30TH FLIGHT AVIATOR'S LOG
FEBRUARY 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FLIGHT CAPTAIN: BG RICO APONTE
VICE FLIGHT CAPTAIN: COL TONY BOWEN
TREASURER: COL BRIAN DELAHAUT
PROVOST MARSHAL: COL JOHN ALLEVATO
ADJUTANT: COL BOB HERMES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LTC WILLIAM HEITMEIER
MEMBERSHIP: OPEN
PROGRAMS: COL TONY BOWEN
SCHOLARSHIP (ROTC): LTC MARY GOLDSMITH
SCHOLARSHIP (DVT): BGEN RANDALL BALL
CHAPLAIN: COL CHARLIE HALE
RESERVATIONS: LTC JEFF SCHALL

30th Flight
WE FLEW WE FLY
"Hap" Arnold
Order of Daedalians, INC

Vol. XLXV NO. 2
VOLABAMUS VOLAMUS

FLIGHT 30 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS
"SIX OUTSTANDING ROTC CADETS"
11 Mar 2016 Luncheon

The Flight 30 ROTC Scholarship Board – chaired by Mary Goldsmith and including Flight Treasurer Brian Delahaut and new board member Adam Walker – held interviews for our 2026 Flight 30 ROTC scholarship awards on 7 February at the Hap Arnold Club. Competition was fierce this year – especially among the top candidates. Criteria for award are: 1) Intention to pursue a career as a military aviator, 2) Demonstration of moral character and patriotism, 3) Physical condition and aptitude for flight, and 4) Financial need.

Plan on attending the 11 March luncheon as the flight will award $25,000 in scholarships to six candidates from area AFROTC detachments and NROTC battalions.

Cadet Jesukanyinsola Owojori is a sophomore at California Baptist University, Riverside, CA and a member of AFROTC Detachment 002, California State University San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA. She is majoring in Cybersecurity and maintains an outstanding 3.97 GPA while simultaneously pursuing multiple IT certifications. Born in Nigeria, she immigrated to the U.S. as a young child – an experience that has given her a unique perspective and maturity beyond her years.

Her passion for aviation was sparked during an airshow at March Air Reserve Base, inspiring her to join both JROTC and Civil Air Patrol while in high school. Through JROTC, she earned an aviation scholarship that allowed her to log 68 flight hours in a Cessna 172.

In addition to her academic and ROTC commitments, Cadet Owojori serves as Senior Airman Owojori as an Air Force Reservist in Health Services Management with the 452d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at March Air Reserve Base. She also fulfills the role of General Military Course Advisor within her detachment, where she advises and supports junior cadets. This position enables her to leverage her natural leadership abilities while pursuing her passion for mentorship. Her achievements also include recognition on her university's Provost's List in Spring 2025 and receipt of an AFROTC Achievement Award in Fall 2025.

The scholarship board is confident she will distinguish herself as an exceptional future Air Force aviator. Cadet Owojori has been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $10,000 and will be submitted for a Daedalians Foundation matching award.

Midshipman Rebecca Wyman is a junior at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA and a member of the USC Trojan NROTC Battalion, Marine Option. She is majoring in Business Administration and maintains a GPA of 3.51. Driven by a strong sense of patriotism and a passion for aviation, MIDN Wyman originally planned to enlist in the Marine Corps immediately after high school and had already contracted as enlisted aircrew. Her acceptance to USC redirected her path, allowing her to pursue both higher education and commissioned service.

Since joining the battalion, MIDN Wyman has demonstrated academic excellence while actively pursuing a wide range of extracurricular and volunteer opportunities. She has served as Battalion Armorer, Color Guard Commander, Marine Student Advisor, and 4/C Training Officer. Her dedication to her unit and commitment to excellence have earned her multiple honors, including an academic achievement, physical fitness, community service, color guard, and intramural ribbons, as well as the USC Alumni League Scholarship and placement on the USC Marshall Dean's List

Additionally, MIDN Wyman also competed for and earned a Flight 30 Daedalian Flight Training scholarship, completing her first solo last summer and further solidifying her passion for aviation. She has now been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $5,000 and will be submitted for a Daedalians Foundation matching award.

Midshipman Benjamin Huang is a sophomore at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA and a member of the Trojan NROTC Battalion at USC. He is majoring in International Relations and maintains a 3.68 GPA. His leadership journey began in high school, where he served as captain of the tennis team and President of Future Farmers of America, establishing an early foundation of teamwork and responsibility.

