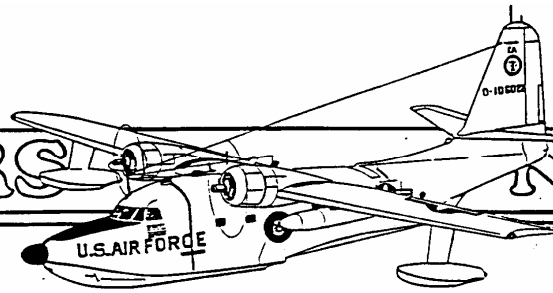


# OL TIMERS NOOZZE



Volume 8, Issue 3

September 2004



## Oldies – but Goodies!

How many of these folks do you recognize? They were all with the 129<sup>th</sup> when the Unit was at Hayward..... And they are with the Unit now..... unless, of course, they have retired recently!

Send your list of names (there are 29 total) to John Ruppel at [J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET](mailto:J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET)

Whoever can identify the greatest number of individuals will be awarded a 2004 Unit collage. Deadline for receipt of entries is Friday, 15 October.

Good Luck!

## Space-A Travel Update

CCMSgt Ed Boddington (Ret.), Director  
Recently, Air Force officials announced a very positive change in the Air Force Space-A lodging policy. Now, base lodging managers may accept and confirm reservations for priority 2 (space available guests) up to 30 days in advance of the arrival day, for up to three nights accommodations. Also local managers have many options to accommodate space-A guests and will not bump priority 2 customers with confirmed reservations for priority 1 customers. This new directive replaces the long-standing policy of only accepting space-A reservations 24 hours in advance and requiring guest to show up at the base lodging office at 6:00 p.m. on the desired day and hope that the accommodations were available.

Another interesting travel note is the Military Living's United States Military Road Atlas. If you are planning a driving trip or plan to visit another state in our good old US of A, you will find this atlas has a wealth of information. You can order the atlas by calling 1-800-527-2345 and give the operation catalog item code K741N, or log on to [www.militaryliving.com](http://www.militaryliving.com) or check the Travis AFB exchange.

We have been able to book reservations at McCord AFB and at Fairchild AFB near Spokane, Washington 30 days in advance. We are looking forward to using the base facilities and traveling on less per day the military way!

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## The Prez Sez

### *The President's Column*

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

General Thomas Eres, the Adjutant General, announced effective November 1 General Denny Lucas would succeed General Dan Gibson as California Air National Guard Commander, and Colonel Mary Knight of the 144<sup>th</sup> FIW would succeed Gen Lucas as Assistant ANG Commander. Colonel Tommy Williams, the 129<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander, is scheduled to retire November 1; a successor has not been announced.

The fall Association Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 22. Registration information and form are on page 3.

A few members have not paid their 2004 dues. If your Newsletter mail label indicates delinquent please take a moment and submit your \$10 2004 dues.

The Newsletter is available via the internet. The Newsletter editor has experienced several e-mail Newsletter delivery rejections. This is attributable to spam blockers or an invalid e-mail address. If you signed up for internet delivery and are not receiving the Newsletter or would like to receive the Newsletter via the internet please contact Lynda Fawcett at [ltfawcett@hotmail.com](mailto:ltfawcett@hotmail.com).

Col Ed Fleming, a former member of the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, NY ANG, at Suffolk County, has written a book detailing his 30 years experiences as rescue pilot. A synopsis of the book and ordering details can be found on page 4.

MSgt Ed McNemar, an aircraft maintenance machinist with the 129<sup>th</sup> at Hayward, passed away August 10. The obituary is on page 5.

The Board is providing retiring 129<sup>th</sup> RQW members a copy of the 2004 Association Unit Aircraft collage. A Board member presented a framed collage copy to retiring CMSgt Doug Sale, SMSgt Rich Ybarra, and Lt Col Bill Marion. See page 6 for photographs from CMSgt Sale's and SMSgt Ybarra's presentations.

Col Jeffrey Stuard, the 129<sup>th</sup> RQW Support Group Commander will retire at the conclusion of the September drill weekend. Col Stuard held several full-time positions prior to joining the 129<sup>th</sup> as the Vice Wing Commander.

