

Volume 13, Issue 2

May 2009

Board Election

March 2009

An election for the three at-large Directors was held in February & March 2009. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2009) and Officers are elected in even number years (2010).

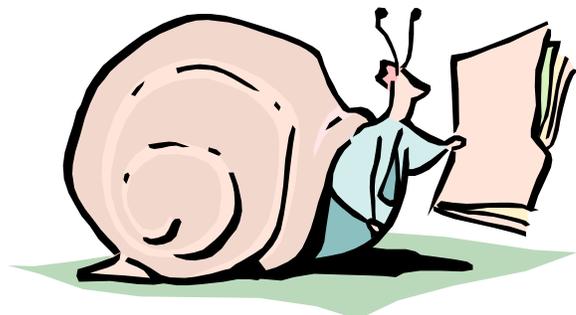
The newly elected Directors for the 2009-2010 term are: Lt Col Jay Craddock, SMSgt Joe Preciado, CCMS Liliana Ramos, and CCMS Doug Sale. They will serve with Col John Ruppel, President; Lt Col Steve James, Vice President; and Lt Col Dave Russell, Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, Lt Col Cindy Kepple serves as Scholarship Chairperson, and CMSgt Stu Loux serves as the 129th RQW Military Liaison.

Please feel free to contact any of the Board Members with issues, concerns, or suggestions. You are welcome to attend the quarterly Board Meetings. For the schedule of meetings and minutes of past meetings, please see the "Meeting Minutes" page on the web site.

www.129AHA.org

Membership Dues Delinquency Policy

Effective January 1, 2009, any individual failing to pay the yearly dues assessment by December 31 will have his or her Association membership automatically suspended. The January dues notice will indicate the arrears plus the new yearly assessment which must be paid in full by the annual March Old Timers' Lunch. The notice will constitute delinquency notification in accordance with the Association Bylaws Article 11. Nonpayment will result in immediate membership termination for dues delinquency and forfeiture of all membership privileges. The Newsletter mail label will continue reflecting dues status, and a courtesy notice will be included in the delinquent member's mailed copy.



Inside This Issue

1	Board Elections & Dues Delinquency Policy
2	Pres Sez & 2008 Scholarship Awards
3	AFA Golf Tournament – June 19, 2009
4	Memorial Day Honor Roll
5	Ceremony for Vietnam Vets
5	In Memoriam – TSgt Santos "Joe" Hernandez
6	129th RQW Receives Outstanding Unit Award
7	Some Important Financial Information
8 & 9	2009 Old Timers Luncheon – Pictures
10	Dondi's Mercantile Shop & Member Application
11	New to the Gang & Final Fly-By
12	Board of Directors & Missing in Action

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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

The Board would like to express our appreciation for the ten years service Ed Boddington provided the Association. Ed's work as the Membership Director helped expand the Association membership and insured we stayed a viable organization. Just as importantly, we appreciate Rose Boddington's support. At the luncheon Rose and Ed were presented with an Association commemorative plaque.

Congratulations are in order to Col Bagdasarian and the Wing members on the receipt of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award covers the period January 2006 to December 2008 and is the seventh AFOU the Wing has received.

The Board has revised the dues delinquency policy effective January 1, 2009. A member who fails to pay the annual dues assessment by December 31 Association will have his or her membership automatically suspended. If the arrears plus next yearly assessment is not received by the March Old Timers' Lunch, membership is terminated and all membership rights are forfeited.

The 2009 dues were set at \$10 after the Board reviewed the Association's financial status. While Association dues have been held at \$10 for ten years, the review indicated that the Association's operating costs have continued to increase, necessitating a 2010 dues increase. Board consensus was to set the 2010 dues at \$15.

The March Old Timers' Lunch was attended by 115 members and guests. Jay Craddock's and Lynda Fawcett's efforts produced a great event enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Grace Darrin and Rose Boddington for their work selling raffle tickets - which raised \$310 for the Scholarship Program.

The Association webpage has been completely revamped. The redesigned page has been made more user friendly and utilizes interactive features. Copies of all the Newsletter and Board minutes are available. A resource section (Information Links) containing information useful to retirees has been added.

