

THE LADER

Official Newsletter Of The Professional Loadmaster Association

Volume 24 Issue 1 | March 2021

Friendship Through Airlift



Professional Loadmaster Association
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CABIN REPORT

By Kathy Disney

Hey Load!! It's hard to believe it will be March, in the year of 2021, when you receive this "The Loader" edition!! I hope it finds you all safe and well. Even with all the COVID restrictions, quarantines, self-isolations, and overall lack of traveling and socializing, time continues to fly by! And since it is March, and we try to continue

with normal ops, it is that time of year to recognize those hard working and deserving Loadmasters by nominating him or her for the 2020 CMSgt William "Bill" Cannon Loadmaster of the Year Award. **Eligibility:** Any Loadmaster (civilian, active military, guard, or reserve) working as a Loadmaster, instructing Loadmasters or enhancing/advancing the Loadmaster career field during the recognition period. More information can be found on our website, or contact Kyle Disney committee chairman, at disneyc17@yahoo.com. Reminder, each Chapter should have a winner in each category and submit those names to National to compete. **Award submission deadline is March 31, 2021.** This is also the time of year to get your scholarship applications in. All PLA members and their families are eligible. Using tuition assistance? You can still apply! Again, more information can be found on our website and please send applications to Jim Engelker at engelkerj@gmail.com. **Scholarship application deadline is midnight April 1, 2021.** As you can see, March is a busy month for our organization! In this issue of "The Loader" you will find nominee and election information. You will have the option to vote with a paper ballot, which is included in this "The Loader" edition. If you receive "The Loader" electronically, you will also receive your ballot electronically. If you have created a profile on the PLA's membership management website, you will receive an email with a link to vote. If you are not sure if you have an account, go to <https://pla.wildapricot.org/> select "join" and it will allow you to update your membership, renew your membership, and edit member profile. If you need assistance, please contact me at kathydisney1@yahoo.com or Andrew Lloyd at andrew85.lloyd@gmail.com. Whichever method you use, please find time to vote! Votes must be submitted by **April 30, 2021.** President of Rescue West chapter, Curt Snyder is heading up the elections committee and will ensure all votes from active members are counted. Thanks Curt!! I also want to add a special "THANK YOU" to all the volunteers who have, or currently are holding elected, and appointed positions, as well as all the committee chairs! This organization can't run without you. So again, thank you! This should be the issue I talk about at the upcoming Gathering of Loads. However, many of you may have already heard, this year's Gathering has been postponed to 2022 due to COVID restrictions. Time and location to be determined. But

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The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) was formed in the State of Washington as an active membership organization for an exclusive group of professionals recognized as Loadmasters. The PLA is organized and governed by a duly-elected Executive Committee of past and present Loadmasters. In March 1997, the State of Washington issued a Certificate of Incorporation declaring the Professional Loadmaster Association a nonprofit organization. PLA membership is comprised of and limited to current and former military and civilian Loadmasters who have flown as an Aircraft Loadmaster performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. A newsletter titled "The Loader" shall be published three times a year to inform the membership of Loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities. The use of "The Loader" newsletter is voluntary. Any comments, views, opinions, or advice expressed in this newsletter are solely the opinions of the individual who expresses them and should not be construed as reflecting the position, views, or policy of the PLA, or its executive members. Neither the PLA nor its current or former agents, members, executive members, employees, officers or representatives shall have any liability or responsibility for any use of or reliance upon any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, including but not limited to liability or responsibility for any direct or indirect omission or negligence. Users of this newsletter agree, in advance, to hold harmless and indemnify the PLA and its agents, members, executive members, employees, officers and representatives from and against and with respect to any and all claims, damages, liabilities, losses and expenses, without limitation, arising from or related to any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, and agree to the above terms in this paragraph.

Cabin Report - Cont. from page 2

2022 is also the PLA's 25th anniversary, so a great year to hold a gathering! Until the next edition, stay safe...Load Clear!!

Cover Photograph: - Loadmasters MSgt David Henson (PLA/Rescue West Chapter member, right) and SSgt Cristopher Veach (left). Both were with the 79th RQS at the time. It was taken during a somewhat recent deployment while refueling a Marine Corps MV-22. This photograph really showcases Loadmasters and their ever more important mission as a refueling platform for the joint force. Photograph by PLA/Rescue West Chapter Vice President Dane Kirkendall.

East Coast Vice President

Kent Brown, East Coast VP - Hello from the East Coast. As many of you know by now the Gathering of Loads convention for 2021 has been postponed and we hope to see everyone next year in a place to be determined. This means that we still need to go on with business of the organization, even in these tough times. Have you been having virtual meetings or just phone calls to keep members informed? We may not be having regular meetings, but keep your local members informed. The secretary needs up to date information for each member to send you election information, "The Loader" and other pertinent information in regards to the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA). Many Loads move either for PCS or job relocation, even if you are only moving across town or across the country please inform the secretary, John Moore at buildsmall2jm@icloud.com of your new address, maybe even a new email if you have had to change it. Members may not think of this as important, but it is vital to keep the PLA going. Every issue of "The Loader" lists lost Loads and most are Life members. Please look at this list and if you know anyone on it contact them and have them update their info, please. The secretary's contact info is listed in each "The Loader," or send it to me, I'll get it taken care of. Another way you can help is if you know someone has passed, get the information to the secretary. Each year scholarships are named after deceased members and we want to let the families know. Along with the info that the members passed please also pass along any family contact info you have and an obituary. "Everything is going to be alright, maybe not today but eventually." I can be contacted at heyload@comcast.net.

Secretary

My new e-mail address is: buildsmall2jm@icloud.com. I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP THAT I WILL NOT RUN FOR REELECTION AS YOUR NATIONAL SECRETARY!

AGAIN, a major donation has been made to the Professional Loadmaster Association. Life Member **RICHARD E. RUSSELL** has made a perpetual \$500.00 donation for a **Scholarship in the name of AFRES Senior Enlisted Advisors.**

A BIG THANK YOU to HOWARD BERG, he found the family of JOHN E. GROOMS (November 1, 2003). I had been searching for his next of kin since September 2012.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE: The membership voted to bring back the One Year membership at the Tacoma Gathering of Loads. New rates: **One Year \$ 25.00, Three Years \$50.00, Ten Years \$150.00 and Lifetime \$250.00.**

RENEWAL NOTICE: PLEASE RESPOND TO YOUR ELECTRONIC OR MAILED LETTER if you desire to remain an active member and continue receiving "The Loader" newsletter. There are only two ways to join or renew membership and that is by mail to the P.O. Box or online. If you renew by mail **PLEASE DO NOT** send your renewal to the Secretary home address in Iowa, it will be delayed. I have to forward it to the PLA P.O. Box so it can be deposited in the account. You may also pay online thru the PLA website. When paying print and save your receipt to confirm your payment if a question should arise.

ELECTRONIC "THE LOADER:" Thank you to the **131 stateside** and **7 overseas** members, who have agreed to accept "The Loader" electronically. You have saved the association postage costs.

MOVING? IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE OR TRANSFER, PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND NEW CONTACT INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We cannot get your "The Loader" newsletter to you or make contact if we don't know where you are. Send an e-mail to buildsmall2jm@icloud.com or thru www.loadmasters.com at CONTACT US or (319) 936-2154, remember to speak slowly and distinctly, so we can copy your information down.

FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED: The PLA Secretary is seeking information on the following deceased members. **We need permission to name a scholarship after them, but don't have any information to locate the next of kin** (mailing address, telephone number, email address, etc.) for **CHARLES E. BUCHER** (Big Country), ***DONALD J. FLAVIN** (Big Country), **CLAUDE "FRENCHY" FERRAND** (Big Country), ***ELMORE JACKSON** (Southeast), ***ROBERT C. JOHNSON** (Indiana), ***EDWARD R. MEZA** (Alamo), **ROBERT C. RODEMEYER** (Golden West). If anyone has **any contact information** please contact the secretary at buildsmall2jm@icloud.com.

PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF: 1 February 2021

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS: 973 (11 Lost Loadmasters)

LIFETIME RENEWALS

Barry, Cody A.	Altus, OK
Browne, Reggie M.	Jacksonville, FL
Buger, Paul	Redlands, CA
King, James L.	Altus AFB, OK

LOST LOAD CANDIDATES: If your "The Loader" newsletter is returned to the association by the Post Office, for whatever reason, they charge the PLA for the return. When trying to contact you for new information, and we find your phone is no longer in service

and you also have a bad e-mail address, **YOU WILL BE PLACED ON THE LOST LOAD LISTING. LOST LOADS (11):** If you know any of these Lost Loads please contact us or have them contact us with their current contact information. **They are all Life Members** - Last address, month and year when they became lost.

*Branski, John L.	Tacoma, WA	Nov 2011
*Clay, Christopher S.	Arlington, VA	Nov 2011
*Downey, Daniel	Abilene, TX	Jul 2012
*Knight, Josh	Fort Mill, SC	Nov 2016
*Kubik, Donald B.	Warner Robins, GA	Mar 2016
*Langenstein, Jack L.	Summerville, SC	Jul 2014
*Lewis, James	Palmdale, CA	Jul 2016
*Strader, Tony E.	APO AE	Nov 2011
*Terrell, David L.	APO AE	Nov 2015
*White, Jeremy	WA	Jul 2017
*White, Lucas J.	South Vienna, OH	Jul 2017

Treasurer Report

Chris Dockery, Treasurer - As of February 15, 2021 the Professional Loadmaster Association has a total of \$3,955.21 in checking and \$21,773.08 in savings. Total Assets \$25,728.29

"The Loader" Editor

Bill Weeper, "The Loader" Editor - With the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, there have been very few chapter meetings. In this issue of "The Loader" you will find some Executive Committee member reports and chapter reports. The Airline Professional Loadmaster column is back again this issue with: The McDonnell Douglas DC-8 (The "Diesel 8"). In this issue you will find a paper election ballot inside a remit envelope. It is detachable and if you choose this voting option, fill it out and mail it back to the Election Chairman. On page 11 is a photograph and mini biography of each candidate who is running. Anyone who would like to contribute Loadmaster stories please send them to me at weeperjr@satx.rr.com. If you have any photographs of Loadmasters working on a cargo aircraft, loading/unloading an aircraft or performing other duties please send them to me. I am also looking for articles about why you joined the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) or why a young airman or retiree should join. I would like to thank USAA (Dick Smith), MASSIF (Mike Walters), Loadmaster Tool Kit (Larry Crain), JD's Hide Away (Jesse Doyle), and Meathead Ed's Food Truck (Kyle and Kathy Disney) for being sponsors of the PLA. For those of you who know anyone who would like to be a sponsor of the PLA and/or "The Loader" please have them get in touch with me at weeperjr@satx.rr.com. I will be happy to send them a Media/Press Kit. We can acknowledge the sponsor's company in "The Loader" with their name, company logo, and contact information. A full page acknowledgement is \$500.00, a 1/2 page is \$250.00, a 1/4 page is \$125.00, and a Business Card size is \$100.00.

Aloha Chapter

Brandon Sarceda, Aloha Chapter President - Aloha! On January 8, 2021 we had a fundraiser in the squadron courtyard. The theme was PLA Plates Aloha Friday, and it was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who helped setup and sell. Also to those who purchased plates. We were pretty much sold out on pre-orders before 11:00!!!

In the accompanying photo Josh Moracco captured our unique Total Force Integration association between the 204th AS (154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard) and our Active-Duty brethren of the 15th Wing, 535th AS. President, Brandon Sarceda, (808) 295-3164, brandonsarceda@outlook.com or gravityall@hotmail.com; Secretary, Josh Moracco, moracco@ymail.com; Treasurer, Chris Massey, (210) 347-6809, christopher.massey7@gmail.com.



TSgt Makaio Roberts (204 AS) EROs Tundra Ops Troopers in -13 degree weather. A 3 ship formation airdrop was completed with 144th AS, 535th AS and the 204th AS on February 10, 2021 during Arctic Angel exercise in Alaska. Photo by PLA/Aloha Chapter Secretary TSgt Josh Moracco, 204 AS

Bill Cannon Chapter

Ron Pierce, Bill Cannon Chapter member - Our chapter is dormant for the time being with the Covid pandemic still going on. For the Bill Cannon Chapter, as the Governor of this state removes COVID restrictions a few of us will try and get this chapter moving again. Those interested in helping get the chapter back active after the Gathering of Loads convention and COVID let me know at rpierce@bohfpusystems.com.

The First State Chapter

Benjamin Fay, First State Secretary - Update from the First State! We just completed our grading for the Professional Loadmaster Association's William "Bill" Cannon Loadmaster of the Year Award and while the competition was fierce, we have clear winners. Congratulations to SrA Daniel Lawrence, 3rd Airlift Squadron, and from the 9th Airlift Squadron SSgt Samuel Richardson and MSgt Joshua Cutrer. Good luck competing at the national level. We were bummed to hear the Gathering of the Loads was postponed again; however, we will still keep fundraising for the next attempt in 2022. The First State Chapter has made announcements for elections and by March there should be new elected officers. On a professional note, a fleet servicing change was made to all aircraft in Air Mobility Command due to Covid, however it was only a problem for C-5s because the passenger compartments are upstairs, and the fleet service trucks were not available. Hauling fleet equipment through a full cargo box had created a few injuries. Now that fleet service has returned to stowing all of their equipment in the aircraft again, it makes those days when you have 30 Internal Storage Units (ISU) 90s so much better. ISU are an easier way for units to move cargo instead of using pallets and nets. They can be loaded to 10,000lbs, they are lockable and come in different heights. In this

case 90 means 90 inches. But since they are designed to use the maximum cubic volume even if they are empty, they are not easy to walk around or load. (There are 30 in the picture. As far as what is in them, OPSEC limits the description to “stuff” or “empty”).



Internal Storage Units (ISU) 90s. Photo by The First State Secretary Benjamin Fay.

Chapter President, Keo Khamone, 916-671-2467, CKhamone@yahoo.com; Vice President, Shaun Flatter, 302-653-8503, SEFlatter@icloud.com; Secretary, Benn Fay, 302-241-5757, EmailBenn@aol.com; Treasurer, Jordan Rayman, 253-777-8212, JRayman22@hotmail.com.