### ***The Prez Sez - cont***

A picture of the remaining 129<sup>th</sup> RQW members who worked at Hayward can be found on the front page. Several individuals in the picture have since retired. Can you identify any of the folks?

As a reminder - the nomination period for the Association at-large directors will open with delivery of the December Newsletter.

***Happy Halloween!***

*Jay*

## 2004 Moffett Air Show

### *The Vice President's Two-Cents Worth*

CCMS Ken Moore (Ret.)

The annual Moffett Air Show featuring the Air Force Thunderbirds was held Memorial Day weekend. Association members staffed five beverage booths to generate Scholarship Program funds. The booth captained by Don Delucchi earned the most money - second year in a row! The weekend produced \$2,874 for the Scholarship Program. I would like to thank the Association members, their families and friends who generosity volunteering their time made the Association's participation possible.



# 129<sup>th</sup> ALUMNI & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

In Conjunction With

## MOFFETT FAF GOLF COURSE MGMT

Invites You to Participate in the October 2004

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

(FORMAT TO BE DETERMINED)

### Moffett Field Golf Course

22 Oct 2004, 1030 (Check-in)

**\$40.00 (Per Player)**

(Power Carts Not Included)

### REGISTRATION CLOSES 13 Oct 2004

Barbeque at the golf course after the tournament

POC: Lt Col Jim Rommelfanger – 2578 Maraschino Court – Union City, CA 94587  
1-510-489-4365 (Home) or 1-650-603-9110 (Unit)

-----Cut here and return to POC-----

--

Send check payable to 129 AHA, with registration form, to the POC.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Status: AD Reserve Retired Civilian

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Power Cart: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ (You will pay for the cart at tournament check-in)

Extra Dinners for a spouse / guest - \$6.00 each: Names: \_\_\_\_\_

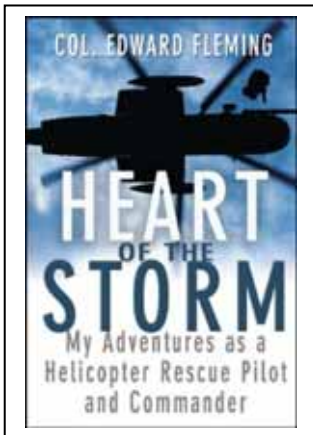
Do you have a caddy or a walker? \$6.00 each - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up your own foursome or request pairing with a playing partner. (List below):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Request pairing with \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Return the Registration Form to the POC As Soon As Possible!**



## Heart of the Storm : My Adventures as a Helicopter Rescue Pilot and Commander

by [Edward L. Fleming](#)

Available now at

[amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com)

### ***Book Description (from Amazon.com)***

From the "perfect storm" to the South Pole, a stirring true-life adventure story by a celebrated helicopter rescue pilot - During the course of a 30-year career in helicopter rescue, Colonel Edward Fleming led scores of high-risk, high-profile missions, including rescue operations during the Halloween storm of 1991 described in Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* and the successful rescue of Dr. Jerri Nielsen from Antarctica after she developed breast cancer. Now, Colonel Fleming takes readers along for a bracing ride as he recounts the most thrilling episodes of his long career. With all the nail-biting excitement of a bestselling thriller, *Heart of the Storm* brings to life dramatic jungle rescues in the Philippines, the longest helicopter rescue mission in history to save crew members of a Ukrainian freighter 840 miles off of the coast of Nova Scotia, a nearly disastrous rescue off a listing two-masted schooner during an Atlantic winter storm, and many more—including the ill-fated "perfect storm" operation of 1991 and the exceptionally difficult Dr. Nielsen rescue. Fleming describes the many near-misses and narrow escapes he and his crews experienced, as well as many tragic losses he witnessed. Through it all, the courage and professionalism of Fleming and his crews aboard their "Jolly Green Giant" HH3E and MH60 helicopters shines through, making this suspenseful, richly textured book an exhilarating read for anyone who enjoys true-life adventure stories.

