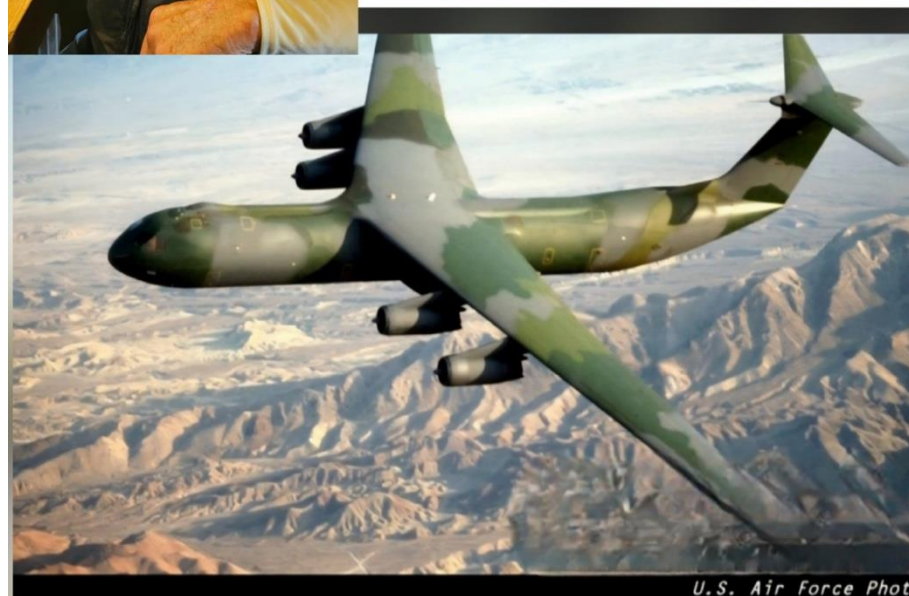


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# HONORING Staff Sergeant Jay Abbott (US AF VET) REVELLE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION



**CITATION ACCOMPANYING SSG JAY ABBOTT'S (US AF VET)  
REVEILLE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION**

**US Air Force Veteran, Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jay Abbott was born and raised in the foothills of Appalachia near the little community of Bedford, Virginia. Like many other farm boys, Jay marveled that he had never eaten in an authentic restaurant until he joined the Air Force. As a young Airman, he looked forward to experiencing life outside his small hometown just south of Lynchburg.** Like his father, Winston Abbott, who served as a soldier in an Armored Division on D-Day, Jay volunteered for the military to escape. After all, how do you keep a good man on a farm when offered a trip to Paris? In 1971, at 18, he volunteered for the US Air Force, serving for six years and rising in rank to SSG E-5. Jay was a crew member on then the Air Force's newest strategic transport jet aircraft, **the C-141 Starlifter**, capable of missions with a radius of at least 3,500 nautical miles with a 60,000-pound load. The tactical role required it to be able to perform low-altitude air drops of supplies, as well as carry and drop combat paratroops. During his career, Jay flew primarily medical and supply missions in and out of McChord AFB south of Tacoma, Washington, to Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines. In 1974, Jay and his crew distinguished themselves during one notable mission in which they were deployed to England AFB near Alexander, LA, and flew more than 300 missions in 30 days.

After becoming bored later in his career, Jay transitioned from the Air Force early. During this transition, he took a survey of potential career interests and decided to take up Scuba Diving, eventually completing training in the Seattle area. Having fallen in love with the New Orleans area, he moved there, met and married his wife, Charlotte Johnson. Their daughter Jackie was born there on Mardi Gras Day and lives on St George Island. Jay lived on a boat and worked as a hard-hat deep-sea diver in the Gulf. Jay notes that a typical dive could be 360 feet and involve 11 Atmospheres. During one fateful dive in 1978, Jay got decompression sickness or the Bends and was paralyzed waist down. His subsequent hyperbaric treatments were trailblazing and were captured in the medical journals. In 1983, he recovered and discovered St. George Island while traveling through the panhandle.

As they say, *the rest is history!* He quickly settled in, becoming part of the fabric of the community. He brought with him his skills learned during EMT training as a diver. He joined the Volunteer Fire Department in 1986, sharing an EMT skill set and leading the modernization of the SGI VFD. He helped pioneer EMT training in other VFDs in Franklin County. Eventually, Jay replaced Mason Bean as Chief and served 27 years from 1991 to 2018. **For his distinguished achievements in the US Air Force and as SGI Fire Chief, we recognize AF Veteran, SSG Abbott, with this VETERANS REVEILLE Certificate of Commendation.**

***US Air Force Veteran JAY ABBOTT's service is in keeping with the finest tradition of the Military. It reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force, fellow Veterans, and the United States of America.***





# VETERANS' REVEILLE

## CERTIFICATE

## OF COMMENDATION

IS AWARDED TO

**SSG Jay Abbott, US Air Force Veteran**

FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY!  
"WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW... WE BAND OF BROTHERS"

**MAY 2, 2025**



*MARK A SHIELDS*

MARK SHIELDS  
COMMANDER

AMERICAN LEGION POST 106<sup>TH</sup>

*James Donald*

JAMES DONALD  
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY (RET)  
CHAIR, VETERANS REVEILLE

