



THE 6TH DIMENSION

WILLING & ABLE

2015 REUNION IN JUNE

To all you "Willing and Able" troops, start making your plans to attend our 6th Weather Squadron Alumni Association's 16th Reunion at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Oklahoma City. We're looking forward to see you all there, and for a large turnout. If you're attending the Reunion, follow this checklist for the things you need to do:

- ◆ ___ Check the Schedule of Events, determine what days you plan on attending and make your plans for travelling to OKC. Flight Reservations or POV.
- ◆ ___ Fill out the Reunion Registration Form included in this mailing and mail to us with your check soon. You can pay the association dues on this form also.
- ◆ ___ Call Wyndham Garden Hotel and make your reservations for the room or rooms you need. (see below for Hotel information). Identify yourself as a member of 6WSAA for the reunion. Guests are responsible for paying all reserved accommodations and incidentals.

◆ ___ Sit back, relax and wait for June to arrive. See you there.



"We are grateful that we can gather together once again to renew friendships and make new ones, celebrate with those who are present, remember and miss those who are absent, and mourn those who are departed."

For Reservations at Our Reunion Hotel



Wyndham Garden Hotel
Oklahoma City Airport
2101 South Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Call 1-800-622-7666 or (405) 685-4000

Blocked Room Rates are \$84 Single/Double/Triple/Quad, plus 13.875% Tax., per night.

Reservations must be received by:

Tuesday, May 27, 2015

(After that date, reservations will be accepted on a Space Available Basis Only)
(Rates available Wednesday—Sunday; Check-in 3:00 pm, Check-out 12:00 Noon)

Make Your Reunion Plans

2015 Reunion June 11 - 14, 2015 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, OKC.

6TH WEATHER SQUADRON
(MOBILE)
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

6WSAA
P.O. Box 881362
YUKON, OK 73085
WWW.6THWEATHERMOBILE.ORG

Officers—BOD

- Vacant—Chairman
- Ted Lundwitz—Vice Chair
- John Lassiter—Treasurer
- John Webb—Asst Treasurer
- Carl Bishop—Asst Treasurer
- Chuck Hewitt—Secretary

Board of Directors

- Elmo Reddick—Member
- Don Garbutt—Member
- Ted Lungwitz—Member

BOD Advisory Committee

- Shirley Eldringhoff—Chair
- Buck Bucklin—Member
- Bill King—Member
- Joe Kerwin—Member
- Tom Rivers—Member
- Gordon McCann—Member
- Barbara McCann—Member

Membership Committee

- Buck Bucklin—Chair
- Shirley Eldringhoff—Chair
- Wilbur Biggs—Member
- Bill King—Member
- Joe Kerwin—Member
- Tom Rivers—Member
- Gordon McCann—Member
- Barbara McCann—Member
- Gerry Guay—Member/
- Dave Weiner—Member
- Neil Prete—Member

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Find your dues date | 2 |
| Notes on Joe Kerwin | 2 |
| Final Launch/2013 Notes | 3 |
| Final Launch | 4 |
| Reunion Schedule | A |
| Reunion Registration | A |



Are your dues up to date?

If your dues date is 7/2014 or older, then your membership has expired. Renew your membership today using enclosed Membership Renewal form and send in the \$10 fee per year to keep your association membership current. You can also pay your dues using the Reunion Registration form when you send it in. If you do not know what your dues date is, you can go to our website letstalk.6thweathermobile.org, enter the User ID and Password in the security window, click on Member List to get to the page, then click on **Member List** to view the list.

You can also e-mail me at webmaster@6thweathermobile.org and ask for your dues date. Or for your User ID and Password to access the secure site. It will be e-mailed back to you.

If you don't have internet access or an e-mail address and this doesn't work for you then call 6WSAA at 405-923-3453 and ask John Webb for assistance. Thank You!

NOTES ON JOE KERWIN BY STEVE GLADISH AT 2013 REUNION - Joe Kerwin who served for the longest time in Sixth Weather—twenty years, gave details on projects ranging from land and sea, at Christmas Island, Truk, Guam, Buka, Port Moresby, New Guinea, during the U. S. and British nuclear testing in the Pacific. While assigned to Weather Recon he flew on a WR-135 in Alaska to track and sample the Russian nuclear debris. He also participated in a cloud seeding project in Alaska stating, "There was so much ice fog in Alaska, the Air Force flew C-130's in a box pattern, dropping dry ice to dissipate the fog into ice crystals which fell to the ground, so our C141 aircraft returning from Vietnam could land and refuel., before continuing on to the continental US."