Since arriving at USC, MIDN Huang has continued to expand his leadership and service roles, filling the roles of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Scholarship Chair, Greek InterVarsity Chapter Ministry Leader, and Squad Leader. He's also volunteered as Camp Counselor, unit photographer, while earning placement on the Dean's list every semester. He is also pursuing election as Study Body President where he seeks to represent over 20,000 students, on a platform centered on, "Capability, Access, and Results."

MIDN Huang's passion for aviation was initially sparked by the film *Top Gun: Maverick* and was further strengthened through the teamwork and camaraderie he observed among the aircrew during NROTC summer training. He has been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $4,000.

Cadet Edwin Meza is a junior attending California State University San Bernadino, San Bernardino, CA and a member of AFROTC Detachment 002 at CSUSB. He is majoring in Kinesiology and maintains an impressive 3.88 GPA while balancing academic demands with active participation in volunteer service. Outside the classroom, Cadet Meza has recently begun pursuing flight training and has accumulated 22 hours of combined Cessna aircraft and simulator time, developing his aviation knowledge and discipline.

Demonstrating his patriotism and a strong commitment to service, Cadet Meza previously served on Active Duty in the Air Force as a Staff Sergeant assigned to Munitions and Weapons at RAF Lakenheath. His time in uniform proved transformative, instilling resilience, accountability, and a deep sense of purpose. Through multiple deployments and enlisted leadership experiences, he developed practical leadership skills and a mission-focused mindset that now guide his academic and professional pursuits. In recognition of his dedication and potential, Cadet Meza has been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $3,000.

Cadet Mario Estrada is a sophomore at Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA and a member of AFROTC Detachment 060, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. He is majoring in Business Administration and maintains a strong 3.7 GPA. Cadet Estrada is on track to earn his associate's degree this May and is currently awaiting admission decision from news from California State University Long Beach, Fullerton, and Dominguez Hills; and the University of Southern California.

A driven young professional, Cadet Estrada also works full-time as a production supervisor in Albertson's food manufacturing operations, where he has developed a strong appreciation for attention to detail, time-management, and operational efficiency. In this role, he supervises up to 50 personnel gaining valuable real-world leadership experience that will translate well to his future service as an Air Force officer.

Cadet Estrada is a Dean's List honoree at Long Beach City College and serves as an action officer within his ROTC detachment, assisting with training events and mentoring fellow cadets. In recognition of his professionalism, leadership, and potential, Cadet Estrada has been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $2,000.

Cadet Dane Paxson recently transferred from Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, California to the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA where he is a sophomore majoring in History and maintains a 3.6 GPA. He is also new to AFROTC, having joined Detachment 060 at USC last term. Within the detachment, he is developing his officership skills and currently serves as a Section Chief.

Inspired by a family legacy in military aviation, Cadet Paxson is driven by a strong sense of patriotism and desire to pursue a career as an Air Force pilot. His commitment to caring for others and building effective teams reflects the character and leadership qualities essential to successful officership.

In recognition for his professionalism and potential, Cadet Paxson has been selected to receive a Flight 30 scholarship of $1,000.

MEET AND CONGRATULATE
11 MARCH LUNCHEON

30th "Hap" Arnold Flight, 2026 Century Club

The 2026 Scholarship Fund has started. We appreciate those that have given to this point. The fund as of 2/20/2026 is $6,144.00. Twenty-four members, family, and friends of the Flight have donated to the Flight's Scholarship Fund. Recognized below are those who so generously donated $100 or more. There are some great new scholarship ideas that are being considered, and your donations can help make these a reality.

30th "Hap" Arnold Flight 2026 Century Club Aces

COL JEFFREY HOLSHOUSER $1000 LTC HAINES GRIDLEY $600 COL AL AIMAR $500
COL MARK A. BOWEN $500 COL DAVID WARD $500

30th "Hap" Arnold Flight 2026 Century Club

Note: Donations less than $100 not shown

LTC JONATHAN GOLDENBAUM $300 LTC WILLIAM HEITMEIER $294 CELINE M. BUTLER $250
LTC JOHN C. FISCHER $250 COL PAUL GILL $250 COL CHARLES HALE $200
COL ROBERT HERMES $200 JOHNNIE M. MARQUEZ $200 COL JOHN ALLEVATO $100
HELEN BELL STUDIOS $100 COL RICHARD BOUSMAN $100 COL ELEAS CASILLAS $100
COL BRIAN DELAHAUT $100 COL GEORGE DUGARD $100 LTC MICHAEL KOBOLD $100
CHERYL N. LOSSETT $100 LTC GREGORY MARKOS $100 DR WILLIAM PATTON $100
LTC JEFF SCHALL $100

