

The Next Stage

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

Newsletter of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thursday each qtr)
Jan 8, Apr 9, Jul 9,
Oct 8, 2026.

2:00 pm (Note!)

Faith Presbyterian
Church, SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport,
5003 Whitesburg Dr.

Dates to Remember:

2026

**Sat. 3/14: Spring
Breakfast, 09:00**
Rolo's Café
975 Airport Rd, #E
HSV, AL 35802
6/6: Summer Picnic:
Green Mountain
Nature Trail
Fall Breakfast: TBD
12/5: Christmas Party
Details to be an-
nounced.

Details provided clos-
er to date of event!

*Look for details!
Hope to see you...*

Contact Jim Gasaway
if interested in attend-
ing this event!

3rd Wed: Engi-
neering Lunch! Jim
would like to reiterate
this luncheon is for All
to attend, not just for
engineers. Ladies
welcome, too!

Contact Jim: call
or text 256-566-9522,
or email to:
djgas@att.net.

*Always great food,
and even better
camaraderie!*

See you there!

New Location for Spring Breakfast!

The Trinity UMC location has been assigned to another group. Our new location for this Spring Breakfast will be at Rolo's Café, 975 Airport Rd., Suite E, in the Westbury Square. Plan on arriving early to park in a good spot, then eat at 09:00 (our usual time), with each person paying for their own breakfast. Breakfast is one of Rolo's many specialties. Great Southern comfort food, reasonable prices, and a friendly/efficient staff!

If you have recommendations for other locations to host this event in the future, please let a Board member know. We are researching all local restaurants that have adequate parking, handicap accessibility, sufficient room for our group, and, of course, great food! Rolo's has been a Huntsville favorite for many years! We hope you'll join us.

Please confirm reservations to Mark Locker at marklocker75@yahoo.com by Friday, March 6, 2026, so Rolo's has sufficient time to plan for our group's orders. No need to send money, since individuals will pay for their own meals! Trying something new to help keep us solvent.

Hope to see you there! Great food, Great camaraderie. What could be better!?
Enjoy!



...Regarding HDAA...

As you are aware, our HDAA membership is gradually shrinking in number. Mark Locker, our Treasurer/Membership Chairman, has been keeping a close eye on finances, and his most recent account indicates that we can remain solvent financially for about the next 2.5 years if we keep on our current trajectory. This is due, in part to our dwindling membership, hence our reduced income from our 30+ year old \$12 annual dues. It was extensively discussed at the last Board Meeting, and it was decided that perhaps an immediate increase to \$15 per year might help resolve the situation. If it doesn't have enough impact, an additional increase may be required. But, we'll see how the \$3 increase helps prior to making any further decisions.

This elite retiree group is definitely unique. The Thiokol Huntsville Division closed 30+ years ago, and yet we Still get together quarterly for specific events to simply enjoy the camaraderie of being together. We're also trying to recruit more members. If you have any ideas, we're open to suggestions to help keep this organization alive and well and financially stable. We're survivors... and well worth the effort! Don't you agree!?

Be Proud of all we've done!

What IS HDAA?

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association was initiated by several key members when the Division closed in 1995. Those eligible went to other organizations, some moved to be closer to be with family. Those eligible retired to enjoy "the good life."

The HDAA is a non-profit organization formed to promote the mutually enjoyable and beneficial association of the individuals employed by the Thiokol/Huntsville Division during its 46 -year history. The HDAA shall preserve the good image of the organization and foster the spirit that we found to be valuable, and to sponsor those activities the membership deems to be in keeping with those objectives.

The Board consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer/Membership Chairman, Secretary, and a Board of Directors, consisting of a minimum of 3-6 directors, one third serving in the current year (2026), one third the following year (2027), and one third the following year (2028). Recent years have seen officers and directors serving multiple years (some decades!), because of dwindling membership.

If interested in keeping HDAA solvent, please consider serving with this elite organization! Consider serving on your board. We meet 4 times/year, for approximately 1 hour.