Liliana Ramos has located a jacket supplier. Two jacket options and a vest are displayed on the Association webpage. Take a few moments and visit the Mercantile Store online.

The Wing Family Day has been delayed until Saturday, October 3, 2009, because of the deployment schedule

Cheers!!!

John

2008 Scholarship Awards

Lt Col Cindy Kepple

The Association awarded five Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. Two scholarships were awarded with the Bay Area MOAA Chapter's partnership and generous \$1,000 matching contribution. The Chiefs' Council has funded an additional scholarship. The winners received their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2008 scholarships!

129th AHA and MOAA Scholarship

✚ SSgt Lance Bain – 129th MDG
Nursing

129th AHA and MOAA Scholarship

✚ SSgt Jeannie Lam – 129th OSF
Business Management

BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship

✚ SrA Earl Prevoznak – 129th RQS
Chinese & International Relations

SMSgt Donald Delucchi Scholarship

✚ SSgt Rachel Cruz – 129th HC
Aviation Industry

129th Chiefs' Council Scholarship

✚ MSgt Barbara Apkarian – 129th PA
Visual Communication

Cindy





**TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD CHAPTER 361
 SAN JOSE STATE ROTC
 OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL JR. ROTC
 SPONSOR THE**



Air Force Association Golf Tournament & BBQ

19 Jun 2009 - Friday

Moffett Field Golf Course

Registration 1130 Shotgun Start 1230 Scramble Format

Team or Individual Sign up and pay at the Golf Course

or mail entry form or team list and check to

AFA CHAPTER 361, John Olson, 4780 Archbow Ct, San Jose, CA
 95136-2500

Tournament is limited to the first 144 golfers

Golf Carts are limited to first 116 players

Entry Fee Enlisted - \$70 All Others \$90

Prizes: Low Team Gross through Four Places

Longest Drive, Straightest Drive, Closest to Pin

Name/Rank	Phone	E-mail	Amount Enclosed
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

For additional information, e-mail gaylord@aol.com

129TH ALUMNI & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DAY HONOR ROLL



*Day is done.
Gone the sun
From the hills,
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.*



MSGT Pastor D. Abelaye
BGen Harold A. Aherns
SSGT Harry Ahlborn
TSGT Gary R. Albertson
LTC Richard Allen
MSGT Manuel Amaral
LTC Shirley R. Ashby
MSGT Howard Bachman
CWO Eugene E. Baker
MSGT David S. Bain
SMSGT John S. Beasley
LTC Gregory A. Bose
COL John R. Breeden
MSGT Tommy D. Brooks
TSGT Greg Brown
LTC Joseph J. Budro
MSGT Sam Burgess
SMSGT Fredrick E. Burkett
TSGT Larry Butts
TSGT James A. Calvin
LTC Malcom B. Campbell
LTC Neil Campbell
SGT Steven Carlyle ★
1LT Desmond Casey
LTC Paul Chabot
SMGT Robert Clayton
SMSGT Vaughn H. Clearman
SRA Raeann M. Cordova
SSGT Steve Courtney ★
LTC Gene Cunningham
LT Gary Curtis ★
SMSGT Donald L. Delucchi
MSGT Robert Denham
LTC Ward H. Douglass
SSGT Robin Eal
COL Raymond J. Fitts
MSGT Herschel Flygare
SSGT Johnny Forlanda
LTC Billy Freeman

CWO4 William Gateley
MAJ Russ Gibeson
SMSgt Howard L. Gibson
SMSGT Arch R. Girvin
SMSGT Wallace J. Glavor
MSGT Clarence F. Gruenert
SMSgt Blaine D. Hall
MAJ Carl Haller, MD
MSGT Lloyd Hamilton
COL William Hein
Mrs. Shirley L. Hemphill
TSGT Joe Hernandez
TSGT John E. Horton ★
LTC James A. Hunt
COL Eugene J. Ignatow
MAJ Jerry Ingram
CPT Clyde Jackson ★
TSGT Bobby J. Jarman
MSGT Art Johnson
TSGT John Karpaty
A3C Alan A. Kelley ★
LTC John W. Kenney
MSGT Henry Kern
BGen (Chaplain) James Kintzi
BGen Charles W. Koenig
COL Charles J. Kuban
SRAMary Lou Lara
COL Paul Lavoie, MD
MSGT Bartley J. Lee
COL Edwin W. Lewis, Jr.
CMSGT Joseph Martin
MAJ Lawrence Mauch
COL Ralston D. McKee
SGT Kevin McKenna
MSGT Edwin D. McNemar
LTC Charles Means
MSGT Paul Medeiros
LTC Robert Morrison
LTC Robert A. Morton