Golden West Chapter

Al Montes, Golden West President - Greetings and good day to all chapters from Southern California. A little business first... Hopefully you have already seen the Facebook post regarding the decision to postpone the Gathering of Loads (GoL) convention that was scheduled for the summer 2021. If you haven't then our apologies if you are unfortunately learning about this now. The Covid-19 pandemic is at the root of the motivation for postponing the GoL. In short, due to gathering limitations in California and the inability to raise funds over that last year caused the Golden West Chapter to suggest to National that we postpone to a later date. National solicited feedback from other chapters and the decision was made to postpone. Currently our chapter is still scheduled to host in 2022. There have been some mixed comments about our location hosting and suggestions that maybe the gathering be moved to another location (and potentially a different chapter host). By the time this edition of "The Loader" is delivered to your mailbox, our chapter will have met and discussed our intention to still host, or coordinate with National if the belief or desire is that the best way forward is to move the location and have another chapter host. To put it bluntly, we know this news sucks and would have loved to have an event this year. With all of the restrictions, safety concerns, and uncertainty we truly believe this was the right decision. The future is bright though, and we just want to see an incredible event as the GoL in 2022 will be the PLA's 25th anniversary! Hopefully by summer 2022, most will be vaccinated and/or this pandemic will be in our rear view mirrors! Let's all give MSgt Nicole (Corace) McBrearty a round of applause. Nicole is the GoL point of contact for our chapter

and she did an incredible job researching hotel locations, setting up meetings with hotel reps, and providing detailed information so that the chapter could vote on a hotel location. I'm not sure that there is any one person who wanted the GoL to happen more than Nicole. Over the last year, and in the face of the pandemic when things really began to look bleak, she re-negotiated the contract in an attempt to cut some costs and downsize our commitment in hopes that we could still hold the event. If I may and on behalf of the PLA I'd like to say, "thank you Nicole." Your dedication is appreciated. We look forward to your continued dedication and support. Chief Master Sergeant Frederick Fowler was selected to become the Career Enlisted Aviator Functional Manager at Robins AFB, Georgia. We cannot express how proud we are of our Chief. I had the distinct pleasure of working for Chief Fowler at the 729th Airlift Squadron for the last 2 years. Although the squadron hated to see him leave, they were also very proud to know that their Chief was selected for a position that can have a big impact across the AFRC enlisted flying community. Cheers Chief! A departure in an organization normally means there will be a hole to fill or opportunity for someone to step up for more responsibility. With Chief Fowler's departure, the 729th now needed a new Chief. The squadron held a hiring board and MSgt Michael Vo was selected to become the 729th's next CMSgt Loadmaster. Congrats Mike! If you don't know Mike Vo, just know this: He is one of the hardest workers I've ever met, and over the years has given more blood, sweat and tears (well maybe not blood, that might mean a new warning in the -9) to the squadron and is very deserving of the selection. We are very proud of you Mike and know that everyone is rooting for your success! As we move forward in 2021, the Golden West chapter intends on going virtual with our meetings to make them more accessible to all of our members. Our goal this year is to grow our membership and finally have a chapter BBQ that we've been trying to hold for almost a year now. That may sound like a small feat, but with all that has happened over the last year, people's schedules (many of our members are active flyers), and simply life just happening, we haven't been able to hold a small BBQ. So if we speak it into existence, then we can make it happen! That's all we've got from the Golden West chapter. Cheers! President, Al Montes, alfredmontes78@gmail.com; Vice President, Allison Kidder, (951)970-7127, Allison.kidder@us.af.mil or Akiddee6786@gmail.com; Secretary, Chris McKenzie, mckenziechris87@gmail.com; Treasurer, Phillip Ensley; GoL Planning Chair, Nicole McBrearty, (808) 224-5179, nicole.mcbrearty8@gmail.com or nicolecorace@me.com.

Liberty Chapter

Michael Kent, Liberty Chapter President - Hello from Exit 7. Greetings from the Liberty Chapter. My name is Mike Kent, and I am the Chapter President. Josh Piper is our Vice President and Kent Brown is our Treasurer and the East Coast Vice President. Michael Oxley has recently stepped down as our Secretary. He is moving to Florida and we wish him well as he starts a new phase of his life. We also thank him for all he has done for our chapter. We are looking for a member to take on this roll. The Liberty Chapter is centered around Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. We normally hold our meetings on the 2nd Saturday

of each month at the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown NJ. However, the diner has recently shut down. We were all sad to see this as we have had our meetings here for a long time. As things improve, we will be looking for a new venue. We recently held a Zoom meeting for the first time as we have not held a regular meeting for a while. We are planning on holding meetings every other month by Zoom. Not much has been going on with the chapter due to COVID-19. We are making an effort to get things moving again but I am sure it will continue to be slow. We did recently support Don Sloan and the Delaware Special Olympics with a \$100 donation. Since the chapter is not holding any events, I thought I might pay tribute to a few members in this article. We have recently lost 3 very active members of our chapter and I would like to give a brief description of each member's service.

George Young was a member since the beginning of our chapter in 1999. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1955-1963 and entered the Air Force Reserve in 1977. He was a Loadmaster with the 335TH MAS. That squadron shut down in 1994 and he spent his last few years with the 702nd AS until his retirement in 1997. I know how proud George was of the 335th MAS and although he spent time in the 702nd AS he was a Buzzard at heart. He rose through the ranks and retired as a Master Sergeant. He was an Evaluator and was airdrop qualified. Flying airdrop missions was where I got to really know him. Back in the late 1980s and into the early 90s we did a lot of mass formation airdrops. At that time only about 20 percent of the squadron did airdrop and we were a close group. He was activated for 1 year for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He did all this as a traditional reservist. He had a full-time job and a family to support. He gave a lot of himself to the military and to the chapter. He retired from the Air Force in 1997 after serving his country for over 27 Years. George passed on June 19, 2020 and will be greatly missed.

Shem Miller was a member since the beginning of our chapter in 1999. He was instrumental in starting the chapter and was our first Vice President. Over the years he held all the offices of the chapter. Shem was a military Brat. He joined the Air Force out of high school and found his way to McGuire and the 30th MAS as an Active-Duty Loadmaster flying the C-141 Starlifter. He rose to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and was the 514th OG/OGV Loadmaster when he retired. He was a full time Air Reserve Technician for many years. He was an Evaluator Loadmaster and was airdrop qualified. He instructed and evaluated hundreds of Loadmasters. He had a major impact on the Loadmaster force of the 514th. I learned a lot from him in my early years flying airdrop. He did many things in his 37-year career. He was involved with a series of tests at Edwards AFB CA on the escape system for the space shuttle. There are so many great stories involving Shem. Almost every Loadmaster had one. Shem passed on November 9, 2020 and he will be greatly missed.

Bill Davies was a long-time chapter member. He served as our secretary for a number of years. He started his military career in 1970. He was a gunner on AC-130s and served in Vietnam. He became a Loadmaster with the 335th MAS at McGuire and finished his career with the New Jersey Air National Guard. He retired in 2012. I did not have the pleasure of flying with him. His flying

days were over before I met him. I do know that he was an active participant in our chapter. He loved his family and would bring his grandchildren to our chapter events. As the Chapter President I could always count on him if I really needed help. He would always come through when we were short members for a fundraising event. Bill passed on January 13, 2021 and he will be greatly missed.

These 3 Individuals had around 100 years of Military Service combined. All 3 volunteered a lot of their time to help out others. Replacing these men in our chapter will certainly be difficult. We thank them for all they have done and will remember them always.

Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Mark Raymond, Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter President - As we continue with this crazy world and the pandemic that has not allowed us to have monthly Chapter meetings, we continue to be thankful for our families and friends; and we look forward to the time we again get together. These last few months have seen some great friends and Loadmasters that have left us and gone to their maker. Mitch Marquez, Denny Carrol, Ed Ewert, Mark Belland, JC Wiley and John Anthony. Not all were members of the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) but nevertheless, they were all professional Loadmasters and great friends. It has been tough not to be able to participate in some of the funerals and to say our last goodbyes because of all the restrictions we are under, but we continue to keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers. As reflected in our chapter overview, we were the first PLA chapter to be established outside of the founding fathers home state of Washington as the Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter in Northern California, Fairfield (Travis AFB). Our chapter name is in honor of the Loadmasters that gave their lives in the defense of their country. TSgt William M. Parker, TSgt Felizardo C. Aguillon, and MSgt Wendle L. Payne. They were on the ill-fated C-5 that crashed after departing Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam on April 4, 1975 in support of Operation Babylift. We are honored that MSgt Payne, TSgt Augillon, and TSgt Parker's families have given us permission to use their names for our chapter. At the 1st Annual Professional Loadmaster dinner which was held in conjunction with the "Airlift Rodeo" at McChord AFB WA, (June 24, 1998) my wife and I were honored to chat with John Levitow during the dinner and he signed the Dinner Menu, "To the Better Half." Of course, that was my wife Sandy. The Dinner Menu with John's signature, is proudly displayed in my office. When Chief Bill Cannon gave the dinner speech, at this first event, he referred to all the outstanding aircraft our Loadmasters fly on but did not mention the C-5 Galaxy. I was the first to confront him after the speech, of course in a friendly manner, that he forgot to mention the "backbone of deterrence" the C-5. It was in that conversation I promised Bill I would start a chapter in the Travis area as soon as I could get it organized. I was fortunate to have Karl Hinkamp helping to organizing the new chapter along with the help of RC Jones and Frank Murphy. In the fall of 1998 Bill and Marion came down to present our Charter at a dinner that was held at the Travis Golf Course restaurant. Unfortunately, I was gone on an "Operation Deep Freeze" mission during that event and Karl Hinkamp again took the reins and made it happen. We were honored to have

Bill and Marion drive down several times to participate in our chapter's social events. Our chapter, through the years, has been very active in local charity events such as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Since 2003 our chapter has raised more than \$300,000.00 to support this very special event. Again, unfortunately the pandemic has not allowed us to participate. In addition, our chapter awards an annual Scholarship of \$1,000.00 to family members of our chapter Loadmasters. We welcome all Loadmasters from Northern California and Northern Nevada to join our local chapter and are also proud of current members who have moved and continue to request they be associated with our chapter.

Rescue West Chapter

Dane Kirkendall, Rescue West Chapter Vice President - Greetings once again from the Rescue West Chapter! I would like to share some of what is currently going on at Davis-Monthan. Right now, a very big emphasis item around the Air Force and Department of Defense at large is Agile Combat Employment (ACE). Like it or not, it's the way things are going as we adapt to fighting a peer/near-peer adversary by spreading out and challenging the assumptions we have all been operating under for the last few decades (unchallenged Air Superiority, ability to operate with impunity out of large, well established bases with all the creature comforts) and pivot to a new way of doing business where we have to be light/lean/lethal. All of us involved with planning how this would be employed know airlift (as always) will play a key part. As an Air Combat Command asset, the HC-130J is in a unique spot compared to our friends in Air Mobility Command (AMC) as our Wing's (or other DoD agencies) don't have to ask USTRANSCOM for permission to use us. We are essentially a small airlift fleet owned by the Wing Commander and the 355th and 23rd Wings as you can imagine are all of a sudden very interested in just how much we can fit in the back of our little aircraft to support various initiatives. This is of course on top of our normal command and control, refueling, and airdrop missions. It has been challenging at times as we continue to hash out details at the Wing level, but I believe there are some exciting times over the next 5-10 years in the HC-130J world as we marry ourselves to our version of ACE within the Combat Search and Rescue community. I have never seen a single squadron flying a C-130 variant have such a large impact on how an entire Wing is planning for the high-end fight. I'm not aware of specifics on the AMC side, but I advise everyone to be on the lookout for ACE because it's coming, and Loadmasters are going to be one of the crucial linchpins to making this concept viable for our commanders. // BREAK//BREAK// We would like to hold our first in-person chapter meeting in April/May time frame. We're hoping covid-19 is truly in a downward spiral and we can finally come together as Loadmasters like the PLA intended. Until then, please stay safe out there and follow us on Facebook; <https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaChapterRescueWest>. Let me know if you have any questions? - Dane. Our Chapter officers are President, Curt Snyder, corasn83@gmail.com, 505-900-1521; VP, Dane Kirkendall, 360-790-7827; Secretary, Austin Storrs, jetlagged4247@gmail.com, 707-688-0892; Treasurer, Dillon Howell, dillonhowell1967@gmail.com; and Trustee, Dave Henson, 520-904-9358.

The Rock Chapter

Jason Kunkel, The Rock Chapter President - Greetings from Central Arkansas. It's no surprise that COVID 19 has had a tremendous impact on our local Chapter activities. Although we were able to get together a few times during 2020, we have yet to have a meeting in 2021. I'm sure we're all looking forward to a time when we can get back to normal and enjoy each other's company. Please try to take the time to reach out to your brother and sister Loadmasters to make sure they are taken care of. Hopefully by the next publishing of "The Loader," we'll have some information about plans for a campout, golf tournament, or other events. President, Jason Kunkel, (661) 860-6399, jason.kunkel75@me.com; Vice President, Levi Sortomme, (707)386-49040, levisortomme@gmail.com; Secretary, Justin King, (502) 758-3262, Gpwap2@aol.com; and Treasurer, Nate Castle, (501)837-3921, nate_castle@hotmail.com. Take care.

Justin King, The Rock Chapter Secretary - Rock Chapter had resumed in-person meetings as of August/September 2020 time frame but we have not met in 2021 yet. Along with in-person meetings, we have added a Facebook live stream when possible. Since we added the live stream, we have had a little difficulty on initial set-up as I'm sure you've noticed if you reviewed the feed, but we are continually working to improve the process. This came about because we noticed a steep drop in attendance due to COVID-19 but wanted to ensure we are reaching our entire member base by offering a virtual alternative. The advice we would offer to other chapters is to be flexible if using social media as an outlet for communication during meetings. We have had members online suggest votes, and respond to meeting conversations in realtime, this can cause a bit of unusual communication and confusion due to latency. Hopefully, this helps other chapters with what they could expect if they chose to utilize Facebook live, Zoom, or another internet-based media service.

Trailblazer Chapter

Cody Barry, Trailblazer Chapter President – Our meetings have been small and easy to abide by our Wing's COVID rules. So, we have not had to take any extra steps so far. Fingers crossed for adding some new members in the spring/summer. The Trailblazer Chapter hasn't done much lately, but we did have elections and Turkey Shoot in November 2020. The Turkey Shoot didn't have that big of a turn out, but it was the first one and COVID was obviously a factor. Caleb Alexander & Dustin Franklin were our winners. Kim Carter hosted us at her place and cooked some awesome grub for us as well! It was a good time for local Loads to just come hang out for a bit and get to fire off some rounds in the meantime. We even made a little money off the event. We're hoping things will clear up before too long and we can host another event. We provided our grill to the Top 3 for a lunch fundraiser they put on and they thanked us for that support. We have discussed some future plans for another event(s), but that's been it so far. To highlight someone in our Chapter, my



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Chapter Reports - Cont. from page 7

nomination is for Jayne Alexander. She remains critical to making moves within our chapter, including a lot of guidance/direction/assistance for me coming into this position, and for getting quality students graduated out of here as well. She's pretty much has been my Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) Instructor. I was asked to provide my thoughts on why a Loadmaster should join the PLA. I think a young Airman should join the PLA to gain pride in our profession and an appreciation for what's been done in the past to bring about the aircraft and way of life we current Loadmasters have. On top of that, I really enjoyed the stories shared at the Gathering of the Loads. I know it's been a hot minute since 2017 but I think those are some of the reasons a young Loadmaster can benefit from/enjoy being a part of the PLA. As for a retiree joining, that coincides with why I decided to pay my dues for life. Throughout our careers, we meet other Loadmasters that the PLA can be instrumental with keeping in touch with/meeting up with. I saw plenty of that at the Gathering of the Loads. There's also the curiosity factor or wondering what's going on throughout the force once retired. The PLA is the best outlet I know of to appease any curiosity for that after retirement. President, Cody Barry, (843) 729-7249, cody.barry@us.af.mil; Vice President, Caleb Alexander; Secretary, Jayne Alexander, (253) 678-6058, jayne.alexander@us.af.mil or Jayne.xander@yahoo.com; and Treasurer, Rick Willey, (580) 318-3782.



