

The Next Stage

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thu each quarter)

Jan 12, Apr 13, Jul
13, Oct 12 2023.

2:30 pm Faith
Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport,
5003 Whitesburg Dr.

Dates to Remember:

2023

Spring Breakfast:
Cancelled

Summer Picnic:
Saturday, 6/3

Fall Lunch: **TBD**

Christmas Party:
Saturday, 12/2

Details of events
provided closer to
date of event!

***Please join us!
You'll enjoy the
times spent with
dear friends.***

Monthly:

Please contact the
appropriate person if
there is interest in
attending one of these
gatherings!

1st Wed: Ladies
Luncheon @ Gibson's
S Mem Pkwy. **Still
not certain of fire
repair ETC date.
Will keep you
posted.**

3rd Wed: Lunch @
Logan's/Balmoral Dr.
**Email Jim Gasaway
@ djgas@att.net if
interested!**

***Never miss an
opportunity to***

SPRING BREAKFAST CANCELLED

Due to circumstances beyond their/our control, Brookdale had to cancel the Spring Breakfast. Our long streak of Very Cold temperatures led to some pipe ruptures causing water damage. They don't know a specific estimated time of allowing outside events, which is determined by repair work required and completion of that work. Your Breakfast chairperson, Bill Barnes, was unable to locate an alternate venue on such short notice. Huntsville stays busy!

We wish them a speedy, complete renovation. We have always enjoyed our events at Brookdale, and look forward to more in the future.

Will keep you posted, when we know more information.

REMAINING EVENTS FOR 2023

The Summer Picnic will still be held on Green Mountain under the pavilion at the Nature Trail. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, and details will be published in the May Newsletter.

The Fall Luncheon has yet to be determined. If Brookdale is still undergoing renovations, a new venue will have to be found. There is more time to search for an alternate venue, but, as most of you know, Huntsville stays very busy, and is growing daily. So, it can be difficult to find a venue unless searching almost a year in advance! More details to follow in the August newsletter.

The annual Christmas meeting is still scheduled for Saturday, December 2, at Magnolia Trace, with details being published in the November newsletter.

Your Board is working diligently to keep our meetings as regular as possible, but, sometimes life just gets in the way. And, at this season of our lives, we can all understand. But, have patience! Your Board is exceptional and will pull it all together as smooth as glass.

Keep the faith! You've seen them work miracles on proposals!



Northrop Grumman's B-21 Raider

If you haven't viewed the video introducing this magnificent stealth bomber to the world, check out the link below. The B-21 Raider is historic.

Northrop Grumman's (NG) B-21 Raider was unveiled at the company's site in Palmdale, CA 12/2/22, marking the first time the world's first sixth generation aircraft was seen by the public. When delivered to the U.S. Air Force, the B-21 will join the nation's strategic triad as a visible and flexible deterrent, supporting national security objectives and assuring the nation's allies and partners. (see Pg 3)

(More Information may be found at: <https://www.northropgrumman.com/what-we-do/air/b-21-raider>, dated 12/2/22)

Christmas Meeting Photos!

Although a smaller group in the new location, it was a fun event, since it afforded a better opportunity to actually visit with All in attendance. Thanks to Cecil Stokes, Glenn Webb, and Jan Kranert for another exceptional event and job well done. *They just keep getting better!*

Below are a few photos from the meeting, and more (in color!) may be found on the HDAA FaceBook page.



Shirley and Cecil Stokes, Co-chair of the party.





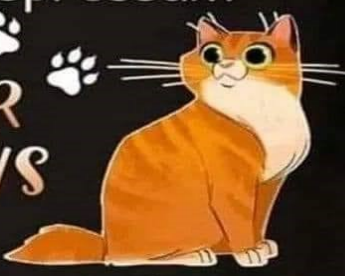
Jan Kranert, Co-chair, Charlie and Holly Jones.



Patty and Glenn Webb, Co-chair.



Gene and Iva Thomas

The most
POWERFUL
Antidepressant
Has  
FOUR
PAWS

and a **PURR**

Or a bark!



Friends In The News...

Your newly elected HDAA Board members:

President: Ray Zimmerman

Vice President: Bill Barnes

Secretary: Cecil Stokes

Membership/Treasurer: Charlie Thomas

Directors ('23): Ron Clements

Benny Pitsinger

Glenn Webb

('24): Jan Kranert

Gerald Roberts

Patti Wilson

('25): Tom Bryant

Jim Gasaway

Hermann Miskelly

A photo of the current Board may be seen on the HDAA FaceBook page. Thanks to you All for serving in this auspicious group. We all appreciate the work you do throughout the year.



Shown at right, are Ray/Lorra Zimmerman on the right, and travel companions at left, MaryJane and Wells.

It was a spur-of-the-moment trip that took them on a drive across country, up the ALCAN, and touring the magnificent 49th State of Alaska, with a lot of scenic stops along the way. A more detailed story to follow in a subsequent newsletter. *Beautiful state, magnificent trip. Bet you'll go back!*

SOME DAYS
I AMAZE MYSELF.
OTHER DAYS
I LOOK FOR MY
PHONE WHILE I'M
HOLDING IT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
PERFECT
TO BE
Amazing

Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

The things you take for granted
someone else is praying for.

Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider (continued)

When it comes to delivering America's resolve, the Raider provides the Air Force with long range, high survivability and mission payload flexibility. The B-21 will penetrate the toughest defenses for precision strikes anywhere in the world.

The B-21 Raider benefits from more than three decades of strike and stealth technology. It is the next evolution of the Air Force strategic bomber fleet. Developed with the next generation of stealth technology, advanced networking capabilities and an open systems architecture, the B-21 is optimized for the high-end threat environment. It will play a critical role in helping the Air Force meet its most complex missions.

NG is continuously advancing technology, employing new manufacturing techniques and materials to ensure the B-21 will defeat the anti-access, area-denial systems it will face. It is a sixth generation stealth wonder.

The B-21 Raider forms the backbone of the future for U.S. air power. It will deliver a new era of capability and flexibility through advanced integration of data, sensors and weapons. Capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear payloads, the B-21 will be one of the most effective aircraft in the sky, with the ability to use a broad mix of stand-off and direct attack munitions.

The B-21 is a digital bomber. NG uses agile software development, advanced manufacturing techniques and digital engineering tools to help mitigate production risk on the B-21 program and enable modern sustainment practices. Six B-21 Raiders are in various stages of final

assembly and test at NG's plant in Palmdale, California.

NG and the Air Force successfully demonstrated the migration of B-21 ground systems data to a cloud environment. This demonstration included the development, deployment and test of B-21 data, including the B-21 digital twin, that will support B-21 operations and sustainment. This robust cloud-based digital infrastructure will result in a more maintainable and sustainable aircraft with lower-cost infrastructure.

The B-21 Raider is pivotal to supporting our nation's strategic deterrence strategy. In addition to its advanced long-range precision strike capabilities that will afford Combatant Commanders the ability to hold any target, anywhere in the world at risk, it has also been designed as the lead component of a larger family of systems that will deliver intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, electronic attack and multi-domain networking capabilities. In a dynamic global security environment, the B-21 will provide the flexibility and deterrence critical to the security of the U.S. and our allies.

The B-21 Raider is named in honor of the Doolittle Raid of World War II when 80 airmen, led by Lt. Col. James "Jimmy" Doolittle, and 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers set off on a mission that changed the course of World War II. The actions of these 80 volunteers were instrumental in shifting momentum in the Pacific theater. This marked the raid as a catalyst to a multitude of future progress in U.S. air superiority from land or sea. The courageous spirit of the Doolittle Raiders is the inspiration behind the name of the B-21 Raider.

(Read More: <https://www.northropgrumman.com/what-we-do/air/b-21-raider>)

AGING IN PLACE: PROS AND CONS

A vast majority of older adults (77%) want to remain in their homes as they age. Of course! Home is comfortable: We know where everything is — in the house, the neighborhood, in town. Familiar friends, doctors, the grocery store. We know how to get around quickly, easily. Plus, the emotional benefits of memories, identity, and history are baked into the walls of a home.