TSGT Rodney W. Morton
MAJ Mark Mutchler
MAJ Terry Nelson ★
COL James M. Newton
SSGT Charles L. Nobriga
COL Ralph L. Nobriga
LTC John W. O'Sullivan
SMSGT Michael Patterson
COL Fred H. Petersen
MSGT Leon Pope
LTC Leonard J. Pringle
Marge Rainsford
LTC John Reading
Ronald Roach
COL Joseph W. Rodricks
A1C Robert R. Rossie ★
MSGT Frank M. Sacramento
MSGT Thomas Santiago
BGen Albert R. Santos
CWO John D. Schary
SMSGT Don Shanks
Claudia L. Cortez Sonnenfelt
LTC Les Spencer ★
MAJ Ira States
LTC Donald W. Stewart
TSGT Nicholas Stoopin
CMSGT Harold R. Strickler
COL Herman Vandever
LTC Urban B. Vandever
LTC John A. Vinther
MSGT Clarence W. Wagner
LTC Louis F. Wang
CWO4 Albert S. Warnick
LTC James Ward
SMSGT Paul F. Wilkins
LTC Don F. Winters
A1C Larry Zimmerman ★
MSGT Donald H. Zumsteg

★ Killed in Action

Ceremony Recognizes Vets Not Eligible for Vietnam Wall

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- One-hundred twenty-three American heroes from the Vietnam War era will be honored posthumously this month during the annual In Memory Day ceremony, according to Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

In Memory Day was created to pay tribute to those who died prematurely from noncombat injuries and emotional suffering caused directly by the Vietnam War, but who are not eligible to have their names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A list of the honorees and their hometowns is available at www.vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=774.

The 11th annual In Memory Day ceremony begins at 10 a.m. April 20 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here. Nearly 1,000 family members, friends and fellow veterans are expected to visit the nation's capital to participate in this year's event.

"In Memory Day allows The Wall to do what it does best: provide a healing environment for family members and friends," Mr. Scruggs said. "It also allows all of us to pay tribute to these brave Americans who served and sacrificed for their country."

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial bears the names of 58,260 men and women who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War.

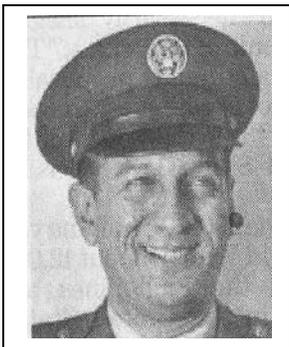
"The Department of Defense developed specific parameters that allow only the names of servicemembers who died of wounds suffered in combat zones to be added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," Mr. Scruggs said. "The In Memory program recognizes those men and women who have died prematurely as a result of the Vietnam War, but who do not meet the criteria. Many of their deaths are a result of Agent Orange exposure and emotional wounds that never healed."

During the ceremony, family members will read aloud their loved ones' names in chronological order by date of death. Following the ceremony, participants will lay tributes at the base of The Wall corresponding to the honorees' dates of service in Vietnam. With the addition of this year's honorees, more than 1,800 people have been honored in the In Memory Honor Roll.

Established in 1979, the nonprofit Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was authorized by Congress to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Since then, the memorial fund has evolved into an international nongovernmental organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of The Wall, promoting healing and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War.

Its initiatives include educational programs, a traveling Wall replica that honors veterans and a humanitarian and land mine-removal program in Vietnam. The fund also is building The Education Center at The Wall, an underground educational facility near the memorial. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

TSgt Santos "Joe" Hernandez *4 September 1925 – 9 February 2009*



Santos J. (Joe) Hernandez was born September 4, 1925, and entered into rest February 9, 2009, at age 83. Joe is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Dolores Hernandez; loving son, Joey Hernandez; dear sister-in-law, Addie Frietes; 9 cherished godchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Joe was a native of San Jose, California.

