

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2006

2006 UTA Schedule

No drill in January 9-12 February Phase II ORE (4 Days) 4-5 March 1-2 April 4-7 May Phase II ORE (4 Days) 3-4 June No drill in July 5-6 August 9-10 September 12-15 October Phase II ORE (4 Days) 4-5 November 30 November - 3 December Phase II ORI (4 Days) All 129th RQW members will be on military status during any ORE or ORI. Technicians are authorized Military Leave (com LM), Annual Leave (code LA), Comp Time Taken (code CT), or Leave Without Pay (code KA) to maintain military status for ORE's and ORI's.

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Board Elections - Officers

March 2006

An election for the three Officers is scheduled for 2006. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Officers are elected in even number years (2006) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2007).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, appointed an Election Committee composed of Director Steve James; the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel; and association member at large, LTC Jim Rommelfanger. The committee is responsible for gathering nominations, reviewing qualifications, recommending candidates, 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 March 22, 2006.

All AHA members in good standing may vote for Officers. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2005 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: LTC Jesse (Jay) Craddock – President; CCMS Ken Moore – Vice President; and COL John Ruppel – Secretary-Treasurer. Those elected will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 15, 2006, and mailed to:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett 4732 Heatherbrae Circle Sacramento, CA 95842-4328

Mark and mail your ballots today!

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

Eligible Association members will find an Officer Election ballot contained in the Newsletter. Make your vote count. Please complete the postage paid ballot and drop it in the mail.

Col Bagdasarian's schedule necessitated his resignation as a Board Director. The Board appreciates his service and support. The Board selected CMSgt Doug Sale to fill the vacant seat. Doug concluded forty service-years as the 129th Medical Group Superintendent. I appreciate Doug's willingness to serve.

The 129th has turned fifty and to celebrate the event the Board has commissioned a commemorative coin. The coin will be available for \$5 each at the annual Ol' Timers' lunch. Those members unable to attend the luncheon will be able to purchase a coin through Dondi's Mercantile store. Mail order will require a handling and postage charge. The commemorative coin is depicted below.

The Newsletter contains information and reservation information for the March 22nd annual Ol' Timers' lunch. The lunch will be held at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. TSgt Andrew Hughan is the guest speaker and will present a slide show on the Guard's Hurricane Katrina operations. This year's raffle prize is a framed 2004 aircraft collage mounted with two 50th anniversary coins exhibited front and back.

During the Ol' Timers' lunch, the Association will award scholarships - 3 to Wing members and 2 to Wing dependents. The winners are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Wing has proposed holding a June Alumni Day in conjunction with the annual Wing Family Day. Tours and briefings on the Wing would be available, followed by the annual picnic. If you are interested in attending please let us know!

Association members Major Kim Koenig and MSgt Curt Welle have retired. Please contact MSgt Coppin or CMSgt Loux for dinner details. Retirement dinners are scheduled as follows:

The Prez Sez – continued

Major Kim Koenig: February 18th at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley. POC is MSgt Peggy Coppin - phone 650-603-9199 or email <u>Margarita.Coppin@CAMOFF.ANG.AF.MIL</u>

MSgt Curt Welle: March 4th at the Historic Del Monte Building, 100 South Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale. POC CMSgt Stu Loux phone 650-603-9318 or email <u>Stuart.Loux@CAMOFF.ANG.AF.MIL</u>

The Association was informed that SSgt Charles Nobriga, son of the late Col Ralph Nobriga, passed away unexpectedly December 4, 2005.

I look forwarding to seeing you at the Ol' Timers' lunch!



Educational Scholarship Awards

- ✤ SSgt Tamara Potier 129th MXS
- TSgt Joseph A Harris 129th MXS
- ✤ SSgt Fernando Wilkins 129th
- Anthony DeAngelo Dependent
- Angelina Martinez Dependent

Congratulations!