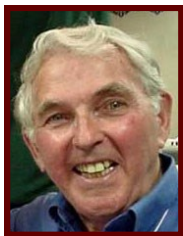
There were numerous photo-mapping projects 6th Weather took part in, providing weather for the complete aerial mapping of the Pacific Ocean, South America, and Africa. Joe said, "At one time the U. S. Air Force shot test missiles from Florida, on the east coast, down range into the Atlantic aimed at a unpopulated island. The missile kept missing its target and that's when they discovered that their maps were off. That led to the formation of a photo-mapping unit to update our maps crucial to the security of our country and missile-defense systems."

"At another time off Christmas Island when B-52's from Barber's Point, Hawaii flew down to Christmas Island on frequent missions; they dropped thermonuclear bombs which exploded over our heads. The gooney birds on Christmas Island were often blinded by the light from the blasts, and we were detailed to shoot them out of mercy, instead of them dying a drawn out death" Joe said. "At one point on my deployment I spent seventy-nine days aboard a ship, launching helium weather balloons with the radiosonde measuring instruments hanging below them monitoring the French testing in the pacific."

When Joe was on a project in Iran, he arrived to find their support radar could pick up all the fisherman in a boat but could not pick up an airliner or an enemy plane from Iraq until it was ten minutes out. "You have a temperature inversion out there, maybe six thousand feet up," he said after making some of the upper atmosphere runs. "The radar signal bounces off it. You need to take your equipment up on that mountain," he pointed. "I can't do that," the Iranian NCO protested, "I would have to leave my wife and kids." "Do you want to defend your country?" Joe responded. "You can't do a thing when a fighter or bomber appears ten miles out. It will be dropping bombs before your anti-aircraft batteries are even alerted. You must go up the mountain, above the temperature inversion."

"On a project at Johnston Island, whenever we saw Russian trawlers off the coast, we knew there would be no missiles or weapons shot from Vandenberg AFB that day. The Russians had trawlers all over the Pacific. Off the island of Guam, they could monitor our bomber take-offs, and warn the anti-aircraft batteries in Vietnam that missiles or bombers were headed their way. So when there were no trawlers, we knew there would be actions. When there were trawlers, we knew there would be no actions."

Joe got a cup of coffee. "We were sent on a project at Chico, California where we needed two trucks full of helium to fill one high altitude



balloon designed to drift for two days to capture radioactive particles and other classified data at 60,000 feet. That balloon was one hundred twenty feet tall, compared to our usual five six foot wide helium balloons."

"Then down on Buka Island in the Pacific, our tents were so hot in the tropical sun, the natives took pity on us. They built us shacks with palm branches which were much cooler. We traded our 5-1 rations for these Kunai shacks. When we were faced with warm beer, we use the fire extinguisher to make the beer icy-cold. **To be continued....**

15th Reunion 2013 Cups



Great cups. Only 3 left. \$10 + Shipping
E-mail Shirley to order at:
shirknjim@aol.com

There are still "Original Storm Chaser" caps available and White Polo Shirts with 6WSAA Logo above pocket. Check the last Newsletter for the order form or go to the website Memorabilia page to print order form and mail it in.



Final Launch



Carle "Hammer" Clarke (1938 - 2015) Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Ret.

Carle H. Clarke, 76, passed away on Jan. 26, 2015, in El Paso, Texas. He was born on Feb. 13, 1938, in Augusta, Maine, to Warren and Marian (Worcester) Clarke. Carle Clarke retired as a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force in 1978. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from 1959 to 1963 at Tinker AFB, OK and was a member of 6WSAA. He was a lifetime member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks 1897 and member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7686, the American Legion, the Loyal Order of the Moose 2016 and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Airie 4101. Survivors include his wife, Margret Clarke of the family home; two daughters, Jennifer Hyde along with her partner Wayne Boesch of Alamogordo; Rhonda Moreno and her husband Hector Moreno of Alamogordo; two sons Stephen Hyde and his wife Katherine of Tennessee, and Robert Hyde and his wife Tammy of Hobbs, along with 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson .

SIXTH WEATHER SQUADRON (MOBILE) REUNION - JUNE 2013 by Steve Gladish (continued from last Newsletter)

You may know I intend to publish a trilogy of books all stemming from real life events in the history of Sixth Weather Squadron (Mobile). *"Storm Chasers, Island Fever, and Mustang Fever* --all dramatically point toward the looming issue of drastic climate change, and the long terms effects of nuclear testing around the world. In 2012, the U.S. suffered \$110 billion dollars in damage from eleven separate events; each one exceeded over \$1 billion in damage." The public is increasingly aware of this today, so stories about unique information-gathering of weather have heightened interest. Extreme records were shattered in 2011—historic tornado outbreaks, large scale flooding, crippling drought and heat waves to prove that weather is getting worse—and then tropical cyclones Irene and Sandy brought unbelievable damage to the Northeast. To my count there were five separate aspects of weather that atypically converged to slam us with a "Perfect Storm" Sandy—with over \$65 billion in damages.



Steve Gladish and Tom Grace

The year-long drought drove up approximately \$30 billion in damage. Last year we suffered the most widespread drought since the 1930's. Of course our properties have gone way up in value since then. Some types of extreme events are consistent with rising temperatures and heavy precipitation events. We haven't even dealt with all the huge costs of wildfires which have sprung up, due to evaporation rates rising along with the temperatures. And I just read about five cities in coastal areas which are preparing themselves for the high cost of barriers against for rising seas. Since 1980 we have endured a startling 144 weather/climate disasters, the total cost of which is more than \$1 trillion dollars. "In the last month, Oklahoma, the belt-buckle of Tornado Alley has suffered from two extreme tornados—the Moore F5, and the El Reno multiple tornadoes, at



least one of which made the F5 category. In 1999 on May 3rd and 4th, there was an outbreak of 75 tornadoes in Oklahoma and surrounding states, and the F5 tornado that hit Oklahoma City stayed on the ground for 38 miles plowing through the city and the town of Moore nearby, killing 36 and injuring 600. The highest wind speed of 318 miles per hour was the highest recorded in history." "In 1999 the state record of 137 tornadoes occurred. In 1998 and 1999 a two year total of 220 tornadoes loomed the largest in state history. Does anybody see a trend here? The unique projects and missions of Sixth Weather Squadron (Mobile) would be of high interest to Oklahomans and the entire U.S., who has new awareness of the tragedies in Oklahoma."

This 6th Dimension Newsletter is published for the exclusive use of our 6WSAA members. Information is included as reported without vetting and is edited for space. If you discover an error or items that need a correction, please notify Gerry Guay Editor, Email: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org Or you may contact any BOD Advisor Committee member listed in the right panel on the first page. Contact info? See Member List. Members are encouraged to submit articles, information or stories that would be of interest to the general membership.

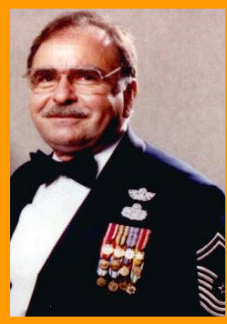
Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at:



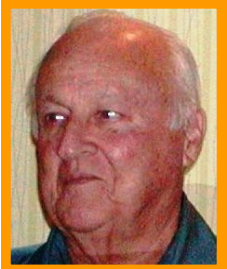
webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or
USPS mail us at our mailing address: 6WSAA, P.O. Box 851362 Yukon, OK 73085



Final Launch



Robert "Bongo" Bongiovanni—Robert Bongiovanni died on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at the Abington Hospice in Warminster at 73 years of age. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Salvatore and Josephine Constanza Bongiovanni. He had been a Churchville resident for the past 30 years and had previously lived in Dover, DE. Mr. Bongiovanni was a retired Chief Master Sergeant in the IIS Air Force. He had been stationed at Dover Air Base in Delaware and at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, PA as well as many other bases. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from 1960 to 1963 at Tinker AFB, OK and was a member of 6WSAA. After his retirement from the Air Force he was an employee of the Aetna Insurance Company in Blue Bell. Robert was a member of American Legion Post 79 in New Hope, PA. Robert was the devoted brother of Mary Julliano, of FL, Lillian Alasevich of Hatboro, Sam Bongiovanni of Rio Grande, NJ, and he was the beloved companion of Elizabeth Saunders of Philadelphia.



Ernest "Ernie" Edwards - "Ernie" Edwards of Deception Bay passed away suddenly 6th August, 2014. Aged 79 Years Dearly Beloved Husband of Hildegard (dec'd). Loved Father of Ernie (dec'd), Chris (dec'd), Errol and Wendy, Lynette and Steve. Loving Opa and Great-Opa to their Families. Ernie and his wife Hilde and their family became associated with 6th Weather Squadron in 1962 when we had a team assigned to Garove Island in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea as a part of AST-7 Photo Mapping mission. The team, Jerry William, Dave Weiner and Jerry Parr spent 7 months on the island and developed a close friendship with the Edwards family. Dave and Ernie remained in touch over the years with correspondence and phone calls. Ernie and his son Errol were guests of honor at the 6thWSAA reunion in 2010.



Kenneth M. "Mike" Heatherton - "Mike" Heatherton, 68, of Johnston, Iowa, formerly of Mason City, passed from this life suddenly on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. Mike was born on January 18, 1946, in Waterloo, IA, to Kenneth Raymond and Marilyn June (Marmie) Heatherton. He was raised in Cedar Falls, Iowa and later grew up in Mason City. Mike attended Accounting-Hamilton Business College and was a U.S. Air Force veteran during Vietnam War. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from '65 to '67 and was a member of 6WSAA for more than 25 years, he was employed with the U.S. Post Office as a Postal Clerk, retiring in 2004. In 1991, Mike moved to the Des Moines area. On December 3, 2004, he was united in marriage to Kathy Keller. He enjoyed cooking, fishing, walking and golfing. Mike loved spending time with his family whom he dearly loved. He also loved his two granddoggies, "Abby" and "Whitney". Mike was a wonderful, generous, loving, caring and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Kathy Heatherton of Johnston; two daughters, Amy (Bruce) Wyborny of Nora Springs, IA and Sara (Colin) Bengfort of West Des Moines; sister, Linda Heatherton and fiancé, Don Starcevich of West Des Moines; three grandchildren, Aubrey, Rachel and Kyle Wyborny all of Nora Springs; and several extended family members and friends. Mike was preceded into eternal life by his parents.



Craig S. Lovstad- Craig Lovstad, 66, retired Council Bluffs banker died October 4, 2012 after a lengthy battle with cancer and heart problems. Son of Leonard and Viola Lovstad, Craig was born on October 20, 1945, in Burt, Iowa. He graduated from North Central Community High School in Manly and then attended two years at Iowa State University. In January 1966, Craig joined the Air Force and served from 1965-1969 in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile). He served in Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma, Eniwetok and Washington D.C. and volunteered to serve the last year of his enlistment in Vietnam. In Vietnam he was attached to the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions. He worked as a weather observer and proudly served his country. After Vietnam, Craig was discharged and headed to Iowa State with his wife, Sandra and daughter, Melanie. He graduated in May 1972 with a B.S. in Agricultural Business. He worked for the former Council Bluffs Savings Bank and had a fulfilling 25 year career. Craig served as

Board Treasurer and Director of the Pottawattamie County Mental Health Center, Visiting Nurse Association, Loess Hill Area Education Agency, Volunteer Bureau and Mad Dads. He also did fund raising for the Boy Scout Trailblazer Council and helped Tim Wickman with his little league baseball teams. Craig was a life member of the VFW and DAV. Craig was preceded in death by his dad, Leonard, in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughter, Melanie Clothier (Daniel), of Johnston, Iowa; and his son, Nathan (Julie Bogardus), of Denver, Colo. He is also survived by his wonderful granddaughters, Lindsey and Bailey Clothier; mother, "Dolly" Viola (Serdahl) Lovstad; brother, Jim (Dorothy), of Universal City, Texas, brother, Eric (Mary), of Forest City, Iowa; and nieces and nephews.

Alen Victor Voorhees, Jr -Alen Victor Voorhees, Jr. was born on November 25, 1943 and passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at age 67. Vic joined the Air Force and served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from 1966 to 1968.