In addition to being a veteran of the 129th Rescue Wing, Joe was a member of AFSA, the Native Sons, and the Independent Telephone Pioneers.

Interment was at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, San Jose, CA.

129th RQW Receives Outstanding Unit Award for Meritorious Service

Capt Allyson M. Teeter, 129 RQW/PA

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. – Members of the 129th Rescue Wing were notified April 30 that the wing was the recipient of the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

“It is my pleasure to notify all members of the 129th RQW that we have received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2008,” said Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing commander. “This is a great achievement and directly reflects on the professionalism and dedication of all our members.”

The award was granted for meritorious service during December 2006 to November 2008. During this period, the 129th Rescue Wing was credited with saving 40 lives under extreme conditions. From the high desert mountains of Afghanistan to remote areas more than 500 miles off the Pacific Coast, the safe and successful conduct of each operation is a testament to the unit's experience and leadership.

“The competition was extremely keen, and each winner is commended for having been selected from an outstanding group of nominees,” said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, III, director of the Air National Guard.

Examples of the unit's outstanding performance during the award time period:

- The wing received an overall Excellent rating during a phase two operational readiness inspection in December 2006. With 14 areas rated outstanding and 38 areas rated excellent, this was the highest point score awarded to a Combat Search and Rescue unit to date.
- More than 70 Airmen and three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters deployed for 120-days to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in April 2007 to perform combat search and rescue and joint personnel recovery operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- In May 2007 more than 50 Airmen, along with two MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft, deployed to Djibouti for in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.
- During the 2008 Northern California firefight, Operation Lightning Strike, two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and aircrews were certified to perform water bucket drops on the fires for the first time in unit history. Overall, the crews dropped more than 150,000 gallons of water.
- Crews stationed in Redding during Operation Lightning Strike landed in rugged Northern California terrain to medevac injured firefighters.
- The unit assisted the Gulf Coast region in 2008 during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, saving 34 people and 11 dogs.
- Along with responding to state emergencies, rescue crews performed two long-range over water missions. The first was a June 2008 mission 550 miles off the coast of California for a critically ill crewmember aboard a cargo vessel.
- In July 2009, while still immersed in firefighting operations, crews saved a Canadian fisherman aboard a fishing boat 600 miles off the coast. Both patients were transported to the Regional Medical Center of San Jose.

This was the seventh time the wing has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

“The dedication and commitment of the members of these organizations enable the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment to the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement, and most important of all – defense of America,” General Wyatt said.

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 aircraft 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. The total number of people saved by the unit is 599.

For more information about the unit, go to www.129rqw.ang.af.mil.

Some Important Financial Information

Taken Primarily from the IRS website <http://www.IRS.gov>

Did you notice that the amount you received in your pension or payroll payment increased slightly in April? The increase is actually due to reduced federal withholding amounts required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

General Information

In 2009 and 2010, the Making Work Pay provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

This tax credit will be calculated at a rate of 6.2 percent of earned income and will phase out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$75,000, or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.

For people who receive a paycheck and are subject to withholding, the credit will typically be handled by their employers through automated withholding changes in early spring. These changes may result in an increase in take-home pay. The amount of the credit will be computed on the employee's 2009 income tax return filed in 2010. Taxpayers who do not have taxes withheld by an employer during the year can also claim the credit on their 2009 tax return.

It is not necessary to submit a Form W-4 to get the automatic withholding change. However, an employee with multiple jobs or a married couple whose combined income places it in a higher tax bracket should consult the IRS [withholding calculator](#) and, if necessary, submit a revised [Form W-4](#), Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, to ensure enough tax is withheld. [Publication 919](#), How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?, provides additional guidance for tax withholding including a special Making Work Pay worksheet.

Information for Pensioners

Pensioners do not qualify for the Making Work Pay credit, unless they receive earned income. However, the new withholding tables apply to all taxpayers, including pensioners. The IRS has a [withholding calculator](#) pensioners and others can use to make sure enough tax is being withheld from their pay. Adjustments to withholding can be made by filing [Form W-4P](#), Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments.