Money Talk

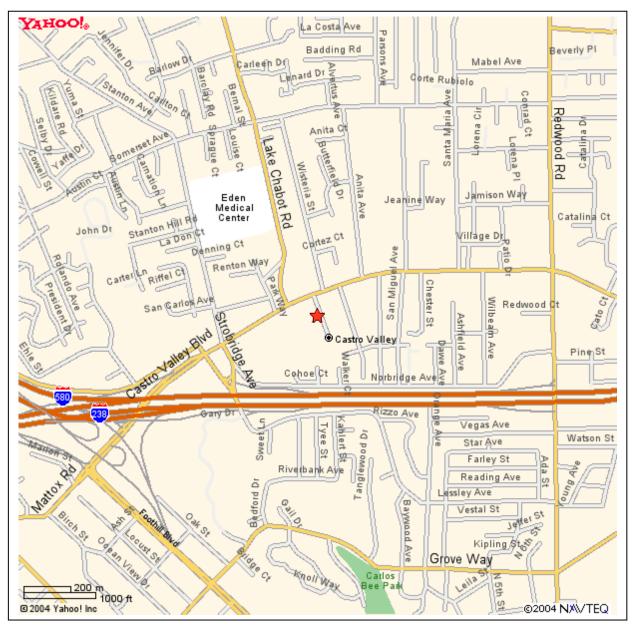
The Secretary – Treasurer's Report

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

The annual financial statement is presented below. The Association financial position continues to be sound. There was no Air Show, due to Air Show Network's contract termination, limiting revenue to dues and scholarship program donations. Expenditures exceed revenue by \$1,759 - attributable to the Association awarding 13 fiscal year 2004 scholarships drawn against the scholarship fund reserve. Active Association year-end membership was 303. The 2005 dues delinquency rate was 1% adjusted for resignations and terminations. Wing ORI preparation precluded staging the 2005 golf tournaments. Please contact me by email or at the Ol' Timers' Luncheon with any questions or comments. We appreciate your continued support!

129 th Alumni and Heritage Association Financial Statement						
2005 <u>EXPENSES</u> <u>INCOME</u>						
Membership	287.35	Memberships	2,534.00			
		Dues Trust	210.00			
Scholarships	4,567.45	Scholarships	2,183.00			
Board Expense	293.87					
Secretary – Treasurer Expense	135.78					
Newsletter	1,526.77					
Ol' Timers' Luncheon	1,896.75	Ol' Timers' Luncheon	1,950.00			
Mercantile Store Program	142.40	Mercantile Store Program	172.00			
		Collage Photos	15.00			
		Logo Lapel Pins	27.00			
Total 2005 Expenses	8,850.37	Total 2005 Income	7,091.00			
		Bank Balance 12/31/04	12,329.98			
Total 2005 Income	7,091.00	2005 Income	7,091.00			
Total 2005 Expenses	(8,850.37)	2005 Expenses	(8,850.37)			
Net 2005 Income	(1,759.37)	Bank Balance 12/31/05	10,570.61			
		Encumbrances				
		Scholarship Program	4,478.28			
		Scholarship Awards 2005	1,200.00			
		Prepaid Dues	520.00			
		Total	6,198.28			
		Unencumbered Balance	4,372.33			

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall 20835 Rutledge Road Castro Valley, CA 94546



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 129 th AHA Old Timers Luncheon					
REAL FORMER	March 22, 2006 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 Corned Beef & Cabbage Buffet with all the trimmings \$15.00				
1330 Hrs	129th AHA Annual Meeting Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Directors Presentation of Scholarship Awards				
1400 Hrs	Invited Guest Speaker TSgt Andrew Hughan – Hurricane Katrina				
1430 Hrs	Raffle and Social Hour				
Spouses and guests are welcome!					
P.O.C.	Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446 Ed Boddington (209) 536-1777				
Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 20, 2006					

