TEST PILOTS AND TEST NFO's"

Submitted by John "Irish" Keilty

Attention TACAMO Community,

I'm working on compiling a comprehensive master list of all test pilots and test NFOs, including their school dates and PAX details. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks, Irish Contact information [john.keilty44@gmail.com](mailto:john.keilty44@gmail.com)

- Rich Adamo NFO 1980-1983
- John Keilty Pilot 1983-1986
- Paul Remington Pilot 1986-1989
- Mark Feuerstein Pilot Class 92 Dec '87
- Pat Leard Pilot Class 96 Dec '89
- Chris Frasse Pilot Class 100 Dec '91
- Tarl Taylor NFO Class 102 Dec '92
- Chuck Baker Pilot Class 104 Dec '93
- Paul Pullin NFO Class 105 Jun '94
- Tom Maurer Pilot Class 108 Dec '95
- Mike Knowles NFO Class 109 Jun '96
- John Pamer Pilot Class 112 Dec '97
- Larry Byrnes NFO Class 113 Jun '98
- Virgil Whitlow Pilot Class 117 Jun '00
- Gareth Rietz Pilot Class 118 '00 RIP
- Lonnie Fields NFO Class 119 Jun '01
- Bob Strahm Pilot Class 120 Dec '01
- Rick Smitha NFO Class 121 Jun '02
- Adam Scott Pilot Class 124 Dec '03
- Scott Drayton NFO Class 125 Jun '04
- Larry Byrnes
- Pat Leard



### Request from Jim Burrill:

My crew, but what number??? 1983-86 time frame. I am second row, far right. How many are still with us?

Jim Burrill's contact information: [jamesburrill@gmail.com](mailto:jamesburrill@gmail.com)



### Possible Crew Names:

Jim Burrill  
LTJG Elizabeth Dunn.  
PO2 Cantrell  
Chief Mike Kehoe  
Donny Rachels  
Mike Black (FE)  
Rick Landry  
Charlie Belsches  
Steve Crawford  
Lee Marks  
Mary Brigdon  
Cindy Mason  
Mary Brigden



# "Two Cookbooks in One" – Actually Five Cookbooks Packed with Flavor! 🍴🔪

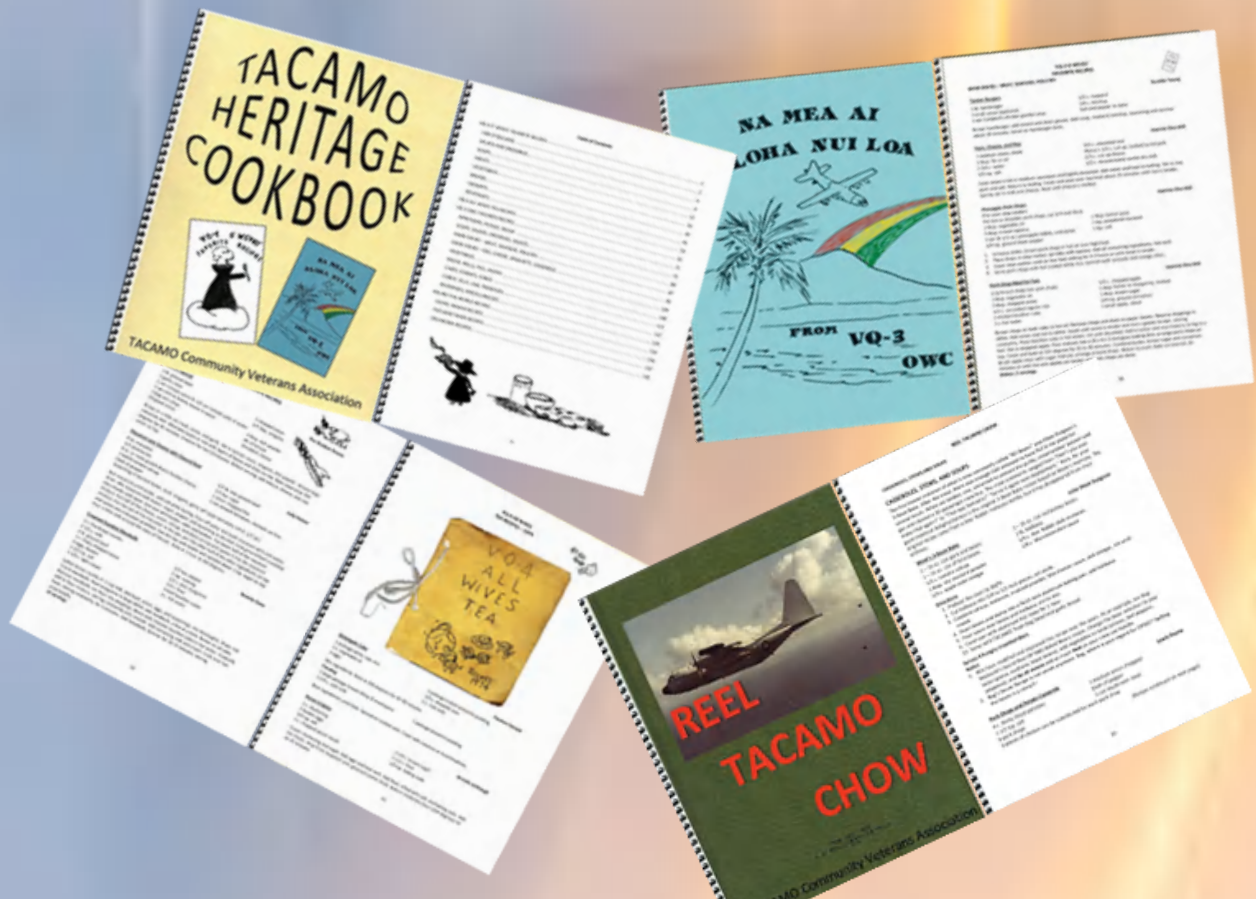
Get ready to experience a culinary journey like never before! Our unique cookbook, "Two Cookbooks Bound Into One", offers you FIVE incredible cookbooks in one amazing package:

- VQ-4 O' Wives: A collection of classic recipes from the VQ-4 family, bringing comfort food to your table.
- VQ-4 All Wives Teas: Sip and savor a delightful variety of tea recipes for every occasion.
- VQ-3 O' Wives: A treasure trove of tasty dishes that reflect the diverse flavors of the VQ-3 family.
- Family Recipes from Around the TACAMO World: Taste the flavors from around the world, shared by families who've been part of the TACAMO community.
- Reel TACAMO Chow: Dive into the hearty meals that fuel long days, with a mix of meat, chicken, seafood, and comfort classics, marinated with juicy Sea Stories!

Here's Your Chance to See Some of Its Many Layers!

Packed with recipes from all walks of life, "Two Cookbooks Bound Into One" is more than just a cookbook – it's a piece of history and a celebration of family recipes passed down through generations.