Newest Information

How will the Making Work Pay tax credit affect you?

Most wage earners will benefit immediately with a larger paycheck as a result of the changes made to the federal income tax withholding tables to implement the Making Work Pay tax credit. Some individuals may find that the changes built into the withholding tables result in less tax being withheld than they prefer.

If you are not eligible for the Making Work Pay tax credit, withholding changes could mean a smaller refund next spring. A limited number of individuals, including those who usually receive very small refunds, could in some situations owe a small amount rather than receiving a refund. You can see if enough tax is being withheld by using the IRS [withholding calculator](#) and making necessary adjustments by filing a revised Form W-4 with your employer.

The following groups should check their withholding to see if enough is being withheld:

- Individuals who work two or more jobs,
- Married couples who both work,
- Dependents who work but who are not eligible for the making Work Pay tax credit due to their dependent status., and
- Non-resident aliens, and some resident aliens, who do not have valid Social Security numbers and who are not eligible for the credit.

Self-employed individuals can also benefit now from the Making Work Pay tax credit by evaluating their expected income tax liability, allowing for this tax credit if they are eligible, and making the appropriate adjustment in the amount of their regularly scheduled estimated tax payments.

The Bottom Line

The Making Work Pay tax credit, normally a maximum of \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for working married couples, is reduced by the amount of any Economic Recovery Payment (\$250 per eligible recipient of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement or Veteran's benefits) or Special Credit for Certain Government Retirees (\$250 per eligible federal or state retiree) that you receive. If you are affected by this reduction you should review your withholding to ensure that sufficient funds have been withheld to meet your tax obligation.

If you have questions concerning your withholding or estimated payments, be sure to contact your tax advisor now so you will minimize your risks of being underpaid and subject to IRS penalties.



Checking in – From Left to Right
Eleanor Moore, Liliana Ramos, Dave Russell,
Lynda Fawcett, Bob Hall, Wayne Albright,
& Jeremy Gamez



Mel Woolcock, Bea Craddock,
Victor VandenBerhe, Brad Santos,
Marg Delucchi

2009 Ol' Timers' Luncheon



Capt Peter Grossenbach
Beale AFB
Guest Speaker



Capt Peter Grossenbach & his wife, Kari



Capt Grossenbach – Guest Speaker
History & Development of Global Hawk



Rose & Ed Boddington with Steve James

Photos Courtesy of Ray Aquino



SrA Jamieson Prevoznak
Scholarship Awardee



Victor Vandenberghe & Brad Santos
Present the BG Albert Santos Memorial Scholarship to
SrA Jamieson Prevoznak



Victor Vandenberghe & Marg Delucchi
Announce the
SMSgt Donald Delucchi Memorial Scholarship



John Ruppel & Stu Loux
Present SSgt Jeannie Lam with the
129th AHA Scholarship



Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett
Presents Deployment Bags to
Col Wayne Albright



John Ruppel
Presents a Life Membership to
Jim Badgrow



We have a full
house for lunch at
the 2009 OTL!

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	
129 th 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

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 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2009 Dues \$10.00 & 2010 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!!**

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

CMSgt David Cantrell

MSgt Tom DeTar

CMSgt Darrell Graves

CMSgt Betty Maldonado

Lt Col Jery Montague

Lt Col Ernest Piccone

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 Fly-By

In Memoriam

T Sgt Santos "Joe" Hernandez



DONDI'S MERCANTILE

Wouldn't it be a great gift to give a retiring member a 129th AHA membership along with a hat, shirt, jacket, or pin. Or maybe there is a promotion, birthday, going away, special occasion ... coming up for someone that you know... and you're wondering what to get them. Why not get them something from Dondi's Mercantile? We're only a phone call or an email away.

And if you haven't done it already, please remember to go online to fill out the Dondi's Mercantile survey. We need your input!

<http://www.129aha.org/Dondis%20Mercantile/default.htm>

HAPPY SHOPPING!!

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

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 – 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.)
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Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

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Happy Memorial Day!!

