



## Message from the President

*In an email to the 1600 Comm Association Board our Association President, Jim Ramsey, has resigned from the position due to increasing work life commitments. We, the Board, want to thank Jim for his efforts and commitment over the last few years. He has truly made a significant contribution to the mission of the Association. Following is the text of Jim's resignation message to the Board:*

All,

Effective immediately I resign as the President of the Association and Foundation. This is with a broken heart. As each of you know, my professional life has exploded and given me opportunities I never expected within Amazon Web Services. As the Director of Global Data Center development, I will be required to travel 8-10 months a year. As a blessing I will be able to do this with my best friend and bride so that makes it even more rewarding. It is not fair to each of you, the Command, and our Association members to have a President who can't give 100% to this role.

I'm humbled, honored, and thankful beyond words what this has meant to me - Thank you for the opportunity. As I told the Commander weeks ago, it amazes me what such a small group of Alumni can do for so many. This last week I had the biggest honor of signing scholarship letters. That honestly makes every hour given more than worth it. When I started, I had a goal / vision to double our scholarships and drive more money for them. I fell short but still love the vision.

I have talked with both Rob Blake and Mike Milward about the transition. I have recommended to the Association Board that Rob Blake be appointed as interim President and Mike Milward as the interim Vice President of the Association. They both understand that in Nov 2022 the board will hold an election to determine the "elected representatives" by the members. Please welcome them and help them transition.

I'm very excited about the energy, new ideas, and devotion Rob and Mike will bring. They share similar passions as mine. They also know we have several others who want to serve and are interested to start ASAP.

I will always block out WHCA week on my calendar and continue to "flip hamburgers". Count me in as a volunteer each year.

Once again - so many thanks to all of you!!!! God Bless to each of you and thank you for what you do for our peers, members, and the command at WHCA. I wish all of you the best!

Jim Ramsey



## Message from the Interim President

Hello, fellow WHCA alumni and Association members! My name is Rob Blake, and it is with great pleasure that I serve as interim President of the 1600 Communication Association. For those who may not know me, a little about myself. I served 10 years in the U.S. Air Force, five of which were at WHCA from 1996 to 2001. Like all of you, my duty at WHCA was the honor of my lifetime. Upon separating from the Air Force, I went to work in industry as a government contractor, and I have continued to support WHCA and the broader White House community of interest ever since. I care deeply about WHCA, the mission, and the people who have served and who continue to serve the agency.

We plan to hold a formal election to select the next Association President, and it is my intention to be among the nominees. This Association has done great things in the past, and our plans are very exciting. On its own, the Association has hosted the annual golf tournament, sponsored, and participated in many WHCA events, and has issued many scholarships to family members of WHCA members and alumni. Now, with the creation of the 1600 Communications Foundation, a Virginia-based 501c3 nonprofit organization, we can potentially collect and disperse much more in the way of scholarships and charitable donations. It is our goal to provide even more support to the agency and its members and alumni, and I'm excited to be a part of the new direction.

I welcome all who would like to volunteer to be involved with the Association, as we will need lots of help to support new and existing initiatives. I look forward to meeting you all at a future event and more importantly to supporting you all in executing the business of the Association!

Respectfully,

Rob Blake  
Interim Board President  
1600 Communications Association

## Treasurer's Report – August 2022

### Membership

Suddenly it is August 2022 and our membership marches on. Thus far for 2022 we have processed **33** membership transactions. This includes **12** new members. **8** of those new members signed up for Lifetime Membership.

Unfortunately, we still have several members who have not yet paid their dues for 2021 and 2022. These folks have been notified and moved to inactive status.

This brings the total current active membership roster to 681.

**Please note that dues prices were raised effective April 2, 2015. Annual dues are now \$30.00.**



**New Members This Report**

Welcome to the following new members:

**Ian Albritton** (April 1970 to March 1972), **Robert L. Bush** (December 1971 to February 1979), **Jack A. Dervin** Joined as a Life Member (November 2017 to Present), **Kerry J. Leo** Joined as a Life Member (June 1999 to June 2005), **Sheen Marie Maldonado** Joined as Life Member (July 2002 to June 2007), **Linc W. McCoy** Joined as a Life Member (June 2011 to December 2017) **David B. Pistilli** Joined as a Life Member (1988 to 1991), **Richard E. Reed** Joined as Life Member, **Eric Schwemle** Joined as a Life Member (2012 to Present), **Morgan D. Walker** Joined as a Life Member (February 2018 to September 2022), **Andrew J. Weaver** ( October 2017 to November 2021), **Wanda Womack** (January 1999 to November 2009)

**Last Wheels Up**

**Susan A. Starr** (WHCA April 1982 to July 1993) Deceased January 18, 2022

**Colonel Thomas J. Hawes** (Former WHCA Commander served from February 1991 to October 1994) Deceased February 27, 2022

**Talmage Moon** (WHCA January 1975 to June 1982) Deceased May 6, 2022

**Forrest F. Frakes** (WHCA Retired 1982) Deceased July3, 2022)

**George D. Williams** Deceased July 16, 2022

**Membership Renewal**

To save postage we do not mail a special dues invoice. Our plan is to remind everyone in the newsletters, that **the dues year is January to December**. If you have already sent your 2022 dues thank you very much.