But for many, the concept of staying put is based on how things are Now and doesn't factor in the changes that are bound to come: The need for help with shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, repairs, yardwork, transportation. And in the very last chapters of life, assistance with such tasks as bathing, dressing, and other issues.

There is also the possibility of dementia (33% for persons 85 and older), which may prompt needed help earlier than imagined. And with that, care providers coming in and out of the house.

If you plan on aging in place, it may be necessary to:

•**Remodel your home.** Very few homes are built to meet the needs of an older adult. You may need better lighting, doorways modified for ease of entrance, and the house will continue to age and have maintenance issues.

•**Arrange for transportation.** Most of us outlive our ability to drive by 7-10 years. Is your current home conveniently located in terms of buses, ride sharing, other options? If

not, you may be more homebound than you want to be.

•**Budget for assistance.** Maybe you intend to rely on your kids/other family/friends when the time comes that you need help. Despite good intentions they may not be available. If you are partnered, what happens if your spouse passes before you? How will you accomplish things they used to handle? These costs get expensive quickly, and more so as we face increased shortages of professional care-givers.

•**Recognize change is inevitable.** Many of the reasons you want to stay where you are out of your control. Friends may die or move to be closer to their kids. Doctors will retire. Stores may close. In that context, does staying put hold the same appeal?

And None of this addresses the key disadvantage of aging in place: Isolation and its companions, depression and anxiety. Twenty percent of older adults speak with three or fewer people over the course of a week. Technology and video chatting can help. But, again, you must be proactive to avoid the very real hazards of loneliness.

(Learn more on many interesting topics at AgingWellHuntsville.com, website CaringStrategies.com, or call 256-489-7573. This article reprinted from *Caring Strategies—Aging Life Care Management*.) (Note from Editor: This service was recommended to us by one of our doctors, and we found it very helpful in many respects.)

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The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
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Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

Place
Stamp
Here

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2023 WERE DUE 1/1/23.

*IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE
CONSIDER DOING SO SOON. THANKS!*

Valentine's Day — February 14
Presidents Day — February 20
Ash Wednesday — February 22
Daylight Savings — March 12
St. Patrick's Day — March 17
Palm Sunday — April 2
Good Friday — April 7
Easter — April 9
Mother's Day — May 14
Armed Forces Day — May 20
Memorial Day — May 29

PLACE LABEL HERE

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FEBRUARY 11, 2023


The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 80. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2023 HDAA Board consists of :
President/Ray Zimmerman, VP/Bill Barnes, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer -Membership/Charlie Thomas, Directors: (23) Ron Clements, (23) Benny Pitsinger, (23) Glenn Webb; (24) Jan Kranert, (24) Gerald Roberts, (24) Patti Wilson, (25) Tom Bryant, (25) Jim Gasaway, (25) Hermann Miskelly.

Ex-officio members of the Board are: Historian, and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA website and how to view more photos in color!

*We look forward to seeing you at the
Summer Picnic, Green Mountain
Nature Trail on Saturday, June 3,
2023, 11:00 with lunch ~Noon!*

...Bring hiking shoes... 

In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

Barbee White: Who worked in Property and Supply.

Betty Comer: Wife of Roger Comer, who worked in Propellant and Process Development .

Hill English: Who worked in Engineering .

Doug Franklin: Father of Philip, who worked in Chemistry, R&D.

Jim Hughes: Who worked In Raw Materials & Case Preparation.

Bobbie Keith: Who worked in Engineering, Programs, and later as a New Business Manager.

Don Wilson: Who worked in Engineering, later as a New Business Manager, and a period of time as Director of Marketing.

They will be sorely missed by us all, since they touched many lives.

*The world suffers a lot...
Not because of the violence of bad people,
but because of the silence of good people.*

* * * * *

The best apology is changed behavior. Happy Valentine's Day!