

The Next Stage

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3

Newsletter of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association

AUGUST 17, 2026

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thursday each qtr)
Oct 8, 2026.

2:00 pm (Note!)

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

Dates to Remember:

2026

**Fall Breakfast: El
Vaquero Restaurant**
10020 Mem Pkwy SW
Huntsville 35802

12/5: Christmas Party
Details to be an-
nounced.

Details provided clos-
er to date of event!

Look for details!

*If you have any sug-
gestions for the
Board, please contact
one of its members.*

Stay cool...hydrate!

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! Bring your
wife/significant other.
Contact Jim: call
or text 256-566-9522,
or email to:
djgas@att.net.

*Always a fun time,
stories exchanged,
memories shared,
great food.....*

Come join us!

NEW LOCATION FOR BREAKFAST!



Our annual fall breakfast will be held at the El Vaquero Restaurant, 10020 Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville, AL 35802. We will meet on Saturday, September 5, and be ordering/paying individually, with menu prices varying from \$8-\$14. Shoot for parking at 08:30 (Ample parking...but, early means closer, less walking). That will give us time to visit before eating ~09:00. Check out their FaceBook site and see the scrumptious menu items from which to choose. You can have a Mexican or an American breakfast, whichever you prefer/can handle!

Please confirm reservations to Mark Locker @ HDAA, P.O. Box 267, Trinity, AL 35673-0003 by Friday, August 28, 2026, so plenty of notice can be provided to the restaurant for appropriate planning. (Since they don't take reservations, editor will plan on arriving early enough to, hopefully, cordon off a section for our specific seating! They indicated Saturday is usually a busy day, but they'll be happy to accommodate our group!).

If you don't have GPS: Head South on the Parkway, exiting at the Weatherly exit, staying far right on access road to the El Vaquero Restaurant on your right. Entrance is just behind the truck.

*Special Thanks to Liz Hall for suggesting it, and positive comments received from others.
Just look for the antique truck with bull horns!*

NGC's Layered Missile Defense: An Active Shield for Evolving Threats

As the geopolitical landscape rapidly evolves, the need for a resilient, adaptable missile defense network is urgent. Northrop Grumman's layered approach combines capabilities available today with technologies designed to evolve as threats change, providing a ready-now, affordable solution that strengthens deterrence for the United States and its allies.

Through digital engineering, advanced manufacturing and close collaboration with government and industry partners, Northrop Grumman is accelerating the development and production of missile defense capabilities. The result is a comprehensive, multilayered shield designed to be faster to field, more affordable to produce and adaptable across domains — helping protect the United States and its global partners against today's threats while preparing for those of tomorrow.

Modern Architecture Built on Layers

Northrop Grumman's layered architecture allows a hostile missile to be detected in space, tracked by sea-based sensors, and engaged by the most appropriate layer—whether that be a kinetic interceptor launched from a frigate or a ground-based battery. Together, the layers form a resilient net: a threat detected from space is tracked across multiple domains, classified with the help of AI and assigned the best interceptor before it ever reaches the defended area. The result is a unified kill chain—from first detection to final defeat—built to keep pace with the fastest threats. That layered approach is reshaping how the joint force plans and fights.

(Excerpt from Northrop Grumman's Advanced Weapons news release, 8/10/26. Continued, Page 3.)



Summer Fun On Green Mountain...

Weather was pert-near perfect, food was delicious, and the camaraderie was relaxing, giving us all an opportunity to catch up on each other and a little rest and relaxation. Always a welcome change. Being able to see all the youngsters enjoying the lake and ducks was simply a bonus!

Lauds to Ron Clements and all who assisted in getting the pavilion set up, food picked up, and the quick clean up following the delicious fare. Our Thiokol "family" truly does work together as a family...everyone pitching in.



Thank you!

Left: Ron/Alice Clements with Gerald Roberts.

Below: Cecil/Kathy Stokes and Jan Kranert



Harold Whitesides Mark/Rhonda Locker, Patti Wilson



Above: Betty Willis, Billy Martin, Glenn Webb



Above: Liz Hall, Betty Bryant, Lora Zimmerman

(More photos above right...)

(More summer fun on Green Mountain)



Above: Bill/Amma Barnes, Ray Zimmerman, Tom Bryant

If you missed this year's picnic, please plan on joining us next year and get a lot more sunshine in your life!

See you then.....

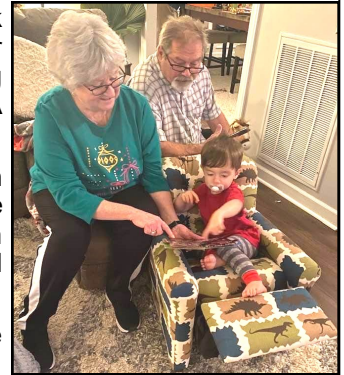
***Friends In The News....***

Summer heat and humidity keeping you inside a little more than usual? Be like **Chuck Anderson** and stay productive with Indoor Projects. Has has an amazing gift that he shares on FaceBook with all. If you have a chance, peruse some of his completed efforts.

At right: Patti and Chuck spending time with one of their Favorite things to do, spending time with the kids/grands! (A Favorite indoor pastime!)

