

Volume 17, Issue 4

December 2013



*Merry Christmas*

**Board Elections - Directors**

March 2014

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers is scheduled for 2014. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2014) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2015).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Secretary-Treasurer Lt Col Dave Russell; CCMSgt Liliana Ramos; 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 11, 2014, at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as a Director. Individuals interested in serving as a Director should complete the form included in this issue. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 15, 2014, to:

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)  
6718 Zerillo Drive  
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2014, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots – an email or a self-addressed stamped postcard - will be sent to all members in good standing, with information regarding the Old Timers Luncheon, no later than February 15, 2014. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned no later than March 7, 2014, to be valid. The nominees with the highest number of votes for each office will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers Luncheon.



**Inside This Issue**

1	Board Elections – March 2014
1	Merry Christmas!!
2	Prez Sez / 2013 – DFAS 1099R Distribution
3	Officer Election Nomination Form
4	In Memoriam – MSgt Jason M. Long
5	In Memoriam – SMSgt Joaquin Jose Preciado
6	In Memoriam – MSgt Sam Wagner
6	2013 Dues Delinquencies
7	Member Application / Dondi's Mercantile Shop
8	Board of Directors
8	Missing in Action

## When Will Your Form 1099R Become Available?

The IRS Forms 1099R for the 2013 tax year will become available online in mid-December 2013. You will be able to access yours on **myPay**.

If you have not yet created your **myPay** account, or if you have forgotten your password, you can find complete instructions at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Similarly, if you are having trouble creating a password for **myPay**, you can find complete instructions at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

We will also mail hard copy versions of the 1099R to those who have chosen that option. Please keep in mind that hard copy versions of the 1099R are issued later and will take a while to reach you. If you have elected hard copy, you may not receive it until mid-January 2014.

Please note that 1099R's are not automatically issued for deceased members. If you want to receive a 1099R on the behalf of a member who passed away, a certificate of death must be on file, and you must request that a 1099R be issued.



## The Prez Sez

### *The President's Column*

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

The Board appreciates the members' response to the late dues notice. We have made progress in reducing the delinquencies. If you received a mailed notice and have not responded, please do so immediately. There are still 20 members who have not submitted 2013 dues. While the Board is not going to suspend memberships at year's end for nonpayment, individuals will be required to submit 2013 and 2014 payment no later than March 11, 2014, or have their membership forfeited.

The Association lost a strong supporter and a Board member with the passing of SMSgt Joaquin "Joe" Preciado on October 21, 2013. I was informed by Chief David Cantrell of the April passing of MSgt Sam Wagner. The Newsletter contains articles on SMSgt Preciado and MSgt Wagner.

MSgt Jason Long, a Security Forces Squadron member died on duty at Moffett on November 26, 2013. The Wing held a memorial service on Saturday, December 7, 2013. He is survived by his wife and three children. MSgt Long will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Col Butow attended the December 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and provided an update on Wing activities. A new \$27 million dollar Pararescue Building is under construction east of the Supply Building; funds have been earmarked for the construction of a new Motor Pool facility and new Engine Shop. The 1000th save celebration will be held in the spring. The event has been delayed because of locating a venue. Col Butow will speak at the annual Old Timers' lunch.

The annual Old Timers' lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. Reservation information and directions will be published in the January – February Newsletter. I have extended an invitation to Major Jeff Borg, the Pararescue Squadron Commander, to provide a briefing on the Squadron's operation and training. Please save the date and plan to join us.

The Board wishes you and yours a wonderful Christmas Season and the best for 2014.

Cheers!

*John*

Have some good ideas about things the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA should do?  
Want to make changes in the way things are done?  
Want to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of the  
AHA?

Then nominate yourself to become a Director of the Association!  
Any member in good standing (that means your dues are paid) can  
run for and be elected to the Board of Directors. Officers are  
elected in even years (2014). Directors at large are elected in  
odd years (2015).

**Now is your chance!  
Let your voice be heard!  
Choose to become involved!**

**NOMINATION FOR CORPORATION DIRECTOR**

**Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA!  
Place my name in nomination for Corporation Director.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service in 129<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Must be received no later than January 15, 2014. Mail to:

**COL. JOHN L. RUPPEL, JR. (RET.)  
6718 ZERILLO DRIVE  
RIVERBANK, CA 95367-2122**

# *MSgt Jason Michael Long*

*15 July 1975 – 26 November 2013*

- FALLEN DEFENDER -  
MASTER SERGEANT JASON MICHAEL LONG

**The Security Forces Prayer**

“Lord, you have called us to be guardians of a nation founded on Your principles. Whatever our tasks as Security Force men and women, we do them to serve You and our nation. We are proud to accept the responsibility of this high calling. We dedicate ourselves to our vocation, and ask for guidance and courage in aiding our people to live with dignity, in safety and peace. We know true security comes from your presence, so we pray with the Psalmist: You bless those who obey You, Lord; Your love protects them like a shield. Use us, O Lord, as shields for Your people, reflecting Your security and peace.”

**END OF WATCH – 26 NOVEMBER 2013**

Jason Michael Long, 38, of Mountain View, CA, passed away on November 26, 2013, while serving his state and country.

