

USAF

Combat Camera



e-Blast

July 2017



The Norton AFB Museum Presents

From Robert Edwards



From the President and Board of Officers

I plan on having a board of Officers teleconference by the second week in July. Standard agenda topics include registration, budget and reunion update.

Agenda topics

- Budget and finance
- Reunion Registration
- Reunion progress
- Reports on special projects, (museum and equipment)
- Other (as desired by officers or queries from the general membership)

Anyone who would like to add anything to our discussion may contact any of the officers or me at gppjk.8@gmail.com.

Pat Knowles

Ballots due July 15th

You have till the 15 July 2017 to get your ballots in to be counted.

Thanks,

Jose Lopez

Another in their series of: An Evening at the Museum, August 23, 2017, Time: 7:00 PM.

Featuring Guest Speaker, **Mr. Ken Hackman, Chief Photojournalist of the USAF (Retired).**

Mr. Hackman will be speaking on: ***"The USAF Combat Camera from Vietnam to Desert Storm, 1969-1993"***.

For additional details and important seating information, contact the; Norton AFB Museum @ (909) 382-7307 or e-mail @ nafbmuseum@gmail.com.

Or, stop by the Norton AFB Museum any Thursday or Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1601 E. 3rd Street, San Bernardino Intl. Airport, (the old NCO Club building, 3rd & Del Rosa), San Bernardino CA 92408.

The 2017 USAF Combat Camera Reunion

**Registration:
\$175.00 per person**

(Includes Icebreaker, Hospitality Room & Banquet)

Registration for our 2017 reunion is \$175.00 per person for the full event.

This fee pays for the food and drinks for the hospitality room, the Thursday night "meet and greet" reception, the Saturday night banquet and other reunion expenses. Click on the Registration button above to pay via PayPal (you don't have to have a PayPal account). There are several other options available, listed below.

You can also MAIL a check or money order made out to **USAF Combat Camera Association** (Please **DO NOT** make them out to Pat). If you want immediate acknowledgement of receipt of your payment, include a valid email address or give it a week and then check with Pat by e-Mail at usafcca.treasurer@gmail.com (**Please use this e-Mail address for all non-personal, Association-related matters only**).

Pat Nugent
1006 Pin Oak Lane
Allen, TX 75002

2017 Reunion

by: Joe Coleman

The 2017 reunion dates are 12-15 Oct 2017. It will be at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center in Colorado Springs. The room rates are \$149 a night for both a king size bed and 2 queen double beds. Breakfast will be included in the room rate.

Individual Reservation: Each individual guest can make their own reservation by calling (800) 981-4012 by Monday September 11, 2017. They must identify themselves as members of the Combat Camera Reunion or refer to Group #1643557. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Or click on the button to register via their website:

Hotel Reservations

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1643557>

Joe Coleman is setting an awesome agenda for the Colorado Springs Reunion.

Tentative schedule for Friday:

Garden of the Gods
The Academy Tour
Possible lunch with the cadets
Olympic Training Center
Photo in front of the Chapel

On Saturday we are looking for Volunteers.

Those who are driving to the Reunion and are willing to drive fellow attendees on an informal tour, after the 9 AM Annual Meeting, to the Pete Field Museum and WWII Museum. If you want to Volunteer please e-Mail Barb Eagan at: barb@mycactusproperties.com

TAPS

From Cris Hamilton

Something you may be interested in putting in one of the monthly news. We are all getting older and losing several of our brave military friends. It's an interesting story of things that happen in war.

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a new meaning of it.

Here is something Every American should know.

We in the United But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia . The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done.	Gleaming bright.
Gone the sun.	From afar.
From the lakes	Drawing nigh.
From the hills.	Falls the night.
From the sky.	Thanks and praise.
All is well.	For our days.
Safely rest.	Neath the sun
God is nigh.	Neath the stars.
Fading light.	Neath the sky
Dims the sight.	As we go.
And a star.	This we know.
Gems the sky.	God is nigh

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country. Also Remember Those Who Have Served And Returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

Veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial at National Mall

From: Patrick Nugent

Veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will soon have their own memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., thanks to legislation signed by President Trump [Senate Joint Resolution 1](#), "A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield." The National Desert Storm War Memorial will honor those Veterans who served in the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991. The location of the memorial will be on the National Mall, funds to be raised and an actual design in the works.

VA is now providing online daily burial schedules for its national cemeteries. The new online feature is available to anyone with a smart phone, tablet or computer. Schedules of interments are updated hourly at www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule, though some scheduled services may not be included as families may opt out of posting the information publicly.

Death Benefits Information:

VA Phone: 800-827-1000

If your spouse dies contact the VA for any benefits you may be entitled to, it will take 15 months for them to get back to you depending how fast you return all the required forms they require. Anything associated with burial requirements will be handled in a timely manner to insure your loved one receives all the burial benefits earned.

Social Security Administration Phone: 800-772-1213 for death benefits

Last Flight

Richard Thomas Leiterman Obituary

Thank you to Jim Pearson from the USAF Combat Camera site.



Richard Thomas Leiterman

1946-2017

Richard passed away June 27, 2017. Born August 17, 1946, in Lynwood, California, to Frank and Ethel Leiterman, he graduated from Mount Carmel High School in Los Angeles, and entered the Air Force. Stationed in Thailand, he made multiple trips to Vietnam where he assisted in electrical and stage preparations for Bob Hope's overseas USO tours. Later, he worked with NASA during the Space Shuttle years as a photo/videographer.

On February 14, 1976, Richard married Darlene Werkus. He continued his military service, serving three consecutive tours in Vietnam before retiring from active duty in 1987. Richard and Darlene enjoyed traveling, and they came to live in San Bernardino, California, as a happy family with their beloved dogs. Richard continued his passion for serving his country and community as a teacher and photographer for the Air Force, and as a volunteer for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Richard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Darlene, in 2012. He is survived by his elder siblings, Josephine Toomey and Carl Leiterman, and his younger sister, Marie Endecott, as well as a great many nieces and nephews, all of whom he cared for very deeply and who will miss his warm smile and sense of humor.

He moved to Boise, Idaho, in 2012 to be closer to his sisters and their families. He spent a great deal of time with the friends that he made in his sister Jo's retirement community, where he greeted everyone with a hearty "Good morning!" no matter the hour of the day. When it came time for him to leave us, Richard passed peacefully under the loving care of the doctors and nurses at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.

Richard will be greatly missed by everyone who encountered his happy demeanor and genuine kindness.

Funeral services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Boise, on Monday, July 3 at 11am, with a reception to follow. All are welcome. Inurnment at the VA cemetery, followed by a Celebration of Life, will occur at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the USO or any Veteran's organization in Richard's name.

**BTW Pass this e-Blast on to fellow
Combat Camera members who do
not use computers.**