

# 459th Wing Association

BRINGING THE LATEST NEWS TO ALUMNI AND MEMBERS

Fall 2021 Newsletter

P.O. Box 748, Clinton, Maryland 20735

## 459th Conducts Readiness Exercise

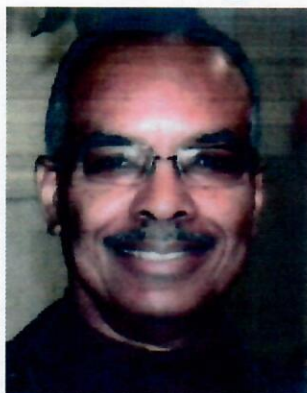


STORY PAGE 5

## President's Message

By Harold Countee  
459th Wing Association President

It is hard to believe we are in the final months of 2021. I pray that everyone had a wonderful summer and are making preparations for the upcoming winter holidays. The Pan-



demic is still around us so please continue to be safe by wearing a mask and social distancing in spite of many around us opening up as if Covid-19 is gone. Although vaccine booster shots are now rolling out we still need to wear a mask and social distance to help protect one another.

It appears that we will be able to meet again in 2022 so plans are once again moving forward to celebrate our next reunion Oct. 6 - 9, 2022. The location of our 31st Reunion will be in the local area at the Embassy Suites by

**Continued on page 3**



# 459TH WING ASSOCIATION

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Staff and Board Members

Harold Countee - President

Tim McConnell - Vice President

Jim Lacey - Secretary

Charles Hawkins- Treasurer

Henry Hinnant - Assistant Treasurer

Patti Fitch- Membership

Charles Fitch

Nancy Oliver

Rodney Walker

Dr. Warren Johnson

Shirley Hawkins - Honorary Member

Kat Justen - Newsletter Editor

The 459th Wing Association consists of current and former members of 459th wings throughout history. The Association provides a means for members to maintain contact with those with whom they have served and to receive news about Wing events and member-news via annual reunions and quarterly newsletters.

Reunions are generally held in cities within a 300 mile radius of Washington DC. The 459th Wing Association began in 1989 and has consistently provided financial support for the 459th Annual awards program and the annual family day events. The Association also donates to the Fisher House.

Membership is continuously open to all wing personnel for an annual contribution of \$15. Look for the membership application included in this newsletter.

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 748  
Clinton, MD 20735

## Pictures from the 459 ARW



### UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE TALKS MANDATORY COVID VACCINATION EFFORTS WITH AIR FORCE RESERVE

Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones leads a discussion with wing leaders about the mandatory COVID vaccination efforts, Sept. 11, 2021, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. The USecAF wants to determine any limiting factors in the execution of the timeline, concerns voiced from members of the units, use of medical or religious exemptions, and best practices of communicating the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, and show support for the units overall readiness efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cierra Presentado/Released)



### 459TH LUNGES INTO FITNESS!

459th Air Refueling Wing Airmen begin the 1.5 mile run for physical training August 14, 2021, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Physical Training resumed for Airmen on July 1, 2021 after being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Andreaa Phillips)



**Continued from President's page 1**

Hilton Hotel at BWI Airport. The cost of the reunion will be \$175.00 per person. A special room rate has been negotiated at \$119.00 per night so please make your reservation early.

Please make your reservation directly to the hotel reservation line by calling 1-888-728-3025 or use the online reservation URL at:

booking link: <http://group.embassysuites.com/25hntt>

**Booking name:** 459th Wing Association

**Arrival date:** October 6, 2022 - 4 PM

**Banquet date:** October 8, 2022 - 6 PM

**Departure Date:** October 9, 2022 - Noon

More information regarding the full itinerary for the reunion will be included in the Spring 2022 Newsletter. I can't wait to see everyone again so please mark your calendar and make your room reservation early. Finally, please remember to remain safe, wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands often and make a plan to get the booster vaccine as soon as you are able because we are all in this together.