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on July 15, 1975, to Keith and Nancy Smith, who preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, Chantel Long; and his three children, Sabrina, Ashlee, and Denton.

He was a beloved husband, father, nephew, son-in-law, brother-in-law, and, to friends, he was known as a "Brother From Another Mother." He was a hero, a man with strength and character that you could call on anytime.

When called on, he would ride, no matter the distance, to render any help he could. He was always ready with a handshake and a hug.

MSgt Long was proud to serve his country and his presence embodied the essence of a Senior Non-commissioned Officer. His poise, confidence, and thoughtfulness evoked peace of mind for all those he came into contact with. He will remain in our hearts and minds for many years to come. Rest in peace, defender. You will be greatly missed.

# *SMSgt Joaquin Jose Preciado*

*2 March 1932 – 21 October 2013*



Joaquin Jose Preciado, 81, passed away on October 21 after a brief illness. Mr. Preciado was a long time resident of Hayward, Born in Hanford, CA, the son of Jose and Eugenia Preciado. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shirley Preciado; daughter Eugenia Preciado; sons David and Jose Preciado; grandchildren Jose and Soledad. The eldest of 7 siblings, Robert Preciado (deceased), Angelita Richard, Conrad Preciado (deceased), Micaela Owen, Hortencia Peffer and Luz Preciado. He had many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

A [US Air Force Korean War](#) veteran, he continued his service in the California Air National Guard, retiring as Senior Master Sergeant after 44 years of service. He served Hayward Police Dept. and retired after 25 years as Capt. of Reserves. Respected sports official, he officiated high school and college football, baseball and softball. Charter Member HSUA. A member of Moose Lodge and Gold Circle member of [VFW](#). In recent years enjoyed coffee with his friends at McDonalds.

Funeral Mass Saturday was held November 9, 2013, at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 703 C St. Union City, CA. Interment was Friday, November 15, 2013, at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, Dixon, Ca.



# *MSgt Sam Wagner*

*1925 –2013*

MSgt Sam Wagner passed away in April 2013 at the age of 88. In March 1975 Sam was assigned to the HC130H, tail number 65-0981, one of the first 130's to arrive from active Air force. He joined the 129<sup>th</sup> several years prior to 1975, and had many years with the unit. He retired in 1980 just before the move to Moffett. Sam was a WWII veteran, flying as a gunner on B17s and B24s over Europe. He is survived by his wife and two sons. His wife lives in Seattle, Washington, but is, unfortunately, in assisted living due to dementia. Both sons live nearby. Sam was a great guy and was well liked in the unit.

## **2013 Membership Dues Delinquency**

As of December 8, 2013, 20 members have not yet paid 2013 dues. Historically, at this time in the Association's business year, the delinquency is about 1%. Long term, the Association cannot survive if this trend continues.

The Board has sent a written notice to all delinquent members. This notice was mailed in conjunction with the publication of the September-October Newsletter. We ask all who have not yet paid to please give the dues payment priority. If convenient, please consider a multi-year payment. If your 2013 dues payment is not received by the end of 2013, you will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming election. 2013 AND 2014 dues must be paid by March 11, or membership is subject to forfeiture.

A postcard reminder will be sent in January 2014 to all members who have not prepaid dues.

The Board is appreciative of the members' support. Please do not hesitate to communicate any ideas or suggestions regarding this matter or other questions and concerns.

*John*

# Dondi's Mercantile Store

129<sup>th</sup> AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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	
Polo Shirts - Blackhawk & 130	\$25 & up	Special Order
Logo Baseball Cap	\$15	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pins	\$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 129<sup>th</sup> who isn't a member yet?

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2014 Dues \$15.00

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

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ 129<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE DATES FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above information and mail to:  
129<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.129aha.org)

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

First Class  
Postage  
provided by  
129<sup>th</sup> AHA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!



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

**PRESIDENT**

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. – (209) 869-2879  
[J-L.Ruppel@att.net](mailto:J-L.Ruppel@att.net)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

LTC Steven L. James – (925) 974-1820  
[SLJames@backgroundprofiles.com](mailto:SLJames@backgroundprofiles.com)

**SECRETARY - TREASURER**

LTC David P. Russell – (209) 551-8077  
[dprussell1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dprussell1@sbcglobal.net)

**DIRECTORS**

CMS Stuart Loux – (650) 417-5671  
[RESQLM@hotmail.com](mailto:RESQLM@hotmail.com)

CCMS Liliana Ramos – (408) 263-5352  
[LilRamos@pacbell.net](mailto:LilRamos@pacbell.net)

CCMS Douglas B. Sale – (408) 786-9339  
[douglas.sale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:douglas.sale@sbcglobal.net)

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR**

CCMS Liliana Ramos – (408) 263-5352  
[LilRamos@pacbell.net](mailto:LilRamos@pacbell.net)

**129<sup>TH</sup> RQW MILITARY LIAISON**

CMS Stuart Loux – (650) 417-5671  
[RESQLM@hotmail.com](mailto:RESQLM@hotmail.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Lynda Taft Fawcett – (916) 871-4903  
[LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com](mailto: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 or change your email address.

The newsletter is only mailed to those with NO email access. We request address correction, but 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. If you change your email address and don't tell us, your newsletter bounces and you get no newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:J-L.RUPPEL@ATT.NET)