Don't miss out on this delicious journey – grab your copy now! 🍷👨🍳



**Place your order today. Click here:**

**[tacamo.org/product-page/cookbooks-two-in-one-binding](https://tacamo.org/product-page/cookbooks-two-in-one-binding)**



# Sports Photos Wanted

Submit photos to [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)



(Left) Mark Barber submitted: VQ-3's Intramural Basketball Team at Barbers Point (I believe) in 1981.



(Right) Mark Barber submitted: One of the VQ-3 Softball team that won the All-Island Tournament on Guam in 1979.

(Left) John Keilty submitted: Guam VQ-3 Base Softball Champs. Skipper Thompson and CO Base Captain Hague came out for the presentation. Great days great team.



Ronald Fritz submitted: VQ-4 Crew 3 volley ball while on alert at Bermuda late 1970s.



Chris Sachs submitted: Pax River Triathlon, 1989. Went on to compete in 155 triathlons including 7 Half and 4 Full Ironman Triathlons.



# Honoring Military and First Responder Heroes



Honoring Military and First Responder Heroes  
Our adaptive veterans and first responders need your support!!

From May 16-18, 2025, Team Silver Spokes will participate in the World T.E.A.M.'s Face of America event in Gettysburg, a two-day, 110-mile cycling challenge that begins at the Pentagon and ends in Gettysburg. This powerful ride honors adaptive veterans and the sacrifices they've made in service to our country. It's an inclusive event that brings together civilians, first responders, and military athletes, empowering everyone who participates.

Since 2006, Face of America (FOA) has provided adaptive and injured individuals with the opportunity to push their limits through outdoor challenges, including cycling, climbing, rafting, and more. These experiences foster strength, camaraderie, and the realization of what was once thought impossible.

We ask for your support of this inspiring event through a donation, whether to an individual rider or to our team, Silver Spokes. Your generosity directly contributes to this important cause and makes a difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for us all. [Click here on the LINK to donate.](#)

Face of America is a program under World Team Sports, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Sincerely,  
Bill Okoniewski & Silver Spokes Team Co-Captain

## Silver Spokes Team Members:

Erin Garrett-Glaspell  
James Blount  
Drew Buchness  
Jay Gallamore  
Tim Goodwin  
Tim Matthews  
Bill Okoniewski  
Chris Sachs  
Dan Skane  
Tom Smolko



## U.S. NAVY CHIEFS

# DONNING THE WEIGHT OF THE DECKPLATES



 **132 YEARS** 

**NAVY CHIEF!**



**NAVY PRIDE!**

The rank of Chief Petty Officer as we know it today was officially established on April 1, 1893. The Navy Memorial hosts a birthday celebration for Navy Chiefs annually to Honor, Recognize, and Celebrate the fundamental role they play in the United States Navy.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- Establishment of the CPO Rank:
  - On April 1, 1893, the rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7 to E-9) was established, recognizing the need for experienced enlisted sailors in leadership roles.
- Significance of the CPO:
  - The CPO rank is a symbol of pride and excellence within the Navy, with chiefs known for their technical expertise, administrative skills, and strong leadership abilities.
- CPO Birthday Celebrations:
  - The Navy Memorial hosts annual events to honor, recognize, and celebrate the vital role of Navy chiefs.
- CPO Birthday 2025:
  - The 132nd CPO birthday will be celebrated on April 1, 2025

# Trivia: What is a Command Master Chief Change of Office Ceremony and its History?



*Submitted by Peter T. Yeschenko*

**Trivia:** What is a Command Master Chief Change of Office Ceremony and What is its History?

**ANSWER:** A Command Master Chief Change of Office Ceremony is a formal event in the U.S. Navy where the outgoing Command Master Chief (CMC) transfers responsibility to the incoming CMC. This ceremony is similar to a Change of Command ceremony but specifically focuses on the senior enlisted leadership within a command.

The ceremony typically begins with an inspection of the command by both the outgoing and incoming CMCs. This inspection symbolizes the transfer of responsibility and ensures the continuity of leadership. The outgoing CMC reads their orders of detachment, officially releasing them from their duties. The incoming CMC then reads their orders of relief, formally assigning them to the command. The ceremony often includes speeches or remarks from the outgoing and incoming CMCs, the Commanding Officer, and other dignitaries. These speeches highlight the accomplishments of the outgoing CMC and outline the expectations for the incoming CMC.



The formal transfer of authority is marked by the exchange of symbols, such as the CMC's insignia or a ceremonial key, representing the shift in leadership and responsibility.

The ceremony concludes with formal announcements and possibly a reception or social gathering to celebrate the transition.

The tradition of Change of Command and Change of Office ceremonies, including those for Command Master Chiefs, is deeply rooted in the Navy's history and values. These ceremonies reflect the importance of orderly transitions and continuity in leadership, both of which are critical for maintaining the effectiveness and readiness of Navy commands. They also offer an opportunity to honor the service and contributions of the outgoing CMC while welcoming the incoming CMC.

The tradition of such ceremonies dates back to the Civil War era, with the first mention of them appearing in Navy regulations at that time. Although the procedures have evolved over the years, the core elements have remained unchanged: the outgoing officer inspects the command alongside the incoming officer and formally hands over their responsibilities.

The role of the Command Master Chief was formally established in 1967, and it has since become a vital part of the Navy's leadership structure. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) is the highest-ranking enlisted member in the Navy, and their Change of Office ceremony is a significant event attended by high-ranking officials and former MCPONs.

**What is the Command Master Chief's Role in a Command, and How is One Selected?**

The CMC is the senior enlisted leader within a Navy command. They act as a liaison between the Commanding Officer and the enlisted ranks, providing insight and perspective on enlisted matters. The CMC offers guidance, mentorship, and advice to both enlisted personnel and junior officers, helping shape the command's culture and ensuring the welfare and morale of the crew.

The CMC plays a vital role in implementing and upholding Navy policies and standards within the command. They ensure the command adheres to Navy regulations and that the enlisted personnel are well-trained and prepared for their duties.

To become a Command Master Chief, a Master Chief must have an exemplary career and record, be recommended, and undergo a rigorous selection process. Interested Master Chiefs apply for the CMC program, and their applications are reviewed for eligibility.

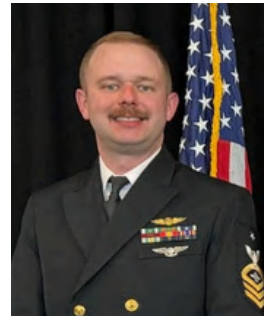
A special selection board, which includes former Commanding Officers and currently serving Fleet Master Chiefs, Force Master Chiefs, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, evaluates the candidates. Selected Master Chiefs may undergo interviews as part of the selection process, with the final decision made by the board. Once selected, Master Chiefs receive advanced leadership and skills training to prepare them for their new role as CMC.

Master Chief Petty Officers represent the top 1% of enlisted personnel in the Navy, while CMCs, Force Master Chiefs, and Fleet Master Chiefs fall within the top 0.05% and lower.

# Notes on Nuclear War: Deterrence from the Seas



By James Youngblood, assisting TCVA Historian



In the early days of the Nuclear Arms race, the newly created US Air Force had cornered the market in nuclear deterrence. The heroes of World War II strategic bombing lobbied hard to center the infant services mission on the development and delivery of world-ending weapons. They focused on the creation of larger fleets of long-range bombers and ballistic missiles. This was a winning strategy for a brief period of time. The planned superiority came crashing down in 1949 when the USSR tested its first atomic weapon. With the threat of peer-to-peer warfare in a "General War," planners had to solve a large problem, that of survivability. Wings of bombers and fields of missile silos, while effective, had one large flaw. They lacked stealth and survivability and made for rich targets for enemy nukes. In comes CNO ADM Arleigh Burke with the solution, make American missiles mobile and hide them in the depths of the sea! He tasked an unlikely man to solve this problem of our national survival, Vice Admiral William Francis Raborn Jr. The father of America's Ballistic Missile Submarine force is in fact, a Naval Aviator!

Born in Decatur, Texas on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1905, VADM Raborn attended the US Naval Academy class of 1928. He was a qualified Naval Aviator serving in various positions during the war commanding two Carriers and being awarded a Silver Star for heroism in combat. In 1955, ADM Burke appointed him Director of Special Projects at the Bureau of Weapons with one mandate, build the Navy's leg of the nuclear triad. In this task he had but one direct supervisor, ADM Burke himself. He was given the deadline of interim capability by 1963 and full capability no later than 1965. The original plan was to outfit special variants of the US Army's Jupiter missile system on the USS George Washington (SSBN-598); however, this plan quickly was dropped. The reason for the refocus was due to leading physicist Edward Teller. In 1956, during the Project Nobska Conference, ADM Burke heard of the concepts from Teller of a sea-based missile equipped with a one-megaton warhead. Upon hearing this concept, Burke and Raborn dropped the Jupiter idea and shifted to the development of what came to be known as the Polaris Missile System. Raborn's role began in earnest when he was appointed to lead the Polaris Missile Project in 1956, just as the U.S. Navy was considering how to marry nuclear-powered submarines with the ability to launch ballistic missiles. This was a massive leap forward in naval warfare, as it combined the stealth and endurance of submarines with the firepower of nuclear missiles. However, it was an idea fraught with technical and logistical challenges, including the development of the Polaris missile, an underwater launch system capable of delivering nuclear warheads from a submerged submarine.

Raborn's leadership was pivotal in overcoming these challenges. Unlike other naval officers at the time, who were more traditionally focused on surface warfare, Raborn embraced the new era of nuclear-powered naval assets. He recognized that the Polaris missile system could provide a strategic edge by offering the U.S. the ability to strike from virtually anywhere in the world while remaining hidden deep underwater. This made the Polaris submarine a potent tool for ensuring that the U.S. could retaliate against any nuclear attack, ensuring that no strike on U.S. soil could go unanswered. Under his direction, the USS George Washington was launched in 1959 as the first SSBN to carry the Polaris missile system. This milestone marked the beginning of a new era in strategic deterrence and nuclear strategy. Raborn's ability to effectively coordinate with engineers, military leaders, and scientists helped bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world implementation.

Raborn's work on the Polaris missile program played a direct role in shaping the balance of power during the Cold War. The introduction of the Polaris SSBNs into the U.S. Navy's fleet dramatically enhanced the U.S. Navy's strategic capabilities. By giving the United States an invulnerable second-strike capability, the Polaris submarines became an essential component of the U.S. deterrence strategy. This not only strengthened the U.S.'s position in the arms race with the Soviet Union but also significantly altered the concept of naval warfare and global power dynamics. The deployment of Polaris submarines rendered the United States' nuclear deterrent more secure and less vulnerable to a surprise attack. This, in turn, contributed to the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction, which became a cornerstone of Cold War nuclear strategy. Raborn's influence in creating this mobile, stealthy, and powerful strategic deterrent, helped stabilize global order during a tense period in history.

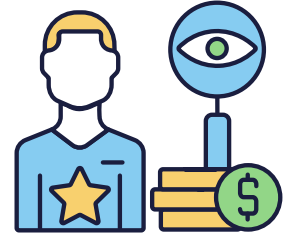
While Admiral Hyman Rickover is often regarded as the "father of the nuclear Navy," A Naval Aviator, is the father of naval nuclear deterrence. His leadership in overseeing the Polaris missile program cemented his legacy as a key figure in the development of one of the most effective and enduring tools of modern military strategy. VADM Raborn's focus on both the strategic implications of the missile submarines and the operational success of the Polaris program helped lay the foundation for a new era in naval warfare. It is because of his forward thinking and innovation on the edge of science and technology that the TACAMO community was born.

# Comptroller Coordinator Volunteer Job Description

Oversees the TCVA accounting tasks and financial reporting procedures. The comptroller oversees all transactions to help the treasurer maintain the accounting records.

Comptroller Coordinator Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Monitoring and controlling cash flow
- Developing and maintaining financial policies and procedures
- Providing information to the treasurer to complete financial reporting
- Overseeing accounts receivable and payable
- Monitoring debt/credit
- Creating a BoD members reimbursable expenses form and tracking those expenses in a spreadsheet



Comptroller Coordinator Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance or equivalent
- Expert knowledge of accounting and financial principles, regulations, and best practices
- Excellent understanding of governmental guidelines and tax laws that affect the TCVA's nonprofit status
- Proficient in Microsoft Office with an emphasis on Excel
- Proficient with data analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving
- Highly organized with keen attention to detail
- Excellent collaboration, communication, and teamwork skills

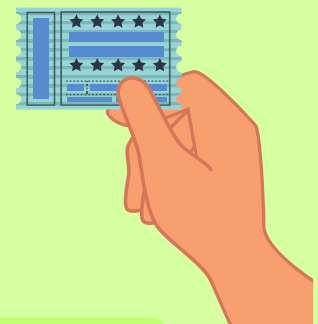
**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

# Raffle Manager Responsibilities Volunteer Job Description

TCVA is looking for a Raffle Manager to promote our Southwest Airlines ticket raffles. The right candidate will have a strong background in marketing on social media. If you are a self-starter, with a desire to promote TCVA, we want to hear from you.

Raffle Manager Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain and manage contact with Southwest via email.
- Set a date for the Raffle with TCVA Board of Directors' direction
- Create social media and Wix blog raffle ads, including raffle teasers, and then post the ads on social media and email them to the website manager
- Update the names of those who purchased ticket(s), \$100 (5 tickets) & \$25 (1 ticket)
- Contact the winner and provide ticket vouchers
- Announce the winner and thank everyone who participated
- Contact the winner and provide tickets vouchers



Raffle Manager Requirements And Skills:

- •Experience working with and developing a marketing plan.
- •Understanding of graphic design using Canva.
- •Compile, write, edit, and produce ads and teasers

**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

# Keilty Awarded the Key to the City



City of Del City - Government  
 Captain John Keilty was awarded the Key to the City in recognition of his nearly 30 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Navy!