The Airline Professional Loadmaster: The McDonnell Douglas DC-8 (The "Diesel 8") By Dave Bell & Karl Hinkamp

At Long Beach Municipal Airport, California, the DC-8, built by the Douglas Aircraft Company, flew for the first time on 30 May 1958. The DC-8 program began in response to a 1952 USAF requirement for a jet powered air-refueling tanker. Douglas lost the tanker bid to Boeing in 1955, but continued developing the DC-8 as a private venture. Initially, Douglas offered two domestic versions and three international versions, which varied in wing design and engines. Delta and United were the first airlines to operate the DC-8. Douglas also planned a swing-tail, all-cargo version for the Military Air Transport Service (MATs) strategic freighter contract in the early 1960s.

The 1960s brought a merger with the McDonnell Company of St. Louis, Missouri, as well as multiple series and variants of the DC-8, including two stretches. The -62 and -72 models had two 3 foot, 3 inch plugs (one each, fore and aft) but the -61/-63/-71/-73 models had a 200 inch forward plug and a 240 inch aft plug, vastly increasing its cargo capacity. By 1972 when production ended, 556 DC-8s had been built—passenger, freighter, and convertible versions. The original factory built DC-8 convertible was a 50 series aircraft called the Jet Trader which featured a forward cargo door and a moveable bulkhead to accommodate multiple "passenger/cargo combinations." Convertibles are most often referred to as "Combis." In the 1970s, as passenger carriers began upgrading to wide body aircraft, the demand for passenger DC-8s diminished, depreciating their market value

down to as low as \$500K. The demand for freighter conversions was high, prompting third party companies to go into the freighter conversion business, adding a cargo door, strengthening the floor, adding rollers, etc. McDonnell Douglas even opened a conversion facility at its plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1976.

DC-8 freighters carry a single row of 88 inches long x 125 inches wide Unit Load Devices (ULDs - containers and/or pallets). The capacity ranges from 13 ULDs for the 50-series (MTOW 315,000 pounds for the -54CF and 325,000 pounds for the -55CF) to 14 ULDs for -62/-72 freighters (MTOW 335,000 pounds) and 18 ULDs for the -61/-63/-71/-73 freighter versions (MTOW 328,000 pounds). In all DC-8 freighter versions, the last ULD position in the tail section is rotated 90 degrees [88 inches wide] to fit in that narrow area. Four lower deck/belly non-palletized compartments (A-D previously used for luggage) provided ample space for loose/bulk cargo such as small packages, mail, etc.

The DC-8 has a Flight Engineer, as does the C-130 (excluding J model), C-141 and C-5. In contrast the DC-8 flight deck is extremely cramped. Loadmaster seating on the DC-8 might be in a jump seat on the tiny flight deck, a non-reclining bench seat on the flight deck bulkhead, or side facing passenger-type seats aft of the flight deck bulkhead—all dependent on an air carrier's particular aircraft and conversion. During ground operations, the cargo compartment has no air conditioning other than what can be provided from ground AC units.

The DC-8 was operated by many cargo airlines including Airborne Express, American International Airways, Air Transport International, Burlington Air Express, Emery Worldwide Airlines, Southern Air Transport and United Parcel Service (UPS) to name just a few. Flying Tigers Line took delivery of its first DC-8 Freighter (63F version) in March 1967, ultimately operating a fleet (at its peak) of 19 DC-8 aircraft. Over the years the company acquired and sold or wrote off 47 DC-8s. In 1999 Emery Worldwide Airlines was operating a fleet of 47 DC-8s, which by July of 2001 had been reduced to 32. Age, fuel consumption and noise abatement took its toll on the DC-8. Cargo air carriers have largely shifted to wide-body aircraft such as the Boeing 747, 767 and 777. However, there are still a few scattered DC-8s operating in other parts of the world.

The DC-8 was a key factor in the expansion of the air freight industry in the last third of the 20th century, as well as supporting military operations in Southeast Asia. For example, Seaboard World Airlines and Flying Tigers Line, flew a substantial number of military charters during the Vietnam War with DC-8s. A Flying Tigers DC-8 performed engine running offloads at Phenom Penh, Cambodia during the "Rice Lift" in 1975. Additionally, in April 1975, a World Airways DC-8 freighter with blankets on the floor instead of seats evacuated 57 Vietnamese orphans from Saigon. For take-off and landing, the children were secured under cargo nets.

The DC-8 was an icon and workhorse of the commercial air freight industry from the late 1960s into the 21st century. Until the advent of the Boeing 747, the venerable DC-8 was the largest commercial cargo transport in the world and was revered by crews who flew it. UPS began operating DC-8s in February 1988 and at one point owned 49, making it one of the largest DC-8 operators in the world. UPS flew its final DC-8 trip on 12 May 2009.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE

The Professional Loadmaster Association is having an election for the following positions: National Secretary, National Treasurer and Public Relations Director. The official paper ballot and voting instructions are detachable from this issue of "The Loader." It can be filled out, then sealed and mailed to Curt Snyder (PLA Election Chairman). Please sign the ballot to ensure that your vote is counted. This ballot must be readable to be accepted. For those members who receive "The Loader" electronically Curt Snyder will be sending you an email with an electronic ballot. Or you may receive an email with a link to vote. All ballots are due back to Curt Snyder by April 30, 2021. Following this announcement are a photograph and mini biography of each of the nominees:



My name is Chris Cummings and I am a candidate for the PLA National Secretary. After spending 6 years in the Army as a ground pounder, I was lucky to discover the Loadmaster profession in 2010. Since that time, I have worked on the best airframe on God's green earth at Stewart ANGB in New York. The 747 crash in Bagram brought my attention to the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) and drove me to join as a lifetime member. In a previous life, I spent nearly a decade working for a software company specializing in database management. I would love to apply my knowledge of membership record-keeping to provide the PLA with an analytical perspective in the National Secretary position.



He retired from the USAF in 2015 and is currently a Loadmaster Instructor at the C-130J Training facility in Ramstein, Germany.

Chris Dockery is PLA Member #219 and has been a member since 1998. He was formally the Treasurer of the Low Country Chapter in 1998/99. He assumed his current position as PLA National Treasurer in 1999. Chris is a retired CMSgt and he served 28 years as a Loadmaster in a variety of positions in the C-5, C-17, and C-130J communities.



Sean Zeringue, National Public Relations Director (Nominee)-SSgt, USAF. I have been an active member of the Professional Loadmaster Association for 7 years and served in various chapter positions. I served as the Treasurer and Secretary for The Rock Chapter as well as assisted with the hosting of the special 20th Anniversary Gathering of the Loads

convention in Little Rock, AR. I am a C-130E/H/J Loadmaster by trade, serving my time at the 61st Airlift Squadron then went onto the C-130J formal training unit at Little Rock Air Force Base. I am currently stationed at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas serving as a proud member of the 39th Airlift Squadron. As your National Public Relations Director, I will strive to keep you

posted with the most up to date information as well as making contacts with various agencies and industries to build partnerships that will benefit Loadmasters as a whole and as an individual.

Book Review

Dave Clark, USAF 1967 – 1975, PLA Life member, DFC Society life member, VFW Life Member, Air Commando Association Life Member, bugsloop@gmail.com, Vancouver, WA

None Braver by Michael Hirsh

United States Air Force Pararescuemen (PJs) in the Afghanistan War. The author was embedded with an Air Force Combat Unit, in Afghanistan and was the first to do this. He did not ride along on combat missions but was there to get first hand accounts from all players involved on their mission return. Michael wrote his first book "Pararescue" A true story of an Incredible Rescue at sea and the Heros who pulled it off. This is where he first learned of Pararescue and was impressed with their credo "That others may live." The process that he went thru to get embedded was long but he stayed with it and gives thanks to all who helped him thru the process. Time frame is around 2002 during the war on terrorism. I found out about this wonderful book thru the latest Air Commando Association Journal Vol 9 Issue 1. Michael does a nice job putting together a picture of life in combat. (For those of us who have lived in combat conditions way back when, guess what - not any better, tho they have phones and computers to talk and see loved ones at home.) There are brief glimpses into pararescue training but the focus remains on their combat rescue missions. There are aircraft crashes, saving lives while under fire and rescues in various situations. All that was expected. But what surprised me was the lack of respect the Army had for the PJs. On one mission a C-130 crashed (Ditka 03) while refueling the Army Helos. The PJs were in the designated medevac chopper just minutes away. The Lt Col in charge refused to let the chopper land and put the PJs at the crash site. He ordered it to refuel instead. Resulting in taking the PJs 1 hour and 20 when they were only minutes away to start with. During the debriefing of the mission an E5 (PJ) gave the Lt Col in charge a very respectfully delivered tongue lashing. There were 8 survivors one was critical (A Loadmaster). As you read a few paragraphs further you realize the tongue lashing was well deserved. Another interesting story was when the decision was made to HALO into a critical rescue mission next to a mine field. The HALO drop was from 3500 feet in blackout conditions. All three PJs received the Distinguished Flying Cross. As soon as the HALO was completed the aircraft was set up to refuel the evac helicopters. The Loadmaster's job during refueling was watching from the side door, they need to have eyes on the probe and the Helicopter watching for safety of all involved. Interesting reading about how difficult it can be to refuel. A couple pictures of Loadmasters hard at work are in the book. One problem I had while reading was the acronyms used, there are so many and hard to keep up with but all are related to military special ops. The last 4 chapters of the book are the hardest to read, could not keep a dry eye. The book is an easy read overall with humor and a deep look into the PJs life both in combat and other stations around the globe.

The Professional Loadmaster Association offers condolences to the families and friends of the following Loadmasters whose deaths have been reported to our association. **Name underlined denotes a PLA Member.** *Denotes a Lifetime Member.

***Mark E. Belland**, 86, passed away peacefully with the love of his life, Lillian Belland, by his side on the morning of December 9, 2020. Mark was born on January 22, 1934 in Thief River Falls, MN. He was the first of seven children born to Cecil and Edward Belland. Mark joined the United States Army as a paratrooper in 1952 until 1955; he then joined the United States Air Force in 1957 and became a Loadmaster. He was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California where he met the love of his life, Lillian (Zupich) Belland. He was in the 75th Squadron at Travis Air Force Base for most of his career. In October 1965 he went to Vietnam and served in country for almost a year before returning to Travis Air Force Base. He didn't talk much about his time in Vietnam but suffered from PTSD and nightmares for the rest of his life. Despite this he served his country proudly for 20 years and retired from the military in 1974 in Vacaville, CA. Mark then worked as a trucker for several years, even going to Alaska from 1975 to 1977 to work on the Alaskan oil pipeline. In 1977 he saw an opportunity to learn Building Inspecting through the City of Vacaville and fell in love with the job. He ended his career as the Senior Building Inspector for the City of Vacaville, retiring in 1994. Real retirement was not sitting idle for Mark; he and his wife Lillian traveled across country in their various RV's as long as possible. Mark and Lillian were married for 58 years. Mark adored little kids and animals. He couldn't help but stop and talk to them. He could always put any baby to sleep with his "Ding a Ding" song. His two miniature schnauzers, Buddy and Molly, were always by his side, even on his last day. Mark is survived by his loving wife, Lillian Belland; his three brothers, David, Vernon and Tom Belland; his sister, Barbara Robinson; his three daughters, Cathleen Prestridge (Greg), Dianna Pledger, and Julie Belland; his three grandchildren, Miryana Loignon (Warren), Mark Pledger and Georgette Gutierrez (Juan), his four great-grandchildren, Madison and Wyatt Loignon and Mateo and Ivy Gutierrez; along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Cecile and Edward Belland, along with his brother, Gerald and his sister, Jane Belland. Mark will be interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on December 22 at 2 p.m. Because of the Covid restrictions it will be by invitation only. We will hold a memorial for him later in 2021 when restrictions have lifted in Vacaville, CA.

William L Davies, MSgt, 68, died peacefully at home January 13, 2021, surrounded by his family. Born in Passaic NJ, Bill is the oldest of 7 children. Bill graduated from Somerville High School in 1970 and joined the U.S. Air Force after graduation. Bill retired from the NJ Air National Guard in 2012. Bill was a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Allied Force and Operation Enduring Freedom. Bill was the recipient of many medals; Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and many ribbons; NJ Distinguished Service, NJ Meritorious Service, NJ Commendation, NJ Ribbon of Honor, NJ Good Conduct, NJ Merit, NJ Desert Storm, NJ Unit Strength, NJ Vietnam Service Award, during his service to his country. Bill enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, teaching his nieces, nephews, and area schools about Military history. He was proud to be on stage with Bob Hope and Miss World USA Karen Smith, during the Bob Hope USO tours in Vietnam in 1971. Bill is survived by his wife of 46 years, Carolyn, daughter Larysa, son William R, and daughter Lynnea. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (www.vvmf.org) in Bill's name.

***Daniel L. "Chief" Johnson**, (USAF Ret.) 84, of Port Byron, IL, died Saturday, August 8, 2020 at his home. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30am on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at St. John's Catholic Church, Rapids City. Visitation will be 5 – 7pm with a Christian Prayer Service at 4:00pm on Tuesday at Gibson – Bode Funeral Home, Port Byron. For the safety of his family and those in attendance, please wear a face covering and observe social distancing. Burial will be in the Rock Island National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Honor Flight of the Quad Cities or Air Force Enlisted Village. To watch the Mass live stream, go to <https://facebook.com/stjohnrapidscity/live>. Dan was born August 24, 1935 in Kewanee, Illinois, the son of Hayden "Jack" and Adella (Euchaski) Johnson. He graduated from Visitation Catholic School and Wethersfield High School. He married Colette Wilson in 1956. She died in 1978. Daniel married Linda J. Coe on June 22, 1985 in Colona, IL. He served honorably in the US Air Force as an Aircraft Loadmaster from 1952 until he retired in 1995 as a Chief Master Sergeant (E-9). During this period, he attended the University of Maryland and the University of Oklahoma. Following service, Dan was employed with the US Army Armament, Munitions & Chemical Command (AMCCOM) as a Maintenance Management Supervisor at the Arsenal. He later became an owner/operator trucker, and finally did popcorn farming with Linda. He was a Coe Twp Trustee and later Supervisor, served as President of the St. John's Parish Council, was a Eucharistic Minister and Lector at St. Johns, trustee and President of Our Lady of Grace Education Commission, and three-time member of Alleman High School Board. Dan was a life member of the Coe-Lamb American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Association, Professional Loadmaster Association, Air Force Sergeant's Association, and the Air Force Association. He enjoyed the company of military veterans and his wife, Linda, and was very appreciative of Linda's loving care during his periods of severe illness. Dan is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Daniel C. Johnson, Valary L. Johnson, Grand Junction, CO, Leslie D. (Doug) Johnson, Seattle, WA; brother, Michael (Marcia) Johnson, Augusta, GA; and 3 grandchildren, Nicolette (Joji) Mangubat, Cameron Starke, and Dylan Johnson; one great granddaughter, Adia Feigner; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife and parents. Online condolences may be made at www.gibsonbodefh.com.