# 2022 Reunion Registration Form

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full weekend program: \$175 per person**

Number attending: \_\_\_\_ x \$175 = Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Only on Oct. 8, 2022: \$65 per person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_ x \$65 Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send registration form and check payable to:**

*459th Wing Association*

*P.O. Box 748*

*Clinton, MD 20735*

**For questions please call or email Harold Countee**

*Phone: 301-785-0225*

*Email: [hmcountee@verizon.net](mailto:hmcountee@verizon.net)*



# 459th ARW conducts readiness training exercise

By Staff Sgt. Cierra Presentado  
459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md.** – During the October Unit Training Assembly, the wing participated in a down-scaled version of their periodic Tiger Claw exercise.

Members of the 459th Maintenance Group, 459th Operations Support Squadron, 756th Air Refueling Squadron, and 459th Air Refueling Wing Command Post participated in a four-hour long exercise that would have normally spanned four days.

“Normally, the wing exercises are four days long, but we had to condense it to allow for the wing to comply with the COVID-19 mandate,” said Maj. Jacob Fuka, 459th ARW Director of Inspections. “Despite the limited time, our players were able to get in some valuable training.”

During the exercise, the Operations Group deployed five aircrews and launched five jets in a formation.

“The exercise may have been scaled down, but we were able to get our crews out there and demonstrate readiness,” Maj. Fuka said. “Tiger Claw allows members to practice for inspections from higher headquarters as well as for real world.”

The wing plans to increase readiness exercises in the future.

“I want folks to understand that we don’t exercise to prep for exercises, we exercise for real world,” said Maj. Fuka. “We have a lot to work on and the exercises are only going to help us get better.”

The wing plans to return to the regular full-scale exercise early next year.

“I’m proud of our aircrews, maintenance, and the command post, and the fact that they were able to deploy five crews and successfully launch five jets during the exercise is outstanding” said Col. Gregory Buchanan, 459th ARW Commander. “Even though we scaled down the exercise to allow our folks to get the COVID vaccine, they were still able to perform at a high level.”

Johnson said this deployment is one he will never forget, and the activities that happened on March 11th changed his life forever.

“I didn’t do it for the medals,” he said. “The position I filled was great. Knowing I did my job, and to be in that environment where I was able to build those relationships with my commander and my Airmen was all the fulfillment I needed. At the end of the day the medals are extra, but I am humbled and appreciative of the awards I received.”



A KC-135 Stratotanker takes off during Exercise “Kitty Claw”, a scaled down version of the wing’s “Tiger Claw” exercise, Oct. 17, 2021, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. The wing scaled down the exercise to allow for the wing to comply with the COVID-19 mandate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Brent Skeen/Released)





## **Tech. Sgt. Bianca Johnson**

459th Aerospace Medicine Squadron  
Health Service Management Technician

*At first, I wanted to go Active Duty. Then, a recruiter asked if I was interested in Reserve optometry. I came to the 459th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and chose to stay because the people and family in medical really look out for you, and I could see myself going far in this position. Leadership here teaches you how to take charge of your own career and care for your Airmen. They have molded me to take my career further, and I don't think I'd be where I am now without them. I plan on doing 20 years because I enjoy it so much!*

**We now have the ability to pay dues online through PayPal!**



Log onto: [www.459thwingassociation.com](http://www.459thwingassociation.com), scroll to the bottom and click, “pay dues online.”

Annual membership is \$15.00 per year due March 31st. You may also pay dues for multiple years. Your newsletter will have the year you are paid through printed in the upper right hand corner of the address label.

