

ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

APRIL 2019



U.S. Air Force Capt. Ryan Gilbert, combat rescue officer with the 943rd Rescue Group, briefs members of the Tucson Military Affairs Committee March 14, 2019, on the Tucson based Air Force Reserve's premiere rescue capabilities at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. providing combat-ready Citizen-Airmen and resources, anytime, anywhere in the world. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff)

Notes of Interest

FAMILY DAY, MAY 4

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander, invites you and your family to Patrick Air Force Base's War Fit Field Sat., May 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m for Family Day events which will include food, live music, festivities, prize giveaways and more.

To allow for maximum participation during Family Day, all members authorized lodging for the UTA may bring their family members. All members will be given their own room as an exception to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the 920th RQW Wing Lodging Policy. 920th FSS Sustainment Services will work with the hotels to ensure all members requesting lodging will not have a shared room.

If you have any questions/concerns please contact MSgt. Danielle Mullens at 321-494-0868 or email the lodging org box at 920FSS.FSV.Lodgingbilling@us.af.mil.

CIVIC LEADERS BOAST AF HOSTS AT 943RD RESCUE GROUP LUNCHEON

Col. John D. Beatty, 943rd Rescue Group commander, hosted 50 civilian and military guests for the event, during which he presented an impressive Air Force Reserve capability to organize, train, and equip mission-ready Citizen-Airmen to perform personnel recovery operations worldwide.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS, PREVENTION MONTH; PROMOTING PROTECTIVE FACTORS LINKED TO HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT, STRONG FAMILIES

Access to quality healthcare, safe and affordable housing, quality early learning, afterschool programs and enriching education, cultural and spiritual experiences help promote healthy child development and improve every child's chances to have a healthy, happy childhood.

SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER LEADERSHIP COURSE, MAY 2, 3

Education and Training will be hosting the next Senior NCOLDC course during the May Unit Training Assembly. For additional information, please visit the 920th Force Support Squadron SharePoint or call Education and Training at 321-494-8515.

HOMETOWN NEWS FORM

The Joint Hometown News Service supports military service members by sharing their personal stories and achievements with friends and family back home. Every member is encouraged to fill out a form to share good news within the community.

News & Features



RESERVE AND DEFENSE LEADERS TESTIFY ON DUTY STATUS REFORM

In the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress directed the defense department to address the myriad of mobilization authorities. Past reform efforts through multiple commissions have tried to solve the pay, benefits, and health care disparities between the statuses.



U.S. AIR FORCE

45TH SW INAUGURAL STATE OF THE INSTALLATION

Brig. Gen. Doug Schiess, 45th Space Wing commander, spoke with community partners about current and future missions during the inaugural State of the Installation event at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. on March 29, 2019.



U.S. AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE EXPANDS HIRING AUTHORITY TO RECRUIT, MAINTAIN READINESS

Direct Hire Authority (DHA) enables DoD to recruit and appoint qualified persons directly without applying competitive rating and ranking procedures.

FOLLOW THE
920TH RQW
ONLINE



Honoring Legacy of Fallen American Heroes



Story by Maj. Cathleen Snow

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Love never dies. On March 1, the commander of the 920th Rescue Wing, Col. Kurt Matthews, stood before wing Airmen and families of three fallen Airmen who were lost March 15, 2018, in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crash in Anbar Province, Iraq.

"I know you all personally," said Matthews, "To be here in front of you is daunting because it means so much. It's such an honor for me to be able to address you here today."

Pararescuemen Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31, and Master Sgt. Bill Posch, 36, were both assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron and Combat Rescue Officer Capt. Mark Weber, 29, was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, but was augmenting the 308th temporarily to bolster the wing's deployment to Iraq.

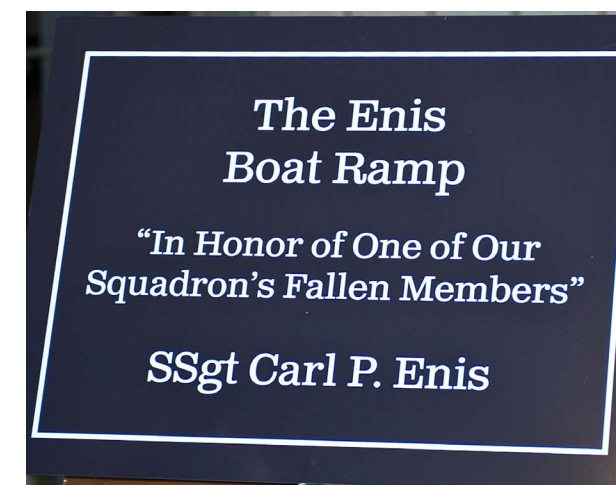
Teammates of the fallen spent the morning performing physical training activities as their way of remembering their fallen brothers and the warriors they left behind.

"As an aviator, a helicopter pilot, my job is to get them to and from the "X", whether it's to rescue fighter pilots who bail out over enemy lines or to save troops injured in contact who are wounded on the battlefield. We are also the 911 for any of our sister services who need to be taken out of a bad spot," said Matthews.

Their training pipeline is so grueling that it suffers attrition likened to Navy SEAL training.

Master Sgt. William Posch, an Indian River, Florida, resident, was obsessed with human performance and physical fitness. He inspired his teammates to grow bigger, stronger and faster every day. He had 18 years of service, the last ten of which were with the 920th Rescue Wing. Among his decorations are the Air Medal with silver oak leaf cluster; an Aerial Achievement Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor.

(Cont. next pg.)



Staff Sgt. Carl Enis had a passion for the outdoors, specifically hunting, fishing and spearfishing. The water was Carl's natural environment. He was a Tallahassee, Florida, resident who joined the unit in 2010 and served for 8 years. Among his decorations are the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster; the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Capt. Mark Weber was an inspirational leader who had strong integrity and core values. He was from Bartonville, Texas. Weber graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2011 as a contracting officer, but felt a strong calling to do more.

"Thanks to the 308th for all that you are doing and what you continue to do. You're leading the way. Thank you to the Enis, Posch and Weber families. Dr Enis, Angela, Ron, Susan, Camron. Thank you all."

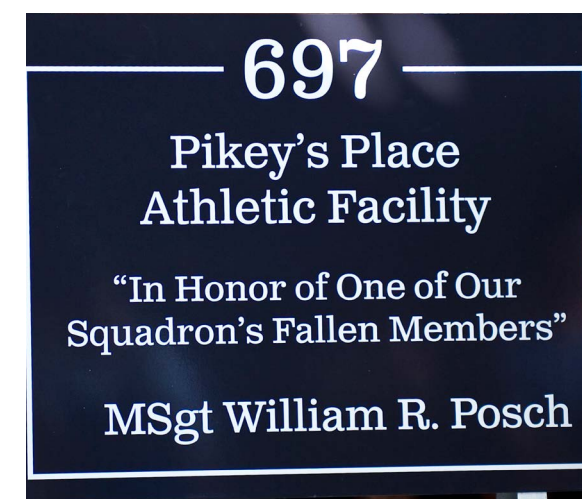
"That Others May Live Foundation for being there from moment one through now and into the future. Thanks for all you do for us and for all of those involved behind the scenes," said Matthews.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Greg Lowdermilk, That Others May Live Foundation Vice Chairman, explained how TOMLF immediately reaches out and gives tragedy assistance to the families of fallen rescue heroes, as well as fully funds college tuition for gold-star children of fallen rescue heroes.

"Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers, we are here for everyone that is in the 920th and the rescue community," said Lowdermilk. "It's about you guys. It's about supporting the Rescue Community. These guys gave the greatest gift by making the ultimate sacrifice that others may live."



Also lost on Jolly 51 were: Capt. Andreas B. O'Keeffe, 37, of Center Moriches, New York; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetis, 37, of Long Island City, New York; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, New York; Staff Sgt. Dashan J. Briggs, 30, of Port Jefferson Station, New York. All four were assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, New York.



A Hero's Welcome, 50+ years after Vietnam

By Maj. Cathleen Snow, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

(Courtesy photos)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Six Air Force aviators sailed over the nation's capital in a military propeller-driven aircraft as gray as the slightly overcast sky surrounding them, and nearly as long as the eight-lane beltway below them. They flew with intensity for what was about to unfold, May 29, 2019.

Due to the efforts of the 39th Rescue Squadron crew, flying in what's known as the country's busiest air space, was halted so they could honor a war hero on National Vietnam War Veteran's Day. With precision and planning, they swept over the funeral of Air Force Colonel Rick A. Kibbey, a fellow rescue aviator, who was brought home from Vietnam after being missing in action for more than 50 years allowing his family to lay him to rest.

After maneuvering the aircraft from a holding pattern, the Airmen opened the aircraft's ramp allowing light to fill the cargo bay revealing the loadmaster holding a cotton 5 X 9 American Flag. As they flew over the Potomac River, the Pentagon, and finally Arlington National Cemetery, the loadmaster wrapped the end of the flag around his hands and unfurled it as it waved out of the back for those gathered below at the colonel's long-overdue burial.