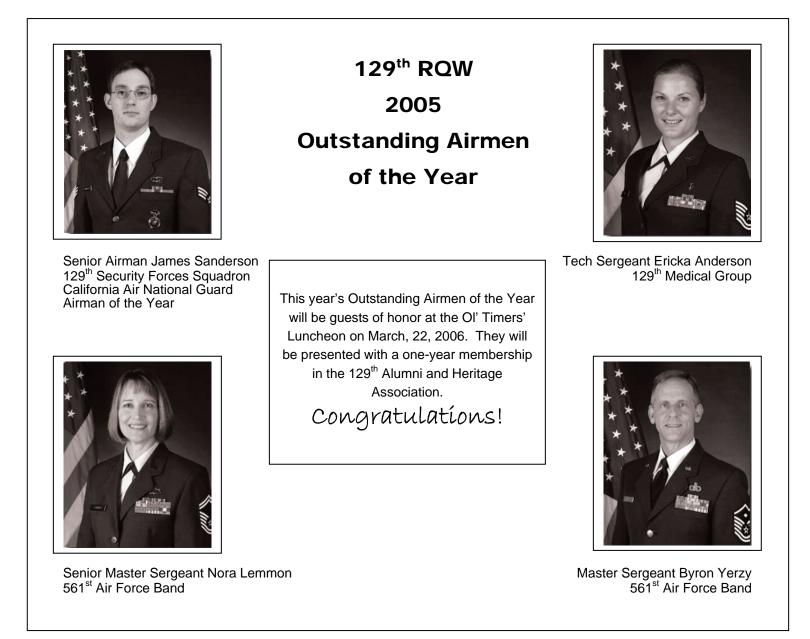
Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name:						
	_Lunch (\$15.00)	2006 Membership Dues (\$10.00)				
Guest's Name:						
Address:						
Phone: Number of Souls Attending:						
Total Amount Enclosed (\$15.00 per person - Lunch):						
Total Amount Enclosed (\$	Make Check Pay Mail Check and F Ms. Lynda 4732 Heat	ip Dues): yable To: 129 th AHA Reservation Form To: a Taft-Fawcett therbrae Circle , CA 95842-4328				

SSgt Charles L. "Chuck" Nobriga

14 July 1948 – 4 December 2005

SSgt Charles L. "Chuck" Nobriga, beloved husband and father, passed away on December 4, 2005, at age 57. Chuck was born in Oakland, CA, on July 14, 1948. He was a firefighter for the City of Oakland for 29 years. Chuck was preceded in death by his father Ralph Nobriga, also an Oakland firefighter, and his mother Laura Nobriga. Chuck was a lifelong San Francisco Giants fan and possessed a scholarly knowledge of the sport of baseball. Chuck served in the 129th RQW from 1965 to 1971. Chuck will be greatly missed by Donna Nobriga, his loving wife of 36 years. He will also be missed by his four children: Matt, Mitch, Nick, and Neil Nobriga; his three grandchildren: Adam, Joseph, and Dominic Nobriga; brothers Larry Nobriga of Manteca, and John Nobriga of Ripon; sister Laura Mendonca of Chico; and many nieces and nephews. Donations may be sent to the Salvation Army or American Heart Association.



Membership News

129th AHA Membership

CCMS Ed Boddington, Membership Director

In 1997 past members of the 129th Rescue Wing under the urging and support of then Wing Commander, Col. Steven C. Speer organized our 129th Alumni and Heritage Association. Our name originated from the alumni, persons who had belonged to the 129th RQW or predecessor organizations over the years, and the heritage, persons who belong to the 129th Rescue Wing now and who will carry on our association for future generations.

During this past year the AHA has grown to over 320 members. This growth was accomplished through your support and participation in events such as the Ol' Timers' Luncheon, scholarship program, Wing family day, and your continued communication with past and present members of the 129th Rescue Wing and other California Air National Guard units. Spreading the word about our AHA has been a tremendous asset to our membership growth. (Good Job, Gang!)

During the past year, we have lost a number of our Alumni and Heritage members. This is a fact of life. They will be missed but not forgotten.

To keep our association growing we need to increase our efforts to recruit new members from our younger heritage side of the 129th Wing. With this in mind, your board of directors has requested that a page in the Wing's Rescue West publication be dedicated to our association. Getting the word out on the AHA, what we stand for, who can belong, the support we give the Unit, hopefully will stimulate increased membership from current active Wing personnel. Also, our president spoke at the Family Day awards ceremony informing all unit members present about our AHA program.

If you as part of our membership have any ideas or comments on how we can increase our AHA membership, please feel free to contact any of our officers or directors with your thoughts. We would really appreciate your input.

Many thanks for all your support of the AHA in 2005. Your membership is both needed and truly valued by all of the board. Let's make 2006 another great year for the 129th Rescue Wing and our AHA.

DoD to restrict cell phone use on military bases By Sgt. Sara Wood, USA American Forces Press Service

Defense Department installations have begun implementing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases.

The new regulation, published in the Federal Register in April 2005, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a DoD installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device.

Many installations already have implemented the new restrictions, and the rest will implement the rules on their own schedule. There is no deadline for installations to implement the restrictions, but most will do so this year.

The law enforcement policy offices for each military department are putting together policies and procedures for the implementation and enforcement of the restrictions. This regulation is a minimum requirement, and installation commanders still have the authority to put stricter rules in place. Each installation will determine the punishment for violation of the rules.

As the installations implement the restrictions, they have a responsibility to notify the public by putting up signs or putting notices in base newspapers. Many installations are allowing a grace period in which motorists in violation of the rule will be warned and not ticketed.

The DoD regulation follows suit with many regulations that states and cities have already imposed. Currently only Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia ban hand-held cell phones for drivers, but many cities have imposed their own rules, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Annual pay statements and tax forms available to myPay users

Retiree and annuitant pay statements and tax forms are now available on the Internet for myPay users.

myPay is an automated system that puts the pay recipient in control of processing certain discretionary pay data items without using paper forms. They can also get pay statements, tax forms and information.

To access a retiree or annuitant pay account, or to learn more about myPay, eligible users are encouraged to visit the Web site at <u>https://mypay.dfas.mil</u>.

Retired members and annuitants who have not done so but who wish to establish a myPay account can do so at the same web site by clicking on get a new PIN.

The GI Bill pays for OJT!

Most Guard and Reservists know they can use the G.I. Bill to pay for the costs of education. But did you know that you can also receive up to **\$12,000** in tax-free benefits for training twenty-four months in an On-The-Job or Apprenticeship training program?

That means that VA will pay you up to \$753 a month (\$216 for Reserve GI Bill) tax-free, on top of your regular salary!

Here's how the GI Bill On-The-Job training program works for you!

If you are a veteran or currently in the guard or reserve the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program offers you an alternative way to use your VA (G.I. Bill) education and training benefits. While training, you can receive monthly training benefits from the Veterans Affairs in addition to your regular salary.

OJT programs may be approved in a wide variety of occupations. Some in trades that may relate to your military occupation, but many that don't. Currently approved programs range from law enforcement officers to mechanics to electricians.

Qualifying Jobs:

To qualify, your job must meet the following criteria:

- You must be supervised at least 50% of the time.
- Job training must lead to an entry level position. (Management training programs do not qualify)
- You must be a full-time paid employee, not on commission.
- Your training must be documented and reported.
- You cannot be already qualified for the Job by previous experience.
- You must be recently hired (within one to two years).
- The Job must require at least six months training to become fully trained.
- The Employer may be private; local or state government

The GI Bill pays for OJT! (continued)

Eligibility:

You may be eligible if you are otherwise <u>eligible for the</u> <u>GI Bill</u>

(http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0, 13964,32675--1,00.html) either under the Active Duty (Veteran) or Reserve GI Bill programs and:

- You are no longer on Active Duty;
- You were recently hired or promoted;
- It's been less than 10 years since you left the service; or
- You are currently a member of the Guard or Reserve (Reserve GI Bill).

So if you are qualified for the GI Bill and you have started a new job or apprenticeship program, you need to apply for this little known GI Bill benefit. This is in addition to your take home pay. In some cases VA will even pay retroactively for OJT from the past 12 months.

Note: You may not receive GI Bill OJT benefits at the same time you are receiving the GI Bill education benefits.

<u>Click here</u> for the latest information on the exact amounts the GI Bill will pay.

(http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0, 13964,32673--1,00.html)

The next step:

Your next step should be to contact your <u>Regional VA</u> office

(http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/regional_offices.htm) or local State Approving Agency (SAA)

(http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/SAA.htm). They will help you get started on the process and answer any questions you may have.

Remember: If you have decided to pursue your education, many schools offer free information packets they will mail you. You can request information from multiple schools at once by filling out a form on Military.com. With no obligation or cost, learning about different schools is a great way to take the first step. <u>Click</u> <u>here to request information</u>.

(http://tracking.military.com/cgibin/outlog.cgi?url=http%3A//www.military.com/Education/ Lead1&code=EDU_MYSTERY082003)

Notes and Updates from Military.com

VA Compensation and Pensions Increase

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released the 2006 payment charts for veterans retirees who are receiving either monthly disability compensation or disability pension payments. Visit http://www.military.com/VA/Dis_Pension for more information and links to the updated 2006 payment charts.