And it's fun!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIBLES

My bad, as I've heard it said by a Much younger generation, and I'll reluctantly own it. These photos were meant to be posted on line shortly after our Christmas party, and I was in a "time-out" from Meta (thank you, Mark Zuckerberg!), for posting inappropriate photos. It was one of their own GIFs. My only recourse was to "chat" with Meta AI's jury and judge in an appeal. Still had to be in their allotted time-out. I may relieve myself of technology entirely. I greatly dislike AI.

That being said, below are the happy, smiling faces of the beautiful members at our annual Christmas meeting at Magnolia Trace. (Y'all are Definitely more fun!) 🤗



Left: Wayne McCaine, 2025 HDAA President, giving his farewell and appreciation speech, encouraging this elite group to continue into years ahead! *Great job, Wayne!*



Left: Bill/Amma Barnes, & Mackie Bethay, renowned pianist. She entertained us all with her beautiful music and Christmas carols.



Right: Glenn and Patty Webb and Mackie Bethay.

Right: Carole/Tom Bryant waiting to get seated.



Left: Paulette Hamblin and Daniel George, both excellent singers. Come hear them in the Trinity UMC traditional service choir!



Left: Ron Clements and Jan Kranert, Co-chairs of the event, discuss final details before guests arrive.



L-R: Liz Hall (Zeman) and Kathy McLean, daughter of Jacqueline & Harold Whitesides, and Harold Whitesides.

Right: John and June Marlin awaiting meal.



Right: Meg and Wayne McCaine, about to get served lunch!



Left: Cecil and Kathy Stokes, just seated!

Below: L-R: Gerald Roberts, Ray and Lorra Zimmerman.

Below: Incoming Terry Dillard, 2026 President, Rhonda Locker, 2026 Secretary, Mark Locker, 2026 Treasurer/Member ship Chairman. *Welcome aboard!*



(Continued upper right corner, Page 2.)

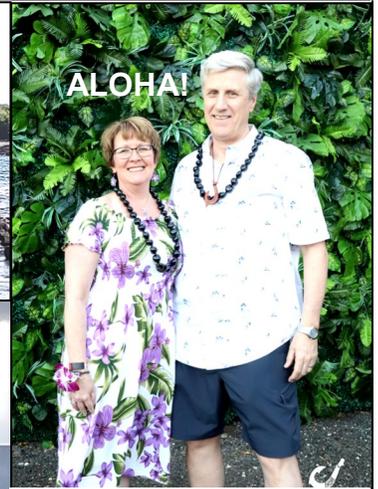
Friends In The News...



Mark & Rhonda Locker invite you to a little bit of Hawaii...



Punalu'u Black Sand Beach



ALOHA!

Kapolei, HI
Mauka Warriors Luau...
Hope you enjoyed it!



Bellows AFB Beach,
A favorite!



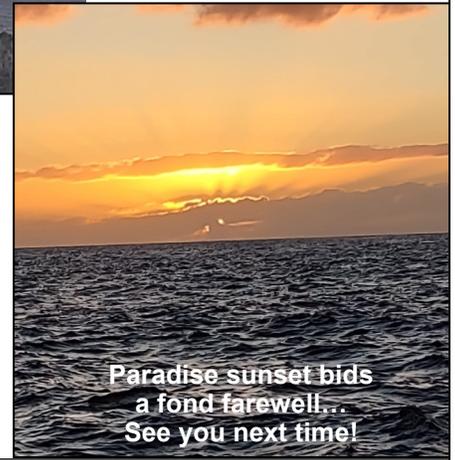
Halema'uma'u Crater
Volcano National Park



USS Arizona Memorial
Pearl Harbor



Thurston Lava Tube
where lava flowed
500 years ago



Paradise sunset bids
a fond farewell...
See you next time!

Northrop Grumman

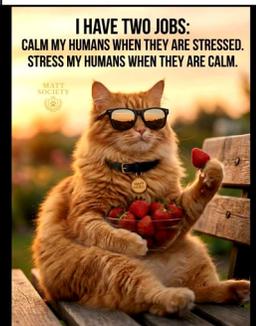
Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Air Force are accelerating production capacity of the B-21 Raider, delivering unmatched combat capability faster. The B-21 program showcases Northrop Grumman's proven performance and relentless commitment to fielding advanced technologies and capabilities at the speed of need.