As Commodore of Strategic Communications Wing ONE at Tinker AFB, Captain Keilty has exemplified leadership, patriotism, and unwavering commitment—inspiring Airmen, Sailors, and civilians alike.

His impact extends beyond his military service, playing a key role in the Del City High School NJROTC's success, helping them earn the Distinguished Unit Award among the top 10% of programs in the region!

Captain John Keilty also received a portrait of Bob Kalsu in recognition of his dedication to spearheading the Bob Kalsu statue and honoring the 20 fallen soldiers of Del City in the Vietnam War. His commitment to preserving their legacy and ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten is truly commendable.

Thank you, Captain Keilty, for your service, leadership, and dedication to our community!



## “TACAMO Pilot of the Year” Wing’s Annual in Honor of LCDE Gareth Rietz



IN HONORED AND BELOVED MEMORY  
**LCDR Gareth A. Rietz, USN**  
 10 FEB 1966 - 11 JUL 2000

Reported	Duty Station	Aircraft Flown/Degrees Attained
DEC 1989	Naval Test Pilot School	T-2, T-38, C-12, F-18, P-3, U-6, Learjet
APR 1996	Naval Post Graduate School	Aero Engineering
MAY 1997	Naval Training Support Unit	Boeing 707
JUL 1993	VQ-4	F-6A
DEC 1990	VR-22	KC-130, C-130
MAY 1989	Flight Training	T-34, T-44
AUG 1985	NJROTC Washington State University	Mech Engineering
AUG 1984	Naval Enlisted Nuclear Power School	

Total Flight Hours: 3059

FROM YOUR MANY FRIENDS  
 WHO LOVED YOU LIKE A BROTHER

This memorial plaque is displayed at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. It was commissioned by ten of Gareth Rietz's squadron mates to ensure that his life, service, and sacrifice are never forgotten.

Gareth was an exceptional officer and aviator, admired as a man of great character, a mentor, a friend, and a leader to many. In his memory and honor, the Wing's annual "TACAMO Pilot of the Year" award is named after him.

TACAMO will always remember!  
 LT Jacob Flack

# Irish Retirement Send Offs'



(Left) Irish with one of his students who enlisted in the Marines. Irish stated, "You gotta give the old man something when he retires. Right?" Grateful and honored. Keep your knots up Irish

## Robert Kalsu Legacy Group Presents John "Irish" Keilty

The Robert Kalsu Legacy Group was formed to sustain and support the memory of one of our city's most revered citizens. Our mission is "To preserve and promote the story of Del City's Robert Kalsu, a true All-American Hero." The RKL Project aims to raise funds for a Robert Kalsu memorial that includes a bronze statue on a brick pedestal. The monument will include engraved statements of Robert Kalsu's history and accomplishments during his brief, heroic life. In addition, the pedestal will cite the high school's core principles of Commitment, Discipline, Effort, Pride, and Toughness. Coaches, teammates, and friends of Robert attest that his core values mirror these principles and demonstrate the continuity of ideals since Robert attended Del City High School 60 years ago. We seek to immortalize his values and inspire our students—past, present, and future—to achieve, through their personal determination, in athletics but especially in life.

Robert was the only active professional football player to die in the Vietnam War. A stand-out student and football player at Del City High School, he graduated in 1963 and immediately began an illustrious football career at the University of Oklahoma from 1963-1967, receiving All-American honors. The Buffalo Bills drafted Robert in the first round. As Rookie of the Year, he played one season before being called to military service. In the 1960s, our country was in turmoil over the Vietnam War, and Robert could have sought another type of service than active duty. Instead, he declared that he was no better than anyone else and joined the Army's 101st Airborne Division. On July 21, 1970, Robert was killed by North Vietnamese mortar fire.



## Presented by Commander GMCM (EXW) Larry Van Schuyver & The Patriotic Members of the Department of Oklahoma Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A.

Great day at Tinker got to visit with Capt John Keilty of Del City ROTC . And will be attending Del City High School ROTC Award ceremony Friday at 0900. Also will have the honor of presenting Del City their Patriotic School of the Year Award. Capt Keilty is one of the hardest-working veterans I know. His son Jack is the Blue Angel pilot of #2 . Capt Keilty was our Spirit Of Oklahoma awardee this year. Honored to call this hero a true friend. Thank you MOPH HQ for the outstanding ROTC medals and certificate a great way to honor our future generations of Military men and women.





Thank you Kim Kielty for purchasing the Take Charge And Move Out TACAMO jacket  
 Search on Jacket



Search on: polo wings

**You requested is now granted!  
 Check out the new items in the  
 Paraloft Marketplace!!**



**Stainless Steel Tumbler**



**Yard Sign**



PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans and Active Duty Military to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, led by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency. All programs are funded by PGA REACH and supplemented by PGA Section Foundations, so the cost of programming is free to all Veterans.

PGA HOPE has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which enables direct referrals to the PGA HOPE program as a form of therapy.

## Find Open Programs Near You

The beauty of PGA HOPE is you can truly come as you are. Using the link below, you can find a list of PGA HOPE sessions around the country that are currently open for registration.

<https://news.va.gov/117292/learn-to-golf-from-the-pros-with-pga-hope/> OR

<https://www.pgareach.org/pgahope>

## Serving Those Who Served

Veterans have given everything to be there for our country when we need it most. We need to be there when they come back. PGA HOPE aims to serve more than 17,000 Veterans in 2024 alone at program locations nationwide.

Led by PGA of America Golf Professionals, PGA HOPE is introducing and teaching golf through a 6-8 week curriculum while creating a path forward for Veterans and Active Duty Service Members.

## PGA HOPE Program



### Program Site Selection

PGA REACH works with PGA Sections, PGA Professionals, and VA hospitals to identify golf courses and communities that are willing to host and would benefit from the program



### PGA Professional Training

Local PGA of America Golf Professionals are trained to teach golf to Veterans with physical and emotional disabilities as well as important aspects of Veteran rehabilitative culture. [Find a Training](#)



### Introductory Clinic

Local VA hospitals, warrior transition units, and other Veteran service organizations recruit Veterans to attend a one-day introductory golf experience



### PGA HOPE Program

Six to eight week golf program led by trained PGA Professionals that provides Veterans with golf instruction, course access, and adaptive equipment if needed



### PGA HOPE Graduation

A celebration of the completion of the first session. Specifics vary by market but graduation ceremonies include golf, lunch, and an equipment giveaway. A graduation card is issued that affords the Veteran with a range of golf related benefits in their local area



## PGA HOPE FACTS

**PGA REACH recognizes Veterans Day as the PGA National Day of HOPE. On this day, PGA REACH works in partnership with the golf community to celebrate and honor our nation's heroes as well as spread awareness about the PGA HOPE program.**

**In 2024, PGA HOPE will impact over 17,000 Veterans and Active Duty Military nationwide, taught by over 3,000 PGA Professionals from around the country.**