***Shem R. Miller, Jr.**, age 77, of Browns Mills, NJ passed away suddenly on Monday, November 9, 2020, at Aspen Hills Healthcare Center, Pemberton, NJ. Born in Phoenix, Arizona he has resided in Browns Mills since 1963. Shem proudly served for 37 years in the US Air Force achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant before his retirement. He was predeceased by his loving wife Catherine in 2017. He is survived by his son Shem R. Miller, III; his daughter Sommer Jamiot (Dennis) of Ohio; a grandson Shem R. Miller IV of Kentucky and 1 great grandson Mason Miller of Kentucky. Military Honors will be held on Monday November 23, 2020 at 10:00 A M at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ. Arrangements entrusted to and condolences for the family may be left at www.moorefuneralhome.com. <https://www.moorefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Shem-R-Miller-Jr?obId=18985749&fbclid=IwAR2toqEjyqyDUObTnFc0z58k8jtiKUo6KCbIsC2wapbjiCbGj3ypE5vwkIB4#/obituaryInfo>

Delbert R. Keefauver, 1933 - 2020. Mr. Delbert (Del) Keefauver was born on October 8, 1933, in Louisburg, Kansas to Harold and Myron Keefauver. His birth having occurred in a log cabin with the assistance of a harried country doctor, Del found when it came time to enlist, he had only receipt of goods exchanged, and no birth certificate! A humble patriot, he proudly served in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years, retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant. After tours in Korea and Vietnam as a C-124, C-130, and C-141 Loadmaster, he "retired" to a brilliant second career as a contractor. Beautiful examples of his hard work and creativity can be seen all over Tacoma. A man of principle, he also quietly volunteered for many years as a church usher, for Habitat for Humanity, and at the base thrift store. Del was a true testament of a bygone era. Stoic, deeply pragmatic, and not one to suffer fools quietly, he was secretly gentle, thoroughly loyal, and generous with a full-throated laugh. Married to Barbara for 67 years, and father to three girls: Anita (Larry), Brenda (Skip), and Beverly (Gary). He was grandpa to six grandchildren: Melody (Ed), Elizabeth (Russell), Ben (Michele), Jennifer (Travis), Randy, and Chase (Linell). And great-grandpa to seven great-grandchildren: Wyatt, Garrett, Katie, Allie, Addie, Logan & Clara. He was the family historian and no-nonsense leader. He kept family memories alive through hours spent behind his trusty video camera, grew excellent tomatoes, and played a merciless game of Aggravation. Although he would not have identified as such, he was a gifted artist, able to build or fix anything. He made elaborate birdhouses from his photographic memories of the buildings in the area he grew up in, wooden toys, checkerboards, furniture, and even peoples' dream homes. He will live on in the memory of the example he set for those who love him, in the Tacoma landscape, and in the hearts of generations of squirrels and ducks he lovingly kept fed, fat, and happy. Preceded in death by his parents; beloved daughter, Bev; and terrifying boon companion Peewee the cat, we know they have met him on the other side. A man of faith, we are comforted in knowing we will see him again, most likely holding his camcorder. We love you Del, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa...November 20, 2020. A viewing will be held at Edwards Memorial on December 2, 2020, from 11:00, am - 4:00 pm. 11020 S. Tacoma Way Lakewood, WA 98499. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Thank you for your prayers, stories, and well wishes. The Family. <https://edwardsmemorial.com/tribute/details/34555/Delbert-Keefauver/obituary.html>

James Curtis (J.C.) Wiley, 69 of Vacaville, passed away at his home early morning on December 23rd. He was born in El Paso, TX on May 10, 1951 to James and his beloved mother Lola Wiley. Soon after graduating from Bel Air High School in El Paso, "Bobby" as he was known to family during his youth, entered the U.S. Air Force on December 16, 1969. At 18 years-old, J.C. (as he was known to most of us) soon found himself serving his country while stationed at CCK Airbase in Taiwan and flying combat missions to southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. J.C. was eventually stationed at Travis Air Force Base and met the love of his life, Agnes, whom he married in 1981. For over forty years, she was his greatest partner, friend and even his greatest match during their frequent ribbing sessions with one another. Together, they built a life dedicated to their family, to service and most of all, to each other. J.C. rose to the rank of Chief Master Sargent and proudly served in the U.S.A.F. for nearly three decades. He served in every major conflict that his country had during his tenure, from Vietnam to the Middle East and beyond with assignments on all seven continents along the way. Amongst many medals and awards he earned during his career, J.C. was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross (with two devices) and the Airman's Medal, both awarded for acts of heroism. He retired from active-duty service at Travis AFB in 1997 after 28 years in the Air Force. J.C. would begin a second career at the California State Prison Solano in Vacaville. He soon came to realize that for him, guarding prisoners was not enough when helping to guide them would be a better use of his skills, his head and his heart. He became a counselor working from the assumption that everyone has something good within them and something to contribute. He focused himself on helping individuals find that good and that purpose. Service was a big part of his life and he was dedicated to it. Even after retiring from his second career, he would use that same selfless commitment to volunteer countless hours helping fellow veterans and the homeless. Whether he was in uniform or simply in his own backyard with friends and family, if someone had a problem, he'd offer perspective, if someone needed something done, he'd make time to help do it and if someone had something broken, he'd almost certainly have a tool to help fix it. J.C. was not all work as those who know him best will attest too. His brothers from the 75th Military Airlift Squadron, his friends from all walks of life and his family all know how much he liked to have fun. Whether he was telling stories about his grandkids, riding his Harleys through Napa or the South of France, visiting his cherished second home in Ireland, talking about his Cowboys or his Lakers, or enjoying his music, J.C. knew how to have fun. And when he was having fun, we all knew it because he had a smile that would light up a room and a laugh that would fill it with warmth. Finally, J.C. was a selfless and courageous fighter. He spent his entire life fighting for his country, his friends, his family and for what he believed was right. Even in his final fight with pancreatic cancer, he would often turn his focus toward those individuals around him. His excellent doctors and nurses who treated him

at David Grant Medical Center during his years long battle talk about how his indomitable will and generous spirit were evident even while receiving countless hours of chemotherapy. For a good part of seven years, he could often be found in the Oncology department on Wednesdays receiving intensive treatment while offering words of encouragement to other patients and good-natured teasing and support to the staff he came to love so much. In the end, J.C. lost his fight with cancer, but he won at life. He left us with a full heart, Agnes at his side and a beautiful life worth celebrating. J.C. is survived by his wife Agnes, their four children Jimmy, Janet, Marcus and Shana, a son-in-law, Jorge, a daughter-in-law, Bridget, five grandchildren Jeremy, Jack-Jack, Eddie, Brigid and Derek and extended family in the U.S. and in Ireland. J.C. will be laid to rest on Thursday, January 7th at Veterans Memorial Park in Dixon with a (virtual) Celebration of Life to follow. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you consider a donation to his favorite charity "The Opportunity House" in Vacaville in his honor. For information on how to virtually attend his funeral service or Celebration of Life, please email Marcus@WileyWayEnt.com with "J.C. Wiley" in the subject. Funeral arrangements by Vaca Hills Chapel Funeral Home 707-446-3233.

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William L. Adams passed away on November 23, 2020. <https://www.sunsetfuneralhomes.net/obituaries/William-Adams-71/?fbclid=IwAR21d-AvF-yBBYJ38JJke0aAgNR7Ln5T9ZxIW2hiU5etqW5Ejn5HqK2oKDw#!/Obituary>

Dennnis D. Bigelow, passed away 31 Aug 2020. Reported on 53rd MAS Alumni Facebook page January 8, 2021, no obituary

Jessie W. Callahan, passed away 1 Feb 2021. https://www.butlerfh.com/obituary/Jessie-Callahan?fbclid=IwAR2_NHv26a8wrgKDzuogZeI6l2vi3FMd_Fbd8sB7ZB37NmZxZou1KqvtHL8

Bill Carawan. Former 15th MAS Norton AFB CA & 41st MAS Charleston AFB SC Loadmaster. Reported on Aircraft Loadmasters (USAF) Facebook page January 26, 2021. No link or obituary.

Armando Castillo, Jr., passed away on December 31, 2020. https://northsfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/4478535/Castillo-Armando/?fbclid=IwAR07l-X5Kv7Omg_DU72DaFVkn78pxsYLqW6tBvB1Ao3lJrxjZfuWj4Nu4sc

Ed Ewert, <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19674219/Edward-C-Ewert/Vacaville/California/McCune-Garden-Chapel>

Ralph Fernandez, Jr. passed away on January 30, 2021. <https://landmarkfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ralph-fernandez-jr/416/>

Guadalupe "Lupe" Flores, passed away November 17, 2020, https://www.castleridgemortuary.com/obituaries/print?o_id=7231116&fbclid=IwAR08kRN_13iyev2T5auFQYbK4im24KvwzhoOENWc63cC8UAMX81EKNDqbVc

Virgil L. "Bob" Flowers passed away on December 9, 2020. https://obits.postandcourier.com/amp/obituaries/charleston/197264369?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=obitshareamp&fbclid=IwAR02BbM5OQYy4eesMDXsBvxyJqA9ysAIPL3PGPHRZSeFd0otFpyz6lkZVGI

Ralph A. Gregson, Jr. passed away on January 18, 2021. <https://www.traderfh.com/obituaries/Ralph-Gregson#!/Obituary>

James Edward (Jim) Hart, away on January 26, 2021. <http://taylorfamilyfuneralhome.com/tributes/jim-hart/?fbclid=IwAR02BbM5OQYy4eesMDXsBvxyJqA9ysAIPL3PGPHRZSeFd0otFpyz6lkZVGI>

Paul B. Lanier Jr. passed away on February 7, 2021. <https://www.wiggins-knipp.com/obituaries/Paul-Lanier-2#!/Obituary>



The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association (TC/TAA) will hold their 15th Anniversary reunion in San Antonio, TX October 13-17, 2021. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 N. Mary St. San Antonio, TX 78215 - \$129 @ Night + Taxes, Breakfast \$12 @day (normal \$25), Parking \$10 @day (normal \$25 @ day). Registrations: **Hotel Registrations** done by calling hotel at (210) 224-2500 mention group "Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association" or the following link: <https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=satrw&PMID=99801505&GPC=tct&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>. **Reunion Registration** please send completed forms to Ralph Bemis, 248 Valley View Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, Email: rtbullwinkle@yahoo.com, Cell (501) 993-6934. Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association Web Page: www.troopcarrier.org.

Scholarship Donations can be made to our PLA Headquarters:
P.O. Box 4351 Tacoma WA 98438

Write "Scholarship Fund" on checks. Remember every little bit counts toward keeping this program ongoing.

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) offers five scholarships annually for College and/or Vocational/Technical School after high school graduation. Current college or vocational/technical students may apply to complete their educational endeavor. We have two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each named in honor of John L. Levitow and Bill Cannon. These are permanent scholarships. Three additional \$500.00 scholarships, each named for a different deceased Loadmaster, will be awarded each year. Candidates for the selection process must be from PLA members in good standing and their family members (sons, daughters or grandchildren), and are limited to one scholarship per applicant. If exceptional circumstances should arise, the Executive Committee will handle them accordingly. For more information on scholarships go to <http://www.loadmasters.com/scholarships>. Applications, located on the PLA website, may be applied for through the **Scholarship Manager Jim Engelker, 3707 Morningview Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702, engelkerj@gmail.com**.

Timeline for Scholarships: Scholarship applications are due by close of business on April 1, 2021. Please review the information in "The Loader" about the PLA scholarship. Take the time to complete an application, include your photograph and email it, in PDF format, to Jim Engelker. All scholarship applications received after that date will be returned. Announcement of

the scholarship award to the individual participant shall be no later than the middle of May of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of scholarships awarded shall be published each year in the July issue of "The Loader" newsletter. Additional Scholarship Name Selection: Selection of names to be honored for upcoming additional scholarships shall be provided by December of the year before scholarship announcement. When completing your PLA application you will need to know the PLA membership # and date. Please contact John Moore at buildsmall2jm@icloud.com to obtain this information."



**Sponsor of the Professional Loadmaster Association
Bill Cannon Scholarship Award**

USAA again has graciously agreed to sponsor this year's Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) Bill Cannon Scholarship. The PLA and the scholarship award winners would like to thank USAA for their generous contribution to the scholarship program. Our special thanks goes out to Dick Smith of USAA for their help in making this sponsorship possible.

Liberty Chapter Loadmaster Coins

Mailed for \$10 each plus priority shipping of \$5.80. Thirty in one box for that shipping cost. If chapters want more than 30, sold for \$9 each with shipping included. A cheaper alternative is to ship up to three, for \$4.00 shipping first class mail. Send a check made out to Liberty Chapter PLA, or USPS postal Money Order made out to Kent Brown, 28 Pineview Dr., Browns Mills, NJ 08015-6850.



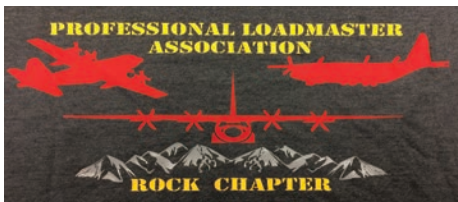
PLA Coins

The new coins have both Friendship Through Airlift and Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow around the circle on the back and now they are in full color! The US Flag is in color and unchanged. The box below the flag is empty so you may have whatever you wish engraved on it. The PLA coin is \$10.00. If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: buildsmall2jm@icloud.com.



PLA Pins and Patches

PLA Coins, Pins and Patches are available through the National Secretary. The PLA Pin is \$7.00 and the Patch is \$10.00 each, including mailing. If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: buildsmall2jm@icloud.com



The Rock Chapter Tee Shirts - \$25.00 per tee shirt, shipping included. Send a check to: Rock Chapter PLA, P.O. Box 1113, Jacksonville, AR, 72078 or call (501) 533-5873 for a PayPal invoice & payment. Available sizes include Small-2XL

"The Loader"

Professional Loadmaster Association
P.O. Box 4351
Tacoma WA 98438
Address Service Requested

"The Loader" is published for members of the Professional Loadmaster Association, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization sanctioned by Washington Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service. "The Loader" is published three (3) times a year. In the event of voluntary dissolution of said association, after all debts and obligations have been met, the remaining assets will be distributed to a nonprofit fund or organization which is operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious and or scientific purposes and which has been established tax exempt status under section 501C (10) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Parting Shot



MSgt Colton Nelson, a Loadmaster with the 144th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, checks equipment rigged for a parachute drop aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in Kapolei, Hawaii, January 26, 2021, during Exercise H20. Photo by Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Professional Loadmaster Association Registration Card/Personal Data Change

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