"The strong performance of the B-21 program has our Northrop Grumman and Air Force team ready to accelerate production of this game-changing capability for our nation," said Kathy Warden, chair, chief executive officer and president, Northrop Grumman. "Northrop Grumman has invested more than \$5 billion in digital engineering and manufacturing infrastructure, and we are ready to produce B-21 faster."



(Photo credit: Northrop Grumman)

Currently in production with final assembly at Northrop Grumman's Palmdale, California, facility and other manufacturing operations across the United States, the first B-21 aircraft is on track to arrive at Ellsworth Air Force Base in 2027.



I HAVE TWO JOBS:
CALM MY HUMANS WHEN THEY ARE STRESSED.
STRESS MY HUMANS WHEN THEY ARE CALM.

"Getting the B-21 Raider into the hands of our Air Force operators and maintainers is the mission of thousands of dedicated Northrop Grumman team members," said Tom Jones, corporate vice president and president, Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems. "We have delivered continued outstanding performance on B-21 in ground and flight test, in partnership with the Air Force. Northrop Grumman has designed and built the world's most advanced stealth bomber, securing American air power far into the future." Capability to ensure America wins.

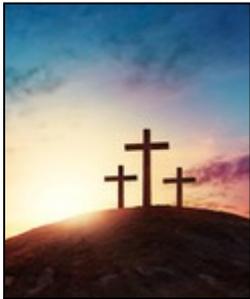
(Excerpt from Northrop Grumman New Release, February 23, 2026)

The Next Stage

Place
Stamp
Here

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 267; Trinity, AL; 35673-0003

REMINDER: \$15 DUES FOR 2026 ARE DUE 1/1/26
IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO. THANKS! HELP KEEP HDAA ALIVE & WELL!



- Daylight Savings Begins—3/8*
- St. Patrick's Day—3/17*
- First Day of Spring—3/20*
- Palm Sunday—3/29*
- Passover Begins—4/1*
- Good Friday—4/3*
- Easter Sunday—4/5*
- Nat'l Day of Prayer—5/7*
- VE Day (1945)—5/8*
- Mother's Day—5/10*
- Armed Forces Day—5/16*
- Memorial Day—5/25*

Place label here

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

THE NEXT STAGE

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 70. Began with ~350 31 years ago. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is HDAA, POB 267; Trinity, AL 35673-0003.

The 2026 HDAA Board consists of: President/Terry Dillard, VP/Jamie Neidert, Secretary/Rhonda Locker, Treasurer-Membership/Mark Locker. Directors: (26) Bill Barnes, Ron Clements, Jan Kranert, Gerald Roberts, Patti Wilson; (27) Ron Clements, Patti Wilson, Ray Zimmerman; (28) Ron Clements, Patti Wilson, Ray Zimmerman.

Ex-officio members of the Board: Historian (vacant) and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA FB page and other sites to view more photos in color!

See you at Rolo's Café, Airport Rd., HSV, at 9 a.m., individually-ordered breakfast!

See you there!



In Fond Memory...

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

Betty Rankhorn Cunningham: Who worked in the Engineering Library/7631 in the 1960s/1970s.

Mrs. Jerry Guinn: Wife of Jerry Guinn, who worked in Engineering in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Hartwell Lutz: Who was a TC summer employee during college, 1950s.

Billy Ray Patterson: Who worked in Manufacturing, Plastics Shop.

Teresa Pulliam: Daughter of Bobby Tanner, who worked in Engineering Advanced Design.

R. Eugene "Gene" Thomas: Manager of the Engineering Department.

Patty Webb: Wife of Glenn Webb, who was in Program Management working with Research and Technology Programs.

Durwood White: Who worked in Chemistry in the 1960s, before answering a call into the ministry.

Jacqueline Whitesides: Husband of Harold Whitesides, who worked in Engineering Advanced Design.

Mary Ann Williams: Who worked in Programs with Harold Webb.

They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives. If you know of others who should be remembered, please let us know.