2005 Retirement Tax Statements

Retired and annuitant account statements and 1099-R tax statements will be mailed throughout the latter half of December. DFAS officials remind pay recipients that the account statement and tax form will be mailed in the same envelope. While the exact mailing schedule is unknown, DFAS will provide completed statements and forms to the printing and mailing contractor by December 14, 2005, for incremental mailings. For retirees, the RAS will reflect changes due to the cost-of-living increase, the Veterans Administration (VA) Legislative increase and changes to the Federal Income Tax Withholding rates. Due to the VA legislative increase, recipients of Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) will also receive an increase to their CRSC amount. This amount will affect the December 2005 entitlement scheduled for the payment on Jan. 3, 2006. Retirees who do not have a myPay account will not receive a CRSC pay statement. Also, during December, retired members entitled to receive either CRSC or Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) will be provided with an election form as part of the annual open season. During the open season, affected retirees will have the opportunity to elect to receive either CRDP or CRSC for the next year. In order for the entitlement to change, the form must be received and processed by Jan. 31, 2006. Based on the election, the change will take effect on the payment dated Feb.1, 2006. In addition, as a result of the phased in CRDP, the amount retirees will receive for CRDP will increase effective January 2006 and will be reflected in the payment dated Feb.1, 2006. The Annuitant Account Statement will reflect changes due to the cost-of-living increase, changes to the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) amounts and changes to Federal Income Tax Withholding rates.

FY 2006 GI Bill Payment Rates

VA has readjusted the GI Bill Basic Payment rate to reflect the increased cost of education tuition and other expenses associated with pursuing a college degree. The Active Duty GI Bill will increase from \$1004 a month for a full-time student to \$1034 a month. The Selective Reserve (S.R.) GI Bill will go from \$288 a month to \$297. The Activated Reserve GI Bill is will be up to \$827 depending on the length of activation. The GI Bill OJT and Apprenticeship program jumps from \$753 (\$216 for S.R.) to \$878.90 (\$252.45 for S.R.) The DEA rate increases to \$827 a month. Use the <u>Military.com School Finder</u> to contact military-friendly schools who offer programs tailored for service members.

New Benefits Guide To Be Released December

The Military Advantage: A Comprehensive Guide to Your Military & Veterans Benefits is an essential reference for service members, retirees and veterans detailing your benefits and includes helpful shortcuts, insider tips and answers to frequently asked questions. Order from Amazon.com.

Dondi's Mercantile Store

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129 th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Ken Moore for ordering information.	ITEM	COST	SIZES			
	Logo Jacket!	\$70 - \$75				
	Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL			
Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129 th AHA? Dondi's	Logo Baseball Cap w/	\$10				
Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129 th AHA related	Embroidered Logo					
items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.	Logo Baseball Cap w/	\$5				
	Silk-screened Logo					
All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line.	Large Jacket Patch	\$10				
Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and	Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5				
handling are EXTRA.	Logo Pin	\$5				
	129 th Aircraft Collage	\$10				
Order from Ken Moore at:	129 th 50 th Anniversary	\$5				
(510) 656-1529	Commemorative Coin					
or online at <u>sirsgtst@pacbell.net</u>	All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.					
Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129 th who isn't a member yet? MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2006 Dues \$10.00						
NAME:	SPOUSE:					
ADDRESS:						
CITY:	ST: ZIP+	4:	+			
TELEPHONE:E	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!!

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

Elizabeth Coppin

MSgt Elton Walker

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!

Final Flyby

In Memoriam

We bid farewell to our members who have departed on their final journey.

SSgt Charles L Nobriga



AFA News Higher limits extended in VA Home Loan Program

America's veterans and their families now have a greater chance to make their dreams of home ownership a reality, thanks to an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty limit.

Effective January 1, 2006, changes in the loan guaranty limits will mean veterans are able to get no-down payment loans up to \$417,000. The previous ceiling was \$359,650.

"For more than 60 years, VA has assisted our veterans to become home owners," said R. James Nicholson, secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This increase is another example of our commitment to ensure VA benefits keep pace with the needs of our veterans in today's housing market."

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 tied increases in the VA guaranty to increases in the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's conforming loan limit. When this limit increases, VA guaranty limits also go up, allowing VA to keep pace with rising home values.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and reservists. With VA guaranteeing a portion of the loan, veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without making a down payment, making it easier to buy a home.

More information about VA home loan benefits is available on the Web at <u>http://www.homeloans.va.gov</u> or by calling 1 (800) 827-1000.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ADDRESS SERVICE 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 39¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 39¢ 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 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue, and is available online at:

www.129AHA.org

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

> NON-PROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID RIVERBANK, CA PERMIT #20



Mail Your Ballot Today!! See You at the OTL!!

