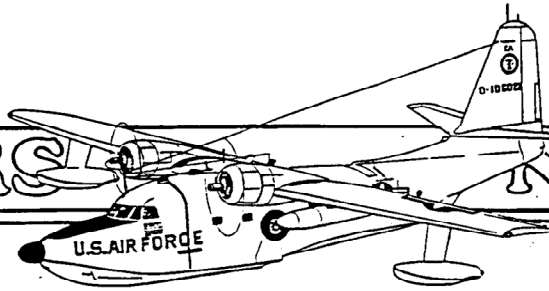


OL TIMERS NOOZZE



Volume 16, Issue 1

February 2012

Retiree Tax Statements

Retirees and annuitants who have a myPay account at [DFAS- MyPay](#) can access their 1099R. The 1099Rs were not mailed to retirees and annuitants unless they selected the hardcopy option for their annual account statement or tax forms. Those recipients should receive their 1099Rs in the postal mail sometime in mid-January 2012. If you have not received yours by that time, verify your correct postal mailing address with DFAS by calling 1-800-321-1080.



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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

COL John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

The Newsletter contains a postage paid ballot to facilitate voting. Association members have volunteered their time to serve as Board members. Please express your support and appreciation by voting and returning the ballot.

The Association Annual lunch will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. Reservation material and directions to the Lodge are contained in the Newsletter. We will be presenting six \$1,000 scholarships to Wing members, as well as honoring the Wing 2011 Outstanding Airmen of the year.

The annual dues period began January 1, 2012, and \$15 annual dues notices will soon be in the mail to members who have not prepaid their dues. If you do not receive a dues notice, your 2012 assessment has been paid. Members attending the annual luncheon can combine the dues and luncheon fees into one check.

We recently lost two of our long time members – CMSgt Jim Newman and CWO4 Ed Wiemken. Obituaries are included.

See you at the Old Timers' Lunch!

Cheers!

John

2011 Scholarship Awards

CCMSgt Liliana Ramos

The Association will award six Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. The Santos, Delucchi, Koenig, and Breeden scholarships are being awarded with a generous donation from Patricia and Ronald VandenBerghe. The 129th AHA scholarship is being awarded with a generous donation from Col. Charles Fuller. Col John Ruppel has funded the Ruppel scholarship. The winners will receive their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2011 scholarships!

BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship

- ✚ SSgt Leslie Zapata - 129th OG
 - History

SMSGt Donald Delucchi Scholarship

- ✚ TSgt Roberta Textor - 561st Band
 - 🎓 Court Reporting

BG Charles W. Koenig Scholarship

- ✚ SrA Jacob Ellwood - 129th RQS
 - 🎓 Professional Aeronautics

Col John R. Breeden Scholarship

- ✚ SrA Jonathan Pflueger - 129th RQW/IN
 - 🎓 Political Science

Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship

- ✚ SrA Kayla Sather - 129th MDG
 - 🎓 Business Administration

129th AHA Scholarship

- ✚ SSgt Eileen Fair - 129th LRS
 - 🎓 Military Studies

Congratulations to All!

Liliana



Board Election

March 2012

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer - is scheduled for 2012. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2012) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2013).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Director CCMSgt Liliana Ramos; Secretary-Treasurer Lt Col Dave Russell; association member at large, Lt Col Jim Rommelfanger; and Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Officers will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers Lunch, scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

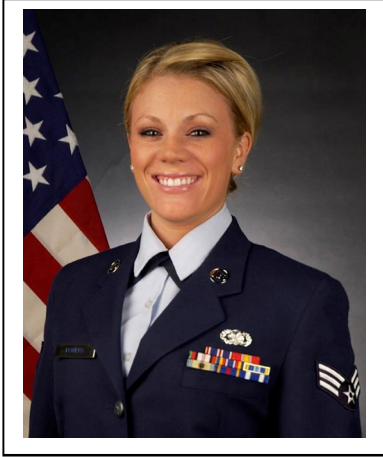
All AHA members in good standing may vote for Officers. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2011 membership dues. If your last year's dues were not paid, you are not considered to be in good standing and are not eligible to vote. There are three names on the ballot: Col John L. Ruppel, President; Lt Col Steven L. James, Vice President; and Lt Col David P. Russell, Secretary-Treasurer. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for three nominees. The nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Officers, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon.

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 6, 2012, and mailed to:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
c/o Col. John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Mark and mail your ballots today!





Airman of the Year
SrA Mandi Powers
131st Rescue Squadron

2011
Outstanding
Airmen
of the
Year



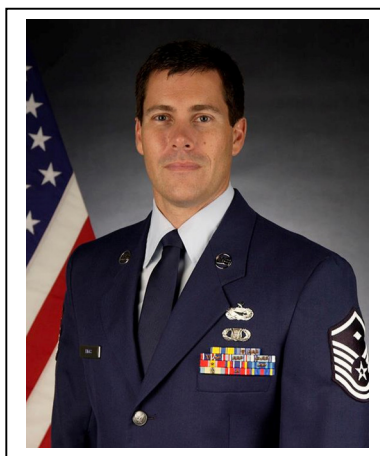
NCO of the Year
7Sgt Randall
Johnson
130th Rescue Squadron

The Wing has selected the Outstanding Airmen for 2011.
These individuals will be our guests at the Old Timers Luncheon
and will be presented with a one-year membership to the Association.

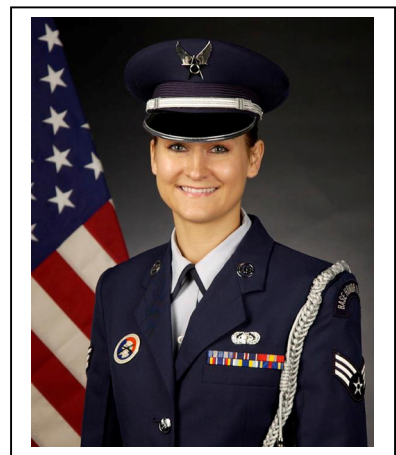
Congratulations and Welcome!



Sr NCO of the Year
MSgt Sean Kirsch
131st Rescue Squadron



1st Sergeant of the Year
MSgt Ron Biggs
129th Operations Group



Honor Guard
Member of the Year
SrA Holly Durkin
129th Communications
Flight

CWO4 Edward C. Wiemken

16 September 1927 – 29 December 2011



Edward Charles Wiemken, long-time resident of Hayward, California, passed away at 07:55 a.m. December 27, 2011, after succumbing to a long illness.

He was born in Oakland, California, to Henry and Emma Wiemken. One of six children, he is survived by sister Yvonne Dibble; brothers Albert Wiemken, Dean Wiemken, and Sterling Wiemken. Younger brother Lynn preceded him in death. He had several nephews and nieces (too many to name).

He attended and graduated with honors from Castlemont High School, located in Oakland, California. Edward married Birdie Brockwell on September 9, 1951, and settled with his new bride in Hayward, California. They were married 60 years. They had five sons, David, Jeff, Brian, Eric, and Michael. Both Eric and Michael preceded him in death. They had 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Ed served in the [Army](#) Air Corps at the end of WWII. He rose from the rank of Airman Basic to Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO-4). After the WWII, he went to work as an air technician with the California Air National Guard, and later served as the vehicular transportation officer until he retired.

Edward built a retail Christmas tree business serving the bay area for over 50 years. He invested in real estate, built a dream home in Hayward with his sons in the 1970s, and managed a variety of very challenging projects. A man of numerous talents, nothing ever seemed too difficult for him as he lived out his very diverse and productive life.

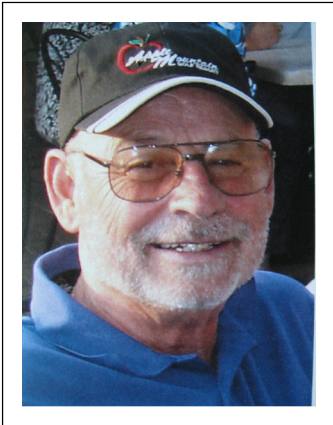
A memorial service will be sometime in March at Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Blvd., Hayward California, 94544. Phone: 510-792-4242 (the date to be determined).

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: Windsor Country Care Center, 2500 Country Drive, Fremont,

CMSgt James A. Newman

16 July 1943 – 21 December 2011

James Allen Newman was born July 16, 1943, and passed away on December 21, 2012, at the age of 68.



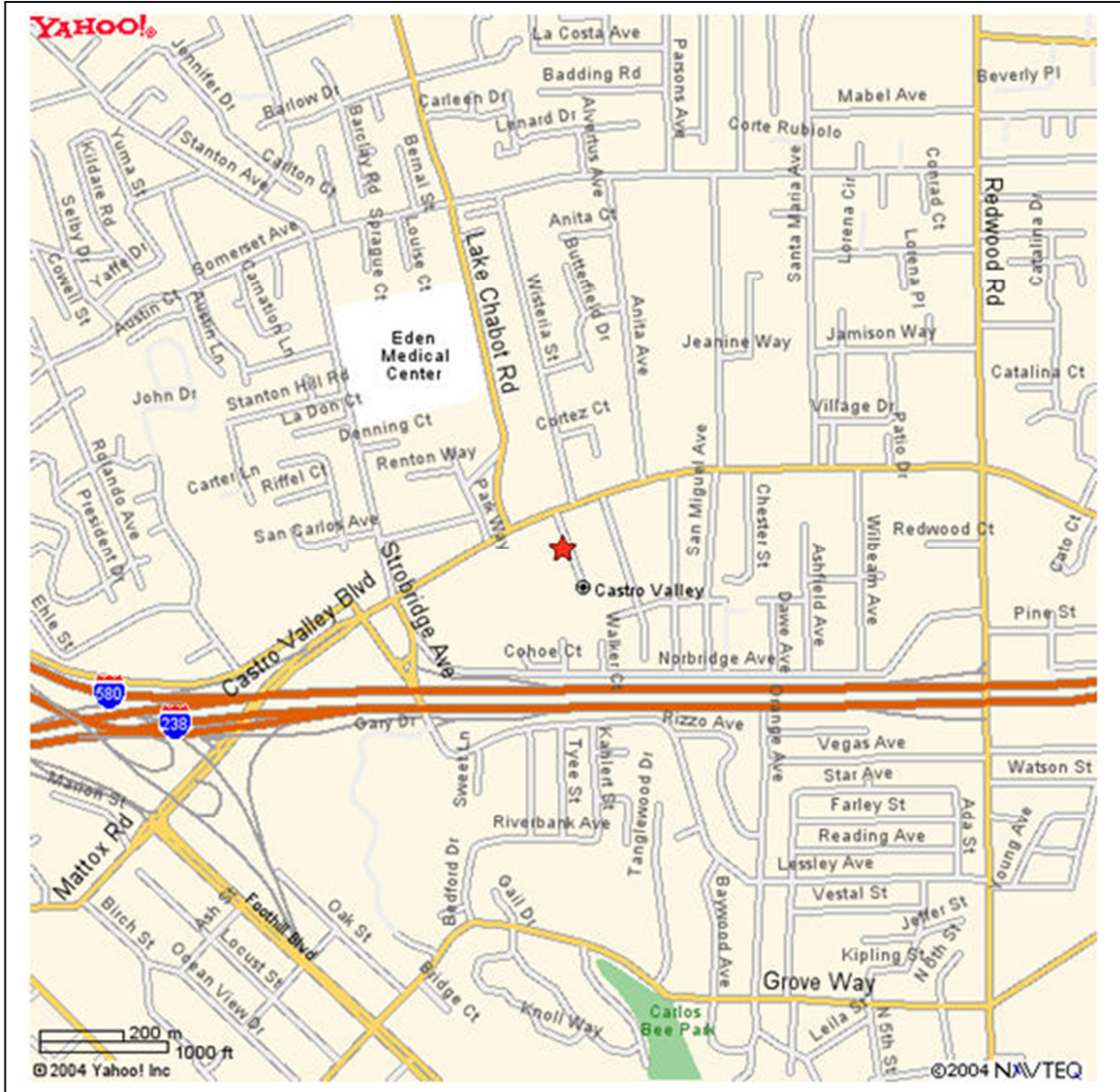
CMSgt Jim Newman served in the United States Air Force, and served in VietNam (1966-67); Air Force Tracking Station in Chiniak, Alaska; Amarillo AFB, Texas; McGuire AFB, New Jersey; and Chanute AFB, Illinois. He joined the 129th Rescue Wing in 1960 and served until 1993.

Jim was passionate for life, and loved the military, his Harley Davidson motorcycle, golfing, and, most of all, his wife, Jennifer.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jennifer (also a retired member of the 129th RQW); children James II and Linda Newman; Ronald and Liz Newman; Wayne and Kimberly Newman Franklin; and Truin and Stephanie Newman Brown. He is also survived by brothers and sisters Rick and Dawn Newman, Fairfield, CA; Phil and Johnnie Dell Newman Phillips, Tyler, TX; Luke and Dot Newman Pearcey, Aurora, CO; and John and Helen Newman Driscoll, West Palm Bay, FL.

Jim was also blessed with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren – and the name James Allen Newman has been carried by a young man through 4 generations. There are also many nieces and nephews left behind.

Jim was interred at the Veteran's Cemetery in Dixon, California. Jennifer requests any memorials be made to an Alzheimer's research and support organization.



Driving Directions to the Castro Valley Moose Hall – 20835 Rutledge Road

- From 580 West
 - Take the Strobridge Avenue Exit
 - Turn Right on Strobridge Avenue
 - Turn Right on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road.
- From 580 East
 - Take the Castro Valley Boulevard Exit (towards Hayward)
 - Turn Left on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road



The Annual
129th AHA Old Timers Luncheon
March 13, 2012

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall
20835 Rutledge Road
(510) 537-0830

- 1130 Hrs** **At the Bar**
Trim Adjustment, Hangar Flying, Ramp Rumors, Old Buddies Checklist
- 1215 Hrs** **Gear Down & Locked Lunch**
Roast Beef and Chicken Buffet with all the trimmings - \$20.00
- 1330 Hrs** **129th AHA Annual Meeting**
Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Officers,
Presentation of Scholarship Awards
- 1400 Hrs** **Invited Guest Speaker**
Lt Col Jesse Craddock (Ret) – Original Member of 129th Rescue Wing
- 1430 Hrs** **Raffle and Social Hour**

Spouses and guests are welcome!

P.O.C. Lynda Taft-Fawcett (916) 871-4903
Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446

Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 9, 2012

Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name: _____

_____ **Lunch (\$20.00)** _____ **2012 Membership Dues (\$15.00)**

Guest's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Number of Souls Attending:** _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$20.00 per person - Lunch): _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$15.00 – 2012 Membership Dues): _____

Make Check Payable To: 129th AHA
Mail Check and Reservation Form To:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
c/o Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr.
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Money Talk

*The Secretary – Treasurer’s Report
Lt Col Dave Russell (Ret.)*

The annual financial statement is presented below. The dues assessment remains at \$15 for 2012. The Board continued the Scholarship Program award policy limiting awards to the funds generated in any one business year. Additionally, the award amount was maintained at \$1,000 to encourage more applications and insure an adequate reserve is maintained. If you have questions or comments, please contact me by email or at the Old Timers’ Luncheon. Your continued support is appreciated.

129th Alumni and Heritage Association Financial Statement - 2011

EXPENSES	2011	INCOME	2011
Membership	\$ 491.46	Memberships	\$ 3,390.00
Newsletter	\$ 3,079.98	Dues Trust	\$ 585.00
Scholarships	\$ 6,000.00	Scholarship	\$ 6,636.00
Heritage Award Project	\$ 476.93	Deployment Bag Project	
Old-timers Lunch	\$ 1,615.00	Old-timers Lunch	\$ 1,821.00
		Returned OTL Cash	\$ 100.00
Mercantile Store	\$ 961.19	Mercantile Store	\$ 337.00
		Postage	\$ 5.95
Secretary - Treasurer Expense	\$ 15.00		
Board Expense	\$ 707.36		
Total 2011 Expenses	\$13,346.92	Total 2011 Deposit Income	\$12,874.95
Total 2011 Deposit Income	\$12,874.95	Bank Bal 12/31/10	\$17,185.94
Dues Trust Transfer Income	\$ 715.00	2011 Income	\$12,874.95
Total 2011 Income	\$13,589.95	2011 Expense	\$13,346.92
Total 2011 Expenses	\$13,346.92	Bank Bal 12/31/11	\$16,713.97
2011 +/-	\$ 243.03	Encumbrances:	2011
		Scholarship Program	\$ 7,508.34
		Scholarship Awards 2011	\$ 6,000.00
		Prepaid Dues	\$ 1,245.00
		Sub Total Encumbrances	\$14,753.34
		Unencumbered Bal	\$ 1,960.63
		Funds Total	\$16,713.97

The Pursuit of Excellence

Col Steve 'Bucky' Butow, 129RQW/C

The pursuit of excellence defines us as Airmen. It is an Air Force core value, and as such, cannot be compromised. When Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen or others go into harm's way to serve and defend the nation, they do so with the knowledge that we will respond and rescue them if they become isolated, injured or missing. This unwavering trust is forged from a legacy of excellence that characterizes the warrior ethos of the 129th Rescue Wing.

From a tactical perspective, excellence enables a decisive advantage when confronted with adversity. Our mission is inherently dangerous and the expectation of our success is the norm. General Gary North once told me, "CSAR must be perfect. We cannot afford the luxury of a second chance. People die when we are unsuccessful." The definition of risk and reward cannot be stated more clearly than that. Our senior leaders, comrades in arms and the American public have placed enormous trust in us. We must not falter; but when we do, the 129th must recover with even greater tenacity and vigor.