**There are currently more than 500 PGA HOPE programs across the country, hosted in all 50 States.**

**Veteran suicide is a major issue in the Veteran community, and statistics show 22 Veterans a day commit suicide. PGA HOPE is working to change this statistic by utilizing the game of golf as a form of therapy.**

# Pilot Extraordinaire, Steve “Doogie” Dunai Inducted into Wisconsin Air National Guard Hall of Fame



## GREAT NEWS - AMAZING NEWS - AWESOME

Submitted by John “Irish” Keilty

Hey all you early Merc aviators from Barbers Point - Tinker Days. Remember E-6 pilot Steve “Doogie” Dunai, who reported aboard the Ironman Team alongside future TACAMO Test Pilot John “Flamer” Pamer? Doogie was a fine young aviator who was an IP and crew holding MC/AC in his first tour. A great leader in the air and in the hangar. A fantastic teammate in the Ready Room. After completing his Navy obligation, Doogie returned home and joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard. He became a Command Pilot in the F-16 and held key command positions as Squadron, Group, and Wing Commander. **Colonel “Doogie” Dunai USAF was inducted into the Wisconsin Air National Guard Hall of Fame on 31 January 2025**

This is “cooler than cool”! TACAMO, please join me in congratulating Doogie and his family on this remarkable achievement. Absolutely outstanding. Proud of you, Doogie!



Airborne: Carey and Steve Dunai stand in front of a training jet at a U.S. naval training center in Kingsville, Texas, in October 1991. Carey had just flown solo and her brother received his wings.



Wisconsin Air National Guard inducts newest Hall of Fame Member  
By Isabella Jansen 115th Fighter Wing News | Feb. 27, 2025

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Air National Guard recognized the career contributions of retired Col. Stephen Dunai during a Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on January 31 at Truax Field.

Dunai is the 71st inductee to the Wisconsin Air National Guard Hall of Fame, which was established in 1982 to honor the special contributions Air National Guard members make to the overall success of the Wisconsin National Guard mission.

Selection into the Wisconsin Air National Guard Hall of Fame is one of the highest recognitions that the Wisconsin National Guard can bestow upon a former Airman or, with limited exception for heroic or extraordinary actions, a present member of the organization.

Brig. Gen. Erik Peterson, Wisconsin’s interim deputy adjutant general for Air, said it was a distinct honor to induct a friend and cohort into the Hall of Fame.

“Your ability to take care of Airmen and accomplish the mission is unmatched,” Peterson said of Dunai. “To best describe your leadership qualities in a simple phrase, I immediately think of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School mantra: humble, approachable and credible.”

Dunai served many roles in his career, including the 115th Fighter Wing’s RC-26 program manager, Volk Field’s director of operations, and the wing’s maintenance group commander. In addition, he was a command pilot who amassed approximately 7,000 flight hours in military aircraft.

“The last three assignments and capstone of Col. Dunai’s career was a major part of the 115th Fighter Wing’s years-long effort to recapitalize its aging fighter fleet and convert to the F-35A Lightning II aircraft,” said Peterson. “His leadership was instrumental in leading the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center airspace modernization initiative, and resulted in a complete realignment and reshaping of over 11,000 square miles of special use air space, solidifying its relevance for decades to come.”

Dunai expressed that his accomplishments were only possible because of the collaboration of everyone in the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

“Working with all of you who are the first to run to the threat, run to the danger, run to the bad stuff, jump in the arena, and figure stuff out was the gift of my life,” said Dunai.

As part of the ceremony, Dunai was presented a certificate of commendation on behalf of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and a custom lapel pin and plaque signifying his membership in the Wisconsin Air National Guard Hall of Fame.

“This organization is what it is due to the sustained dedication to highest standards of achievement and conduct, and a dedication to the mission and each other,” said Peterson. “This is ingrained into the culture of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and it is reflective of the inspirational leadership of our inductees and the Airmen that they led.”



# Social Media Manager

## Volunteer Job Description

TCVA is searching for a talented social media manager to represent our association by building a social media presence for our Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram brands. The social media manager will drive engagement by creating high-quality original content for notices, ads for the Paraloft, Hall of Fame Nominations, and other items of interest to the TACAMO community. The right candidate will possess a wealth of marketing experience, engage influencers, manage our community by responding to comments, and oversee our customer service across all platforms.



### Social Media Manager Responsibilities:

- Running the association's social media campaigns.
- Formulating high-quality, novel, written and visual content for each social media campaign.
- Building a social media presence by maintaining a solid online presence.
- Collaborate with other TCVA committees, like Membership, Scholarship, sales, and customer service to ensure brand consistency.
- Monitoring the association's brand on social media.
- Building brand awareness by engaging relevant influencers.
- Managing our online communities to ensure respectful and appropriate engagement.
- Responding to comments on each of our accounts.
- Overseeing customer service provided via social media.
- Analyzing data to determine whether social media campaigns have achieved their objectives.
- Coaching TCVA Board of Directors on content creation best practices.
- Responding to incoming Facebook messages in a timely manner
- Establish a Instagram page for TCVA

### Sites managed by TCVA

- TCVA PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/tacamo.community>
- TCVA GROUP: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tacamo.veterans>
- VQ-3 COMMUNITY: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/345778182170815>
- VQ-4 COMMUNITY: needs to be reestablished. The site manager has quit managing, and the FB site has hackers on the page.
- TACAMOPAC CREW 4 PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064333494387>
- TACAMOPAC CREW 4 GROUP: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/119305688207796>

### Social Media Manager Requirements:

- Experience developing social media strategies.
- Experience as a Brand Manager on social media
- Experience developing and working with a marketing plan.
- Ability to develop the right voice for each social media platform.
- Proven ability to build social media communities.
- Understanding graphic design principles.
- Ability to measure campaigns success.

**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

**COMING SOON**

# Award for Excellence in Service (AES) Applications Open May 31



## **PURPOSE**

This award recognizes dependents of active-duty sailors who demonstrate a personal commitment to benefiting the local Oklahoma public or military community. The award celebrates Buff's unsung contribution during his years of military and civilian service. When applying for this award, think about how your project or service will follow in Buff's footsteps. Will it make a memorable difference in others' lives? How will your passion and effort impact the local community? Will your project or service inspire others to contribute to their local communities?

Recipients of Buff's Award of Excellence in Service demonstrate Buff's commitment of community service that makes a difference in others' lives as well as their own.

### **AES Program**

#### Annual Dates:

May 31: Applications Open

July 31: Applications Close

August 31: Awards are Announced

Apply for an Award, LINK Coming soon

## **EXAMPLES**

Below are a few broad examples that might put the Award of Excellence in context:

- A spouse who wishes to start an after-school sports program on-base or off-base to encourage healthy, active lifestyles. (Example: Starting an after-school sports program, such as a cycling club, is a fantastic way to promote healthy, active lifestyles, especially in a community setting like a military base.)
- A spouse who develops a mentorship program that incorporates the values and behaviors of the military to help kids find their confidence and move forward in life. (Example: To inspire and empower at-risk youth through mentorship, utilizing the core values and behaviors learned from military training to help them build confidence, resilience, and leadership skills for a successful future.)
- A high school-age dependent who wishes to assist in coaching a youth sports team. She or he can bring not only their time to the activity but also the funding for equipment or facility rental. (Example: a high school-age student who wants to get involved in coaching or assisting with a youth sports team, and who also has the potential to support the team financially by contributing to equipment or facility costs.)
- A high school dependent who volunteers to coach disabled youth in the community and needs tuition to enroll & cover expenses to receive a certification coaching individuals or groups with disabilities. (Example: Is enrolling in educational certification program as an Adaptive Sports & Training Coach.)