*Note: For your information, according to the IRS we are not an organization described in Internal Revenue Code Section 170 (c) so donors cannot deduct contributions.*



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ANNUAL DUES

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Dear Fellow 459th Members and Former Members;

The general purpose of this association is to promote and encourage current and former members of the 459th Wing to remain in touch with those with whom they served, and to support morale programs for active 459th reservists and their families. Activities of the Association include:

- Publishing a quarterly newsletter containing articles regarding Association members, Association events, and 459th Air Refueling Wing activities.
- Providing financial support for the 459th ARW Annual Awards program.
- Providing financial support for the Family Day Picnic.
- Donating to the Fischer House.
- Holding annual reunions in cities within an approximate 300 mile radius from Washington, D.C.

**459th Troop Carrier Wing**

**459th Airlift Wing**

**459th Tactical Airlift Wing**

**459th Air Refueling Wing**

Please cut here and return completed form with check

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Membership Application and Renewal of Annual Dues, 2018.

Please complete this form and return with check for \$15.00 payable to:

**459th Wing Association  
P.O. Box 748  
Clinton, MD 20735**

I am/was assigned to 459th Wing or  
associate unit.

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone – home \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current or last position in the 459th \_\_\_\_\_



## OBITUARY – Lt. Col. (retired) PAUL REVERE JULIAN, Jr.

Lt. Col. (retired) Paul R. Julian, Jr., devoted husband of Nelma S. Julian crossed over the river to lay beneath the shade tree on January 11, 2021. He was the loving father of Carol Julian Kross of New Bern, North Carolina, Paul Derrick Julian of Staunton, Virginia and Charles Bruce Julian of Leonardtown, Maryland. He was the proud grandfather and great grandfather of eleven grandchildren and twenty-two great grandchildren. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia on August 21, 1923 he was the son of Paul R. Julian, Sr and Maude Atkins Julian. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Gerald Lee Julian of Norfolk, Virginia and Col.(retired) Robert Earl Julian of Goldsboro, North Carolina. He was a devoted Christian and enjoyed reading Scripture daily. He served, as a navigator, with honor in the United States Army Air Corp and later in the United States Air Force. Serving in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War. He rose to the rank of Lt. Col. retiring in 1973. He loved his brothers in arms of the 459<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron and had maintained many friendships through the years since retirement.

He was devoted to his "Little Nelma" whom he had been with since being high school sweethearts. Having traveled around the world with the Air Force he vowed to take Nelma to as many of the places he had traveled during his career. Trips to Bermuda, Spain, Germany, England, Ireland and other locations were "mission accomplished". The two would often be seen at weddings and other social events dancing away to many songs. They were renowned for their "Jitter Bug" dancing. He was a leader and mentor to his children always teaching and coaching them in life skills and Southern honor and character. He was a "dog person" and enjoyed the company of his beagles on long walks and lap time. He enjoyed being on the water crabbing and fishing and working around the home.

At this time, due to the Health Restrictions, no arrangements have been made for a service. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Cards and notes of condolences may be sent to Charles Bruce Julian, 20413 Scarlet Tanager Way, Leonardtown, MD. 20650. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in Memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).



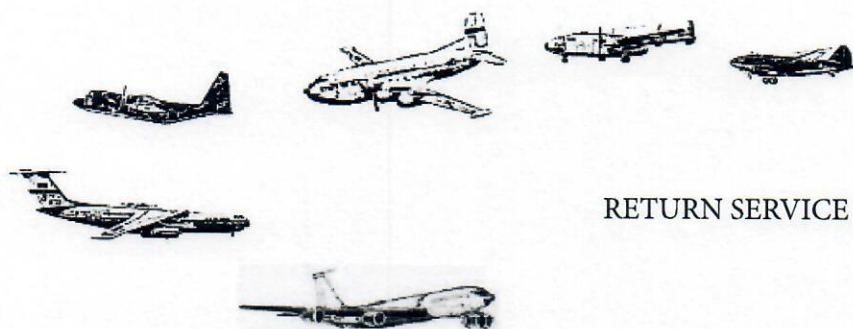


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# 459th Wing Association

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P.O. BOX 748, clinton, maryland 20735-0748



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED