

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #670**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)

Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN – FRIDAY – OCTOBER 31, 2014**

**SPRING FORWARD – FALL BACK – SET CLOCKS**

This coming Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2 AM local time, we will move our clocks **BACK** one hour to start Standard Time in Canada and the USA. Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour before going to sleep on Saturday evening, or you will be an hour early to church or that breakfast meeting Sunday morning with friends and family.

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

<b>Bales</b>	<b>Freddy &amp; Helga 'Weber' 47 Yr</b>	<b>October 29, 1967</b>
Frost	James	October 29, 1943
Ludwig	Albert – 84 Yrs Old	October 29, 1930
Bennett	George – 84 Yrs Old	October 30, 1930
Evans	Maurice	October 30, 1945
Holden	Dan	October 30, 1940
Norgail	Dan	October 30, 1944
Persons	Terry	October 30, 1946
Slothower	Peggy, wife of Jim	October 30, 1948
<b>Thomas</b>	<b>Billy &amp; Phyllis – 49 Yrs</b>	<b>October 30, 1965</b>
Johnson	Richard	October 31, 1945
Spellman	Alice, wife of Ed	October 31, 1935
Williams	Elfriede 'Geiger', wife of Mike	October 31, 1938
Coleman	Jerry	November 1, 1939
Knight	Donna, wife of Tom	November 1, 1936
<b>Morrisson</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Sue – 39 Yrs</b>	<b>November 1, 1975</b>
Combs	Marcia, wife of Bill	November 3, 1936

We wish them all Happy Birthday and **Happy Anniversary**.

## **2014 COLORADO SPRINGS REUNION – MORE THANKS**

Melvin Hamill and Don Riverkamp wish to recognize and give a much deserved THANKS to Robert Hoerath, Greg Krcma, and Bill Ward for all their help and assistance with setting up and working the HRA Registration at this year's reunion with Mel & Don. Everything went very smooth, and no waiting in line for reunion packets, shirts, hats, and other goodies. THANKS GUYS!!!!!!

Jim Riggin would like to give Special Thanks to Bill Ward for all his assistance in helping setup the hospitality room, spending many hours working & opening the hospitality room, making coffee, going with him to pickup snacks, drinks, flags, flag pole holders, and other things needed to make our attendees feel at home. Jim's son-in-law Kip Schloegel was also very helpful to Jim & Bill in bringing in the goodies and for donating many, many items for door prizes and silent/live auction from Budweiser. Thanks go out to Greg Krcma, Jerry Mangas, Steve & Donna Murphrey, to name a few, and ALL the other members/spouses that worked the hospitality room and kept it neat during the entire week. Thanks ONE and ALL for making this year's reunion another successful one.

The door prize/silent/live auction committee of Jerry Middendorf and Phil Murray would like to Thank ALL the donors and buyers of donations that made this year's event very, very successful for the HRA. The donations were plentiful, unique, and many were outstanding pieces of work. Thanks to all that helped Jerry & Phil in any aspect of this year's event.

The HRA Executive Board would like to Thank Greg Krcma and Walt Murch for the job they did as Sergeants at Arms during the reunion. Greg was asked to step in and replace Roger Gentilini due to Roger's colon cancer surgery and Walt was there again for all of us. Thanks Guys – Super Job!

The HRA Executive Board would like to Thank ALL members/spouses and guests that attended the 2014 HRA Colorado Springs Reunion for their assistance and fellowship in making this year's reunion such a success. Our reunions have been successful due to all the cooperation and help we have always received from our fellow Hofers. Thanks EVERYONE and hope to see as many as possible in attendance in Traverse City, MI in 2015.

**THIS IS ONLY ONE REASON WHY THE HRA AND IT'S FELLOW HOFERS MAKE OUR HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION ONE OF THE BEST, IF NOT THE BEST, MILITARY ASSOCIATION IN EXISTENCE.**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWEST LIFETIME MEMBERS**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO PAST PRESIDENT CLAUDE NIEBUHR AND HRA ADJUTANT MELVIN HAMILL ON BECOMING LIFETIME MEMBERS OF THE HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION.**

Claude served as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and President of the HRA and is currently serving as the Executive Board Advisor.

Mel has for the past 5 plus years, been HRA Treasurer, took over both the Treasurer/Adjutant Jobs in 2010 when our beloved Adjutant Joe Kessler passed away May 26, 2010, and has been Adjutant since then. Mel has done a fantastic job and has been part of the reunion planning for the Ogden, Green Bay, Hof 2012, Cocoa Beach, and Colorado Springs Reunions with all the registration/shirt order forms, colorful schedule of events, name tags, cartoon character meal tent tags, tour tickets, list of tour attendees for buses, list of attendees, handling all registrations and money until turning over monies to our HRA Treasurer, and making each reunion a successful one with his outstanding job as Adjutant of the HRA. Congratulations again Claude and Melvin!

**Here are the Current 17 Lifetime Members of the Hof Reunion Association:** Melvin Hamill, Robert Hoerath, Greg Krcma, Jerry Mangas, Tom Mikloiche, Phil Murray, Tom Nickerson, Claude Niebuhr, Jim Patterson, Jim Riggan, Don Riverkamp, C.A. Russell, Nate Sparks, Barry Springsteen, Stu Sturdevant, Bill Ward and Chuck Wilson.

**Deceased Members (3) that were Lifetime Members:** Tom Bryson, Joe Kessler, and Dick Obidinski.

## **2014 HRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**Attached with this weekly update** are the 2014 HRA General Membership Meeting Minutes that was held on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs for your reading pleasure. **Also attached to this weekly update** is letter to AFEV on the \$3K donation from HRA.

## **MAJOR GENERAL SHANAHAN'S SPEECH AT CS HRA REUNION**

**Attached with this weekly update** is wonderful speech from Major General Shanahan, Commander 25<sup>th</sup> Air Force, from our 2014 Reunion Friday Night Banquet Program. General Shanahan is a fantastic speaker and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed his presentation. The HRA President Claude Niebuhr presented General Shanahan with a Hof Germany hat with the Hof Association Pin and 2014 Colorado Springs Reunion Pin on it, and a 2014 CS Reunion Polo Shirt.

## **FAMILIAR STAR FROM 2009 BRANSON REUNION**

Attached with this update is photo of a favorite in Branson back in 2009 that was staying at the Hotel Elegante and performing for the USO at the Hilton Hotel in Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 11, 2014. Steve Murphrey caught **Bill Medley, one of the Righteous Brothers** on camera before leaving hotel lobby for his performance. Pictured are L-R, Don Riverkamp, Donna Murphrey, Bill Medley, and Karin Natalie.