**Please remember the yearly dues are \$30.00 per year and are due in January.**

Below is a form to fill out and send with your dues. Also please let us know of any address, email address, or other contact information change.



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**1600 Communications Association Membership Renewal**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHCA SERVICE DATES: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to 1600 Communications Association. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for reply. For quicker response mail to Glenn Arnett, 128 Atlantis Lane, Lake Frederick, VA 22630-2099.**



## 1600 Communications Foundation

It has come to the attention of the Association Board that there is some confusion on the part of the Association membership about the establishment of the 1600 Communications Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2021 after much research and work to create a non-profit entity to function in partnership with the Association to provide our members with a vehicle to make tax deductible donations to support our scholarship program and charitable activities. The Foundation was founded and incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity to administer the Scholarship Program and veteran related charitable support of the membership of the 1600 Communications Association.

We are a philanthropic organization that relies on the generous donations of its members. There are several ways you can support the Foundation, all of which can be found at [www.1600CommFoundation.org](http://www.1600CommFoundation.org)

The structure and mission of the Association is unchanged. It continues to serve as an organization which brings together members who have served in WHCA over the years.

## Foundation Scholarship Awards

The 1600 Communications Foundation, the 501c3 non-profit arm of the Association, awards \$16,500 in scholarships to six applicants. The competition for scholarship awards this year was extremely competitive. The evaluation committee had the demanding task of evaluating an outstanding group of applicants again. Each of the applicants can be justifiably proud of their extraordinary accomplishments.

After screening for eligibility, all applications were evaluated in ten areas -- academic achievement, leadership, character and commitment, extracurricular activities, quality of the written essay, quality and completeness of the application, potential for academic success, career potential, financial planning, and evidence of responsible citizenship. After thorough evaluation of all the applications, the Committee selected six of the applicants for awards.



The Association is proud to announce the 2022 scholarship recipients:

<b>Sean Ravenberg</b>	<b>North Carolina State University</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Katie Schmidt</b>	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Annie Bench</b>	<b>High Point University</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Aubrey Venteicher-Shulman</b>	<b>University of Colorado Boulder</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Matthew Watkins</b>	<b>Morgan State University</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Joshua Williams</b>	<b>University of Maryland Eastern Shore</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>

**Sean Ravenberg is also recognized as this year’s recipient of the Ronald K. Thomsen Memorial Scholarship.** This award recognizes Ron Thomsen, a long time Association member, who served on the Board in virtually every capacity for more than 25 years and was a driving force behind making the Scholarship Program what it is today.

**Katie Schmidt is recognized as this year’s recipients of the General John Tuck Memorial Scholarship.** General Tuck served as the 10<sup>th</sup> Commander of WHCA from 1982 to 1984. The Tuck Scholarship was established by the General’s wife, Mrs. Eleanor Tuck, after his death in August 2015. Mrs. Tuck has since passed away, but her generosity serves a lasting memorial to her and the general’s commitment to education. Katie received a \$2,000 award from the Tuck Scholarship fund as well as a \$2,000 award from the general scholarship fund.

The Association offers its congratulations to this year’s scholarship awardees and wishes all applicants good luck and success in their academic pursuits. We would also like to thank the members of the selection committee, Gordon Aitken, Jake Simmons, Glenn Whited, and George Bafundo. Each year they devote many hours to evaluating each applicant and ensuring the selection process is both thorough and fair. Thanks for your hard work and dedication.

As a reminder, to continue to sustain our scholarship program it is important to support Association events and to consider donations to the scholarship fund. Information on tax deductible donations to the Foundation can be found on the web site, [1600comfoundation.org](http://1600comfoundation.org). Even small regular donations help and contribute to a great program to recognize and support our members and their families in pursuing educational goals.

### **“WHCA Week” Activities**

The week of June 20<sup>th</sup> was a very busy week for WHCA and the 1600 Communications Association! Following are articles reporting some of the activities.



## WHCA's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance celebration

WHCA's 80th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance celebration (Voice of The President) was a huge success and represents a major milestone in the agency's 80 years of history supporting the Office of the President from 1942 until the present. WHCA current members, the 1600 Communications Association, WHCA Alumni members, Vendors and Friends joined together on June 23, 2022, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia to celebrate WHCA's 80th Anniversary. The event began with a cocktail social hour reception followed by a warm welcome by two Mistress of Ceremonies, TSgt Cristiana Sanchez, and SSgt Tiffany Haynes.

The WHCA's Quartet blew the roof off the building by singing the national anthem with such incredible voices. They were followed by the WHCA Chaplain, LtCol Robert D. Bohnsack who gave a stirring invocation.

Nearly 600 guests enjoyed an elegant evening of fellowship, entertainment, and dancing. The event also provided an excellent opportunity to renew old friendships and bridge the generation gap from current WHCA members to our Alumni generations. In attendance were Col Joy M. Kaczor, Commander of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), and her Husband Mr. William Kaczor, COL Brian M. Jorgenson, Vice Commander, WHCA. Special alumni guests included former WHCA Commanders Brigadier General Brigadier, Chad D. Raduege, USAF, Col Margaret Baldwin, USAF (ret) COL Howard Cohen USA (ret) and Col Michael B. Black, USAF (ret), along with former WHCA Command Sergeant Major, CSM Thomas Coles, USA (ret), WHCA's longest serving Command Sergeant Major.

Dinner was followed by a speech from the guest speaker; Brigadier Chad D. Raduege, the Agency's 26th Commander and now the director of Command, Control, Communication, & Computers/Cyber Directorate, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarter U.S. European Command. General Raduege delivered truly inspiring remarks. Recognizing that on March 25, 2022, WHCA marked 80 years of continuous service to the White House and the Executive Office of the President of the United States, he cited WHCA's "calling cards" as the qualities of professionalism, pride, relationships, and expertise sustaining excellence over those 80 years. He noted that WHCA tentacles run deep and wide through the DOD, WHCA's presence is stamped on every significant event in our nation since 1942, and just like the movie "Best of the Best" WHCA personnel are truly the best of the best.

Among the WHCA alumni in attendance was Ron Knowles who served in WHCA from 1958 until 1977 with a one-year tour in Viet Nam. It was noted that Ron is the designer of the WHCA seal. Mrs. Barbara Renfroe brought everyone up to date on WHCA's history and current activities presenting a video which chronicled WHCA history from 1942 to the present. The video presentation included recollections of Association members Jimmy Beck who served in WHCA from 1964 to 1975, David Hostetler, 1966 to 1986, and his son Aaron Hostetler, 1996 to 1997.



Finally, MSG Ryan M. Gokay, the Gala Anniversary Coordinator, was recognized by the WHCA Commander and the WHCA Senior Enlisted Leader for his outstanding leadership and commitment with a Joint Service Commendation Medal.

WHCA wishes to thank all those who helped organize the event and those who attended to make this a memorable event.

### **1600 Foundation Golf Tournament 2022**

The Old Hickory Golf Course in Woodbridge, Virginia was the site of the Foundation Golf Tournament this year. The great facilities, the weather, and the outstanding support of our volunteers all contributed to an exceptional event and a highly successful fund raiser for the Foundation's scholarship and charitable activities. The tournament was kicked off by the WHCA Commander, Col Joy Kaczor. The Commander's support of our activities like the golf tournament has been vital to rallying active duty WHCA personnel to get involved. Harold Looney, the "Father" of the tournament nearly 30 years ago, briefly addressed the tournament participants about how the tournament began and how it has grown in participation over the years. Steve Crowder, Tournament Chairman, gave final instructions and the players' "start your golf carts command". Nearly 130 golfers then headed for a great day of golf and fellowship on the links. Skill levels as in the past ranged from the really good golfers to the beginners, but it really didn't matter in the end as everyone had a great time.

After play was completed, all the participants gathered for a great buffet meal and stories of good shots, not so good ones, and quite a few golf balls that will never be seen again. Prizes were awarded for the lowest scoring groups.

**First place – Bill Kaczor, Jason Jamula, Jimmy Powell, and James Eaton**

**Second place – Derrick Kessler, Greg Welch, Barry Smallwood, and Chris Jenkins**

**Third place – G. Ramos-Carr, Al Rhett, Jon Bennett, and DePriest Daniels**

**Closest to the pin for men – Woody Delauder**

**Closest to the pin for women – was not claimed (maybe next year)**

**Long drive women – Siti Rhett**

**Long drive men – Brandon Boyd**





Most importantly, we would like to thank our sponsors! Their generous support has consistently made this tournament the great event it is from year to year.

### **Drink Cart Sponsor**

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### **Hole Sponsors**

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Eric Campbell

Faye Granger

Jesse Devitt



### **The WHCA Open House**



White House Communications Agency (WHCA) trifecta at the Open House: current WHCA Commander Colonel Joy Kaczor and two former WHCA Commanders, Brigadier General Chad Raduege and Colonel (Ret) Michael Black.

WHCA hosted their annual Open House on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at the George J. McNally Building. Just like past events, the 1600 Communications Association members provided and served the food and drinks, with no charge for those in attendance. There were over 100 WHCA family members and friends who enjoyed the festivities. The special moments came from former Alumni catching up and sharing memories, current WHCA members and Alumni discussing their present and past experiences, and families and children enjoying special time together, which will lead to stronger family bonds. Per comments from Mike Black, this event capped off an amazing 80th Anniversary celebration and it could not have happened at a better place, than the WHCA Open House. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event.

### **Reunion Activities**

There are two gatherings of 1600 Association members soon to celebrate WHCA support for past Presidents. Following is information on these gatherings.



## Plains Reunion

SYIP is becoming a common phrase for more than 160 former WHCA team members who plan to meet in Plains, GA for a WHCA Reunion being held October 1 – 3, 2022. SYIP has been coined for “See You in Plains.” The events will be held at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Park, Plains, GA, site of the former Plains High School. The high school serves as the park museum and Visitor Center.

Larry Little tossed out the idea of a WHCA get-together on multiple WHCA Facebook pages, thinking there might be 35 interested people for a cookout style reunion. The number continued to grow, and the count now exceeds 160 WHCA members plus their spouses / guests.

The date coincides with President Carter’s 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. President Carter has the distinction of being the oldest living U.S. President in our history. WHCA is teaming with The Carter Center to celebrate President Carter’s birthday. Details are being worked, but the event should consist of 400+ people.

The reunion plans have transformed several times as it has developed into a major event for this little town, with a population of around 750 people.

Plains has no hotels. The closest town is Americus, and this is where most will be staying. The Quality Inn Hotel, formerly the Best Western, is where WHCA stayed when supporting President Carter. The owner has graciously closed the hotel to the public, making it a private “party” and working with us to provide accommodations to meet our reunion needs. They will serve dinner on Saturday and Sunday nights and plans are under way to transform their lounge into a “Keg” environment, where so many former WHCA members spent many Friday evenings relaxing.

The reunion will kick-off on Friday evening with a “welcome party at the “Keg.” On Saturday morning, the reunion will commence with a memorial service to remember our team members who are no longer with us. The service will be followed by Phil Wise, member of President Carter’s White House staff and other former White House staff members addressing WHCA. Activities are planned until we join them for the birthday celebration, followed by catching up with friends, while the Reunion Musicians entertain us.

The morning program on Sunday is, “WHCA: The Past and Present”. Team leads will provide brief presentations on the way daily operations and trip travel was conducted over the years and how the sections operate today. The goal of this program is to have the members from various administrations working together, making new WHCA friends.

For those who prefer to stay indoors or want to take part in structured activities, we have an assortment of indoor activities planned, including Presidential and WHCA trivia, raffles, and memorabilia auction. There will also be a table set up to swap memorabilia for a donation.



No WHCA event would be complete without a Golf Tournament. So, the golfers in the group will hit the links on Monday, October 3.

The hope is to make the reunion affordable to WHCA members and their guests. To defray costs, we are selling reunion merchandise. Members will only pay for their own meals.

The reunion will be accepting contributions to donate to the Habitat for Humanity in the name of the President, as well as making donations of memorabilia to The Carter Center.

For additional information or, if you would like to attend contact us at [PlainsReunion@gmail.com](mailto:PlainsReunion@gmail.com). To follow us during the reunion, ask to join our private Facebook group at WHCA Plains Reunion 2022.

### **WHCA REUNION EISENHOWER LIBRARY AND MUSEUM September 7-8, 2022**



On September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a gathering at the Eisenhower Library/Museum in Abilene, Kansas. Representatives from Abilene will attend and give welcoming remarks. Activities on September 7<sup>th</sup> include a guided tour of the Eisenhower Museum and Library, a luncheon at the Seelye Mansion (Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower will attend), and a wreath laying ceremony at the gravesite of President Eisenhower. In the evening a public event at the Abilene City Library, Lt. Governor Toland will give opening remarks, and a three person WHCA Panel (Mike Ebbing, Harland Priddle, and Bill Brockett) will share memories and experiences at the White House. September 8<sup>th</sup> activities include lunch in Abilene Old Town, a tour of the Seelye Mansion, and a “Wheels Up” dinner.

For more information email Mike Ebbing at [mike\\_ebbing@hotmail.com](mailto:mike_ebbing@hotmail.com) to join the Facebook page. Better hurry as the event is rapidly approaching!



## WHCA and WHMO Professional Development Series



We want to thank WHMO and WHCA Leadership for allowing 1600 Communications Association to be a guest presenter during one of their professional development series this year. The topic was based on questions and answers about what to look for when preparing for separating from the Service. There were tons of great questions that revolved around what makes an effective resume, what has more value: education or certifications, and when is the best time to set-up interviews. Military Transition is a great topic for Senior Leaders to discuss, and it is never too early to get a jump start on the next chapter of your life. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Contributed by Darrell Williams, Alumni Career Coordinator