"In Memory Of " &"In Honor Of" Donations (Note: Only Shown Once)
Col Jeffrey Holshouser $1000 IMO Col Paul Bell
Col Al Aimar $500 IMO Elsie Aimar
Col David Ward $150 IMO Col John Kerr
Johnnie Marquez $200 IMO LTC Hector Marquez
Cheryl Lossett $100 IMO LTC Alan Leach
LTC William Heitmeier $102 IHO LT Don Brower's 102nd birthday
LTC William Heitmeier $92 IHO Stephany Brower's 92nd birthday

Important Note

Please contact the Treasurer, Brian Delahaut or the Adjutant, Bob Hermes if you require a Century Club donation form or have any questions. Donations should be mailed to the Flight's address (see below). The Flight's website has more information on our ongoing scholarship programs. Find the website at https://daedalians-flight30.org/. We are experiencing a low donation rate and your help is greatly appreciated.

Order of Daedalians, 30th Flight
17050 Arnold Dr, Box H-101
Riverside, CA 92518

Donations: Zelle email: flight30treasurer@gmail.com

CAPTAIN'S CORNER - FAREWELL

It was a great privilege to have served as the Flight 30 Flight Captain for the last two years. Thank you for your support. Special thanks to the Board of Directors, Executive Staff and Program chairs for your patience, mentorship and hard work. There were several matters that arose during the last two years, and I think the Flight dealt with them in a timely manner allowing the Flight to move forward.

I will continue to serve the Flight as your Vice-Flight Captain, past-Flight Captain Broad of Directors member and Program Manager. Having served as the Program Manager for over 10 years I hope I have met your expectations with excellent presenters. However, anyone willing to step up and fill the Program Manager position please feel free to do so as I may be running out of contacts and ideas.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER - HELLO

Fellow Daedalians, it is a great honor to assume the role of Flight #30 Captain for the next two years. I am sure that my job will be made easier by the tremendous work of our board members. They work tirelessly to support our plans and programs making the flight one of the best in the Order of Daedalians.

In March, our contributions to the community of aviators will be highlighted by presentations of the annual scholarship monetary awards and the celebration of achievement in flight as two students will receive their solo certificates.

In my first Captain's Corner I would like to encourage our membership to contribute to the Century Club. Last year the club spent close to 50,000 dollars in support of Academic and Flight Training scholarships. This year we are a bit behind this total. I encourage our membership of over 100 aviators to support the program. Contributions to the fund are tax deductible.

CW4 RANDY ZAHN, USA (Ret)

"Hunter/Killer Helicopter Teams in Vietnam"

11 FEBRUARY 2026 SPEAKER

Flight 30's Token of Appreciation for a Job Well Done the Past Two Years as Flight 30's Flight Captain

L: LTC Jonathan Goldenbaum, USAF (Ret) and CWO-2 Joe Walker, USA (Ret)

Flight Captain BG Rico Aponte Continues a Flight 30 Tradition

FLIGHT 30 INSTALLATION OF OFFICER/BOARD MEMBERS 2026 & 2027

FLIGHT 30 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

(Note: Flight 30 Board Mtgs are the first Wed of every other month starting in Feb.)
(Note: Flight 30 Luncheons are the second Wed of every month except for Aug, Nov & Dec.)
Speaker/Program Recommendations. Contact: Col Toney Bowen, 951-445-1324 or tbone46@gmail.com.

JANUARY 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 14 Jan @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker: Col Craig Newton, "California Civil Air Patrol".

FEBRUARY 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 4 Feb @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Luncheon: Wed, 11 Feb @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker. CW4 Randy Zahn, USA (Ret). "Hunter/Killer helicopter teams in Vietnam".

MARCH 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 11 Mar @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Program: Flight 30 AF and NROTC Cadet Scholarship Awards. Plan to attend to meet and congratulate the scholarship awardees.

