

The Next Stage

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

MAY 16, 2018

BE COOL(er) WITH US ON GREEN MOUNTAIN!

Green Mountain Nature Trail, that is, where it's usually a tad cooler than in the valley. And, don't forget...we have ceiling fans! Our annual picnic is scheduled to be held Saturday, June 2, with the pavilion reserved from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served about 11:30 to 12:30, consisting of Lawler's pulled pork, BBQ beans, potato salad, buns and sauces, and those delicious cookies for dessert, along with beverages. Cost will again be only \$7/person. Great negotiating, Ron Clements/Glenn Webb...especially since we now have to pay rent for the pavilion! (Sign of the times, I guess. THX to HDAA for subsidizing!)

Please submit your paid reservations to HDAA, P O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL, 35815 -4185 by Monday, 28 May 2018, so a good head-count can be given to Lawler's BBQ for preparation of our food, drinks, etc.

Rain or shine, come early, stay late....enjoy nature's beauty as you totally relax. And, we're working on cooler weather! *Hope to see you there!*

BRING TC/HD MEMORABILIA TO PICNIC!

Everyone had so much fun viewing old photo albums and other items the last time we did this, we hoped you'd enjoy perusing through our past once again. You may even be able to part with some of it for the Madison County Library Thiokol Archives, where it can become a permanent part of TC/HD's history for all to enjoy for years to come.

TC/HD COMMEMORATION...

Efforts are underway to commemorate Thiokol's invaluable contributions to Huntsville's history and economy and to the Nation's defense and space efforts by naming the planned greenway (with paved walkway) from Bell Mountain Park (beside Redstone Road) to the new Grissom High School. The City of Huntsville Planning group has already been contacted and is receptive to the idea. Also, there are plans in the mill to erect, at the corner of Bell Mountain Park at the start of the greenway, a historic plaque giving a brief history of Thiokol along with an aerial map of its location (which was less than one mile from where the plaque would be located). There will also be historic signs along the greenway at appropriate locations to call attention to the previous location of the Thiokol plant, its products, and its people.

OrbitalATK/IMI Systems Partner to Jointly Introduce New Weapons Technology for the United States

OrbitalATK (OA) and Israel Military Industries (IMI) have a teaming agreement in which OA will produce and supply a U.S. version of IMI's 500-lb Multi-Purpose Rigid Bomb (MPR500) and the MPR family of bombs for the United States.

With today's warfighting landscape there is a growing demand for high versatility, high reliability and low collateral damage precision weapons with a penetration capability. According to IMI, the MPR500 is similar in form and fit to the MK-82 and offers proven penetration capability and controlled fragmentation for a concentrated blast.

"Our first initiative in this agreement will be exploring how MPR500, a combat proven technology, can be transitioned into an economical, rapidly fielded solution for our U.S. warfighters," said Pat Nolan, VP/GM of Missile Products within OA's Defense Systems Group. "We are hopeful this relationship will lead to future product enhancements and additional opportunities for OA and IMI Systems to collaborate."

OA's Def. Sys. Group is an industry leader in providing innovative/affordable precision and strike weapons, advanced propulsion and hypersonics, missile components across air/sea/land-based systems, ammunition and related energetic products. (May 9, 2018)

Next Board Mtgs:

(2ndThurs each qtr)
Jul 12, Oct 11, 2018

2:30 pm Faith
Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport.
*We'd love to have
you join us and
brainstorm some
new ideas!
Fun, Quick,
Productive.*

Dates to Remember:

2018

-6/2 Summer Picnic
Green Mtn Nature Tr.
-Fall Dinner **TBD**,
Brookdale Place.
-Christmas Party **12/1**,
Magnolia Trace.

**Mark your calendars
now!**

Specific details will be
provided closer to the
date of the event.

Hope you'll join us!

Monthly:

1st Wed: Ladies
lunch, 11:00, Gibson's
BBQ/S. Mem. Pkwy.
Call Faye/551-0126
for details.

2nd Tue: Still need a
place to share
breakfast. Call Bill
Russell at 650-5400
for details.

3rd Wed: Lunch now
at Logan's/Balmoral,
12:00. Call Jim
Gasaway/353-7199.

*Great food, better
camaraderie!*

SPRING BREAKFAST DELICIOUS...AGAIN!

Don and Joyce Royston weren't able to make the breakfast this year, but Bill/Amma Barnes did an outstanding job of seeing everything fall into place. Brookdale Place at Jones Farm hosted the event for us this year, and they did another wonderful job. Chef Dennis Woods ensures the food is delicious, served timely and hot, and plenty of coffee available to keep those happy who linger to visit. That's a true sign of everyone having enjoyed themselves!

Attendees were: Bill/Amma Barnes, Tom/Carole Bryant, Ron/Alice Clements, Faye Cooley, Linda/John DeHaye, Jim/Misha Gasaway, Jim/Ola Ann Lee, Mark/Rhonda Locker, Fots/Angele McCauley, Paul McFall, Helen Mitchell, Margaret Pelham, Barbara Plonka, Gerald/Juanita Roberts, Cecil Stokes, Anna/Charlie Thomas, Brenda Turner, Sharon Turner, Jim Tucker/Frances Hughes, Jean Walker, Glenn/Patty Webb, Roy/Betty Willis, Don/Patti Wilson, Kasey Golden (Servis1st Bank, friend of the Wilsons), Sam/Liz Zeman.

Hope you come join us again next year...we'll keep the coffee hot for you!



Amma/Bill
Barnes...
Thanks for
another great
Spring Brkfst!

Anna/Charlie
Thomas...
Usually the
first in line.
We can't start
w/o Charlie!



Jim and
Ola Ann
Lee...
So glad we
had this
time
together.

More wonderful color photos may be viewed on the HDAA FaceBook timeline. Haven't friended HDAA FB yet? Check with Cec.

Come break bread with us. You'll be glad you did!

Friends In The News.....

How wonderful when we hear good, exciting news of our Thiokol family! **Rosie Byrd** recently conveyed that **Jim Byrd** (worked in Research Section, liner and insulation group) was recently honored in his hometown of Clinton, MS for his 'Excellence in Science.' A bronze plaque describing his story can be viewed on the "Walk of Honorees" located on the one-mile Quinsberry Library Trail at the Quinsberry Library in Clinton. For more information, you may check the below link: <https://www.clintonms.org/departments/visitor-center/music-and-arts/walk-honoree/> *Thanks, Rosie, for sharing this well-deserved information about Jim (through Dale Hutchens). We are as proud of him as you are!*

Speaking of Dale Hutchens — He and wife, Cindy have become the proud parents of a 15-year old boy...their grandson, EJ! Attending Grissom HS with all A's and B's, they have every reason to be proud. And, Dr. Dale is about to retire from 3M at the end of June. He's not certain about "life after being a Polymer Chemist"...but, am certain he'll love being able to spend more time with more personal aspects of his life. Cindy, a long-term survivor of Lupus (21 years!), will be glad to have him home. Dale said what so many of us know, as well: our Thiokol family spawned many mentors, life-long friendships, and a deep abiding respect for many brilliant folks we met in our time at TC/HD. Amazing times with magnificent people...and, one of the reasons Dale was prompted to get in touch with Rosie. Jim had taught some valuable lessons that served him well throughout his career (authoritarian vs authoritative...choosing the latter is much more effective, etc.). *Thanks for the update, Dale. Welcome to the best kept secret of life! You're going to love retirement. And, congratulations to you ALL on your new family addition! Life is good.*

Bob Keith, who worked at TC/HD in the new business group, was Manager of the Engineering Department, Project Manager of the Pershing Propulsion System, and directed the competition and early development of the Surface-to-Air-Missile Defense propulsion, now called Patriot. After 20 years in the Aerospace Business, he spent 20 years in the furniture business as VP/Engineering and Manufacturing at three companies: Chromcraft, Daystrom, and Sam-D. He is now retired and has returned to Bridgeport, West Virginia. After losing his first wife, Rena, he married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Lavaughn, and they celebrated their tenth anniversary January 2018.

Thanks for the update, Bob. And, Congratulations to you and your beautiful bride!



At this point in our lives, we have family and friends who are ailing in some way. Please take a few minutes to remember them in your thoughts and prayers. (the Vances, Bill Cosby (Pit Eng), the Flanigans, families of the deceased, and others you may know)

A TESTIMONIAL — BY GERALD ROBERTS

On January 3, 2018, I had a complete replacement of my right knee in Huntsville Hospital. As I was coming awake, I felt a bad pain gathering between my shoulder blades. I also started having sweats and an uneasy feeling. I looked at the two doctors and said, "I think I'm having a cardiac event." The other doctor, who was a cardiologist, took one hard look at me and then quickly hooked me up to an EKG machine and said, "This man is having a heart attack!" Then he asked us if we wanted to go on with the knee or change to the heart attack. We both gave him permission to take over with the heart attack!!! They quickly took me down stairs to the catheterization lab and knocked the clot loose, did an angioplasty, and put in a stint.

The cardiologist came back and told my wife he would NEVER forget this experience as long as he lived, because he felt God came to look over his shoulder and tell him just what to do! The doctor also said he never felt more confident in what he was doing. Usually they talk over the four steps and get everything ready before they start, but this time they just did it. Everything was there just when he needed it, and it went perfectly. He felt God was leading the way.

Upon looking back, I felt God did have His hand in this, as the heart attack did not start on the operating table, but waited until I was awake enough to tell them what was happening. They were able to take me immediately to the cath lab and resolve the heart attack. It could have happened later at night when no one was around, or after I had gone home and would not have had enough time to get back to the hospital. Too many things were just right for this to be called mere coincidence. I am convinced that it WAS God's doing! And, I am alive and well to prove it.

We often think God is too busy to worry about each of us because there are billions and billions of people alive in this world today and He is too busy. But, I think God does care about His children; He has told us so, but it sometimes is hard to believe. You could say I was just lucky, but I think He did take a hand to save my life. I am convinced that God does care about each of us and does have a Plan for us. It may be Plan Z because we have turned Him down so much, but He still has a Plan. At 81, I don't know what He has in store for me, but I hope I can do it before I do die.

Do you have something such as Gerald's experience (life-saving/altering event) that has occurred in your life? Why not share it with the rest of us. Email pattikat2@aol.com, or snail-mail to HDAA, POB 4185, Huntsville, AL 35815-4185. Who knows...your story may help someone else!

Recipe for Happiness

It's easy to be filled with optimism when life is going your way. But what about when it doesn't? How do you cultivate optimism, happiness and ease when life takes a hard turn? According to Connie Carpenter Phinney, of the Davis Phinney Foundation for Parkinson's, there's always room to cultivate happiness. No matter what unwanted "guest" arrives at your table.

Correct the busy-ness of your life and focus more on family and things that are important to you.

Cultivate optimism energetically and resist pessimism with all of your strength.

Concentrate on the family in the here and now.

Lower expectations, reduce your load and focus more on quality than quantity.

Concentrate on hopefulness, honesty and trust. Continue with humor, devotion and forgiveness. It bolsters why you truly care and enjoy each other.

Seek goodness and be hopeful...enjoy life!

Giving up isn't an option. There's too much to do and see and love in this world.

Write down what you value, or more specifically what are your values? What do you value in each other? And how do you choose to live well with your unwanted "guest" - and each other? It might also help to reveal where your relationship needs work or help.

It's never too late to cultivate happiness. Cultivation requires attention and constant nurturing—it's not a passive activity. It may sound trivial, but happiness is contagious and a key ingredient in any long and happy relationship.

Live well. Share common interests. Spend quality time together with those you care about. Have a close circle of understanding friends. To be more

NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SENSITIVE OR EMOTIONAL. LET THIS BE A SIGN THAT YOU'VE GOT A BIG HEART AND AREN'T AFRAID TO LET OTHERS SEE IT. SHOWING YOUR EMOTIONS IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH.

-BRIGITTE NICOLE



HEALTHYPLACE.COM

SOMETIMES WE NEED SOMEONE TO SIMPLY BE THERE. NOT TO FIX ANYTHING, OR TO DO ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, BUT JUST TO LET US FEEL THAT WE ARE CARED FOR AND SUPPORTED.



HEALTHYPLACE.COM

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The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4185
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2018 WERE DUE 1/1/18.

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

Armed Forces Day—5/19

Memorial Day 5/28

Flag Day—6/14

Father's Day—6/19

Summer Begins! - 6/21...a sizzler already!

Independence Day—7/4

49th Anniversary of the 1st Lunar Communion

By Astronaut 'Buzz' Aldrin, 1969—7/20

With all of this hot/humid weather, don't forget to
take frequent breaks from the sun/heat and drink
plenty of fluids. *Heat stroke can be fatal!*



Mr. Cecil Stokes/TC Archives
3134 Constellation Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

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MAY 16, 2018

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 110. Editor: Patti Wilson.

Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2018 HDAA Board consists of President John DeHaye, Vice President Jim Tucker, Secretary Cecil Stokes, Treasurer/Membership Charlie Thomas, and Directors: Tom Bryant (18), Don Royston (18), Joyce Royston (18), Don Wilson (18), Jim Gasaway (19), Paul McFall (19), and Gerald Roberts (19). Ron Clements (20), Bill Barnes (20), Roy Willis (20), Harold Whitesides (20), and Sam Zeman (20).

Ex-officio member of the Board: Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

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

*See you on Green Mountain 6/2!
Dress for warm weather...but, remember
that we have fans! Come "chill" with good
friends and delicious food!
See you there!*

In Fond Memory...

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

Lottie Kraus Adamek: Wife of Steve, who worked in Program Management.

Betty Fogg: Worked in Purchasing in the early years at TC/HD.

Lawrence C. Lacy: Believe he worked in Human Resources in the 1960s.

John W. 'Bill' Greenhaw: Worked in Raw Materials and Case Preparation in the Pilot Lines Department in the 960s.

Mary Elizabeth Cantrell Hindman: Wife of James Hindman, who worked in Process Development /Special Projects Section in the early 1960s.

W. E. 'Billy' Hunter: Manager of Research and Development.

Guy Van Kay: Brother of Clayton Kay, who was the TC/HD photographer.

J. W. 'Jim' Lee: Who worked in Propulsion Requirements Department.

Marion Lloyd: Wife of Julius Lloyd, who worked in Process Development of Research and Development.

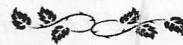
William J. 'W.J.' 'Bill' McMillan: Worked in Engineering in 1960s.

Robert F. 'Tiny' Nance: Worked in Manufacturing Dept. as a Foreman.

Edward Maurice Savage: Was a Safety Engineer in the late 1950s/early '60s.

Mary Willodean Snowden: Wife of Ralph, who worked in Engineering.

Allen Tidwell: Worked in Engineering in the early 1960s.



They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives.
Our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost other loved ones, as well.
Our hearts are breaking as we're losing so many of our Thiokol Family.