

NewsLetter #54, July 2016

Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!

And Happy Independence Day weekend!

This is the ultimate American summer holiday celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence from our then colonial masters, the British Empire. If the Constitution is the body of our resulting republic, then the Declaration is its soul. More than two centuries later, it continues to inspire, not only here, but abroad, and it humbly reminds us that the work to secure the blessings of liberty and justice for all is never finished.

A jubilant John Adams, who helped Jefferson with the writing of the Declaration, wrote an amazingly prescient prediction to his wife Abigail in Massachusetts after the signing:

“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. — I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. — Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Day’s Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

May it ever be so...

There was no newsletter in June, but in the previous newsletter in May I related a personal story about an encounter I had with a grateful waitress in Half Moon Bay, California, who upon seeing my military ID card said, “Thank you for my freedom.” I just have to share this related story with you from **Mike Garrity** (Stellar Camera, Orlando & FEW, 1965-66).

Garrett, I also had a Vietnam moment last week here in Orlando. As you know we (Orlando) hosted the Invictus games in the early part of May. [For more about Invictus, see <https://invictusgamesfoundation.org>] It must have been on the mind of a lot of people. The games had just ended and I had my truck in for service at a local dealer. Me being the inquisitive kind, I like to sit in the service area and keep track of what is going on while my vehicle is being worked on.

A new GMC Denali pulled up with a young woman, long blond hair, well dressed, etc., at the wheel, and a toddler in the back seat. She went about arranging what she had to do with the service adviser. When she returned to her vehicle, she glanced at me with my *AF Retired - Vietnam Vet Hat* on and without hesitation came over, bent down, and gave me a big hug and thanked me for what I have done. Shocked as I was, I thanked her. She said that she had spent the last two days at the Invictus games and was ever grateful of what service people do and especially what the game participants have gone thru. I asked her if she, by chance, got to see Prince Harry,

and she replied that she had a selfie with him, but was too nervous to talk. What a pleasant surprise that was!

It was now noon and my truck was ready. Called my daughter at work and asked if she would like to go to lunch with her ole dad. We met and went to one of her favorite restaurants and as we ordered lunch and began conversation, the restaurant owner came to our table and presented us with a paid receipt for our lunch on behalf of a patron who had just left and said to tell me, "Thank you for your service."

When I got home, my wife said one of her co-workers had called and asked if her grandson could call me and ask me about Vietnam for one of his homework assignments.

This was too much for one day. The next day your newsletter arrived with your experience. **Wow!**

Mike Garrity

Three great stories, Mike! It's good for veterans to get a thank you, even if it's 40+ years late!

New Members This Month; Some Still Gone Missing

Jim Rolen (Data Reduction, Orlando, 1961-64) recently did what I so often ask all of you to do and sent me an update with his new e-mail address. His profile has also been updated on our website to reflect this change. Says Jim:

"Garrett - My email address has changed from jim.rolen@gatech.edu to jrolen1959@gmail.com. All other id info is unchanged. Thanks, Jim"

Thanks to the dedicated detective work of **LeRoy Clark** (Survey, Det 1, 1963-67) we have added another new member to our roster, as LeRoy continues to bird-dog other former colleagues from Detachment 1/Vandenberg AFB. **Warren Robertson** (Survey, Det 1, 1963-65) contacted me at LeRoy's urging. Says Warren,

"In 1965 I was transferred to Howard AFB in the Panama Canal Zone, where we built and operated a practice bomb range in the jungle. After my discharge in 1967, I returned to San Jose and eventually went to work as a rod/chain man for the county flood control district. Thirty-two years later (1999), I retired from what is now called the Santa Clara Valley Water District as Chief Land Surveyor. I got my California Land Surveyors license in 1981. When I enlisted in the Air Force, I had no idea what a surveyor was, but I knew it was better than cook or policeman. Who knew?"

Gus Luzzi (Satellite Survey, Gravity & GSS Staff, FEW, 1978-80 & 1985-87) has been on our mailing list for some time, but recently sent us his full contact information, and now has his name added to our GSS/GSG Website roster. Gus had two assignments with the unit, and then went on to serve with DMA, NIMA and NGA, retiring as an O-5 Lt Colonel.

Somehow, we had missed adding **Troy D. Carpenter** (Survey, FEW & Det 1, 1982-85) to our online roster, even though we had his contact information for several years. That oversight has now been fixed. Troy was one of our ace civilian astro observers, an eagle eye on the T4

astronomic theodolite and an Army Topo Engineer veteran, as well.

Welcome to all our new or updated members! Their new or updated profiles are now on our GSS/GSG website.

Meanwhile, I still need your help locating the following folks, who have recently fallen by the wayside due to e-mail problems: **Larry T. Bean, Don & Bev Chapman, Carl & Sue Crist, Carol Lydic Giffin, Bill Honecker, Earl I. Johnson, Jay J. Johnson, Martin Lozano (AKA Homer 'Marty' Martinez), Kim Mickley, Paul Patenaude, Robert C. Vigil and Ronald D. Wells.** *If you are in touch with any of the above named veterans or know their whereabouts, please let me know or ask them to contact me at garrettmoore@verizon.net.*

Deceased Veterans Update

We recently received notice from **Hank Miller** (Chief, Logistics Management, FEW, 1981-89) that Agnes Schrag passed away in early May. Agnes was the widow of **Lewis H. "Lew" Schrag**, a long-serving civilian geodesist with the Squadron, who had retired in 1978 and passed away in 2009. Somehow, we missed the earlier news of Lew's death, but have now added his name to our list of deceased GSS/GSG veterans. Obituaries for both Lew and Agnes are at these links.

Lew: http://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/lewis-h-schrag/article_75c037c9-4fa4-5818-9213-ac9733ea9c2c.html

Agnes: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/orlandosentinel/obituary.aspx?pid=180037308>

While trying to locate his former Det 1 colleagues, **LeRoy Clark** also sent us a notice of the long-ago death of a Det 1 veteran.

"Garrett, Just discovered **that Pat Alfieri Jones**, Det 1 1963 - 1965, passed away in 1996. I thought he had been ordered to South America in 1965, however, **Warren Robertson** recalls seeing his orders for an electronic org in Germany. Pat was a highly intelligent fellow. Attached is the California death doc.- Leroy"

[Patrick Alfieri Jones](#)
California

Born: May 28, 1943
Died: January 25, 1996
Gender: Male

We also learned through **Chris Ellison** (Numerous positions, FEW, 1981-93) of the passing of Squadron veteran **H.T. McGlone**.

"Hi Garrett, I'm not sure if you were aware of the passing of H.T. McGlone. Based on my knowledge of HT, he spent all of his enlisted career with geodetics as a computer technician. He retired from the Air Force after 20 years as a Master Sergeant in 1978, then worked for a private company for a few years in Cheyenne, and then he went back to work as a civil servant for the Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group for another 14 years before he retired in 1994 when the squadron closed in Cheyenne. HT was a good friend, one of the nicest people I've ever met. He was an avid runner and logged 5 miles a day 5 days a week for over 30 years until he was diagnosed with

cancer in the late 1990s. I am providing a link to his obituary. - Chris Ellison”

Obituary: [Passing of HT McGlone](#)

Our thanks go to Hank, LeRoy and Chris for these updates. **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, has updated our online list of deceased veterans. May the departed all rest in peace...

If you learn of the passing of a GSS/GSG veteran, please send me the notice!

Your Contact Information and Profile

We now have well over 400 veterans receiving this newsletter with working e-mail addresses. That number includes the 12 veterans listed above, who are temporarily lost due to e-mail problems. However, a headcount of the names we have on our website roster adds up to only 300. Over a hundred more of you reading this newsletter need to be like **Gus Luzzi** and **Jim Rolan**, above, and send me the rest of your contact information or your updates, including a brief profile of your time with the Squadron or Group. That's the only price of admission to our online hall of fame!

Please check our roster at our new website address: <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/>. If your name is not listed there, and you are receiving this newsletter, then you are among those who have not yet sent me your full contact info and profile. Please close the gap by sending me the rest of your contact information (or updates to your existing profile) using the format below. Just hit 'Reply' to this newsletter or send me a separate e-mail with your:

NAME:

ADDRESS: (Include street or mailbox #, city, state and zip code)

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Answer "both" if you served the unit in both capacities)

HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSS/GSG:

START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSS/GSG: (List all dates, if you had more than one assignment to the GSS/GSG)

BASE ASSIGNED TO: (Orlando, FEW, or Detachment location and dates)

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT: (i.e., where you worked: Admin, Astro, Computing, Data Reduction, Gravity, Inertial, Logistics, Operations, Orderly Room, Sat Tri, Stellar Camera, Survey, etc.)

OTHER: (Whatever else you want to share here about your time in the Squadron/Group or what you have been up to since then.)

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, will contact you with your user name and password when he loads your info onto our GSS/GSG website. Only other Squadron veterans with user names and passwords will be able to see your profile or contact information, and you will be able to read theirs.

Meanwhile, check us out at <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/>.

The homepage tells you what's new, what's coming, the list of all who have sent us their contact information, and links to the list of our deceased veterans, photos submitted by our members and lots of other useful information, including links to "kindred organizations," such as the AF Photomapping Association, the Defense Mapping School Faculty/Staff Alumni, and

the NGA Alumni Associations, East and West. There's also an archive of old newsletters in case you missed any. Please also send us your own photos of your time in the Squadron/Group. Send us your best, preferably in digitized form, annotated with the names of anyone in the photo and where it was taken.

Recall your old friends, colleagues, barracks roommates or neighbors from your time with the Squadron and check our online roster to see if their names are listed. If not, send me their names, and we'll try to track them down and add them to our growing list of rediscovered GSS/GSG veterans. If you have orders with exact names, serial numbers or can recall any other details, like hometown, please share those too. That will help us narrow down our search.

If your name is already on our online roster, please log in to check your own profile and see if it's still current. If not, please send me your updates! If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, contact Dick Winslow <diskwy@gmail.com> to remind you or to reset it for you.

NGAEE Announces Activities for Remainder of 2016

For those of you in the Washington, DC, area, the NGA Alumni-East Executive Board has issued the following schedule of activities planned for the remainder of 2016. Please mark your calendars and plan to join your friends and colleagues.

Friday, September 23, 2016: Barrel Tasting, Vineyard Tour and catered BBQ lunch at Hiddencroft Vineyards. Association of Mapping Seniors (AMS) members are encouraged to attend. Guests will arrive at Noon. Appetizers will be served during the barrel tasting. We will then walk into the vineyard for a tour. We will return to the Barn to have lunch at our leisure and socialize. Black Hog BBQ of Frederick, MD will provide a full lunch including wet ribs, pork butt and brisket.

Tuesday, October 4, 2016: Annual NGAA-East Fall meeting at NGA.

NGAA-East Fall meeting will be held in conjunction with NGA 20th Anniversary Celebration. Possible tour of the new NGA Museum scheduled to open in the fall.

Saturday, November 5, 2016: Farm Party at Jack Hild's farm in Ellicott City, Maryland.

The Farm Party will take place during the Breeders Cup horse race day. Appetizers and drinks are planned before the 6:00 p.m. race and dinner afterwards. AMS members and other NGA retirees in the area are invited to attend. Details to follow.

Date TBD: Tour of Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Library.

The Library of Congress Geography and Map Division has custody of the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world with collections numbering over 5.5 million maps, 80,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, over 500 globes and globe gores, 3,000 raised relief models, and a large number of cartographic materials in other formats.

Final Notes:

We are now just a little over two years away from our next reunion, which by popular vote (by the 89 veterans who bothered to vote), will again be in Cheyenne during the late summer or

early fall of 2018.

You are welcome to “friend” me on Facebook and find me on LinkedIn. We also have a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron?fref=ts>.

Garrett
Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch
GSS/Cheyenne
April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes. – Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor and Philosopher