APRIL 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 1 Apr @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Luncheon: Wed, 8 Apr @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker: Grant Williams, USMC (Retired). CH-46 Pilot, CEO "Flying Leatherneck Museum"

MAY 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 13 May @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

"Lt Col Robert J. Donovan III Spouse Appreciation Luncheon"

Speaker: Dr. Bill Patton, "Ailments of Presidential First Ladies"

JUNE 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 3 June @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Luncheon: Wed, 10 June @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker: TBD

JULY 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 8 July @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker: TBD

AUGUST 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 5 Aug @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Luncheon: Dark. Enjoy a summer vacation

SEPTEMBER 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 9 Sep @ 1100—Hap Arnold Club

Speaker: TBD

OCTOBER 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 7 Oct @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Luncheon: Wed, 14 Oct @ 1100—Hap Arnold club

Speaker: TBD

NOVEMBER 2026

Board Mtg: None

Luncheon: Wed, 11 Nov @ 1200—Victoria Club

Program: 11 Nov 30th Flight Veteran's Day Celebration at Riverside National Cemetary starting @ 1100, luncheon to follow at the Victoria Club @ 1200. Speaker: TBD

DECEMBER 2026

Board Mtg: Wed, 2 Dec @ 1000—Hap Arnold Club

Dinner: Date: Thur, 10 Dec 2026 @ 1730—Victoria Club

Program: Flight 30 Christmas Dinner and Dance

FLIGHT 30 BLASTS FROM THE PAST -- 2014

"FLIGHT 30 — FOUNDER'S DAY 80TH BIRTHDAY — MAR 26, 2014"

Flight Captain, Col Dan Oplinger welcomes the new Flight 30 members and guests.

New Members L-R: Lt Col Douglas Weskamp, Maj Christina Szasz , and Col Tony Bowen.

Organizer, Col John Kerr introduces the new Flight 30 Daedalian members.

"LAOS – THE SECRET WAR"

BRIG GEN (USAF RET) GRESHIK

MAY 2014 LUNCHEON SPEAKER

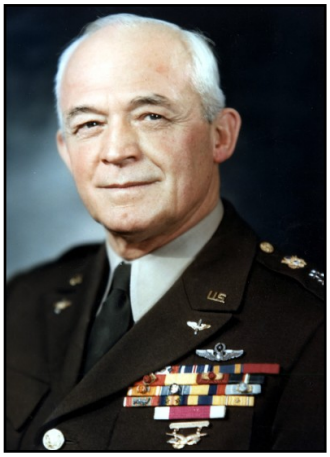
Gen Greshik receiving his complimentary bottle of wine from Flight Captain, Dan Oplinger

"RANDY ZAHN — AH-1 COBRA ATTACK HELICOPTER PILOT — VIETNAM"

AUGUST 13, 2014 LUNCHEON SPEAKER

WO Randy Zahn 'Cavalier 24' was a Cobra Pilot with C Troop 1/9th 1970-1971.

These were a group of two helicopters, a Loach and a Cobra gun ship. The concept was the Loach would fly low and in tight circles to draw enemy fire. Then when the enemy was spotted the Cobra would use their fire power to attack.



General "Hap" Arnold

30th Flight

WE FLEW WE FLY

"Hap" Arnold

Order of Daedalians, INC

March Air Reserve Base Flightline

NOTIFICATION

In the event of an Emergency, or when a member of 30th Flight has passed on, please notify our 30th Flight Adjutant, Col Bob Hermes, 207-214-5079 or adjutant30flight@yahoo.com.

11 MAR 2026 LUNCHEON

HAP ARNOLD CLUB

WED — 11 MAR 2026

START ENGINES 1100 — LUNCHEON 1130

MENU: Start with a Green Garden Salad. 1. Chicken Cordon Blue, Rice Pilaf, and Steamed Broccoli Spears . 2. Vegetarian: Chef's Choice. Finish with a Gourmet Fresh Baked Sugar Cookie.

Additionally Rolls, Butter, Coffee, and Ice Tea plus White & Red Wine for Toasting.

RESERVATIONS: Your name and guest(s), if applicable:

1. Email Jeff Schall: mjmschall@gmail.com or call 714-686-2702 with Meal Choice if Vegetarian. 2. Pay at the door or prepay with Zelle. Do not mail reservations or checks to Jeff or the Flight mail box.

3. Reservation Deadline: Make or cancel your reservation not later than 1200 Hours, Sat, 7 Mar 2026 (NOTE: A reservation made is a reservation paid.)

4. Ensure Jeff has replied and confirmed your reservation or cancellation and meal choice if vegetarian.

5. Cost: $35. Pay at the door with check, cash, credit card, or Zelle. Or prepay with Zelle using:

Zelle email: flight30treasurer@gmail.com

ACE OF SPADES FOR MAR
One Half of $385 & 46 Cards