Col. Edward Fleming, retired (Eagle Bridge, NY), served in the Air Force and Air Force National Guard for 30 years as a helicopter rescue pilot and was the Commander of the 106th Operations Group, 4412th Squadron, in the Persian Gulf and the Vice Commander of the 109th Airlift Wing. Over the course of his career, he was responsible for saving 293 lives.

### ***Editorial Review***

#### ***From Publishers Weekly***

During his 30 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, Fleming made a career of descending from the sky to pluck disaster victims from the jaws of floods, storms, sharks and polar white-outs. His gripping memoir vividly illustrates how tenuous the life of a *deus ex machina* can be. Fleming recalls the tragic and sometimes gruesome deaths of unlucky colleagues who succumbed to the elements and recounts hair-raising missions that often took place at night, flown through hazardous weather (including the vicious nor'easter Sebastian Junger made famous in *The Perfect Storm*) in fragile helicopters prone to mechanical breakdown. Avoiding gung-ho special-ops bluster, he probes the human flaws and lapses—incompetent, panicky pilots, abusive officers, penny-pinching bureaucrats who refuse to pay for much-needed equipment—that bedevil even elite outposts of the military. Fleming's sober, straightforward, well-paced style lucidly conveys the lore of helicopter flight and the practical difficulties of rescue missions while letting the heroics speak for themselves. Photos.

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## Time Rolls On! Recent Retirements



CMSgt Doug Sale receives an Aircraft of the 129<sup>th</sup> collage from Secretary-Treasurer John Ruppel, and Vice-President Ken Moore.



SMSgt Rich Ybarra receives an Aircraft of the 129<sup>th</sup> collage from President Jay Craddock.



## MSgt Edwin D. McNemar

18 August 1924 – 10 August 2004

Born in Agenda, Kansas, Ed passed away at his home in Fremont, California, just a week shy of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The family moved to Fremont in 1938, and he has been a resident of Alameda County since that time.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 and proudly served aboard the battleship USS. Pennsylvania and, later, the oil tanker USS Kankakee. He was honorably discharged in late 1946. From 1958 through 1978, Ed was a member of the California Air National Guard in Hayward, where he served as an aircraft maintenance mechanic.

Ed was predeceased by his father, Edwin E. McNemar; his mother, Havana McNemar; and his sister, Arlene McNemar Cranor. He is survived by his sister Iris Atkinson of Central Point, Oregon, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held August 19 in Fremont.



# Dondi's Mercantile Store

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

After much searching we have found a new source of MembersOnly jackets - so we are once again taking orders for 129<sup>th</sup> AHA jackets.

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 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.

All items as well as order forms for the jackets will be available at the Air Show.

Order from Don Delucchi at:  
(925) 689-2683  
or online at [Dondi129@hotmail.com](mailto:Dondi129@hotmail.com)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket-1 ONLY!	\$70 - \$75	2XL ***
Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Embroidered Logo	\$10	
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Silk-screened Logo	\$5	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 <sup>th</sup> Aircraft Collage	\$10	

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

**\*\*\* ONLY 1 JACKET (SIZE 2XL) LEFT!!!!**

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 2004 Dues \$10.00

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!!**

## New to the Gang

*Our Newest Members*

*MSgt Michael J. Bailado*

*SSgt Clint Christman*

*TSgt Larry Hite*

*Sgt Mark Jaegel*

# Welcome!

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

## Final Flyby

In Memoriam

We bid farewell to one of our members who has departed on his final journey.

MSgt Edwin David McNemar



CMSgt Earl W. Francis & Col William E. Cox

## Shades & Sounds of the Past

CMSgt Earl W. Francis, USAF Ret. (on the left) was the first 1st Sgt of the original 129 Air Resupply Squadron. He retired as the First Superintendent of CBPO for the 129 SOG. On the right is Col William E. Cox, USAF Ret. At his retirement Col Cox was the Chief, CBPO for the 129 SOG. Bill Cox has been living on the island of Maui since his retirement. Earl Francis, who now lives in Albuquerque, NM, visited him earlier this year - which is when this picture was taken.

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AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## 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. They return it to us - and charge us 37¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 37¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned 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@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

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RIVERBANK, CA

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# Happy Halloween!