## **William L. "Buff" Crowell II**

William "Buff" Crowell was a proud Navy pilot that served our country, his family, the TACAMO community, and his local community in many capacities.

Buff graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1980. After attending Navy flight training in Pensacola, FL, and Corpus Christi, TX he earned his Wings of Gold then attended C-130 training in Little Rock, AR. He subsequently joined the "Ironman" of VQ-3 in 1982 flying the EC-130 aircraft in support of the TACAMO mission. He went on to serve in several other roles including as a Navy Recruiter then another TACAMO tour in VQ-4. After being stationed with the Naval Reserve unit at Andrews AFB, Buff retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 2001.

His heart remained with TACAMO and he continued to serve the community as a contractor. During this time he continued to exude his warfighter spirit and volunteered to be the Northrop-Grumman site lead at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan supporting a USAF air mission as part of Operation Enduring Freedom from June through September 2011. Overall his experience and knowledge were key in the TACAMO community's successful transition to the E-6 aircraft. Buff is also credited as one of the original founding members of the TCVA which has served Sailors over the course of TACAMO history.

Buff was a beloved husband, father, and friend to many. He unexpectedly passed away on April 3, 2021. At his memorial and afterward, numerous stories of unspoken acts of kindness emerged. This legacy of unselfish kindness and service is what the Award of Excellence and Service will memorialize in Buff's name.



# Award for Excellence in Service (AES) In honor of William L. “Buff” Crowell II



The Award for Excellence in Service is dedicated to the memory of LCDR William “Buff” Crowell II, USN (Ret.), who passed away in April 2021. Buff’s legacy lives on through his lifelong commitment to the TACAMO Community, both as an active-duty Naval Officer and a defense contractor.

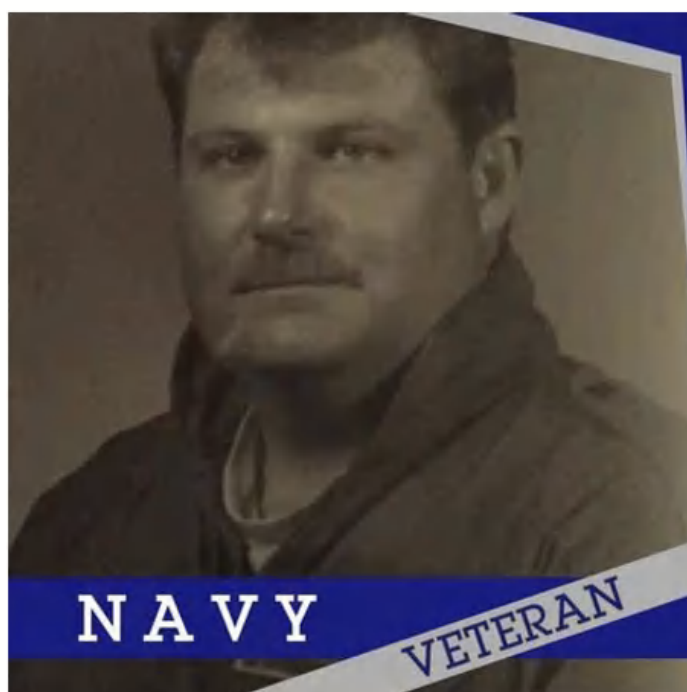
Throughout his distinguished career, Buff developed a profound respect and admiration for the Navy’s Chief Petty Officers, especially those within the TACAMO Community. His service, however, was not solely defined by titles, promotions, or awards. While naval careers are often marked by tangible achievements such as command, advancements, and degrees, Buff’s career was distinguished by his unwavering dedication to others, long after his retirement in 1994.

Although he departed active duty over two decades ago, Buff remained deeply involved with the TACAMO mission, continuing to give his heart and soul to the community. His greatest contribution was in keeping the TACAMO community connected—personally and professionally. For over twenty-seven years, Buff devoted countless hours to reaching out to Shipmates in the Wardroom, the Chiefs’ Mess, deck-plate Sailors, and, most importantly, their families.

Buff’s kindness was a constant presence. He sent thoughtful messages on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and the CPO’s Birthday. He sent congratulatory notes for promotions and advancements. Each message, whether an email, text, or letter, carried special meaning and a sincere personal touch. He showed up in meaningful ways—attending a widow’s son’s promotion ceremony or delivering gifts to spouses and children of Shipmates. Though many of his acts of kindness remain private, they are cherished memories for those who received them.

The purpose of the Award for Excellence in Service is to honor Buff’s enduring impact on the lives of so many. His positive nature, passion for the Navy, and dedication to Sailors inspired those around him to be their best. He motivated others to keep moving forward in the face of adversity, opened new paths for contributing to the community, and created lasting bonds between Shipmates.

Recipients of the Award for Excellence in Service embody the spirit of Buff Crowell. They are individuals who, through their community service, make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, just as Buff did.



# Memories



*Submitted by Mark Barber*  
The simulator was a full-motion sim, which simulated actual flight conditions you could physically feel. The screens displaying the outside world were incredibly realistic, enhancing the experience. It allowed us to taxi, take off, and land in various weather conditions. We could also practice air refueling with both KC-135 and KC-10 tankers. Additionally, we rehearsed numerous emergency scenarios, from various system failures to multiple engine failures and fires. Most of the instructors were all former Air Force pilots contracted with Chrysler Technologies and one active duty Navy NTSU active duty Instructor, LT Joe Carter. - PEP boy.  
The El Toro sim which was a C-130 sim operated by Marine Corps.



**Mike Vos found these at the Boise Brewing in Boise, ID.**

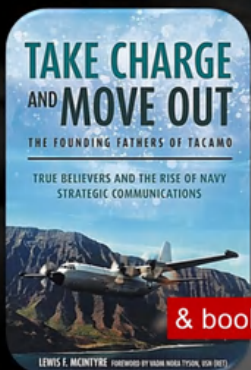


April 10, 2025

## Take Charge and Move Out, the Founding Fathers of TACAMO

Lewis McIntyre

Live and  
livestreamed  
at the Fuge!



& book signing!

**Presentation and book signing will be viewed/livestreamed  
from "The Studio" at the Fuge  
780 Falcon Circle, Warminster, PA 18974**

Enter through the Tranquility Brewing entrance, proceed down the hallway to the first right. Proceed through the glass doors and follow the hallway straight ahead, then bear to the right to an elevator on the left. Take the elevator to "The Studio" on the 3rd floor

**April 10, 2025 at 7:30pm ET**

**Take Charge and Move Out- The Founding Fathers of  
TACAMO**

**Featuring Lewis McIntyre**

Join us for a live event at the Fuge in Warminster, PA for a presentation on the birth of the US Navy's "Take Charge and Move Out" (TACAMO) mission which provides essential airborne communications to the US nuclear deterrence forces.

To listen to the livestream, you must be on our email distribution list. Email us at [mail@ColdWarHistory.org](mailto:mail@ColdWarHistory.org) to be included. Zoom link will only be shared on the date of the program. Zoom line opens at 7pm ET and program will promptly start at 7:30pm ET.

Lew's book, Take Charge and Move Out, the Founding Fathers of TACAMO will also be available for purchase and for a book signing. The US Navy's "Take Charge and Move Out" (TACAMO) mission provides essential airborne communications to the US nuclear deterrence forces. Today it is a thriving community, respected by the Navy and the US strategic defense forces. But it wasn't always so. Despite the enormous importance of the mission, for the first decade of their existence, the TACAMO squadrons did not provide a viable career path for officers, instead being a "one and done" tour for the junior officers who found themselves unluckily so assigned. A second tour in the squadrons was considered to be professional suicide. But in 1975, a handful of lieutenants put their faith in a community that did not yet exist, betting their careers on that second tour. From their faith and courage was born the TACAMO community.

This is the story of the birth of TACAMO, in the words of ten pioneers who built the community from scratch, and the commanding officer who inspired them.

+++++

### About Lewis McIntyre

Lewis' literary background is unusual: an engineer who can actually write! He graduated from the US Naval Academy with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering and got his MS in the same field from the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. He spent his Navy career flying various aircraft until retiring in 1990. He then began a second career as a civilian contractor for the Navy, retiring from that in 2020 to pursue writing full-time. He has a passion for history and loves historical fiction that brings the past to life, putting the reader in a time machine back to a time like our own, but also so very different. He is a member of the Historical Writers of America (HWA), the Maryland Writers' Association (MWA) and is vice president of the Charles County chapter of the MWA. He is also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Thank you for your interest  
and ongoing support!



# 2 Oahu June 18 to 22

## Hawaiian Islands Reunion

# Big Island June 22 to 26

Check out the Tentative Schedule  
[tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion](http://tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion)  
 or use the QR code above





# Need Transportation or an Escort to a TACAMO Reunion?



- Sometimes life situations do not provide us the opportunity to attend a TACAMO reunion. So, ask a family member for the gift of escorting you to a reunion. Your family members will enjoy hearing new stories and learning about TACAMO. TCVA will waive your escort's registration cost.

*At the 2023 reunion, Ralph Carlson was given the gift of attending the reunion by his son, Scott. He was unable to drive, so his son escorted him. Scott and Ralph were joined at the reunion other family members: TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee, Gerry Greer and wife LaDonia Carlson and many other family members. While Ralph shared stories about his time in TACAMO, family members enjoyed hearing new stories and meeting other TACAMO attendees.*

## TACAMO Elder an Escort Gift Certificate

*Good for one (1) escort to attend a TACAMO Reunion with their TACAMO family elderly in need of assistance*

To: TACAMO Reunion Attendee

This certificate is good for one (1) person providing transportation for you to attend a TACAMO Reunion.

Value: Reunion Registration Fee

From:

*TACAMO Reunion Committee*



**NEXT** > **TACAMO REUNION!**

**MARIETTA, GA  
NOVEMBER 6 TO 12, 2025**

**TACAMO  
Association**  
**INDUSTRY  
PARTNERS**  
*As of November 2024*

**We recognize our  
Industry Partners' Support**



***We Thank All Supporters!!***

**TACAMO Reunions Industry Partners**

**2013**

Southside Seattle with **Boeing** employees who built the Mercs  
Sponsor: Boeing

**2014**

Marietta, GA with **Lockheed** to celebrate 50th anniversary since the delivery of first Hercs  
Sponsor: Lockheed

**2015**

Tucson, AZ with **Boneyard Safari** to visit the TACAMO Hercs and collect TACAMO Herc artifacts  
Sponsor: Boneyard Safari

**2017**

OKC with active duty Sponsors: Boeing, Collins Aerospace LongWave, OKC Navy League Council, Midwest City Chamber of Commerce and Marcum's Nursery and Tree Farm

**2022**

Patuxent River, MD TACAMO Gallery Grand Opening  
Sponsors: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace

**2023**

OKC with active Duty Sponsors: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace, Northrop, Navy League OKC Council, LongWave & V2X

**2025**

Marietta, GA **Lockheed Martin** Tour of where TACAMO's New EC-130J's are built

**2027**

Oahu, Hawaii TACAMOPAC Crew 4 50th Year Remembrance

**TACAMO Association welcomes our Industry Partners to sponsor and host TACAMO Reunions**



# TACAMO Gallery in Patuxent River Museum

Plan a visit and enjoy the TACAMO Gallery:  
Patuxent River Naval Air Museum @ 22156 Three Notch Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653  
Hours: Tuesday: Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm Sunday: 12:00pm-5:00pm Monday: Closed



# Newsletter Manager Volunteer Job Description

TCVA's Newsletter Manager is responsible for creating engaging newsletters, managing subscriber databases, planning and implementing email campaigns, and analyzing campaign performance.

Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Write, edit, compile, and produce TACAMO Trailing Wire quarterly newsletters, working independently as well as closely with the TCVA Board of Directors, TACAMO Historian, and others as needed.
- Work with the TCVA Board of Directors to determine quarterly newsletter content, create short-term and long-term newsletter schedules, and a newsletter workflow calendar.
- Collect and edit newsletter articles; write articles as necessary.
- Monitor key metrics to help inform the TVCA Board of Directors of the ongoing newsletter strategy.
- Help develop ways to gain new members and re-engage inactive members.
- Meet deadlines for the email blast, posting on the webpage, Facebook page and groups.

Manager Requirements:

- Background in Journalism, English, or Communications preferred.
- Three to five years of editorial experience, preferably writing and editing newsletters
- Ability to adapt to TCVA's style guidelines.
- In-depth understanding of audience engagement strategies.
- Proficiency in Canva and Adobe PDF.



**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

# Museum Exhibit Coordinator Volunteer Job Description

The Museum Exhibit Coordinator provides design direction and leadership for all indoor and outdoor installations, exhibitions, and core galleries, ensuring design work is inspiring, educational, surprising, meets the needs of each project and supports the TACAMO mission.

Museum Exhibit Coordinator Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Research museums possibilities to present to the TCVA Board of Directors
- Coordinate, design, budget and construct exhibits in TCVA-approved museums. (For example, must be knowledgeable in art, history, design, lighting, and possibly carpentry.)
- Oversee the acquisition and care of the displays artifacts
- Keep track of all museum objects and maintains records of ownership
- Recruit volunteers to assist in the display room during special events held at the museum

Museum Exhibit Coordinator Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in industrial design, architecture, interior design, or exhibit design
- 3-5 years of experience in exhibit design or a related field
- Creative thinking that results in innovative design solutions
- Ability to investigate and resolve design problems
- Ability to execute design directions
- Ability to read and understand design control and architecture drawings
- Ability to produce design detail drawings
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Canva
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively with designers, clients and TCVA Board of Directors



**Submit Resume to: [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

# Membership Drive

# Thank You



**WINNER OF THE Southwest AIRLINE TICKET**



**JEFFERY HENDRIX**

**Thanks to all those who participated in TCVA's March Membership Drive**

Your TCVA membership is essential, valuable, and worth getting and keeping. Your support and participation benefit you and the TACAMO Community. The TACAMO Community is a legacy program for all who currently serve or have served our community. We are the "One Together" TACAMO family.





## Together, We Keep the TACAMO Legacy Alive – Your Membership Makes It Possible

Dear TACAMO Community,

As a valued member of the TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA), you play a crucial role in supporting not only the daily operations of our organization but also the significant projects that preserve the legacy of the TACAMO community. Here's how your membership fee is making an impact—and some exciting new updates for 2025!

### New and Exciting Highlights

- **Free Membership for Active-Duty Personnel:** All active-duty officers and enlisted members will now have free, full access to the TCVA website for as long as they remain on active duty and renew their membership annually.
- **Membership for Veterans, Industry Partners, and Families:** Access to the complete TCVA site will require an annual membership fee of \$35.00 for veterans, industry partners, government partners, and family members. You may choose automatic renewal or be notified of your upcoming membership expiration, giving you the option to renew at your convenience.

### How Your Membership Supports Our Mission

Your membership directly supports our mission of building a community, sharing common experiences at reunions, preserving TACAMO history, and collecting artifacts for museum displays that educate the public and honor the service and sacrifice of our members. Here's how your fee is used:

- **Keeping the Association Operational:** Your membership helps keep TCVA running 24/7, allowing us to continue to serve the community and maintain a strong presence.
- **Funding Special Events and Recognition:**
  - Supporting special events and promotions that foster connection and engagement.
  - TACAMO Hall of Fame Awards to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our community.
  - Printing and distributing brochures, flyers, and displays to keep everyone informed.
  - Offsetting reunion expenses to help us continue hosting events where the TACAMO family can come together.
- **Supporting Key Projects:**
  - Upkeep on TACAMO Museum Displays: Ensuring the preservation of our history through exhibits at places like the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum in Maryland.
  - VQ-3 Crew FOUR Memorial at Wake Island: Honoring our members with lasting tributes to their service.
  - TACAMO Memorial at Punchbowl: Contributing to the upkeep of the memorial at Punchbowl National Cemetery in Hawaii.
- **Supporting the Next Generation:** Your membership helps provide scholarships for students pursuing careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). These scholarships ensure the next generation of leaders has the resources they need to succeed, fostering innovation and excellence within the TACAMO community and beyond.

### Exclusive Member Benefits

As a TCVA member, you get unlimited access to our website, where you can stay up-to-date with the latest news, resources, and connect with fellow members.

Plus, when you renew your membership or join as a new member this March, you'll be entered for a chance to win a one-way ticket on Southwest Airlines, good for travel within the next year!

### Why Your Membership Matters

Your membership isn't just a fee—it's an investment in preserving the legacy of those who have served and continue to serve the TACAMO mission. Your support helps us maintain the strong bonds of our community, ensuring future generations will understand the importance of our work.

At TCVA, we say "One Together" because we are united—whether you're a TACAMO Shipmate, Veteran, Family Member, Industry Member, or Civil Service Member supporting TACAMO. Your participation helps us continue to serve each other and honor our collective history.

Thank you for being part of something bigger. Together, we make a lasting impact.

Warm regards,  
TCVA Board of Directors

# 2025 TCVA Donors

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations that support the TACAMO Community Veterans Association. Your generosity helps us provide scholarships, reunite at reunions, and mini-reunions to share memories and accomplish several projects. With your continued investment, TACAMO Community Veterans Association can continue to provide education on TACAMO's history to active duty, Veterans and others across the country.

To make a donation go to

- Scholarships Gifts [tacamo.org/scholarships](http://tacamo.org/scholarships)
- Other Gifts [tacamo.org/donate](http://tacamo.org/donate)
- [Memberships tacamo](http://tacamo.org)



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Last to Fly EC-130 Hercs Crew

## March Membership Drive

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**LETTER FROM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MIKE VOS**



Aloha Tacamites,

Thank you to all the new and renewing members during our March Membership Drive. Your donations are crucial in keeping us active and ensuring the best reunion experience for our members. With the establishment of The TACAMO Foundation, our finances have evolved, and now the Foundation handles the funding for scholarships and our educational outreach. Meanwhile, TCVA membership helps keep the association operational, funding special events and recognition, supporting key projects, and recognize TACAMO Hall of Fame & Lifetime Achievement Award. Mahalo for your continued support!

This issue of the Trailing Wire newsletter puts a strong emphasis on The Blue Angels. It's incredible to have the son of one of our members piloting the #2 F-18, but TACAMO's connection to the Blues goes deeper than that, as our resident historian, Vern Lochausen, explains. Be sure to enjoy the article and learn how our old Hercs had a second life as Fat Albert.

Our production of "TACAMO Sea Stories" Episode 2 has been slightly delayed due to a massive project our director is currently focused on. Ramon, of Boneyard Safari, is documenting the move of the Philippines Mars aircraft from Vancouver to its final resting place at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson. This historic aircraft, along with its three sisters, has had an impact on aviation similar to that of our very own 4 Gs (the original TACAMO Hercs). We're eager to share this project with you once Ramon has completed it.

As always, thank you to our members for sharing your time, stories, and artifacts with TCVA. Your past service and ongoing commitment to our community are deeply appreciated by all who experience our museum exhibits and read this newsletter.

Stay safe and strong, Shipmates ...  
Mike Vos

**THANK  
YOU!**



## *Fallen Shipmates*

### **I FLEW**

by *Brad Baker*

When the last checklist's run and the bag drag is done,

I'll reminisce on the days I once knew,

I won't remember the oh-three-hundred alerts,

But only that I flew!

I will not remember the crew rest in tents,

Nor recall how cold Arctic winds blew,

And I'll try not to remember the times I got sick,

But only that I flew!

I will never forget when nature became angry,

To challenge my intrepid crew,

I'll always remember the fear I felt,

And the pride in knowing I flew.

I'll remember the sights my mortal eyes saw,

All colored in multiple hues,

Those beautiful lights on cold winter lights,

Seen only by those who flew.



God was extremely good to me,  
He let me touch his face,  
He saw my crew through war and peace,  
And blessed us with His grace.

So when I stand at St. Peter's Gate,  
And tell him that I'm new,  
I know he'll smile and welcome me,  
Because he knows  
I FLEW!

**[LINK: TACAMO FALLEN LIST](#)**



# TACAMO

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