Chuck loves working with wood and turned out some magnificent pieces that adorn their home with warmth and beauty.

Check out his FB page! He has a genuine gift.



You are All an amazing family with a love for life!

If you have a special project or God-given gift you'd like to share with us average, every-day folks, send a photo of a completed project so our Thiokol family can perhaps discover something they never knew about you! You can send it to pattikat5332@gmail.com, or through FaceBook/ Meta messenger if you don't want the entire world to view it. Maybe it will generate a little summer activity/project for the rest of us. Be Proud of what you do!



(NGC's Advanced Weapons, Continued from Page 1)

"Northrop Grumman is bringing together next-generation sensors, advanced interceptors integrated with AI-enabled decision-making to help warfighters detect and understand threats sooner, make faster, more informed decisions and adapt as those threats evolve," said Rob Fleming, corporate vice president and president, Northrop Grumman Space Systems. "By connecting these capabilities through a software-driven approach, we can give warfighters a clearer picture of the battlespace and more options to respond."

No nation can face hypersonic and advanced missile threats alone. Northrop Grumman is working with key allies to extend a shared shield and strengthen deterrence across Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Northrop Grumman is urgently addressing the growing threat of hypersonic missiles. Working alongside the Japan Ministry of Defense, we are prioritizing cost-effective solutions to rapidly meet global demand for these technologies.

Northrop Grumman has formalized multinational cooperation agreements with the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia and several NATO members to achieve three critical outcomes:

Shared Procurement: Joint acquisition reduces per unit cost for all participants, resulting in more cost-effective solutions.

Interoperable Data Standards: Adoption of open architecture protocols ensures seamless sensor and shooter integration across allied forces.

Co-Located Basing: Forward deployed ground stations in Europe and the Indo-Pacific provide allied nations with real time situational awareness, extending the defensive perimeter beyond U.S. borders.

From first detection to final defeat, Northrop Grumman's layered missile defense is already helping protect the United States and its allies every day. By combining ready now capabilities with digital, rapidly upgradable architectures, the company is laying the groundwork to ensure our nation can stay ahead of whatever comes next.

(Ed. Note: More details on NGC's news site!)

...Be On The Lookout...

Kellie (Flanigan) and Donald Clement would like to host an event to celebrate and honor the memory of David and Yvonne Flanigan at their "farm" in Tuscumbia some time spring of 2027, when all is new and fresh that blooms! Their home can seat 25, and they know an agency in their area that can provide a protective cover and chairs for an over-flow of folks, if necessary.

They have graciously offered to cook some of Dave and Yvonne's favorite dishes that will perfectly complement their favorite hamburgers and hot dogs. And, Kellie stated, if folks that are so kind to make the 1.5 hour journey to this event, they are welcome to bring a favorite "filler" of their own. If there is a "story" behind it that may include Dave and/or Yvonne, it might be fun to share it with the rest of us.

Kellie stated she's excited to honor her mom and dad in this fashion, and looks forward to seeing so many of the folks brought into their personal lives because of Thiokol.

Look for details as the date chosen approaches. It will be via the HDAA info list. For those who might not use computers any more, please keep in touch via phone with a Board member so you can stay informed. When the determined time arrives, you are welcome to contact pattikat5332@gmail.com via computer, or text/call Patti at (256) 348-4190 to let us know if you're planning to attend so appropriate food arrangements can be made. Car pooling might be a good idea, too!

Thanks, Kellie and Donald, for this kind gesture and opening your home to so many "reprobates" (one of Dave's favorite words) from Thiokol!

IF YOU
stumble.
MAKE IT PART
OF THE
dance

A visiting Preacher was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio Farm County. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began-----

"Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The Preacher opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, **"Lord, I hate lard."**

Now the Preacher was overly worried. However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, **"And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour."**

Just as the Preacher was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued,

"But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits.

Amen."

("Thanks to Foothills McCauley for this gentle reminder.

And, as a pastor of ours once said, "If you ever want to hear God laugh, tell Him the plans You have for your life!" Amen.)

The Next Stage

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

Place
Stamp
Here

REMINDER: \$15 DUES FOR 2026 WERE DUE 1/1/26

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO. THANKS! HELP KEEP HDAA ALIVE & WELL!



Labor Day—9/7
Patriot Day—9/11
Grandparent's Day—9/13
First Day of Autumn—9/22

Place label here

Every Day...
Be kind to all.
Encourage all.
Respect all.

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AUGUST 17, 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 El Vaquero Restaurant
for the fall Breakfast Club!**

**Saturday, September 5, 2026,
08:30-09:00!**

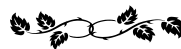
...Come Hungry...

In Fond Memory...

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

Helen Mitchell: Who worked in Plant Engineering Departmental Office.

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



*Great things happen to those who don't stop believing,
trying, learning, and being grateful.*

— Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

*Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not;
remember that what you now have was once among the things you
only hoped for.*

— Epicurus

*At the end of the day, let there be no excuses, no explanations, no
regrets.*

— Steve Maraboli

Your entire life is an experience and adventure. Live it. Love it.