



# TRAILING WIRE NEWS

A Newsletter for Veterans, Active Duty Sailors, and Families and Friends of the Tacamo Community Veterans



## Inside

Page one

- Hall of Fame Inductees
- Crew 4 Guest

Page two

- Reunion Photos

Page three

- Heritage Foundation Gifts
- Fleet Events
- Chucko Letter

Page four

- TACAMO association Announces New Name and Winner
- Walk of Fame
- Paraloft
- History Notes

Page five

- Search for Families of Posthumous Hall of Fame Inductees & Crew 4
- Family Letter
- SAC Mission
- Welcome to Families

Page six

- Reunion History
- 2013 Reunion

## TACAMO PRESENTS 2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

This reunion was about 50 years of airborne Very Low Frequency operations in support of the defense of this great nation we call the UNITED STATES of AMERICA. It was equally about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of Strategic Communications Wing ONE. A small group was responsible for most of the work that enabled the Wing to become a reality.

The Hall of Fame inductees are those Sailors that were the creators of that reality. Categories

for the Hall of Fame are as follows: Posthumous, Industry, and Pioneers.

Read more information about the inductees [Hall of Fame Inductees](#).



Above: Ron Carlson



Below: Martha & Millard Battles

### ○ **POSTHUMOUS**

- TACAMO PAC Crew 4 (HoF Plankowners)
- John Kilroy
- Rick "Bulldog" Filz
- Shane Mansour
- Gareth Reitz
- Dave Buck
- Frank Baker Jr.
- William "Bill" "Horse" Harsanyi

### ○ **INDUSTRY PARTNER**

- Jack McKenzie
- Millard Battles

### ○ **TACAMO SAILOR**

- Andy Riddle
- Ed Hampshire
- Ron Carlson
- Walt Reese



Walt Reese



## CREW 4 - FAMILY

**Bobbi Russell and Mellissa Russell Vines**, wife and daughter of RMC Aubrey Russell (member of VQ-3 Crew-4) reunited with the TACAMO family. They went through a weekend of healing after 35 years of pain and grief. We are so glad we can be their extended family and help them gain some closure.

**Bobbie** (left) & **Melissa** (right) at banquet

**Families of Crew 4 & Posthumous Winners Search**

Update on page 3

# REUNION OKC 2012

THE "HALL OF FAME REUNION" AT NAS OKC WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. STRATCOMMWING-1 PROVIDED A WARM WELCOME, COORDINATED BY THE REUNION TEAMS IN NAS OKC.

→ [2012 NAS OKC Photos](#)



**Center: Governor Mary Fallon's declaration, declaring June 2, 2012 be observed at TACAMO day in honor of 50 years VLF Communications and 20 years Since the Commissioning of STRATCOMMWING 1**



## GIFTS TO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Alan Banek	Deb Croft	Joe Walko	Remell Spencer
❖ Andrew & Rita Riddle	Dennis & Cheri Warren	❖ John Jordon	Richard & Julia Badgero
Barry Coyle	Diane McFarland	John & Mary Kunkle	Robert Hoel & Cynthia Perez
Bill & Gale Burkart	❖ Don & Roz Lindeman	John Brouillette	Roger Smith
Bill Reeter	Donald & Martha Blair	John Jackson	Ronald & Lynn Williams
❖ Bob & Patricia Downey	Eddie & Sherry Hampshire	Kermit & Sally Ayres	Ronald & Melba Carlson
Bob Wicker	Ernest Lewis	Lanny & Lori Hansen	Russ & Tricia Johnson
Brian & Angela Gunnell	Esther Miller	Larry Eugene & Tanya Amir Hayes	Steve Hickle
Brian Costello	Gary & Mary Faith Fodor	Loren Hodel	❖ Steven Bug Malavolti
Bruce Cunningham	Gary Breeden	Lupe & Sherry Torres	Steve Redd
Carl & Sharon Brandt	Gary Campbell	Mark, Kelley & Auden Lauder milk	Tim Hansen
Charles & Rosa Woody	Gary Foster	Micaela (Mickey) DiPasquo	Timothy Olnick
Charles Bevien-Lopes	Gary Samarija & Brenda Allen	Michael & Jennifer Driskill	Tom Trotter
Christian Andrieu	Gerald Geletzke	❖ Mike Allman	❖ Vern & Colleen Lohausen
Connie Vanfleet	George, Romona & Ryley Davis	❖ Mike & Cheryl Vos	Wallace & Marie Goss
Dale Hurt & Kay Webb	Jack McKenzie	Mike & Holly McCauley	Walt Reese
Dan & Diane Shore	James & Anair Baker	Mike & Ruby Wagoner	William Anderson
Dan Knox	James Wirt & Ed Winnett	Mike Davidson & Ellen O'Boyle	William Crouch
Daniel Owens	❖ Jim & Laurin Gallagher	❖ Millard & Martha Battles	
Danny Pierce	Jim Barney	Nora & Wayne Tyson	❖ Donation of \$100 or more
David DeMoore	Joe Bacarella	Pete Rourke	
David & Diana Nordean	Joe Carter	Philip Gallet	
David & Ida Huntz	Joe Leming	Ralph & Vera Ward	

Gifts can be made:  
[tacamo.org/Hof\\_HC](http://tacamo.org/Hof_HC)



### TACAMO FLEET UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **THURSDAY, 16 AUG**

The TACAMO Community Council Luncheon in CNATT High Bay to recognize our Sailors of the Quarter

#### **FRIDAY, 14 SEP**

Chief's Pinning Ceremony @ Life Church, East Reno Ave, Midwest City OK

#### **FRIDAY, 05 OCT**

The Navy Birthday Ball @ The Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, OKC. Speaker, VADM Scott Van Buskirk, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel

Dear TACAMO Survivors Association,

Your support of the 2012 TACAMO Reunion celebrating 50 years of airborne Very Low Frequency communications and 20 years of Strategic Communications Wing 1 were instrumental in the success of the event. When we first started discussing the idea to host the reunion onboard Tinker, it became obvious that we needed the support and resources of TSA to put together a memorable event, and you exceeded all expectations with outstanding participation and help across the board. Simply stated, the success of this reunion is directly attributable to your organization--and we are grateful.

There is still much work to do to appropriately recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of the TACAMO community, but believe we all left the reunion with a renewed sense of purpose to support and work towards a solution to share our history and the role of TACAMO in the defense of our Nation. We welcome the continued dialogue and cooperation to achieve these goals.

I am so very proud to be a part of this great community and I was humbled by the turnout and the great support. Amy and I have so many special memories of that weekend that it further solidifies our belief that we are a family. Again, thank you for all you have done in support of the 2012 TACAMO Reunion. We look forward to the next time we get together.



Very Respectfully,

**Chocko  
(Commodore Baker)**

# FAMILIES OF CREW 4 & POSTHUMOUS WINNERS ...SEARCH

## LETTER FROM ... DAUGHTER OF AUBREY RUSSELL

Dear TACAMO family,  
I am writing this letter to thank you for the lovely weekend of ceremony and honors dedicated to my lost father at such a memorable time for me and my family. Your generosity, sincerity, and overall healing hospitality brightened my day, and it continues to brighten my home.

For more than 15 years, I had been searching for information about my father, RMC Russell, his time in the Navy and for much of it I searched alone and with no success. However, this all changed a few weeks ago as I somehow became fortunate enough to hear of the reunion and events that were to take place in Oklahoma City. At first, I was hesitant to attempt to attend the event due to my fear of another disappointment. However, that all changed from the moment I began to communicate with all of you there; at first via phone and email, and later personally. From my first

conversations with Shawna, Cheryl, and Rebecca, who opened the doors for my attendance and answered all my questions, throughout my arrival and warm reception at all of the wonderful events, and carrying onward with my memories, I feel as if somehow I have found a piece that was missing from my life.

Words cannot express how touched I was by the memorial of the C-130 aircraft I never knew existed and the respectful and loyal remembrance of those that perished so long ago, and the comforting realization that they had not been forgotten as I had at times feared they had. Perhaps the most heart wrenching displays of my emotional weekend were the Memorial Stairway where memorabilia from Crew 4 was reverently displayed and the heartbreaking sadness of the Missing Man table beautifully



arranged at the banquet, both of which will be a lifelong memory that cannot be forgotten. Most of all, the love and total acceptance by the entire TACAMO family, given to me at such an emotional time, cannot possibly be put into words.

It was so nice to have finally met you all! Your thoughtfulness meant so much to me.

Warmly,  
**Melissa Ann Russell Vines**

## SAC MISSION (SEARCH AND CONNECT)

A team has volunteered to help find family members of VQ-3, VQ-4, VQ-7 and other TACAMO affiliates. We are hoping to connect with lost loved ones for possible future reunions and other events. If you have information regarding TACAMO affiliates, please contact one of the following persons:

**Don Lindeman** [lindby1@yahoo.com](mailto:lindby1@yahoo.com)

**Melissa Russel Vines** (VQ-3 Crew 4 Family Survivors)  
[vicandsis@yahoo.com](mailto:vicandsis@yahoo.com)

**Cheryl Vos** [tacamosurvivors@gmail.com](mailto:tacamosurvivors@gmail.com)

**Vern Lochausen** [trucker@oldtacamo.com](mailto:trucker@oldtacamo.com)

### Update

Don and Vern are still in search of Gareth Rietz  
Melissa is searching for AE1 Monte Nichols, AN Andrew Barker, AT2 Daniel Miner and LTJG David Paige.

A Crew 4 Facebook page was recently added. Please share with everyone, no need to be a member.

[Tacamo Crew 4](#)

## TACAMO FAMILY WELCOMES

### POSTHUMOUS WINNERS

- **John Kilroy**
- **Rick "Bulldog" Filz**
- **Shane Mansour**
- **Gareth Reitz**
- **Dave Buck**
- **Frank Baker Jr.**
- **William "Bill" "Horse" Harsanyi**

### CREW 4 FAMILIES

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ <b>Andrew Yarochuck</b>  | ○ <b>James Faul</b>          |
| ○ <b>Aubrey Russell</b>    | ○ <b>Mark Edward Searing</b> |
| ○ <b>Christy Metchalfe</b> | ○ <b>Richard Eastwood</b>    |
| ○ <b>David Lee Cofer</b>   | ○ <b>Robert Bond JR</b>      |
| ○ <b>Dennis Mura</b>       | ○ <b>William Juergens</b>    |
| ○ <b>Godfrey Ledoux</b>    |                              |
| ○ <b>Jack Strunk</b>       |                              |

## TACAMO COMMUNITY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## WINNER

**BRAGGING RIGHTS GO TO:  
JJ CARUSO**

JJ is our long time chef at our picnics. Please join us in congratulating JJ.

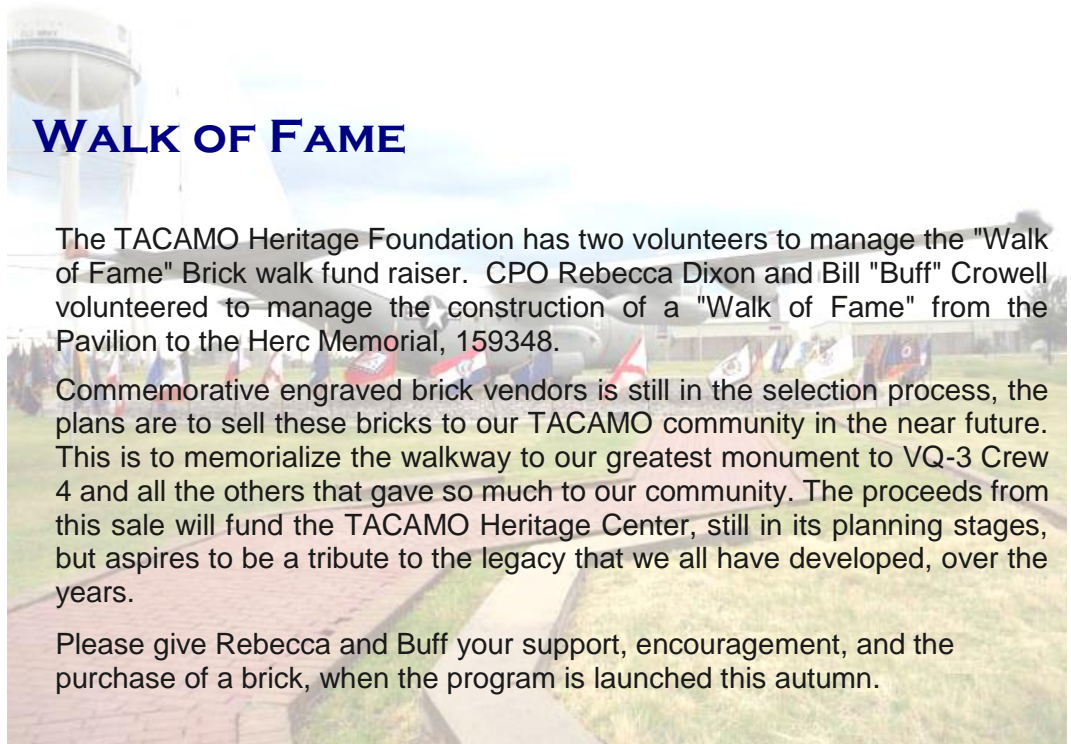


## WALK OF FAME

The TACAMO Heritage Foundation has two volunteers to manage the "Walk of Fame" Brick walk fund raiser. CPO Rebecca Dixon and Bill "Buff" Crowell volunteered to manage the construction of a "Walk of Fame" from the Pavilion to the Herc Memorial, 159348.

Commemorative engraved brick vendors is still in the selection process, the plans are to sell these bricks to our TACAMO community in the near future. This is to memorialize the walkway to our greatest monument to VQ-3 Crew 4 and all the others that gave so much to our community. The proceeds from this sale will fund the TACAMO Heritage Center, still in its planning stages, but aspires to be a tribute to the legacy that we all have developed, over the years.

Please give Rebecca and Buff your support, encouragement, and the purchase of a brick, when the program is launched this autumn.



### 1960s

- PROOF OF CONCEPT TO SQUADRON FORMATION
- OPNAV DIRECTION TO LT JERRY TUTTLE TO 'TACAMO'
- TACAMO I AND II TEST FLIGHTS WITH SINGLE WIRE ROLL ON/ROLL OFF VANS
- VR DETACHMENTS EVOLVE TO VQ-3 PACIFIC AND VQ-4 ATLANTIC
- ICELAND-UK GAP COVERAGE AND PACIFIC EQUIVALENT AROUND GUAM
- SQUADRON FORMATION 1 JULY 1968 AT NAS PATUXENT RIVER AND NAS

### FROM THE PARALOFT.....

What better way to enjoy your favorite cold brew than with one of these new 16oz Pilsner glasses. Show your pride by displaying your TACAMO glass with the three squadrons laser etched on them. Now available in the gift shop

For those that recently attended the NAS OKC reunion you know that some of the favorite paraloft items were the black t-shirt with the 50 year patch on the left breast, the TACAMO hat, the reunion pin and of course the new 50-year patch.

If you missed the opportunity to attend, we have good news for you! We still have some in stock. Go to [www.tacamo.org](http://www.tacamo.org) and click on "[Gift Shop](#)".

We are working on bringing new items to the store, so visit often for the latest gear.



PICTURED ABOVE:  
PILSNER GLASS AND  
REUNION LOGO ON  
BLACK T-SHIRT



## REUNIONS

### HISTORY

TACAMO Reunions have been held over the years in Patuxant River, Memphis, NAS OKC, and smaller gatherings in other locations. Reunions are those hosted by TACAMO Community Veterans Association. Non-hosted reunions are called "Deployments".

At the OKC reunion, a survey was conducted to find out where members would like to future reunions to be held.

#### Top Reunion Sites:

- Seattle, WA
- Pensacola, FL
- Washington DC w/day in Pax River
- Las Vegas
- Barbars Point, HI

If you have a destination request, please email your suggestion to [tacamosurvivors@gmail.com](mailto:tacamosurvivors@gmail.com)

### 2013 REUNION - SEATTLE AREA

Seattle's downtown is compact and easy to get around. Situated on the shore of Puget Sound between two incredible mountain ranges, the snow-capped Olympics and the craggy Cascades, it is surrounded by stunning natural beauty. A visit to Seattle is not complete without a taste of excellent seafood.

As the longtime home of major airline manufacturing companies, Seattle is no stranger to the miracle of flight. Little wonder then that one of the finest aviation museums in the nation is located here, Museum of Flight.

A waterfront city located 25 miles north of Seattle, Everett is known for its huge Boeing manufacturing facility and for its Naval Station. The Future of Flight, a unique interpretive center dedicated to exploring the very limits of technology as they apply to the world of commercial aviation, this one-of-a-kind attraction is part of the Boeing manufacturing plant. NAS Everett is home to two destroyers, three frigates, and one nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Look for more information in next newsletter

#### Possible tour ideas:

- Seattle area – Market Place, Space Needle, Underground City Tour, Smith Tower, Pioneer Park, Experience Music Project (EMP), Chihuly Glass Art, Museum of Flight,
- Everett – Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour, NAS Everett, Tulalip Casino Resort, Seattle Premium Outlets

#### Extend your stay. . .

- Wine tours
- High-speed ferry from Seattle to Victoria in British Columbia
- Mount St Helens