

459th Wing Association

BRINGING THE LATEST NEWS TO ALUMNI AND MEMBERS

Spring 2022 Newsletter

P.O. Box 748, Clinton, Maryland 20735



President's Message

By Harold Countee
459th Wing Association President

The Covid-19 Coronavirus now appears to be abating somewhat, but we still need to be cautious. Spring is here and I feel like it is time to get back to some type of normalcy.



I have had the pleasure of being invited to two wing events over the past year. The 459th Air Refueling Wing Change of Command Ceremony last summer and the 459th Annual Awards Banquet on March 5, 2022 as a representative of the 459th Wing Association. I had the opportunity to address the Wing at the start of the awards program. I am very grateful for this opportunity and I thank the Wing Commander, Col. Gregory Buchannan; Vice Commander, Col. Janette Thode and Command Chief Master Sergeant Israel Nunez.

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459TH WING ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022 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



459TH ARW CONDUCTS READINESS EXERCISE TO MAINTAIN PREPAREDNESS

The 459th Air Refueling Wing held a readiness exercise over the February Unit Training Assembly weekend to demonstrate its preparedness when needed. Members from the maintenance, mission support, and operations groups were tested on their ability to respond, their knowledge, and their problem-solving skills. The wing conducts exercises periodically to keep capability at the highest level. Col. Gregory Buchanan, 459th ARW Commander said, "The global environment is constantly shifting and we must be prepared to meet any threat we are called to engage. I'm very proud of the effort our Liberators put into their training." (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cierra Presentado)



BEYOND THE FENCE PROGRAM

Outstanding members from around the wing pose for a group photo in front a KC-135 aircraft before their orientation flight Dec. 7, 2021 at Joint Base Andrews, Md. The wing recently implemented the 'Beyond the Fence' program that gives Airmen the opportunity to learn and experience the mission and operations that go on beyond the fence. (Courtesy Photo)

Continued from President's page 1

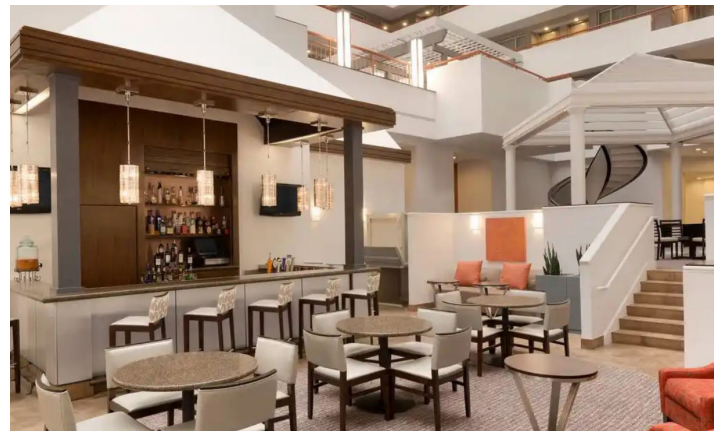
DUES: If you have not sent in your \$15 dues payment for 2022 now is the time. Annual dues can be paid by going to our website at www.459thwingassociation.com, scrolling to the bottom and paying by credit card or PayPal. You can also mail your check to: 459th Wing Association, PO Box 748, Clinton, Md. 20735.

Plans are underway for our annual reunion that we weren't able to have now for two years, but I am very hopeful we will be able to get together this year. The dates are Oct. 6-9, 2022 at the Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton at BWI Airport, 1300 Concourse Drive, Linthicum, Md. 21090. Since it will be in the local area it is with hopes that more of our members will decide to join us especially since we have been under so many restrictions due to the pandemic.

For your advance planning purposes I am including a tentative schedule of reunion events so you will know what to expect over the 3 days. Room rates are still \$119 for king bed or double bed. You will be able to make your room reservation online beginning now using our dedicated online registration link by copying and pasting the following link:

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/B/BALIAES-4W2-20211_007/index.jhtml or call the hotel reservations line direct on 410-850-0747, press 1 then ask for the 459th Wing Association group rate.

I cannot over emphasize enough that you should make your room reservation early to ensure you get your room before our cutoff date of Aug. 30, 2021. Cost for the full (Thursday - Sunday) reunion event is \$175.00 per person, however, if you can only attend the banquet on Saturday evening, Oct 8th, your cost will be \$60 per person.