## **PHOTOS FROM COLORADO SPRINGS REUNION**

Any photos that reunion attendees may have taken at the reunion this year should email them to our Adjutant Mel Hamill, and Mel will try and add them to the 'Photo' section of his Hofer hofgermany.com website like he did with the 331 photos taken by Sidney Futrell. See reunion photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hofer2/sets/>

## **NOTE FROM HRA MEMBER MARGIT NORWOOD**

Don – “I wanted to thank everyone that worked so hard to make this a very enjoyable reunion! Refreshments were always available in the hospitality room, the tours were great, as were the people. With a restaurant and ice cream shop on the premises, we couldn't ask for anything more. The hotel was very comfortable and my room was relaxing to come back to at night. I also appreciated having the hotel shuttle available to us. Although the rule was that the shuttle would only take guests to destinations within a three-mile radius of the hotel, they did not hesitate to transport a group of us to Wimberger's German Bakery that was more than three miles away, and we were so glad we got to go there! A special thanks to Traudl for her excellent rendition of the anthems – I wished I had recorded it.” Margit

## **NOTE FROM HRA MEMBER CHARLES 'TONY' JORDAN**

Tony has been suffering with some medical problems (heart) and had to cancel his plans on attending the Colorado Springs reunion last month. Latest on Tony's medical situation – “I have an appointment to see a 'rhythm' specialist Monday, October 27th.”

“If anyone travels west, let me know and I'd like to try to get together for a visit. I'll be visiting relatives in Albuquerque, Dallas, and San Antonio sometime next summer if anyone would like to meet then. Don't have a firm date, however, I've been thinking about two week trip and going to ABQ, DFW and SAT in that order.” Tony – [canthonyjordan@hotmail.com](mailto:canthonyjordan@hotmail.com)

### **FROM CA RUSSELL ON HONORARY MEMBER HELGA HAESE**

Don – “Have been in contact with Helga Haese recently, she worked with the 602/606 outfits for many years, married one of our German counterparts. She would welcome mail from any of the many people that remember her from our days there in the 60's + -. She has been undergoing the usual process of chemo/radiation/antibiotics for breast cancer, and had a stroke in June amplifying the situation. She asked to say "Hello" to all who know her. She was, and is a wonderful person and ally. Anyone who cares to, may sent a cheerful note to her at [Joachim.Haese@t-online.de](mailto:Joachim.Haese@t-online.de) (quite fluent in English.)” C.A.R.

### **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT’S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

Bruce & Barbara Flannery have **NEW mailing address and phone number**. They moved from Nevada to North Carolina. Email remains the same [bruceef@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruceef@sbcglobal.net)  
Bruce and Barbara Flannery  
4625 Hanley Park Dr  
Walkertown, NC 27051  
Phone (336) 595-1616

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

Loran Unger renewed thru 2017 (FY17).

**DONATIONS:** Anonymous Donation to HRA - \$15.00

**FLYBY LIST:** None Reported.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** None Reported.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #670**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #671**  
**NOVEMBER 04, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**  
Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

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Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)  
Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

**Correction on last week's list** – October 30<sup>th</sup>, was birthday for Laura Evans, wife of Maurice, and NOT Maurice's birthday. Maurice's is January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Belated 69<sup>th</sup> Birthday Wishes Laura!**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

Brown	Kenneth	November 4, 1942
Librizzo	Jerry	November 4, 1948
Wampole	Vicki, wife of Doug	November 4, 1950
Burnett	Arnie	November 5, 1943
Schuety	Ramon	November 5, 1937
Whisner	Walt	November 5, 1940
Szyperski	Ray – 85 Yrs Old	November 7, 1929
Heggie	Norma, wife of Norm	November 8, 1944
Larimore	Paula, wife of Steve	November 8, 1957
McKinney	Janet, wife of Tom	November 8, 1943
Scholl	John	November 9, 1941
Sever	James 'Jim'	November 9, 1942
Curtis	Regina, wife of Auby	November 10, 1938
Habecker	Marty – 84 Yrs Old	November 10, 1930
Pappaceno	Richard, companion of Ann Dixon	November 10, 1946
Smeal	Ruth, wife of Jerry	November 10, 1947
Trojanowski	Bob & Mary – 52 Years	November 10, 1962

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

**DUES REMINDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015**

**First reminder about HRA dues for 2015:** With the holiday season upon us, and all the busy things that our members have to get done during this time of year, we just want to remind members that dues that run out at the end of 2014 (120 members and 15 WE14's) are due by December 31, 2014, with a 90-day grace period that expires March 31, 2015.

**LIST OF NAMES FOLLOW OF MEMBERS THAT WILL NEED TO RENEW FOR 2015.**

**Bob Alekson, Jim Alexander, Ron Atwood, Bill Bacon, Ben Baker, Gilbert Beckham, Bob Bennett, Sam Brady, Bob Brock, Barry Brooks, Ken Brown, Leonard Bundra, Arnie Burnett, Jerry Burton, Hilde Calisti, Tony Cameron, Bernie Capps, Phil Carrico, Gary Cherpes, Mark Clemons, Bennie Coker, Jerry Coleman, Robert Conrad, Bruce Cook, George Coons, Nolan Wayne Creekmore, Larry Cromer, Auby Curtis, Don Daniels, Ed Danner, Larry Davis, Doyle Dean, Robert Dellacca, Bob Denman, Anni Dixon, Tony Donofrio, Dan Engelken, Charlie Epperson, Paul Fisher, Bruce Flannery, Ingrid Frolik, Malcolm Gaissert, Tony Gambone, Lloyd Geigley, Paul Genung, Doug Gieben, Leroy Greene, Marty Habecker, Ken Hager, Tom Halbert, Ilse Hamill, Bernard Harland, Norm Heggie, Lonnie Henderson, Paul Hensley, Dick Herbert, Charles Higginbotham, Susan Holloway, Ned Imboden, Charles Isaacs, William Jackson, Dwayne Jenik, Joe Jirinec, David Johnson, Loren Johnson, Tony Jordan, Ken Juergens, Ken Kelley, Paul Kernan, Glenn Kohlerschmidt, Tom Laury, Paul Laven, Steve Lawrence, Albert Ludwig, Pauline McAuliffe, Jim McDaniel, Ken Meadows, Ron Meier, Hilde Middendorf, Jerry Middendorf, Don Miller, John Neiser, Bill Noe, Joe Novelli, John Orr, Eldon 'Pete' Payne, Lance Peterson, Keith Pitchford, Ron Pohle, James Pomplun, Melvin Poturalski, Claude Proctor, Alan Rabidoux, Robert Rankin, Tom Reczek, Jack Rief, Leo Root, Don Ross, Phil Ruth, Dave Sage, Dave Sallinger, Dan Scanny, Bob Sherwood, Charles Shockley, Jerry Simonds, Jack Sinagra, Noel Sinchak, Ed Spellman, Dean Thompson, Bob Trojanowski, Dirke Vallo, Jean Vinson, Doug Wampole, Tresslar Way, John Webb, John Weckerly, John Wible, and Rip Yarnall.**

**WIDOW EXEMPTS THAT NEED TO FILL OUT FORM OR EMAIL MEL HAMILL OR DON RIVERKAMP FOR 2015 RENEWAL:**

**Denise Bryson, Barbara Chapman, Ruthie Costello, Kathy DiCintio, Inge Gaither, Carmen Grasser, Carmen Hardman, Mary Ellen June, Martha Komp, Barbara Mollahan, Kay Putman, Karen Sweeney, Ursula Wilson, Shirley Wood, and Lorryne Zobrak.**

**UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

**MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

**DOLORES KESSLER renewed thru 2016 (FY16).**

**DONATIONS: TERRY PERSONS - \$20.00**

**MEMBERS FOUND OR RECONNECTING WITH THE HRA**

Phil Ruth contacted Bruce Hansen, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '66 via phone and got his mailing address and email address. Bruce has never been a member and Phil emailed him membership form and information on HRA.

**Bruce A. Hansen, wife Tanya**

8492 Zentner Rd

New Glarus, WI 53574

Phone – (608) 527-8129

Email – [bhansen71@hotmail.com](mailto:bhansen71@hotmail.com)

Phil Ruth received a call from Rex Masters, 606<sup>th</sup> AC&W, Hof '71 while he was in Colorado Springs. Phil has emailed Rex, never a member, HRA paperwork and information on HRA.

**Rex Masters, wife Judith**

4767 S. Olathe

Aurora, CO 80015-1738

Phone - (303) 680-6603

Email – [rexmasters@comcast.net](mailto:rexmasters@comcast.net)

**FLYBY LIST:** None reported to us this past week.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** None reported to us this past week.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #671**



**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #672**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

**Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)**

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

**Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)**

**Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)**

**VETERANS' DAY 2014 – TODAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2014**

Veterans' Day is observed yearly on November 11<sup>th</sup>, in memory of all the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives while serving and protecting our great nation; VetFriends.com would like to thank all veteran brothers and sisters, active and reserve military of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. They would also like to take a moment to reflect on the many brave men and women who have given their lives in service and protection of their country. The Vet Friends military photo collection is a tribute to all U.S. military heroes and is made up of thousands of authentic military photos at [www.vetfriends.com/MilitaryPics](http://www.vetfriends.com/MilitaryPics)

What is a veteran – “A veteran, whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of American, for an amount of ‘up to, and including his life’. That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”

On behalf of the HRA Executive Board and all our members, we hope that everyone has a safe, memorable, and healthy Veterans' Day observance and celebration with their fellow Vets, Hofers, family and friends. Please take a time to remember our past and present troops on this special day.

West Virginia University Marching Band, honoring the Armed Forces, sent to us by HRA Member Michael Detzler. Thanks Mike!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/MjPmmCtHmfE?rel=0>

**SOME HOTELS, AND MANY RESTAURANTS & BUSINESS ARE OFFERING DISCOUNTS, AND/OR FREE MEALS FOR VETERANS THIS YEAR, AS THEY DID IN THE PAST YEARS. CHECK YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND INTERNET SITES.**  
<http://www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html>

## **GERMANY – NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> – FASCHING**

**REMEMBER FASCHING** - We're sure you've heard of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It's been celebrated for centuries and is known worldwide. Many people still do not understand what Fasching is in Germany.

Fasching is Germany's carnival season. It starts on the 11th day of November at exactly 11 minutes after 11am and ends at the stroke of midnight on Shroud Tuesday - often referred to as Fat Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). Fasching is more or less a Roman Catholic and Christian Orthodox celebration and most Protestant and non-Christian areas do not celebrate it. Fasching (also known as Karneval) is a time of festivity and merry making - a time to break the rules, poke fun at those who make them and then to make your own new rules.

In Germany, the tradition can be traced to medieval times where many countries existed under harsh rules. Kings, princes and even smaller potentates maintained their own courts. In doing so, they flaunted before each other their own pomp and splendor at the expense of their population.

During Karneval time, the common people took a chance at "living it up" and "talking back to their rulers". They would make a mock government of eleven people, as well as other officials. A prince and princess were selected to rule the country during the Fasching season. Political authorities, high placed persons and sovereigns were the target of ridicule, and featured in humorous and satirical speeches. To avoid persecution and punishment, these antics were played out from behind masks and costumes. Parades, dancing in the streets, masquerade balls and comical skits filled the days and nights.

Although other parts of the world celebrate carnival times, especially Rio de Janeiro, Germany is undoubtedly the most enthusiastic Karneval center in Europe.

Nearly every town has its own festivities and it is celebrated in homes across the country. Karneval varies from area to area, but no matter where the celebrations are held, there is fun, happiness, laughter and certain nostalgia.

Remember the Fasching Trains?? Jump on, destination unknown, and party, party, party. Like the saying here in the USA, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!" WELL – What happens during fasching train parties stays with the partygoers on the train!

## **BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

Dean	Doyle	November 11, 1940
Gallagher	Eileen, wife of Patrick	November 11, 1947
Jones	Harry & Virginia – 53 Yrs	November 11, 1961
Neiswander	Ron	November 12, 1945
Sleeper	Ray & Priscilla – 9 Yrs	November 12, 2005
Cooper	Greg	November 13, 1955
Hardman	Carmen, widow of Bob	November 13, 1938
Murch	Walt, HRA 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	November 13, 1941
Atwood	Ronald	November 14, 1943
Berry	Jim & Gert – 56 Yrs	November 14, 1958
Root	Ilse ‘Muhlbauer’, wife of Leo	November 14, 1946
Cann	Larry	November 16, 1942
Desch	Edward	November 17, 1941
Orr	John – 82 Yrs Old	November 17, 1932
Rief	Jack & Pat – 58 Yrs	November 17, 1956
Yarnall	Rip & Jean – 46 Yrs	November 17, 1968

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

### **HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION HAS NEW BANKING INSTITUTE**

The HRA has opened their NEW account at Dover Federal Credit Union, Dover AFB, DE. HRA Treasurer Rosie Queen and HRA Adjutant Mel Hamill opened the NEW HRA account last week. Monies will be transferred from our old account at PNC Bank in Maryland once all transactions relating to the Colorado Springs Reunion have cleared the bank account in Maryland.

**Dover Federal Credit Union, Dover AFB, DE 19901**

### **NOTE FROM HRA GERMAN AFFAIRS REP ROBERT HOERATH**

The Museum Bayerisches Vogtland plans for the period April to August 2015, an exhibition entitled '70 Years of Peace'. The occasion is the long period of peace in Central Europe since the end of World War II and the development of our region at this time. In retrospect, it is also about the American occupation and stationing of American soldiers in Hof. In addition to photographic material relating to this subject, they are looking for the strategy game, "Hof Gap", and other objects that would facilitate the presentation of the above areas. If anyone has or has access to this Military Board Game, please contact Robert, [robert.hoerath@t-online.de](mailto:robert.hoerath@t-online.de) as the Museum in Hof would greatly appreciate having it for display. Museum Link is available in 5 different languages including English. [http://www.stadt-hof.de/hof/hof\\_eng/guests/museum.html](http://www.stadt-hof.de/hof/hof_eng/guests/museum.html)

## **THANK YOU FROM AIR FORCE ENLISTED VILLAGE**

Attached with this update is jpeg of Thank You Letter from AF CMSGT #9 Jim Binnicker, President & CEO of the AFEV Foundation in Florida for our HRA 2014 donation of \$3K.

## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

**BARBARA DAVINO** has **NEW** email address – [bdavino@bellsouth.net](mailto:bdavino@bellsouth.net)

**LORAN UNGER'S** correct phone number for Master Roster - (719) 355-3165

## **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

Bernie Harland, Susan Holloway, Don Miller, and Charles Shockley renewed thru 2015 (FY15).

Jim McDaniel renewed thru 2016 (FY16).

## **MEMBERS FOUND OR RECONNECTING WITH THE HRA**

HRA Membership Chairman Phil Ruth had asked Robert Hoerath to give **Bill Rast, 6010th RSM, Hof '57-59, ('M' on Roster)**, a call since he lives in Germany. Robert got in touch with Bill last week & Phil Ruth has emailed Bill the HRA paperwork and information.

**WILLIAM 'Bill' RAST**

Eichenring 24

66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach

Email = [bill.rast@t-online.de](mailto:bill.rast@t-online.de)

Phone = 011-49-173-326-6160

## **FLYBY LIST: THOMAS D. LAURY, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '65-68, 1/16/44 to 11/1/14**

Received email last week from Shannon Laury, Tom's wife that Tom (70) passed away on Saturday, November 1, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM. Our sincere sympathy and condolences go out to Shannon, family and friends.

## **LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN: NONE REPORTED THIS PAST WEEK.**

## **OFF THE BEATEN PATH: FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL – 11/9/89**

The Wall was erected August 13, 1961 by the communist regime of East Germany dividing Berlin for 28 years. Nov. 9th was the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a historic event that opened the border crossings between East and West Germany and led to reunification of the country.

## **END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #672**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #673**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

**Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)**

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

**Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)**

**Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)**

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

August	Jacqueline, wife of Larry	November 18, 1945
Hansberger	Elaine, wife of Smiley	November 18, 1942
Hopper	Bennie & Sophye	November 18, 2005
Pace	John & Aggie 'Pietsch'	November 19, 1960
Trojanowski	Bob	November 20, 1938
Bundra	Leonard & Marianne	November 21, 1987
Norwood	Richard & Margit 'Thieroff'	November 21, 1963
Williams	Richard	November 21, 1945
Coons	Sue, wife of George	November 22, 1941
Costello-Blumenstein	Ruthie & Don	November 23, 2007
Garbers	Ginny, wife of Chuck	November 23, 1942
Sparks	Ute 'Ritter', wife of Nate	November 23, 1941
Queen	Gary, husband of Rosie	November 24, 1936

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

**ROBERT HOERATH PRESENTS HRA DONATION TO HOF ORPHANAGE**

Attached with this update is photo of HRA German Affairs Representative Robert Hoerath presenting the check for 1000 € to the Jugendhilfehaus St. Elisabethan Orphanage in Hof. Photo and story will be in the Frankenpost.

**NOTE FROM HRA HONORAY MEMBER HELGA WÜRDINGER**

**To the Members of the Hof Reunion Association!**

On January 1, 1960 I started to work as a governess and teacher in the children's home St Elisabethan. During this time, the Air Force servicemen were already taking care of the children at the orphanage. By their helpfulness, a good friendship with the teachers and children developed. The American Air Force servicemen, some with their families regularly

visited the home and children. Once a week they brought a bucket of ice cream and extra food. They brought games and took time to play with the children. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, the children were invited and taken to the Hof Kaserne. St Nicholas celebrations were also organized by the servicemen. For many years, the children were invited to picnics, trips to Kulmbach, Nuremberg Zoo, and circuses. Some children were adopted by American families. The children of American servicemen and many American families were worried about the children since their fathers were reassigned and the German mothers were single parents and had to work. It was a very beautiful and blessed time when the American military was in Hof. Unfortunately, this time was to end in 1974.

The members of the Hof Reunion Association has big hearts for the children of St Elisabethan and donate annually a large amount of money for the benefit of the children. The money is used for things that normally there is no money. The teachers and especially the children are so grateful that they are not forgotten. We want to provide the children at St Elisabethan a beautiful, loving and instructive childhood. To our fellow Hofer Americans and friends, we are very grateful. We love them.  
Best Regards - Helga Würdinger

## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

**Ben Baker, Gary Cherpes, Don Daniels and Bill Noe renewed thru 2015 (FY15).**

**Leonard Bundra, Ed Danner and John Frivance renewed thru 2016 (FY16).**

**DONATIONS:** Ben Baker - \$10; Gary Cherpes - \$10; Bill Noe - \$5.

**FLYBY LIST:** None Reported.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** None Reported.

### **OFF THE BEATEN PATH: AMANDA JOHNSON SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT**

On Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Amanda Johnson, granddaughter of HRA Secretary Don Riverkamp, signed her letter of intent to attend and play basketball for Division I Houston Baptist University Huskies on a full BB scholarship. Amanda will start at HBU in August 2015. She is currently a senior at Georgetown HS in Georgetown, Texas; her team ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in state & currently 6-0; and she is in the top 5 of her class academically.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #673**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #674**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

**Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)**

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

**Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)**

**Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)**

**THANKSGIVING DAY IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014**

Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has officially been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863, when during the Civil War; President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. As a federal and popular holiday in the U.S., Thanksgiving is one of the “big six” major holidays of the year (along with Christmas, New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day). Along with Christmas and the New Year, Thanksgiving is a part of the broader holiday season. The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated to give thanks to God for guiding them safely to the New World. The first Thanksgiving feast lasted three days, providing enough food for 13 Pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. The feast consisted of fish and shellfish, wild fowl, venison, berries and fruit, vegetables, and harvest grains. The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings" (days of prayer), thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

**ONE QUOTE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY –** “I thank God everyday for my blessed life. I'm not rich, don't live in a mansion and don't have the nicest of material things, but, I'm healthy, have a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food on my table, a family that loves me and lifelong friends to get me through. I'd say I have a lot to be thankful for.”

**ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD, WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING WITH FAMILY, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS.**

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



**Belated Birthday Wishes to Irene Sallinger, wife of HRA Newsletter Publisher David. Irene celebrated her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday last week on 11/20. We had her birthday as 11/28. File has been corrected.**

**Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.**

Haywood	Barbara, wife of Dan	November 25, 1943
Tringhese	Karl	November 25, 1944
Zaremba	Chet & Cookie	November 25, 1967
Artery	Ruben, companion of Cecil White	November 26, 1962
Kreuzer	Dick	November 26, 1938
Olson	Hal & Dot	November 27, 1965
Thanksgiving	Major Holiday	Since Nov 26, 1863
Delp	Richard	November 29, 1942
Gallagher	Patrick & Eileen	November 29, 1969
Olsen	Vikki, wife of Paul	November 29, 1950
Sallinger	David & Irene	November 29, 1975
Thompson – 96 Yrs Old	Francis R., father of Francis M.C.	November 30, 1918
Montie	Len	December 1, 1942

**We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.**

### **HOF GAP GAME FOUND AND PURCHASED BY HOF MUSEUM**

The City of Hof Museum bought the Military Board Game, 'Hof Gap' that HRA Member Margit Norwood found on German EBay. Way to go Margit! This was the board game that the museum was looking for in Hof Weekly Update #672 for it's exhibition entitled "70 Years of Peace".

### **NOTE ON HRA MEMBER WILLIAM 'CHARLIE' EPPERSON**

Charlie Epperson, 6915<sup>th</sup> Ops Russian Linguist, Hof '65-68, has been hospitalized since November 5<sup>th</sup> at Paris Texas Regional Hospital following a heart attack. Charlie's wife Silvina stated that it was touch and go for a while, however, he is now holding steady and where he needs to be for now. Charlie has his phone and iPad for those wishing to contact him.

### **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

#### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

**BARBARA CHAPMAN** renewed thru 2015 (WE15).

**DICK HERBERT AND JACK SINAGRA** renewed thru 2015 (FY15).

**TOM RECZEK** renewed thru 2016 (FY16).

**DONATIONS:** Dick Herbert - \$5.00; Jack Sinagra - \$10.00.



**FLYBY LIST: NONE REPORTED.**

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN: EVA-MARIA 'HEIDERSDORF' ROSS**

We received notification that Eva-Maria 'Heidersdorf' Ross, wife of HRA Member Don Ross, 603<sup>rd</sup> AC&W, Hof '55, passed away on October 15, 2014. Our sympathy and prayers to Don and entire family. Eva was 82.

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH: 'Lost in the Fifties'**

This video will take you back in memories of the 50's when most of us were growing up or in high school. <http://safeshare.tv/w/FEDEwZHZXu>

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #674**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #675**  
**DECEMBER 02, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

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Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

Davis	Larry	December 3, 1948
Grasser	Carmen, widow of Ken	December 3, 1949
Imboden	Ned & Barbara 'Hohmann'	December 3, 1966
Ballou	Cathye, wife of Willie	December 4, 1947
Orr	Frances, wife of John - 86	December 4, 1928
Resnick	Patti, wife of Howard	December 4, 1943
Schultz	Margaret, wife of Gordon	December 4, 1948
Williams	John	December 5, 1942
Conrad	Robert	December 6, 1945
Jenik	Dwayne	December 7, 1938
Laven	Paul & Erika	December 7, 1968
Reczek	Ute 'Schaedlich', wife of Tom	December 7, 1938
Berger	Larry	December 8, 1940
Wampole	Doug & Vicki	December 8, 1979
Yarnall	Jean, wife of Rip	December 8, 1943

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

**DECEMBER 7, 1941 – PEARL HARBOR – DAY OF INFAMY**  
**PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY**

This coming Sunday, December 7, 2014 will be 73 years since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

“On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The USS Arizona was completely destroyed, and the USS Oklahoma capsized. A total of twelve ships sank or were beached in the attack and nine additional vessels were damaged. More than 160 aircraft were destroyed and more than 150 others damaged.

A hurried dispatch from the ranking United States naval officer in Pearl Harbor, Commander in Chief Pacific, to all major navy commands and fleet units provided the first official word of the attack at the ill-prepared Pearl Harbor base. It said simply – ‘AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL’”

“The attack came as a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the American entry into World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters. The following day, December 8, the United States declared war on Japan.”

**UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT’S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**  
JACK SINAGRA’S correct phone number is (412) 837-2296.

**MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**  
TONY GAMBONE renewed thru 2017 (FY17).

**DONATIONS:** Tony Gambone - \$5.00

**FLYBY LIST: WILLIAM ‘CHARLIE’ EPPERSON, 6915th Ops, Hof ’65-68**  
HRA Member Charlie Epperson, 71, 6915<sup>th</sup> Ops Russian Linguist, born February 11, 1943, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at Paris Texas Regional Medical Center. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Charlie’s wife Silvina and the entire family. **Obituary from Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Suphur Springs, Texas follows:**

Memorial services for Charlie Epperson, age 71 of Ridgeway, will be held 2:00 p.m., Monday, December 1, 2014 at Wesley United Methodist Church with Steve Cook officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Mr. Epperson passed away on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at Paris Regional Medical Center. He was born on February 11, 1943 in Benton, TN the son of Fred and Nora Arp Epperson. He graduated from Polk County High School and earned a BA from the University of TN at Knoxville. He married Silvina Kasztelanski on August 3, 1984 in Vaihingen, Germany. She survives. He served in the U.S. Air Force for twelve years and also was a Mason. He was associated with the Red Cross organizations Disaster Action Team. He was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church and the Russian Initiative for the United Methodist Church. Other survivors include: sons, Benjamin Epperson and Jon Epperson; daughter, Victoria Woolsey and husband, Nick; sister, Jeannie Chavez; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Heart Association; Kidney Foundation or Wesley United Methodist Church.

[http://murrayorwosky.com/fh/obituaries/tributes.cfm?o\\_id=2831400&fh\\_id=11588](http://murrayorwosky.com/fh/obituaries/tributes.cfm?o_id=2831400&fh_id=11588)

**HAROLD V. PUFFER, 6915th Housing NCOIC, Hof '64-67**

It was reported to us that Harold Puffer, 85, passed away in Mary Esther, Florida on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Harold was never a HRA member, but was a fellow Hofer from '64-67 with the 6915<sup>th</sup> in the housing office.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** None reported.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #675**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #676**  
**DECEMBER 09, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)

Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**2015 JANUARY HOF CONNECTION NEWSLETTER**

Currently your HRA Executive Board Members are preparing articles for the upcoming 2015 January Hof Connection Newsletter that will be mailed to current active members in January 2015. To ensure US Postal Delivery, we are asking that if you have moved or changed your mailing address that you PLEASE email HRA Secretary Don Riverkamp your NEW address by December 19, 2014 to ensure delivery to your home address. THANKS!

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

<b>Farris</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Karin</b>	<b>December 9, 1969</b>
Munday	John – 81 Yrs Old	December 9, 1933
Garbers	Chuck	December 10, 1937
Norman	Bonnie, wife of Robert	December 10, 1956
Chapman	Barbara	December 11, 1949
<b>Gieben</b>	<b>Douglas &amp; Brigitte</b>	<b>December 11, 1965</b>
Baker	Harriet, wife of Ben	December 12, 1937
Simpson	Jackson	December 12, 1935
Thrush	Robert	December 12, 1937
Anderson	Brent	December 13, 1941
Bergstrom	Eric	December 13, 1938
<b>Jirinec</b>	<b>Joseph &amp; Dorothy</b>	<b>December 13, 1967</b>
Rankin	Robert – 81 Yrs Old	December 13, 1933
Spicer	Claude – 85 Yrs Old	December 13, 1929
Capps	Bernie	December 14, 1944
Motherway	Anni 'Woerl', wife of John	December 14, 1941
Gieben	Douglas	December 15, 1941

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

## **NOTE FROM PHIL RUTH, HRA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Anyone who knew Edwin H. Ashlock, 6915th, Hof 1965 please contact Phil Ruth at [afnsagdret@cox.net](mailto:afnsagdret@cox.net) or phone (301) 573-8212.

## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

**CHARLES ISAACS, KEN JUERGENS, ELDON 'PETE' PAYNE, LEO ROOT, and BOB SHERWOOD renewed thru 2015 (FY15).**

**DONATIONS:** Bob Sherwood and Pete Payne - **\$10.00 each**

### **MEMBERS RECONNECTED WITH HRA OR FOUND**

Phil Ruth reconnected and talked with Jack Farrell, 7307<sup>th</sup> Dispensary, Hof '66-69, and HRA member in 2008. Phil emailed Jack HRA information and membership form.

**Jack Farrell, wife Peggy**

**422 Shantel St, Mt Vernon, WA 98270**

Phone – (360) 899-4943 and Email – [pegsguy@comcast.net](mailto:pegsguy@comcast.net)

Phil Ruth located and talked with Ralph Keller, Chaplain in Hof '68-70 and emailed him HRA information and membership form.

**Ralph E. Keller, wife Jean**

**506 Long Blvd, Raymore, MO 64083-9148**

Phone – (816) 331-8073 Email – [reljean@comcast.net](mailto:reljean@comcast.net)

Phil Ruth located and talked with Cecil Roberts, 7307<sup>th</sup> Dispensary, Hof '64-66. Phil emailed him HRA information and membership form.

**Cecil Wayne Roberts, wife Renate**

**6314 Modesto Dr, Houston, TX 77083-1403**

Phone – (281) 568-1309 Email – [cecrobie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cecrobie@sbcglobal.net)

### **FLYBY LIST: ELLEN E. BOUCHER, 9/5/1916 – 3/13/2008**

Ellen E. Boucher, 7307<sup>th</sup> Dispensary Nurse, Hof '63-66, died on March 13, 2008 in the Rockingham County Nursing Home, Brentwood, NH. Lt Col Boucher was 91 and she retired from the Air Force in 1972.

### **DOROTHY 'MAJOR CUCKA' BURTON, 4/28/1931 – 10/26/2006**

Dorothy 'Cucka' Burton, 7307<sup>th</sup> Dispensary Nurse, Hof '64-67, died on October 26, 2006 in Dallas, Texas. Major 'Cucka' Burton is buried in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

### **MITCH 'SMOKEY' BURGESS, DIED IN JANUARY 2014**

Received email from Rosemaire 'Rohleder' Burgess via CA Russell that Smokey, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '62-65, member in 2008 had passed away in January from kidney failure in San Antonio, Texas. [rosemarie28@msn.com](mailto:rosemarie28@msn.com)

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN: None Reported This Week.**

### **OFF THE BEATEN PATH: Legend of Saint Nicholas** from Jerry Middendorf

The southern German city of Sankt Nikolaus offers training for those new to taking on the character. "Ho, Ho, Ho, have you all been good?" The old man with a long white beard, a bishop's miter, and a thick red cape stands with his finger raised before the excited children, his eyes moving from one beaming face to the next. "Yes!" they all shout in unison, impatiently eyeing the heavy brown sack that Saint Nicholas has carried in from the cold night over his shoulder. What could it possibly hold? Toys, books, or even candy? "Well, that's good to hear!" Nicholas declares and opens his big golden book, from which he reads the names of the children and presents each of them with a small gift from his sack. They politely thank him, offer homemade cookies to their peculiar guest, and recite small poems. Finally, they accompany him to the door, where he trots off with a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho," disappearing into the dark on his way to the next house.

**SHOES AT THE DOOR:** Children rushed to find the treats Nicholas left overnight in their boots. Sadly, the beautiful tradition of Saint Nicholas visits is gradually waning. In many German homes, cleaned and polished shoes are merely placed in front of the door and are quietly filled with little surprises by Saint Nicholas in the night. Some children hang over the fireplace stockings that are then filled with delicious sweets in the morning. In the olden days, it was common to surprise the children with oranges, nuts, apples, and pastries; today, it is more common to give small toys, a chocolate Nicholas, or other sweets. On the morning of December 6, children wake up early and rush down the stairs in their pajamas to get their shoes. And if they are very quiet, they may be able to hear through the falling snow in the distance a familiar "Ho, Ho, Ho."

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #676**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #677**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

**Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)**

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

**Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)**

**Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)**

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

<b>Coleman</b>	<b>Jerry &amp; Elizabeth – 51 Yrs</b>	<b>December 16, 1963</b>
<b>Prince</b>	<b>Heidemarie &amp; Larry</b>	<b>December 16, 1966</b>
<b>Quarterman</b>	<b>Henry – 85 Yrs Old</b>	<b>December 16, 1929</b>
<b>Herbert</b>	<b>Dick &amp; Shirley</b>	<b>December 17, 1966</b>
<b>Isaacs</b>	<b>Elke 'Eismann'</b>	<b>December 17, 1944</b>
<b>Geigley</b>	<b>Lorna, wife of Lloyd</b>	<b>December 18, 1947</b>
<b>Olson</b>	<b>Dot, wife of Hal</b>	<b>December 18, 1945</b>
<b>Bienko</b>	<b>Christa 'Schoerner'</b>	<b>December 19, 1942</b>
<b>Imboden</b>	<b>Ned</b>	<b>December 19, 1943</b>
<b>Isaacs</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Elke – 50 Years</b>	<b>December 19, 1964</b>
<b>Zaremba</b>	<b>Chet</b>	<b>December 19, 1945</b>
<b>Cruise</b>	<b>Donna, wife of Robert</b>	<b>December 20, 1946</b>
<b>Kelly III</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Hannelore 'Richter'</b>	<b>December 20, 1968</b>
<b>Shockley</b>	<b>Charles</b>	<b>December 21, 1939</b>
<b>Gallagher</b>	<b>Bruce</b>	<b>December 22, 1938</b>
<b>Higginbotham</b>	<b>Eleanor, wife of Charles</b>	<b>December 22, 1941</b>
<b>Thompson</b>	<b>Francis M.C. &amp; Janet</b>	<b>December 22, 1989</b>

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

**NOTE FROM MEMBER LEN MONTIE, ST CLAIR SHORES, MI**

While going thru my CD collection of pictures, I discovered that I somehow made an extra 1/2 dozen CD's of the 2008 Myrtle Beach Reunion. There are more than 80 pictures, mostly of 6915<sup>th</sup> Ops "C" Trick couples. If anyone would like a copy, first come, first served, and I'll be happy to send them out (free for nuthin'). Contact Len – [LenMo@aol.com](mailto:LenMo@aol.com) or (586) 775-2179.



## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

LARRY DAVIS has a NEW email address – [usedcars1948@att.net](mailto:usedcars1948@att.net)

RIP YARNALL has a NEW mailing address and email address.

25199 Chiclayo Ave

Punta Gorda, FL 33983

Email = [reverdyfy@gmail.com](mailto:reverdyfy@gmail.com)

CORRECTION on CHAPLAIN RALPH KELLER's email, [raljean@comcast.net](mailto:raljean@comcast.net)

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

Ron Atwood and Ingrid 'Schwibs' Frolik renewed thru 2015 (FY15).

Ron Meier renewed thru 2016 (FY16).

**DONATIONS:** Ron Atwood - \$10.00; Ingrid Frolik - \$5.00.

### **MEMBERS FOUND OR RECONNECTING WITH THE HRA**

Phil Ruth with assistance from CA Russell found Robert W. Dudding, 606<sup>th</sup> AC&W, Hof '65. Robert was on HRA Master Roster as missing. Phil has emailed HRA forms and information to Robert.

Robert W. Dudding, wife Katharina

2819 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St, Tucson, AZ 85716-5627

Phone – (520) 325-0795

Email – [rwdudding123@msn.com](mailto:rwdudding123@msn.com)

### **FLYBY LIST: LONNIE D. AKERS, 6915<sup>th</sup> Hof '68, 8/5/39 – 1/26/2011**

Phil Ruth found out that Lonnie Akers died January 26, 2011 after long illness from Parkinson's Disease. Lonnie was never a HRA Member, but was a fellow Hofer. God Rest His Soul.

### **LANCE R. HOLMSTROM, 6915<sup>th</sup> Hof '62, 10/12/40 – 5/12/2003**

Phil Ruth found out from set of orders and Portland, OR newspaper that Lance Holmstrom died May 12, 2003. Lance was not on HRA Master Roster, nor ever a HRA Member, but was fellow Hofer. God Rest His Soul.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** NONE Reported.

### **OFF THE BEATEN PATH: MARCUS MARIOTA, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

Congratulations to Marcus Mariota, who became the first Oregon Ducks player and athlete from Hawaii to win the Heisman Trophy.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #677**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #678**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)

Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HRA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Wishing ALL Members, Spouses, Family, Hofers, and Friends a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. May this Holiday Season be filled with "LOVE TO SHARE, HEALTH TO SPARE, AND FRIENDS THAT CARE". Christmas time is a very festive and wonderful time of the year to be shared with family, friends, and those less fortunate than us. Remember our servicemen, women, and their families during your prayers on Christmas, and throughout the year. They are the reason we can celebrate with our loved ones in peace during this festive time of year, and all throughout the year. May you enjoy a Wonderful, Healthy, Joyous, and Safe Holiday Season!!  
**"FROHE WEIHNACHTEN UND EIN GESUNDES NEUES JAHR"**

**BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

ISAACS	Charles – Christmas Day	December 25, 1941
SINCHAK	Noel – Christmas Day	December 25, 1941
DENMAN	Robert & Ali	December 26, 1980
FAHRBACH	Christa, wife of George	December 26, 1936
KOHLERSCHMIDT	Glenn	December 26, 1947
BUSSIERE	Mike & Kathy	December 27, 1969
CAMERON	Tony	December 27, 1942
DAVIS	Larry & Jane	December 27, 1969
OLSEN	Paul	December 27, 1945
THRUSH	Bob & Marie	December 27, 1962
KOMP	Martha, widow of Charlie - 89	December 28, 1925
SCHULTZ	Gordon & Margaret	December 28, 1968
SMITH	Carl D.	December 28, 1939
HENDERSON	Lonnie	December 29, 1940

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

## **2015 JANUARY HOF CONNECTION NEWSLETTER**

The 2015 January Hof Connection Newsletter has been completed by our HRA Newsletter Editor Phil Murray, and has been sent to our HRA Publisher Dave Sallinger for printing. We will be mailing the newsletter to our current active members in January to avoid the Christmas mail and it will be mailed First Class Mail to ensure faster delivery. The newsletter envelope will contain the Newsletter, HRA Membership Form, 2015 HRA Traverse City Reunion Registration Form, and 2016 Reunion Site Ballot. We thank Phil Murray and the article contributors for this latest edition of the Hof Connection Newsletter for another great job and information.

## **CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LONNIE HENDERSON, ANADARKO, OK**

### **A CHRISTMAS IN HIMMELKRON – DECEMBER 24, 1962**

Christmas Eve - dawned bitterly cold and bleak in this part of the world that we affectionately called, "Bavarian Siberia." Nestled in the Fictelgebirge in northern Bavaria, Himmelkron was home to about 3500. Its more famous neighbor was the ski resort of Bad Berneck, one of Hitler's retreats.

My wife and two-year-old daughter had arrived from the states three weeks earlier and I had rented an apartment in Himmelkron, about 30 miles south of Hof, Germany, home of the 6915th Security Squadron. This apartment consisted of three rooms on the third floor. In typical old-European fashion, the bottom floor consisted of stables for the various animals. Our landlord, his wife, young son and "Oma" lived on the second floor. The front room of our apartment was the kitchen and living area. The next room was a bedroom, and the third room, ostensibly another bedroom, actually served as our refrigerator/freezer. If we wanted food to freeze, we put it against the outer wall; if we only wanted to keep it cold, we put it on the inner wall.

I was a shift worker at our site in Hof and on that frigid Christmas Eve almost a half century ago, our flight was on a "Day" shift. Fortunately, our flight commander allowed those of us who were married to leave at noon so we could spend some time with our families.

As an Air Force three-striper who had just paid to have his wife and daughter fly over to join him, I was as broke as could be. We couldn't afford a Christmas tree, so I "purloined" one from a local forested area. A friend had given us a string of lights, but that was the kind of lights where, if one bulb went out, the entire string went out. As the bulbs inevitably blew, I would cut off that portion of the string, wire the remainder back together and have lights, just one less than before. As Christmas approached, the string became shorter and shorter.

I left work about noon and drove to downtown Hof, hoping to buy at least one small gift for our daughter with the very limited funds we had. Unfortunately, all the shops were already closed. I then drove the thirty or so miles to our apartment in Himmelkron, where my wife and I decided to give it one more shot at finding an open store. Knowing there would be

nothing in Himmelkron, we drove the short distance to Bad Bernech. However, again all the stores were closed and it was beginning to look a lot like a not so merry Christmas. And then my car wouldn't start. Here we were, about ten miles from home, temperature was near zero, it was already getting dark. My wife and I walked to a local apartment, carrying my daughter. A friend and fellow flight worker lived there with his wife, and he took the time to get us back on the road and home. We finally got back to our third-floor living area/refrigerator/freezer, tired, cold, with our tiny little tree and the few remaining lights trying desperately to spread a bit of Christmas cheer.

I was sitting in a chair, still in my utility uniform, despondent and far from cheerful when there was a knock on the door. I went to the door and there was our landlord. He beckoned for me to come with him, and my first thoughts were, "Oh no, what now? What else can go wrong?" As I started to leave with him, he indicated that my wife and daughter were to come as well. Still having no idea what was about to happen, we went with him. He led us downstairs to his apartment, ushered us into the living area, put our daughter with his own young son and all his toys, and invited us to partake of his family's Christmas. This from a family I had known less than a month! My German was limited, my wife spoke no German at all, the landlord and his family spoke no English, my daughter and their son had a language all their own – but somehow we communicated.

After an evening of food, drink, love and Christmas spirit, my wife, daughter and I went back upstairs to our apartment, which, for some strange reason, no longer looked so bleak, lonely and cold. Our little tree now glistened with a new brightness, and Himmelkron lived up to its name - "Heaven's Crown."

Many Christmas Eves have passed since then, and my little girl is now mother to two and grandmother to four. I've spent the holidays since then in various parts of the world, sometimes surrounded by friends and family, sometimes getting ready for a Christmas Day flight. But of all those Christmas Eves since then, that Christmas Eve in 1962 in Himmelkron, Germany, where someone reached out and touched us will always burn the brightest in my memory.

Merry Christmas and Frohe Weihnachten - Lonnie

**Thanks for sharing this wonderful story with our members Lonnie, and wishing you a Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday next Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

Ilse Hamill and Phil Ruth renewed thru 2015 (FY15).

Bruce Flannery and John Orr renewed thru 2016 (FY16).

**DONATIONS:** John Orr - **\$20.00**

### **MEMBERS FOUND OR RECONNECTING WITH THE HRA**

David T. Young, member in 2003, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '62-65 was found living at 624 Golfview Dr, Lexington, KY 40504.

**FLYBY LIST: NONE** reported to us this past week.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN: LUISE 'MUELLER' KEPPEL, 7/23/22 – 12/13/14**  
LUISE 'Mueller' KEPPEL, wife of Charles Keppel, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '60-63, passed away at the age of 92 on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in Coraopolis, PA. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Charlie and family members. Charlie has never been a HRA Member, however, he is fellow Hofer and Luise was from Hof. Thanks to member Carl Wyatt for sending information to us.

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #678**

**HOF CONNECTION WEEKLY UPDATE #679**  
**DECEMBER 30, 2014**

**HOF REUNION SECRETARY**

Don Riverkamp – [don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**HOF REUNION ADJUTANT**

Mel Hamill – [melvinhamill@yahoo.com](mailto:melvinhamill@yahoo.com)

Mel's Hofer Germany Site – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com)

**THIS IS THE LAST UPDATE FOR THE YEAR 2014**

**HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY, and "HAPPY NEW YEAR"**

Whether you're having a house party, going out for a nice dinner, attending a New Years' Eve Party Function, or staying home for a quiet evening, be sure to be safe, enjoy yourselves, and have a wonderful time bringing in the New Year - **2015. HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

THE HRA EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND THEIR FAMILIES A VERY BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. **THE PAST YEAR BROUGHT MANY HAPPY MEMORIES, AS WELL AS, SOME DEEP SORROW.** WE PRAY THAT THE NEW YEAR WILL BE ONE OF LOVE & PEACE FOR ALL. MAY GOD BLESS US ALL AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

**2015 HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION DUES**

A reminder to those members whose dues expire on 12/31/2014. There are still quite a few (**about 100**) members and widow exempt whose membership expires on December 31, 2014. **Dues are still only \$15.00 per year.** If you are not sure if you fall into this category, you can contact Don Riverkamp or Mel Hamill to find out. **Grace period for renewing your membership for 2015 expires on March 31, 2015.** If you do not want to wait until you receive the 2015 January Hof Connection Newsletter in the mail that will have a membership form in the envelop, you may go to Mel's website – [www.hofgermany.com](http://www.hofgermany.com) and there is a membership form there that you may fill out and print out. Widow Exempts do not owe dues, however, we would still like an updated membership form filled out OR an email to Mel Hamill or Don Riverkamp informing them that no information has changed on your address, email or phone. Thanks!

## **BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries this week and before next update.

<b>HENSLEY</b>	Paul 'Jerry'	December 30, 1944
<b>OLSON</b>	Harold 'Hal'	December 31, 1942
<b>GAISSERT</b>	Heidi 'Walter', wife of Malcolm	January 1, 1949
<b>RUPPRECHT</b>	Harry & Jerri – 62 Yrs	January 1, 1952
<b>WRIGHT</b>	William 'Frank' – 81 <sup>st</sup>	January 1, 1934
<b>SCOTT</b>	Brent	January 2, 1943
<b>EVANS</b>	Maurice – 85 <sup>th</sup>	January 3, 1930
<b>JUERGENS</b>	Ken & Brianna	January 3, 1992
<b>STANKICH</b>	Charles – 80 <sup>th</sup>	January 3, 1935
<b>DIXON</b>	Anni 'Kiesling'	January 5, 1946
<b>PERSONS</b>	Terry & Robin	January 5, 2002
<b>RIVERKAMP</b>	Don, HRA Secretary	January 5, 1940

We wish them all Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

## **EMAIL FROM MEMBER DONN KOENIG**

"I may be late to finding out about this but about 15 months ago Syracuse University and some AFSS vets dedicated a memorial at Skytop to the seven airmen linguists that died in that barracks fire in 1959. I was going through information at my other overseas site and came across it. The full story with pictures is on the 6913th reunion site at <http://www.6913th.org/Bhaven/SyrMem.htm#Seven> Be sure to follow some of the links of newspaper stories, columns and interviews." Donn

## **UPDATES FROM ADJUTANT'S OFFICE THIS PAST WEEK**

### **MEMBERS RENEWING WITH HRA THIS PAST WEEK**

Bennie Coker and Doug Wampole renewed thru 2015 (FY15).

John O'Brien, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '63-66, member in 2008, renewed thru 2015.

John's Email – [jobrien23@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jobrien23@tampabay.rr.com)

Jim Alexander and Malcolm Gaissert renewed thru 2016 (FY16).

### **NEW MEMBERS REGISTERING AND JOINING THE HRA**

Jo 'Manseicher' Murray, wife of Phil, joined the HRA and paid dues thru 2015 (FY15).

**DONATIONS:** Jim Alexander - \$20; Jo Murray - \$10; John O'Brien - \$5.

### **MEMBERS FOUND OR RECONNECTING WITH THE HRA**

Phil Ruth contacted William 'Bill' Mock, 6915<sup>th</sup>, Hof '63-66, last week via phone call. Bill was a member in 2006. Bill informed Phil that his health could be better and was not sure if he could make it to Traverse City Reunion, however, to mail him the HRA information and forms to rejoin the association. Bill does not have email.

**William Mock, wife Ruth**

**3568 Spruce Grove Rd, Clymer, PA 15728**

**Phone – (724) 254-4624**

Phil Ruth spoke with Darius Lee Dudley, 6915th, Hof '65-68, who has never been a member of the HRA. Phil emailed Darius information on HRA and appropriate paperwork. Only information we have so far on Dudley is that he was an Air Policeman in Hof; lives in South Pasadena, CA; his phone number is (626) 488-9764 and his email is [deedogg811@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deedogg811@sbcglobal.net)

**FLYBY LIST:** NONE reported this past week.

**LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:** NONE reported this past week.

### **OFF THE BEATEN PATH:** GRANDMA POEM FROM INGRID 'SCHWIBS' FROLIK

The computer swallowed Grandma,

Yes, honestly it's true!

She pressed 'Control and Enter'

And she disappeared from View.

It devoured her completely,

The thought just makes me squirm.

She must have caught a virus

Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin

And files of every kind;

I've even used the Internet,

But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Mr. Google



**My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'Online.'**

**So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan and Paste' her,  
And send her back to me.**

**This poem is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nanas & Papas,  
Omas & Opas who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer.  
They are simply the greatest!  
We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we  
stop playing!  
NEVER BE THE FIRST TO GET OLD!**

**END OF WEEKLY UPDATE #679**