I am proud to serve with the finest Airmen that the 129th Rescue Wing has ever seen. The past ten years of selfless service and distinctive accomplishment more than justify this claim. Together, we must look toward the future, adapt to change and enable the next generation of 129th Airmen to accomplish much more. We must remain mission ready - always. This is achieved through team work, realistic training, innovation and knowledge.

Our success as a wing and as an integral part of the Total Force is created from the personal commitment each of us makes to pursue excellence, set the example and facilitate others' ability to follow. I look to our two most important ranks, captains and technical sergeants, to be the foundation of this leadership effort and set the example for our tactical forces in the air, on the flightline and in the back shops and work centers.

We are entering a post-war era with great uncertainty and economic challenge. In such an environment, excellence will define unit relevance and longevity in the wake of force structure and mission realignments. The 129th Rescue Wing is a strategic asset to the Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, the state of California and the nation. Our relevance is hinged upon a sustained demonstration of excellence; 'just good enough' will not do. The pursuit of anything less equates to an acceptance of certain risk. The margin between success and failure is a fine red line. The wing cannot survive on the razor's edge of just meeting standards. We are in the business of saving lives under the most adverse conditions. The defenders of this nation and others who count on us expect and deserve much more.

I challenge each of you to remain vigilant and identify means of improving wing capabilities, processes or unit culture. Sustained excellence requires continuous assessment, critical thinking and commitment to break from the status quo when required for success. The wing looks to your leadership to keep us relevant now and into the future.

Bucky

Dondi's Mercantile Store

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Liliana Ramos for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129th AHA related items. Jackets and vests are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Liliana Ramos at:

(408) 263-5352

LilRamos@pacbell.net

or online at

<http://www.129aha.org>

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket or Vest	\$65 - \$80	
Logo Polo Shirts - Men's & Ladies	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap	\$15	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

All profits are used for 129 AHA benefit projects.

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2012 Dues \$15.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
129th Alumni & Heritage Association
c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Dr.
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

Form is available at www.129aha.org

Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

CMSgt James A. Newman
CWO4 Edward C. Wiemken



New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

Lt Col Dan Lapastole
CCMSgt Jason Red

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

Application form is available at

www.129aha.org

Save # 948 – Guardsmen Save Man 200 Miles Off the Coast of California

Major Alyson Teeter, Public Affairs Officer

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing performed a rescue mission 200 miles off the coast of California Sunday, February 4, 2012.

Responding to the call from the Eleventh District Coast Guard at Alameda, pararescuers, or PJs, two HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters and one MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft departed here mid-morning and were on scene by noon.

The team provided medical assistance to a 54-year-old male who had suffered stroke-like symptoms on the cargo ship, MSC Beijing. Guardsmen medevaced the patient to the San Jose Regional Medical Center.

“This is a prime example of how the 129th and California National Guard is ready to support civilian authorities at a moment’s notice,” said Col. Steven J. Butow, 129th Rescue Wing Commander. “The Coast Guard knew they could depend on our specialized capability as one of the premier rescue units in the nation.”

This rescue brings the total number of people saved by the 129th RQW to 948.

The primary mission of the 129th RQW is to train and be prepared to perform its wartime mission of combat search and rescue anywhere in the world. In addition to its wartime mission, the unit also works closely with the Coast Guard and various civil agencies on state missions. Equipped with MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers and HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, the 129th has performed a wide variety of civilian search and rescue missions, including distressed persons aboard ships, lost or injured hikers, and medical evacuations.

Photos of the mission are available online at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil and www.facebook.com/129RQW. Please contact Major Alyson Teeter at 650-603-9152 for more information.

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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J-L.Ruppel@att.net

VICE PRESIDENT

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SLJames@backgroundprofiles.com

SECRETARY - TREASURER

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dprussell1@sbcglobal.net

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SMSgt Joaquin “Joe” Preciado
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LilRamos@pacbell.net

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douglas.sale@sbcglobal.net

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LilRamos@pacbell.net

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RESQLM@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynda Taft Fawcett – (916) 871-4903
LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you – nor do they return it to us. They charge us 75¢ for providing your forwarding address. Then we update your file, but you do not get a newsletter until next edition unless you request an electronic copy. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122
E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@ATT.NET



Ballots Due March 6ii
See You at the OTLii



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

129th Alumni & Heritage Assn.
C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

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