Itinerary

Thursday, October 6, 2022

1600-1800: Check-in to the hotel

1800-2030: Dinner on your own

2000-2300: Hospitality Room

Friday, October 7, 2022

600-1000: Complimentary Buffet Breakfast in atrium

1200-1500: Wine and Sip Painting Party

1500-1800: Trip to Arundel Mills Mall, Maryland Live Casino or just shopping

1800-2100: Medieval Times Dinner Theater

2100-2300: Hospitality Room

Saturday, October 8, 2022

700-1000: Complimentary Buffet Breakfast in atrium

1000-1300: Hospitality Room

1300-1600: Free time to relax or explore the local area

1800-2100: Reunion Banquet (semi-formal attire)

2100-2300: Hospitality Room

Sunday, October 9, 2022

0900-1200: Checkout of hotel

2022 Reunion Registration Form

Member Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Guest Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

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

Number attending: ____ x \$175 = Total: \$ _____

***Paint & Sip on Friday.** Number attending: ____ x \$35 = Total: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**** Hotel Check-in time is 4 p.m. on Thursday Oct. 6, 2022 and check-out is noon on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022.**

Banquet Only on Oct. 8, 2022: \$60 per person

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guest Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: ____ x \$60 Total = \$ _____

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

459th artist commemorates first AFRC female pilot

AFRC Office and History and Heritage

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS) -- The contributions to aviation history of retired Air Force Reserve Col. Kathy Cosand were celebrated March 18, with the unveiling of a fine art oil painting of her at the Women in Aviation International Conference in Nashville.

"I am so honored to be part of this historical moment with the unveiling of Col. Kathy Rambo Cosand's portrait today," said Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, commander of U.S. Transportation Command. "In 1976, the U.S. Air Force opened pilot training to women. After maxing out the score for the pilot exam, Kathy was accepted as the only Reservist in the first class of pilot-trained women in the U.S. Air Force. She has been shattering glass ever since."

During her 30 years serving as a reserve Airman, Cosand achieved many firsts to include being the first woman to fly the C-141 Starlifter, to be awarded the Air Medal, to attend aircraft commander training, and to receive a waiver to fly during her pregnancy.

"In her 40 plus years of flying, both for the military and as a civilian, Col. Kathy Cosand has empowered and encouraged the next generation of women aviators — and to her, we say thank you," Van Ovost said.

The painting was unveiled by Van Ovost; Brig. Gen.

Dana Nelson, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa mobilization assistant to the deputy commander; Cosand; and 2nd Lt. Kat Justen, 459th Air Refueling Wing Officer in Charge of Public Affairs and AFRC Office of History and Heritage combat artist. During the event, Cosand expressed gratitude for the distinguished guests, attendees, her family and AFRC.

"I would like to thank the Air Force Reserve for giving me the opportunity of having gone to pilot training and to stay flying for 25 years in the same career field," Cosand said. "Also, something I wanted to show (in the painting) was the dual role of the service and the civilian pilot, and Kat illustrated that beautifully."

The painting was created by Justen as part of the Heritage and Combat Art Division of the AFRC Office of History and Heritage. Heritage and combat art informs, inspires and connects Airmen into the history and legacy of the Air Force Reserve with the total force, joint and coalition partners.

"Through their brilliant pieces, these artists, especially today's artist, 2nd Lt. Justen, not only provide a visual record of our history, but empower and connect past and present generations to our heritage," Van Ovost said. "This painting provides a long-lasting inspiration for future aviators."



Retired Col. Kathy Cosand, first AFRC pilot (left) and 2nd Lt. Kat Justen, 459th Air Refueling Wing Officer in Charge of Public Affairs and AFRC Office of History and Heritage combat artist (middle), sign lithographs and engage with attendees at the Women in Aviation International Conference in Nashville, Tenn., March 18, 2022. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Warren Neary)

Warrior Spotlight

459TH AIR REFUELING WING

Airman Reshad Muslim

69TH AERIAL PORT SQUADRON

Passenger Services Representative

"In the short amount of time that I've been in the APS, I've learned a lot about leadership and many valuable life skills, and for that reason I am very grateful to the APS and my leadership. I appreciate the amount of people that are able to feed my drive to improve and reach my potential."



Announcement:

We lost one of our founding members, Paul Julian, and his wife who both passed away over a year ago. There is finally a date for their interment at Arlington National Cemetery June 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The family is planning a small reception following the interment, however, final details about the reception will be forthcoming.

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



Log onto: 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

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

Membership Application and Renewal of Annual Dues, 2022.

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 _____

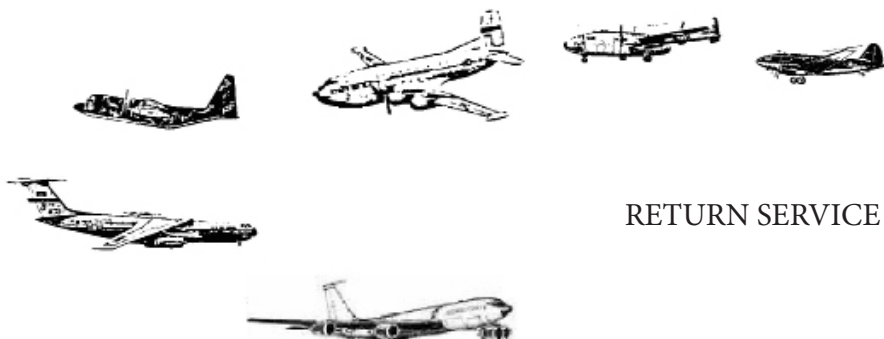
Phone – home _____

Email _____

Current or last position in the 459th _____

459th Wing Association

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED