

# MCATA



## MARINE CORPS AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter

Transporter Winter /Spring 2016

### 2016 MCATA REUNION SAN ANTONIO TEXAS



#### Next Reunion San Antonio

5-9 October 2016. Mark your calendars!

#### ATTENTION!

The 2016 MCATA Reunion is in October. It's time to start making your plans and getting your hotel reservations made.

To lock in your rooms either email:  
[reservations@eltropicanohotel.com](mailto:reservations@eltropicanohotel.com)

Or call:

877-736-4311

Be sure to ask for:

Marine Air Transport Association Group rates.

A registration form to sign up for the reunion itself and the events we have planned will be published in about a month.

#### IN THIS EDITION

- 2016 Officers and Board Members- Pg 2
- From the President-Pg 3
- Reunion Info- Pg 4-6
- The Raider Mobile Project Pg 7
- Squadron Updates Pg 8-9
- Funnies-Bottom Pg 9
- Col Becker Retirement Pg 10
- In Memorium- Pg 11-12
- MCATA Website Info- Pg 13
- 2016 Scholarship Application-Pg 14
- Posts from MCATA Facebook Pg 15
- New Members and Donations- Pg 16
- Establishment of Local Chapters- Pg 17
- Transport History- Alvia Hearren's Story- Pg 18-19
- Membership Application- Pg 20

## MARINE AIR TRANSPORTER

### EDITOR

Rich Driscoll

The Marine Air Transporter is published quarterly with an additional issue prior to the annual Reunion .

Opinions are those of the Authors of submitted letters and articles and are true to the best of MCATA ability to verify. They do not reflect the opinion or policy of the Department of Defense, Navy Department or Headquarters United States Marine Corps.

## 2016 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Rich Driscoll, USMC, Retired, Navigator

### Vice President

Larry Spangler, USMC, Retired, Navigator

### Secretary

Jim Clark, USMC, Navigator

### Treasurer

Charlie Smith, USMC, Retired, Navigator

### Judge Advocate

Dan Burton, USMC Retired, Pilot

### Chaplain

Bob Guest, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Historian

Alan Stinar, USMC Maintainer

### 2016 Reunion Chairman

Humberto Reyes, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Trustee

Red Doktor, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Directors

Bernie Bersano, USMC, Retired, Maintenance Officer

Julia Cartwright, USMC. Maintainer (New)

Richard (Dick) Edwards, USMC, Retired, Navigator

Pete Johnson. USMC Navigator (New)

Jim Kikta, USMC Retired Navigator (New)

Ted Newman, USMC Navigator (New)

C.W. Wilson, USMC Retired Flight Engineer (New)

Marty Ruane, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Emeritus Directors

Jack Flannery, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

Jack Dickson, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Past Presidents & Emeritus Directors

Con Shuck, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

C.J. McQueen, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

Humberto Reyes, USMC, Retired, Flight Engineer

### Membership update as of 15 Jun 2016

Regular members: 276 (+17)

Active duty/drilling reserve members 39 (+17)

Widowed Spouses: 14 (+2)

Honorary: 1

Total: 330 (+36)

Numbers in parenthesis are increases from Jan 2016



## MAIL ADDRESS FOR MCATA

MCATA  
Charles F. Smith  
P.O. Box 1134  
Millington, TN 38083

## Contact us:

President's phone

817-657-7768

Email

President@mcata.com

MCATA IS A 501(C) (19) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Texas in 1991 to foster, encourage and perpetuate the memory and spirit of friendship among our comrades in arms who are or have been members of any Marine Corps Air Transport Squadron and to preserve incidents and memories of our association together. The Marine Corps Air Transport Association represents a complete cross section of all those who are or have served our country in Marine Corps Air Transports regardless of rank, flight status or MOS.





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Semper Fi Marines! Spring is fading away and I'm thinking about our next Reunion this fall. As per the vote by the general membership two years ago, we will return to San Antonio again this year. San Antonio has become one of the premier tourist cities in the United States and is a very popular destination. We will stay at the El Tropicano Hotel which is located on the River Walk about five or six blocks from the main restaurant area and the Alamo.

The hotel is in a great location and the rooms are clean and well appointed.



The hotel has also given us a great deal at \$110 per night which includes breakfast for two each morning and discount-



ed self parking rates at \$12 per night. The weather in early October should be warm and very comfortable. Temperatures average from a range of 63 for a low to 85 for a high during the day. For most of us that is short sleeve shirt and shorts weather.

We had our Mini-Meeting the first week of June and worked out most of the final details. Here is the schedule.

**Tues, Oct 4-** Beach Boys playing at Majestic Theater. Not a MCATA event, but if you want tickets they can be purchased at :

<http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/3A0050A3E8B24B98?brand=majestic>

**Wed, Oct 5-** Early Bird Arrival and no host dinner on the River Walk.

**Thu, Oct 6-** Main arrival and check in, Ladies Kickoff Champagne Lunch, dinner on River Walk

**Fri, Oct 7-** Bus trip to Fredericksburg and Texas Hill Country. Visit Geo. H.W. Bush National Museum of the Pacific War and Nimitz Museum. Shopping in Fredericksburg. Lunch. Trip to Becker Winery for wine tasting and then return to SAT for an evening on the Riverwalk.

**If you don't want to go on the bus trip, you are free to tour San Antonio.**

**Sat, Oct 8-** Board meeting, General membership meeting and elections. Tour San Antonio, banquet in evening at hotel.

**Sun, Oct 9-** Check out and depart.

This is pretty locked in and details are on the reservation notice.

The Fredericksburg trip will be a great adventure. Shopping there is fun and the

military museums are world class. Fredericksburg was the birthplace and childhood home of Admiral Chester Nimitz. The hotel his grandfather owned and where Nimitz spent much of his childhood is the museum. Right next door is the Museum of the Pacific War.

The Texas Hill Country is also a tourist destination with many historical small towns and wineries along the way. Luckenbach, made famous by the country song, is just a couple miles from Fredericksburg and Johnson City and the home and ranch of President Lyndon Johnson are located along the highway near there. Our plan would be to spend a couple hours in the afternoon at one of the wineries then head back to San Antonio for the evening and dinner. We'll need a headcount for this one so we can estimate the cost per person for the bus.

Once we decide on that we'll include that information in the registration.

Last year I created a website called vmgr-reunion.com where information about the reunion and registration forms could be found. This year that will all be integrated into our new website [www.mcata.com](http://www.mcata.com) and everyone who has internet access will have the ability to use that website to find information, register and pay by credit card if they wish. I am also aware that some of our members are not online and prefer to pay by check. For them, a paper registration form will be published in the summer edition of this newsletter with instructions on how to register. You can call the hotel and make your room reservations now. (See front page for contact information.) Please tell them you are part of the Marine Corps Air Transport Association group to get your discount. Cutoff is 23 September. More to come as I have it so please stay tuned!

**Scholarship:** It's not too soon to start thinking about scholarship nominations,. We need these applications not later than 15 September so we can make a determination eligibility and make our selections. There is a form with instructions in this newsletter on page 14.





# REUNION INFORMATION



## San Antonio— Home of the Alamo

San Antonio (Spanish for "Saint Anthony"), officially the City of San Antonio, is the seventh most populated city in the United States of America and the second most populated city in the state of Texas, with a population of 1,409,019. It was the fastest growing of the top 10 largest cities in the United States from 2000 to 2010, and the second from 1990 to 2000. The city is located in the Southern United States and the south-central part of Texas, and the southwestern corner of an urban megaregion known as the Texas Triangle.

San Antonio serves as the seat of Bexar County. Recent annexations have extended the city's boundaries into Medina County and, though for only a very tiny area near the city of Garden Ridge, into Comal County. The city has characteristics of other western urban centers in which there are sparsely populated areas and a low density rate outside of the city limits. San Antonio is the center of the San Antonio–New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area. Commonly referred to as Greater San Antonio, the metropolitan area has a population of nearly 2.4 million based on the 2015 US Census estimate, making it the 25th-largest metropolitan area in the United States and third-largest in the state of Texas. Growth along Interstate 35 and Interstate 10 corridors to the north, west and east make it likely that the metropolitan area will continue to expand.

San Antonio was named for Saint Anthony of Padua, whose feast day is on June 13, by a 1691 Spanish expedition in the area. It is notable for Spanish colonial missions, the Alamo, the River Walk, the Tower of the Americas, the Alamo Bowl, and Marriage Island. Commercial entertainment includes SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme parks, and according to the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, the city is visited by about 32 million tourists a year. The city is home to the five-

time NBA champion San Antonio Spurs and hosts the annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, one of the largest such events in the country.

The US armed forces have numerous facilities in San Antonio: Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base (which constitute Joint Base San Antonio), and Lackland AFB/Kelly Field Annex, with Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley located outside the city. Kelly Air Force Base operated out of San Antonio until 2001, when the airfield was transferred to Lackland AFB. The remaining portions of the base were developed as Port San Antonio, an industrial/business park. San Antonio is home to six Fortune 500 companies and the South Texas Medical Center, the only medical research and care provider in the South Texas region.

The missions of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park along with the Alamo, became part of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites on July 5, 2015. The San Antonio Missions became the 23rd U.S. site on the World Heritage List, which includes the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty.

<http://visitsanantonio.com/>



## The San Antonio Riverwalk

A flood prevention project in the early 20th century turned into one of San Antonio's most famous tourist attractions when it was improved and commercialized starting with a Worlds Fair event in the 1960s. Today it is the most popular place in the City. The Riverwalk is lined with beautiful trees, flowers and fantastic restaurants and bars. The El Tropicano Hotel, where the reunion will be held, is on the Riverwalk and only about 10 minutes from the best restaurants and the Alamo. A shuttle service and a water taxi are available to transport you to your destination if you prefer not to walk.

# THE BUS TRIP TO TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

## Fredericksburg, Texas



<http://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com/>

The first stop on our planned bus tour on Friday, October 7 is Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg is located in what is known as the Texas Hill Country and is the seat of Gillespie County. As of the 2010 Census, the city had a population of 10,530.

Fredericksburg was founded in 1846 and named after Prince Frederick of Prussia. Old-time German residents often referred to Fredericksburg as Fritztown, a nickname that is still used in some businesses. The town is also notable as the home of Texas German, a dialect spoken by the first generations of German settlers who initially refused to learn English. Fredericksburg shares many cultural characteristics with New Braunfels, which had been established by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels the previous year. Fredericksburg is the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. It is the sister city of Montabaur, Germany. On October 14, 1970, the Fredericksburg Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in Texas.

Fredericksburg is charming and the town still has many old shops and buildings that are standing from the 1800s when they were first built. Most are of a unique blend of German and Texas architecture that took advantage of the abundant limestone rock available to quarry in the area. It is a popular tourist area and the shopping is great. The main street area has numerous shops and boutiques with about anything you can imagine. There are also lots of restaurants and wineries and an authentic German style brewery right on main street.

Fredericksburg is also home to the Nimitz Museum and the National Museum of the Pacific War. Our tour will give those who desire about three hours to tour these fine museums. They are really worth the time and the cost is very minimal. I won't spoil it all, but inside you'll find one of the miniature submarines captured during the attack on Pearl Harbor and a B-25 Mitchell bomber. It is truly a world class World War II museum. Finally, we will have lunch on our own at any place you like in



town. There are numerous places to eat with any kind of food you could want. Many have sidewalk seating so you can watch the world go by as you eat.

Once we are finished with lunch we will load the bus to continue our adventure seeing even more Texas Hill Country places of interest.





# THE BUS TRIP TO TEXAS HILL COUNTRY (Cont)

## The Becker Winery



<http://beckervineyards.com/>

After we leave Fredericksburg we will head east toward Johnson City, Texas, home of President Lyndon Johnson and the location of his Texas ranch. We'll be heading for the Becker Winery where we will enjoy a wine tasting and social event. Located in the Texas Hill Country between Fredericksburg and Stonewall, Becker Vineyards was established in 1992 by Richard and Bunny Becker. The winery, located in a 19th century German stone barn reproduction, is surrounded by lavender fields. Featured in Wine Spectator, Food & Wine, the Fine Living Channel and served in The White House, these hand-crafted, Bordeaux, Burgundian and Rhone-styled award winning wines are enjoyed with fine cuisine or casual fare. Becker Vineyards is open for tastings, winery/cellar tours, wine gift purchases, wine club and picnicking. There is a possibility we may have a very special Marine Corps guest join us there. I won't tell you who that might be until we have confirmation.



## Luckenbach, Texas



<http://www.luckenbachtexas.com/>

There are other attractions along the way and if we have time we may be able to take in one or two of those. One is Luckenbach, Texas made famous by the country song. Luckenbach is located just off highway 290 and is a rustic little "no place" with a dance hall and a post office and that's about it. It has its own website and has become a tourist attraction and is a neat place to have a group or individual picture taken in front of the Luckenbach Post Office or buy yourself that "God Bless Johnny Cash" bumper sticker you've always wanted.

## Texas Wildseed Farms



<http://www.wildseedfarms.com/home.php>

Another possible stop, time permitting, is Texas Wildseed Farms. Most of you are aware of First Lady Ladybird Johnson's love of wildflowers and her national highway beautification efforts. We can thank her for making the Texas roadways and fields some of the most beautiful in the world each spring and summer. The Wildseed Farm has all sorts of wildflower seed and other interesting yard, home and garden items of interest.

# The Raider Mobile Project



## VMGR-352 "Tanker Lincoln" or "Raidermobile"

I think many of you have, over the years, seen various squadron and unit vehicles painted up in squadron colors. They are quite common in all the services. They run from luxury cars like the Lincoln Continental shown above to beat up pickup trucks and even busses. Typically these are owned and maintained by the members of the unit for use by the unit and to increase morale and camaraderie and esprit de corps.

VMGR-352 has such a vehicle. It has been around for over 30 years now and has been used by generations of VMGR-352 squadron members at airshows, events, parades, parties, for public relations purposes and to celebrate unit members personal triumphs like promotions, changes of command and other things.

Over the years, the car has fallen into disrepair and is no longer usable. A now retired Marine, Jacob Cobb, who was with VMGR-352 until last year, has taken it upon himself to restore the old girl to her former glory so the squadron can once again enjoy her for all the reasons stated above.

### Background:

The Tanker Lincoln/Raidermobile was originally purchased by some young squadron pilots in 1984. The four original purchasers were Mike "Fergie" Ferguson, "Wild" Bill Armishaw, Chick Kelenfy and Mark Mykityshyn. They found a 1969 Lincoln Continental with "suicide doors" in Yorba Linda, California. Once the car was purchased, other officers joined in the contribution. Those were Doc Olman, John Zeglin, George Walters, Leo Falcum, Bill Abby, Rob Lucy and Craig Laurie.

About the same time, the Oakland Raiders moved to Los Angeles. The Raiders Football Franchise exuded confidence and was always entertaining. They were the scourge of the NFL, winning big at the Super Bowl, all while portraying a rogue image that excited their loyal fans. Mark "Myk" Mykityshyn was a newly minted Marine KC-130 pilot, who had played football at the Naval Academy, and was coaching the squadron flag football team in 1984. He also believed that the squadron needed to get away from its stagnant non-tactical image. Many people in the unit wanted a more dynamic symbol for the future, and thought a new squadron patch would help.

Myk designed a new squadron patch modeled after the branding of the new Los Angeles Raiders and the squadron adopted Raiders as their new call sign. The patch and the call sign are essentially the same today.

The LA Raiders enthusiastically supported the tie between the squadron and the team and offered support including cheerleaders that could attend events for the squadron. Squadron

leadership under Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Major also endorsed the concept, and would later support his officers as they embarked on the search and purchase of a squadron car.



## Modern VMGR-352 Raider Patch

The original livery was black on black and the picture above shows the first tactical paint scheme. (The picture at top left is a later version with silver top.)



Here is the Raidermobile with a couple of the original owners, Mark Mykityshuyn (L) and George Walters (R) in full Blues Brothers regalia, escorting the Commanding Officer, LtCol Ma-



jor and his wife to their Hail and Farewell.

Over the years many others have "owned" and taken care of the car. Now it needs some TLC. If you'd like to help Jake Cobb on this project please go to:

<http://www.theraidermobile.com/>

Make a donation to the foundation to help.



# SQUADRON UPDATES



Transporters,

"Ohayogozaimasu" from MCAS Iwakuni. The Sumos of VMGR-152 continue our support to III MEF across the PACOM AOR. We have recently wrapped up exercise Balikatan based out of Clark AB in the Philippines. It was a great exercise for us and gave our Crewmasters (Loadmasters) a chance to demonstrate their skills with a heavy equipment loadex and flight demo in support of 12th Marines. Back in February we participated in Cobra Gold based out of Korat Thailand as well as Island Warrior from Hickam AFB in Hawaii. February also saw us supporting the Singapore Airshow with a static display and one very appreciative crew for nearly two weeks. We were called to support relief operations in support of the Kumamoto earthquake but our contributions were limited to transporting ancillary staff support for the MEU as the primary action agency. This will be my final update to the Transporters as I turn over command of the Sumos to Andy "Busty" Pushart on 27 May. It has truly been an honor to serve with VMGR-152 in the Pacific and be given the exposure to some of the same locales and experiences that those of you that have gone before were so fortunate to blaze a trail to for those of us to follow. Sayonara and Semper Fi.

LtCol Matt "Nature Boy" Stover; Sumo Zero One  
S/F



Transporters,

At press time we had not received an update from VMGR-252, but here are some recent news releases.

March 7, 2016- VMGR-252s detachment returns. The Marines deployed to Africa and Spain, where they assisted the Personnel Recovery Task Force by working hand-in-hand with other United States military branches.

March 3, 2016- VMGR-252 participates in Exercise Eager Response at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Feb. 24, 2016. During the exercise, Marines trained in events such as casualty evacuation, assault support missions and aerial refueling.

Camp LeJeune- Marines in Landing Support Company, 2nd Transportation Support Battalion, in conjunction with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 conducted a joint air delivery mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 9, 2016

-S/F Rich



Transporters,

At press time we had not received an update from VMGR-352, but will tell you what we do know which is not much. Exercise Steel Knight has been ongoing and air support for that is being provided by F35Bs. One assumes where there are Marine fighters there are Marine tankers as well. In October the squadron provided air support for 1st Recon Battalion inserts. It has been a busy year for the Raiders. In May the squadron's six month deployment returned from supporting SPMGTF Central Command in Kuwait. January 9th marked a somber date as we all remember the crew of Raider 04 that was lost in Pakistan on that date in 2002.

I'll try to catch up with LtCol Campbell for more information about the Raiders in the next newsletter.

Semper Fi-Rich



# SQUADRON UPDATES



Greetings Transporters,

Spring has arrived and the winter thaw brings with it an increase in Yankee global operations. In addition to our bi-annual support to the Weapons Tactics Instructor's course in Yuma, the squadron is actively engaged in providing logistical and tactical support to a variety of agencies throughout Central America and Europe while participating in the squadron Annual Training event in Alpena, Michigan. Back in New York we continue to provide community outreach to a variety of organizations in the form of static displays and air show participation at Joint Base Maguire-Dix-Lakehurst as well as year-round funeral support. Keeping our airplanes not only looking and performing great, our world-class maintenance department continues to perform miracles in keeping the last of the Marine legacy Hercs operating safely and efficiently. The challenges ahead are significant, but the Yankees will continue to not only endure, but prosper and excel.

Semper Fi,  
LtCol. Kevin Kronoveter  
Commanding Officer, VMGR-452 "Yankees"



Major Derek Neymeyer sends:

"VMGR-234 recently completed a rigorous inspection cycle in the month of March with both a maintenance intensive inspection and an Inspector General of the Marine Corps inspection. In both cases, the results of both inspections were exemplary. Our Marines have done an outstanding job in all departments within the squadron, ensuring transparent mission accomplishment and the execution of all required tasking. Additionally in the months of March and April, the squadron was tasked to support the spring weapons and tactics instructor class taking place at Marine Corps air Station Yuma, Arizona. The squadron is prepared to support upcoming missions and tasking in the busy summer months ahead. As I look ahead to the change of command next month in May. I can say without any hesitation or equivocation that the squadron is in great shape and ready to support any and all tasking that may come its way."

**Change of Command:** 10 May, 2016 at 1030 at NAS Fort worth JRB, LtCol Ken Martin relinquished command of VMGR-234 to LtCol. Jeff Demers.

## Uncle Bob, the Marine Corps pilot-

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories. "Johnny, do you have a story to share?"

"Yes, ma'am, my daddy told a story about my Uncle Bob, the Marine Corps pilot. Uncle Bob was a pilot in Desert Storm and his plane was hit. He had to bail out over enemy territory and all he had was a small flask of whiskey, a pistol and a survival knife. He drank the whiskey on the way down so it would not break and then his parachute landed right in the middle of twenty enemy troops. He shot fifteen of them with the gun until he ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, 'till the blade broke and then he killed the last Iraqi with his bare hands."

"Good heavens," said the horrified teacher, "What kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?"

"Stay the hell away from Uncle Bob when he's been drinking!"

Semper Fi

# COLONEL BILL BECKER RETIRES



Miramar, California— USS Midway Colonel William “Bill” Becker retired at a ceremony held aboard the USS Midway in San Diego on 4 April, 2016. Col Becker was born at Fort Belvoir, VA and spent his childhood years in Virginia, Maryland and Oregon. His family moved back to Virginia where he graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, VA in 1981. He received a scholarship from the Association of Graduates of West Point and attended George Mason University prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps in November of 1982.

Private Becker attended Recruit Training at Parris Island, SC. He travelled to 29 Palms, CA and completed the Communications Center Operator Course as the Honor Graduate and was promoted from Private to Lance Corporal the same day. LCpl Becker then reported to Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Baltimore.

While on recruiting duty, Cpl Becker was selected for a Naval ROTC Scholarship and attended Oregon State University. Midshipman Becker graduated in May of 1988 receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in both Political Science and History.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Becker attended The Basic School at Quantico then moved on to Naval Flight Training, earning his wings in October of 1990. After receiving initial training in the KC-130 at Cherry Point, NC, he and his family moved to Okinawa for a three year tour.

While in Okinawa, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Becker joined the “Sumo’s” of VMGR-152 and served among many duties as the Airframes Officer and as Administrative Officer. Rapidly advancing to Aircraft Commander, he was promoted to Captain and returned to Quantico for a year in 1994 to attend school.

Capt Becker departed Quantico for El Toro, CA becoming a member of the “Raiders” of VMGR-352. While with the Raiders, he served as Flight Officer and Director of Safety and Standardization deploying to Kuwait for Operation Southern

Watch. He later was attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Air Wing staff as the Air Transport Coordination Officer.

In 1998, Capt Becker left active duty and joined the Select Marine Corps Reserve and became a member of the “Rangers” of VMGR-234 in Fort Worth, Texas. He would spend the next nine years with the Rangers serving as Flight Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, Aviation Maintenance Officer, and Executive Officer. Major Becker deployed numerous times to include supporting operations in Kosovo. His years with the Rangers culminated as the squadron mobilized and deployed for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom from January of 2003 until January of 2005. Late in 2005, LtCol Becker volunteered for orders to support the Joint Task Force in relief efforts for hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

LtCol Becker was selected and honored to command “The Yankees” of VMGR-452 from August 2007 until July 2009. Colonel Becker was promoted to his present rank in March 2009.

Col Becker served in the G-3 and G-5 of 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force from May 2010 until January 2015. In May 2011, Col Becker deployed for a year to support Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan as an advisor to the Afghan General Staff. In this combat assignment, he had opportunities to work with 38 coalition partners, scores of senior Afghan Army officers and government leaders while building the Afghan National Army.

Col Becker’s most recent assignment was the Chief of Staff IMA for Marine Forces Pacific. He is a Joint Qualified Officer and a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College Advanced PME course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Amphibious Warfare School, Air Force Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Course, and the Reserve Component National Security Course.

Col Becker’s personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal with 8 Strike Flight awards, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Col Becker and his wife of 28 years, Susan, reside in California. They have two adult children. Christi, is a software sales associate and graduate of the University of Texas. Brandon, is a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and a graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University. Col Becker is a pilot for United Airlines.





# In Memorium

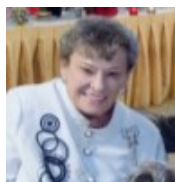


## Obituary Emmett Coleman Merricks

Emmett Coleman "EC" Merricks, Jr., 80, of Charlotte went home to be with the Lord April 2, 2016 at CMC Main hospital. The quote on his hospital room door was "In dreams and in love, there are no impossibilities"

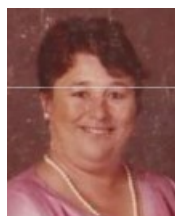
Preceding him in death were his father, Emmett Coleman Merricks, Sr; his mother, Desley Allen Merricks; wife and mother of his children, Millie P. Merricks; son, Maxwell E. Merricks; daughter, Susan K. Merricks; and brother, James A. Merricks. Emmett was born in Danville, Virginia on December 9, 1935 and grew up in Reidsville, North Carolina and graduated in 1954 from Reidsville High School, where he excelled in music, cheerleading, and driving school buses. He played the tuba sousaphone and was chosen "Most Talented" and was also chosen as a member of the Key club and a member of the National Guard. Upon graduation, he attended East Carolina University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Math and serving with Navy ROTC during that time. Emmett married his college sweetheart, Millie, and then enlisted in the United States Marine Corp, serving proudly for twenty years in Quantico, Cherry Point, Hawaii, and Florida with two tours in the Vietnam War. Following his honorable transfer from MCAS, Cherry Point, Emmett went on to proudly serve in the HQCO.HQSVCBN FMFLANT Norfolk, Virginia until he was honorably discharged to retire from the military and work as a commercial airline pilot with Sunbird Airlines and director of operations for CCAir. After retirement, Emmett enjoyed working with computers, restoring old cars and radios, bird watching, flying kites, and traveling with the Roads Scholars program. Surviving are his son, Patrick Merricks of Winterville; daughters, Vicki Reter of Raleigh and Pam Blake of Charlotte; brothers, Wallis Merricks of Reidsville and Bob Merricks of Winston-Salem; and grandchildren, Cole, Sydney, Cameron, Cally, Joe, Marin, Zack, Anna, and Lauren. Emmett loved his children and grand-children deeply and was fiercely protective of each and every one of them. In keeping with Emmett's wishes, there will be a small service held with his close family and friends, on Saturday, April 16th at 1:00pm Reidlawn Cemetery, North Carolina, with Pastor Bob Jack officiating and military graveside rites performed by the Rockingham County Honor Guard with assistance from the US Marine Corps.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, 15000 York Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28273 or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, 875 N. Randolph St. Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203



## Obituary Mary Ellen Loy Mabe

Mary Ellen Loy Mabe, 71, of Daytona Beach, Florida, formerly of Charleston, passed away on February 2, 2016 at Halifax Health Hospice Florida. She was born on November 11, 1944 in Dayton, Ohio to the late Dale Wyatt and Regina K. Flamm Loy. She was retired from the WV Air National Guard and A/F, was named "Airman of the Year" in 1970, and she was a 1974 graduate of the Academy of Military Science, Officer Cadet School. She was a member of the Tiskelwah Chapter #45 Order of the Eastern Star, White Shrine, Ladies Oriental Shrine, Woman's Club of Charleston, WVU Alumni Association, WV Guard Association, Ladies Auxiliary, Vice Commander of D.A.V., and the VFW. She was a member of B'Nai Jacob Synagogue. She was preceded in death by her parents. Mary is survived by her husband, Tommie C. Mabe of Daytona Beach, Florida; brother, Dwight David Loy of Mesa, Arizona; step son, Tracy Neil Mabe of Las Vegas, NV. A Service to Honor the Life of Mary will be held at 11:00 AM, Monday, February 8, 2016 at Snodgrass Funeral Home, South Charleston with Chaplain Roger Lee Tiffany officiating. Burial will be in Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens, Cross Lanes. Family and Friends may visit from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Sunday, February 7, 2016 at the funeral home. The Eastern Star Service will be at 6:30 PM.



## Obituary Eleanor "Ellie" Ruth Morley

Eleanor "Ellie" Ruth Morley, who recently moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, passed away at her home on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

A celebration of Ellie's life will take place at a later date.

Ellie was born May 26, 1940, the daughter of William and Ruth Doucette in Cambridge, Mass. She attended Catholic grammar school and graduated from Catholic High School in Cambridge. On Feb. 10, 1962, she married Robert Morley in Cambridge.

Together they traveled extensively throughout the United States while Robert was in the military. Their first post was Washington, D.C. They lived in North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas, and Washington. They then settled in Priest River, Idaho, where they lived for 13 years before moving to Sandpoint.

Ellie worked as a hotel clerk for many years. She was a member of the Catholic Church. She enjoyed collecting owls, dancing, music and travel. She is survived by her husband, Robert of Sandpoint; two sons, Robert (Mona) Morley of Priest River, and William Morley of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and four sisters. She was preceded in death by her parents and five siblings.

Family and friends are invited to sign Eleanor's online guest book at [www.coffeltfuneral.com](http://www.coffeltfuneral.com).

# IN MEMORIUM



## Obituary Robert F.K. Linn

Robert "Bob" Linn passed on the celestial lodge above on the morning of Friday, 27 November 2015. Known as Robbie by his family as a child and growing up, Bob Linn was the son of Robert Herbert Linn and Bertha Mae Linn (Kerrigan) of Toledo, OH born on 6 July 1938. He graduated with the Class of 1956 from Scott High School in Toledo. Bob joined The Marine Corps in 1958. He went to Marine Corps Basic Training at Parris Island, SC. He began service to his country by enlisting as a Private, but warranted a field commission during the [Vietnam War](#), earning the grade of CAPTAIN before the end of that conflict. During the Post-Vietnam drawdown, he reverted back to the ranks of enlisted leadership as an E-8. Shortly thereafter he earned the grade of E-9 or SERGEANT MAJOR during the 18th year of a 30-year Marine Corps career. He retired in September 1988 while serving as the Wing SGTMAJ of the Second Marine Aircraft Fighter Wing at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, NC. Bob is survived by his wife of 33 years, Margaret Salinas Linn, children Tracy Ann Linn, Debbie Linn Plagenhoef married to Jeff Plagenhoef, Terrance Linn, Manuel Carlos Cervantes, Ann-Margaret Cervantes, Nancy Ruth Ramos married to David Ramos along with eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



## Obituary Beverly Waitt

Bev Waitt, a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, went to her heavenly home on February 29, 2016, surrounded by her husband MG and family members.

Bev was born October 29, 1933, on a farm outside of Alton, Iowa, the daughter of Gerrit and Clara Scholten. She attended Alton, Iowa schools through high school. Bev was always very involved in music, playing in the band, singing in chorus and glee club, and playing in the small ensemble. She was a member of an award-winning Girls Sextet, which took first place six years in a row in the music contest while Bev was a member of the group.

After high school, Bev worked for Sioux Abstract, a real estate title company. Very proud of her Dutch heritage, Bev participated in the annual Tulip Festival in Orange City, Iowa, as a Klompen Dancer, dancing in the parade wearing wooden shoes.

In 1955, Iowa Representative Charles B Hoeven asked Bev to work in his office as a Congressional secretary. This took Bev to Washington, DC, where she met the love of her life, MG Waitt, a US Marine stationed at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia. Bev & MG were together for 60 years and married for 59 years.

MG's Marine duties brought them to Southern California, first in Santa Ana and then up to Newbury Park. Bev was MG's best friend and a Marine wife through & through, supporting MG as he served our country. After all of her kids graduated high school, Bev worked for a few years for Harris Engineering.

In their retirement years, Bev & MG bought a fifth-wheel travel trailer to see the USA. They traveled to all of the lower 48 states and 7 Canadian provinces, often taking the back roads to see more of the countryside. They also had a very special trip to China with her brother Rod and his wife Colleen.

Bev continued to have music as a part of her life, singing in church choirs and playing piano. She also volunteered at her church. In January, Bev was recognized for her 20 years of volunteer service by both the California State Senate and the California State Assembly. Bev was a most generous, giving, thoughtful person. She was always sending cards to friends and family with a personal note - Hallmark Cards will have a few more cards in their inventory this year.

Bev is survived by her husband MG, three children Leslie, Michael (wife Wendy) and Becky; three grandchildren Christi, Alan, and Erin (husband Randy); and one great-grandson, Brandon. She is also survived by three brothers, Cliff (wife Anne), Rod (wife Colleen), and Jerry (wife Audrey), cousins, and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Bev on Saturday, April 2, 2016, 11:00 a.m., at Monte Vista Presbyterian Church, 3797 Lynn Rd, Newbury Park, CA, 91320.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the Monte Vista Presbyterian Church Music Ministries, or to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in memory of Bev Waitt, 3800 Fettler Park Dr, Ste 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.





# OUR NEW WEBSITE



Our new website is really a combination of a website and an integrated member database that works within the website and automates dues collections and tracks finances. It is now up and running and our old one has been taken down. The old site was pretty cosmic when it was first introduced, but was getting rather dated after all these years. In addition, the member database was not integrated and automated in a way that helped us manage our membership effectively or that gave our members the kind of flexibility to control their own personal data. The new website and member database resolves most of those problems.

As you look at the new website [www.mcata.com](http://www.mcata.com) the first thing you notice is the banner at the top of each page with the logo like the one at the top of this page. A great banner makes the page stand out and makes it pleasant to use and look at. I want to thank our historian, Alan Stinar, for creating that banner. It looks outstanding!

The new website has both a public and a "member's only" view. The member's only view is password protected and all members in good standing (dues paid, not lapsed) will be able to use their personal password to access that part of the site. That includes the member directory, social forum (similar to previous bulletin board for member's only conversations) access to your personal profile where you can select privacy settings, add your own personal photos to an album, and subscribe to email, forms and newsletters. When you subscribe you will get notices in your email about those subjects.

Here is a list of key features of the website:

- Public plus password protected member's only site.
- Public photo album (currently has Reunion photos)
- "About Us" page that states the purpose of MCATA as stated in our constitution.
- "Join/Renew" page that lets you sign up and use a

- credit card to pay dues. (Checks too if desired)
- "Personal profile" page that lets members select what information they want others to see in the directory, create a personal photo album that can be shared and subscribe to email and newsletter notices.
- "Buy Wings" page with options to buy MCATA miniature wings and other items of interest.
- "Donations" page for making donations by credit card or check.
- "Social Forum" page for members to post thoughts and commentary.
- As previously mentioned, a members only directory with names, addresses, phone numbers and email of those that choose to share.
- "Events Calendar" that will allow us to post events and even register online for them. Info about Reunion 2016 San Antonio and local chapter events will be located here.
- "Useful Links" page that has "click to open" links to all Marine Wing and Squadron "official web" pages, "unofficial squadron and VMGR Facebook pages" and links to places of interest in San Antonio and surrounding area where members can find information about the reunion.
- "Contact" page with contact information.
- "Current Officers" page. A page with the names of current officers and board members.

There are still a few items that are being worked through on the site and we'll add more features as we get time. One example of an issue I'm working on is a field in each member profile that states "Member Since". That field defaults to the date I enter your information for the first time or when I move from one database to the other. I'm trying to figure out how to change that. Even if I do, I do not have the exact dates everyone first joined since the old database did not track that specifically. If I figure out how to edit that field I'll do my best to figure out a way to correct that information. If I can't I may just eliminate it.



MARINE CORPS AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2016

- 1. Please print clearly the following information.
2. Turn in completed application, with all applicable signatures, and return to the address indicated.
3. If this form is incomplete, inaccurate, or not signed, it will not be considered.
4. Please complete one application for each scholarship request.
5. MCATA may require an attached written statement describing educational goals and other relevant information.

Note: Applicant must be a direct descendent child or grandchild (or legal step-child, step grandchild) of a MCATA member. MCATA member must have been current throughout the 2015 and 2016 membership year.

Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester for which application is being made (Term and Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Hours Earned to Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Intended Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit hours to be taken during semester for which scholarship is awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Scholarship: Academic \_\_\_\_\_ Trade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Information and Academic Information:

I release M.C.A.T.A. the right to access all my current and ongoing personal and academic records and transcripts. If awarded a scholarship, I understand that I must meet the scholarship criteria and Standards of Academic Progress for the M.C.A.T.A.

I understand my name and information from my academic history may be released to the scholarship selection committee(s) and the scholarship donor(s). If awarded a scholarship, I release to the M.C.A.T.A. , the right to arrange a meeting with the donor(s) and use my name, story, and picture for printed and video materials, reports, and press releases, without compensation. I also recognize the advisability of communicating a letter of thanks to the donor of the scholarship.

Member Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Initial \_\_\_\_\_

The form must be received by MCATA by 15 September 2016 for the committee to consider prior to the reunion Remit completed Application to: M.C.A.T.A. Scholarship Program 7324 Brady Oaks Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76135.



# POSTS FROM OUR MCATA FACEBOOK PAGE

Marine KC-130 "Harvest Hawk" firing Hellfire missile.



Stay in touch on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MarineAirTransporters/>

Old Marine Navigators don't go away. They keep on keeping on by teaching "Geometry in Construction". Jon Swan



Building for the Future High school students complete cabins in hands-on program | Iron Trader News

Chalk up another successful school year for the "Geometry in Construction" class at Sturgis Brown High School, serving students in the Black Hills of South Dakota....

IRONTRADERNEWS.COM



Marine Corps Navigators

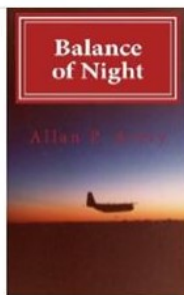
June 12 at 9:03am · New Windsor, NY · 🌐

Re-posted from Rich Driscoll's page. Wish I could have been there!

I had the honor of hosting a party to recognize the last two Marine Corps Navigators that will ever be assigned to VMGR-234, MAG-41 here in Texas. At the party were the Marine Aircraft Group 41 Commanding Officer, Col Tim Patrick and his wife Laura, LtCol Jeff Demers, current Commanding Officer of VMGR-234 and several current officers plus a host of old pilots, navigators, loadmasters and flight engineers that I had served with over the years. It was a great time. Thanks to all who joined us to celebrate.

Pat Avery ▸ VMGR-152  
May 26 at 6:34am · Amazon · 🌐

I enjoyed writing this novel. A fictional extrapolation of flying Marine KC-130s in the Pacific: heard, saw, or did. Maybe you did, too.



Prime

★★★★★

Balance of Night: a military procedural

The best reward is getting out alive. Captain Tumble MacFarland is flying a Marine Corps KC-130 Hercules aerial tanker aircraft carrying 36 marines and has plenty of fuel over a dark and storm tossed South Pacific Ocean until a desperately low...

AMAZON.COM

Fat Albert bring Captain Kuss, USMC home!



Blue Angels Association with Martha Marty-Wiggins Williams.

June 7 at 7:10pm · 🌐

Like Page

Captain Jeff Kuss returning home, June 7th

# MEMBER DONATIONS AND INFORMATION

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include anyone whose membership may have lapsed a year or two and have now renewed.

Dan Patrick  
John Hecker  
Richard B (Ben) Standard  
Marc Aldrich  
Mark Fly  
Jan Goralski  
Shelly Henderson  
Bob Owen  
Rebecca Yates  
Trip Littleton  
Micah Bachtold  
Ed Fergus  
Jeff Falls  
Dan Fitzpatrick  
Brad James  
Aaron Kwiatkowski  
Tristan Martinez  
Kevin Mattix  
Dax McClendon  
Derek Neymeyer  
Tim Patrick

## GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

Robert Taimanglo	\$30
Bob Miller	\$65
Robert Cole	\$80
George Stabler	\$15
Ed Grigalis	\$100
John Klossner	\$15
Andrew Markus	\$65
Andrew Hileman	\$30

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS DONATIONS

Alvia Hearren	\$25
Andrew Hileman	\$35
Chris Downey	

Thanks to everyone for their  
incredible generosity!!!

## Membership Information

Some of this membership information has been published from time to time, but I wanted to update and remind everyone. I've had to set some clear parameters for membership as part of the automation process for the new website and member management database. The software has to have some concrete parameters to work with.

1. Membership runs concurrent with the calendar year. That was a change from three years ago. Over the last year I've moved the expiration dates for everyone who had a membership date in the middle of the year forward to 31 December of that year. Now, all memberships expire on that date and renewal is due on January first.
2. Since the system is sending automated renewal notices, invoices and receipts it needs to know when to do so. It is set to send a renewal notice on Jan 1st, couple of reminders then to set the membership as expired if it hasn't been paid by 1 March. At that time you're access to the website is turned off.
3. Membership statuses are as follows"
  - **Active member**– Dues paid for that year or renewed in a free status (active duty, drilling reserves and widowed spouses).
  - **Pending renewal**– Dues expired for less than 60 days.
  - **Lapsed/Expired**- Dues lapsed for more than 60 days.
  - **Renewing member**– One who is a current member and pays dues or renews for the current year before 31 December of that year or, if having lapsed more than a year, pays back dues to bring themselves current as a continuous member.
  - **New member**– One has never been a member.
  - **Rejoining Member**- One whose membership has lapsed more than a year and then rejoins by paying one year's membership.
  - **Active Duty/Drilling Reserve**- Active duty and drilling reserve memberships who join for free are updated until the next expiration date. Of 31 Dec. On 1 January the member must renew for free, but establish that they are still on active duty or are a drilling reserve.
  - **Widowed Spouses**- Widowed spouses of former MCATA members are free and are set to never be notified of renewal.

Please let me know if you have questions. -Rich

# ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

The DFW Chapter of MCATA held an informal get together last night in Fort Worth. The event was held at Pop's Safari Cigar Bar and we all had a great time. The event was casual and open to MCATA members, non-members and guests. I got to see people I haven't seen in a long time. The fare was beer, wine, cigars and sea stories and a lot of laughter. It's the kind of thing MCATA was formed to do in the first place.

If anyone else is interested in doing the same in another part of the country, I encourage you to do so. I know that Jack Taylor is interested in doing something like this in the Chicago area and Grady Loveless has offered to do something in Atlanta. I can provide names of people who live in various areas of the country from our MCATA database to help make contact. If you are interested shoot me an email at [rdriscoll@msn.com](mailto:rdriscoll@msn.com).



Since the very beginning of the establishment of the MCATA organization there have been discussions about establishing local chapters of some sort. In the first iteration of the MCATA charter it was even mentioned that there would be local chapters established in the future. For whatever reason, these never really got off the ground. Over the past year we've been discussing these again and we are finally ready to kick off our first one.

Tom Dietrich, Pete Quinn, Con Shuck and Rich Driscoll met to discuss the establishment of a DFW Squadron Chapter. The purpose of this chapter is to pursue the prescribed purposes stated in our Constitution. Those are:

- 1) *To promote professionalism, camaraderie and service to and among Marines and their family members whether active duty, reserve, retired or former in the U.S. and in all foreign countries.*
- 2) *To foster, encourage and perpetuate the memory and spirit of friendship among our comrades in arms who are now or have been members of any Marine Corps air transport, air transport and refueling or any other supporting squadrons or units.*
- 3) *To perpetuate the history and traditions of the Marine Corps Air Transport Association.*
- 4) *To promote and safeguard the principles of justice freedom, and democracy.*
- 5) *To foster patriotism, love of our country and our flag; to perpetuate the spirit and traditions of the United States Marine Corps.*

6) *To promote and cultivate social intercourse and fellowship among our members.*

7) *To hold meetings and social gatherings for the better realization of the purposes of our association.*

8) *And such other lawful purposes from time to time the association may choose to pursue.'*

The primary purpose would be # 6 and to provide more opportunities for our members to get together socially than just once a year at the national reunion.

During the discussion it was decided:

1. That this chapter would meet quarterly the first, second and fourth quarter of the calendar year, skipping the third quarter in favor of members attending the national convention.
2. These are not intended to in any way replace the need or desire to attend the national reunion. Everyone is still encouraged to do that.
3. Meetings will be rather informal and social taking minimum time to discuss business. At least one MCATA member would have to be present for it to be an official MCATA meeting. That member would lead the event and be responsible for it.
4. Individuals must be MCATA members to be part of the local chapter, but invited guests and transporters are all invited to join the social events.
5. Members may join a local chapter by simply indicating they want to affiliate with that chapter. There is a field on the website individual profile with a list of possible chapters.
6. Local chapters are separate from national and are self-sustaining in all aspects.
7. Chapters should elect a "Squadron Lead" and a "Dash 2" to help coordinate events.
8. The DFW Squadron is planning its first event in March. Time and place TBA.
9. More information will be forthcoming as these chapters get underway.
10. So far about fourteen local MCATA members have affiliated with the DFW Squadron. We expect to be able to recruit more members as this gains momentum.





# Member in the Spotlight



## Mr. Alvia Hearren

Picture courtesy of Mr. Drew Wilson, Havelock News.

One of our most "senior" MCATA members is Mr. Alvia Hearren. Alvia was born in Missouri and raised in Michigan and joined the Marine Corps in August of 1943. He went to boot camp in San Diego and then to aircraft mechanic's school in Norman, Oklahoma before being assigned to VMR-153 at Cherry Point, North Carolina. At the time VMR-153 was flying the R4D, the Navy/Marine Corps version of the C-47. Alvia started as a ground mechanic, but by December 1944 had moved on to become a flight mechanic. Cherry Point was a brand new base at the time and there was a lot of construction going on. Alvia says few people had cars and they most went everywhere in the old cattle cars or walked. Alvia had a lot of flight time while at Cherry Point. In those days the VMR squadrons provided transportation around the East Coast area flying from base to base hauling cargo and passengers just as the VMR does today.

Alvia recalled one time landing at Goldsboro on two blown tires and having a pretty rough landing. They brought up new landing gear and by that afternoon they had it installed and were on their way back home. Just like Marines of today, they adapted and overcame. Another time Alvia was on a flight when they took off from the ramp and ran off the end, damaging the ailerons. Alvia patched up the fabric with masking tape and they moved on. After his initial assignment at Cherry Point Alvia was assigned to the Western Pacific to Japan and China by way of Bougainville. There he flew all around China and the area, mostly delivering mail. Alvia tells of one time that they found themselves flying along a river in a ravine with steep sides and clouds all around. The pilot stayed low trying to follow the river and not hit anything. They made it out safely of course, but not without some of the crew being pretty tense. The war was not long over at this time and Alvia had a chance to fly over Nagasaki, the second city hit by an atomic bomb. He describes one building as still standing, but with the insides out of it as if they'd been sucked right out and trees that were perfectly OK except they were neatly laid over where the blast had knocked them down.

Alvia said Japan was mostly destroyed and little rebuilding had been done. He said there was so much debris and people still living in it. He said that on Mondays the children would appear out of nowhere to go to school. You couldn't even tell where people were living.

In 1946 Alvia got off active duty and went to work at the Assembly and Repair Department on the base. He spent the next 32 years and eight months there until he retired as a production control division director with 187 people working for him in 1979.

There was also tragedy in Alvia's life. He lost his brother Raymond in the Korean War. Alvia has this story that he has shared.

The 1954 article, published in The News-Palladium, forerunner of The Herald-Palladium, follows:

"A newspaper office makes and receives dozens of messages and calls a day, sometimes funny, sometimes pathetic, occasionally tragic.

"This week at The News-Palladium, and in most newspaper offices in the U.S., a good many such messages have been sad ones. The Department of Defense has released long lists of GI's missing in action now declared officially dead.

"Yesterday on such a list from Washington of Michigan soldiers was the name of a Benton Harbor GI, Sgt. 1/c Raymond L. Hearren, son of Kelley Hearren, 992 Chicago Avenue.

"In checking files, a reporter noted that there was no picture of the boy and telephoned his home and asked the family if they had one.

"A couple of hours later the boy's father walked into the newspaper office wearing work clothes, direct from his job at the Auto Specialties Manufacturing company in St. Joseph. In his hand was a snapshot of his son.

"The reporter knew most of Raymond's story from a check of the files.

"The boy had enlisted at the age of 17 in 1947. He had fought in Korea for three years, moving from private first class to sergeant first class. His last leave had been in July 1950, and he had been ordered back in August. In January 1951, he was officially listed as missing in action. There weren't many questions to ask the father.

"When was the last time you heard from your son?' the reporter inquired.

"In November 1950,' Hearren responded.

"Did he go to school in Benton Harbor?'

"Yes, he went to grade school here, to the Bard school, he was a bright lad,' the father said.

"Had you given up hope that he would be found?' asked the reporter.

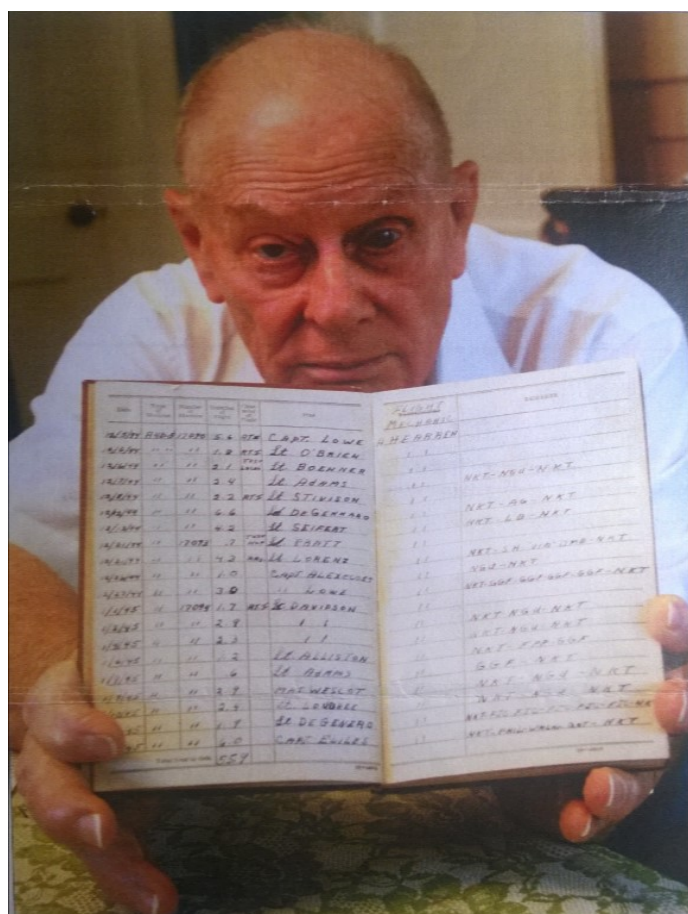
"This time there was no answer. The reporter looked up and then away. There was no answer because the father couldn't speak for the sudden tears that welled up and rolled down his cheeks.

(Continued on next page)

# SOME TRANSPORTER HISTORY

"Carefully he rubbed the worn snapshot, that was all he had left of his son, and slowly put it down on the desk. Then he turned and walked out of the office.

"The picture of Sgt. 1/c Raymond L. Hearren rested on the desk. Under it lay the piece of wire copy datelined Wash., D.C., begin-



ning: 'The Defense Department today listed the following Michigan soldiers as missing in Korea and presumed dead.'"

Because WW II intervened, Alvia never got to walk with his High School graduating class. That situation was rectified when he walked across the stage with the Benton Harbor Michigan High School Class of 2013 to receive his diploma. Alvia said he wanted to do it because he didn't get to and in honor of his two brothers, now deceased, who never graduated.

Semper Fi!



## DISPELLING A MYTH

During the last reunion I had an opportunity to chat with many of our members. One discussion I found surprising was that some younger Marines may think MCATA is only for pilots, aircrew non-active duty and maybe retirees. Some suggested that was because our logo has a set of aircrew wings on it.

**Let me dispel that myth now!**



**If you were in any role in the Marine Corps, regardless of rank or MOS, that remotely supported the KC-130 or any other fixed wing transport aircraft you are eligible. The organization is not just for aircrew and pilots.**

**So join us!"**

# Marine Corps Air Transport Association Corporation

P.O. Box 1134  
Millington, TN 38083

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FORT WORTH,  
TX  
PERMIT NO. 2069



## MCATA MEMBERSHIP FORM CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Please make your check or money order payable to the Marine Corps Air Transport Association and mail with this form to:  
M.C.A.T.A. • P.O. Box 1134 • Millington, TN 38083

**Or go to [www.mcata.com](http://www.mcata.com) to join and pay by credit card or PayPal.**

\$35 for regular membership all ages (**NEW!**)

FREE for Active Duty, Drilling Reserves and Widowed Spouses

- Enclosed my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please enroll me as a NEW member.
- Enclosed my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please RENEW my membership.
- Donation to Memorial Scholarship Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_.

In memory of:\_\_\_\_\_.

- Donation to General Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

PO Box or Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU / WERE YOU?**

Check appropriate choices:

- Pilot
- Flight Engineer/Student
- Crew Chief
- Navigator
- Flight Mechanic
- R.O. / Loadmaster
- Operations
- Administration
- Air Freight
- Maintenance Crew
- Other Squadron Support
- Spouse

**Combat Service**

- WWII
- Korea
- Vietnam
- Cold War
- Desert Shield/  
Storm
- Northern/  
Southern Watch
- Iraqi Freedom
- Afghanistan
- None