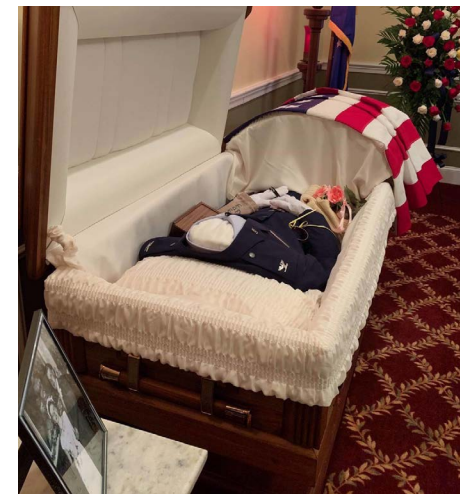


Colonel Kibbey's three grown sons and daughter took in the sights and sounds of full military honors that were rendered on the ground and in the sky for their father's heroism. Their mother died in 1979 from what they say was a broken heart after losing her husband. They were children when their father left for Vietnam, now they were surrounded by fifty family members, from grandkids to second cousins.

Rick, the eldest son, was 12 years old when Air Force officials came to the door and delivered the tragic news of his father's fate. "I didn't really understand. My mom would be crying when I walked by her door. I didn't really understand that."

The Kibbeys share a special bond with the aviators. Rick, now a retired Air Force colonel himself, and his wife Liz, both work at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, where the 39th Airmen serve within the 920th Rescue Wing, a combat-rescue-unit that shares the same mission that their father was a part of.

"You truly can't define 'these things we do, that others may live' (their motto) without understanding the gravity. He gave all to his country," said Lt. Col. Casey Sreenan, HC-130N aircraft commander, 39th Rescue Squadron, saying it was a career highlight.



Colonel Kibbey was a captain and member of Detachment 5, 35th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. He was the copilot of an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter, call sign Jolly Green 05, that was on a mission over North Vietnam during the war in 1967. After rescuing a downed pilot, Col. Kibbey's helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire resulting in an internal explosion and crash. He was killed in the crash and his remains could not be recovered due to a hostile presence in the area. All other crew members perished as well, except for one, Duane Hackney, a pararescueman who went on to become the most decorated enlisted man in U.S. Air Force history.

While Col. Kibbey and his crew were reported missing in action, later their status was amended to deceased. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel then Colonel and awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

"My mom's family was there. My dad's family was there. It was quite amazing!" said Rick. "My youngest uncle was a Marine and he told us that he wasn't going to cry, but I saw him tearing up a couple times."

"It was an honor to have your folks (39th RQS Airmen) be part of the ceremony," said Rick in an email to 920th leadership thanking them. "I wish I could shake all of their hands. I couldn't think of a better organization to do it. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!" he said.

The 39th RQS crew that piloted the HC-130N King aircraft over Col. Kibbey's burial service is as follows: Aircraft Commander, Lt Col Casey Sreenan; Copilot, Capt Elizabeth Holloway; Navigator, Capt Mark Creager; Flight Engineer, SMSgt Michael Decker; Radio Operator, SMSgt Kevin Zimmerman, and Loadmaster, MSgt Dean Scalise.

April History Minute

On April 7, 1984 while flying surface surveillance for a scheduled launch of a Trident 1 missile from the USS Georgia, a CH-3 helicopter crashed 60 miles off the coast of Patrick AFB. When rescuers arrived the helicopter was floating upside down, then it sunk in 2,400 feet of water. Three survivors had been rescued. They were Capt. William Fitzgerald, Lt. James O'Hearn and Lt. Scott Schafer, all of Det. 15, 39th Air Rescue Recovery Wing.

When rescue crews arrived on site, some 60 miles off the coast, the helo was found floating upside down. Three survivors were recovered before the aircraft sank to its final resting place 2,400 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. They were: Capt. William Fitzgerald and Lts. James O'Hearn and Scott Schafer.

Rescue crews continued to search for five days for the missing Airmen, logging nearly 200 flying hours and covering between 25-30,000 square miles seeking any sign of life. None would be found.

Two years later the helicopter was found when searching for Space Shuttle Challenger after an accident caused it to break apart shortly after liftoff January 28, 1986.

The lives lost: Captains Jan F. Fuchs and David K. Shaffner (of the Eastern Space & Missile Ctr.), Tech. Sgt. Ronald L. Martinez, Staff Sgt Mark R. Judy and Airman 1st Class James A. Ferreira.

306th Rescue Squadron, CMSgt. Nick McCaskill dedication



DAVIS-MONTHAN, Ariz. - On December 1, 2018, the brand new 306th Rescue Squadron building was dedicated to Chief Master Sgt. Nick McCaskill.

McCaskill, a pararescueman, was killed in action while in Afghanistan on April 6, 2013.

In attendance for the dedication included McCaskill's daughters, Kenna and Tyler; his mother, Lynne, his father, James and his sister Erin. (U.S. Air Force photos by Andre Trinidad)



FAMILY DAY

Saturday, May 4th
1100-1600 | Warfit Field Track



- Games & Activities
- Live Music
- Dunk Booth
- Face Painting & more
- Working Dog Demo

FREE FOOD

Pulled pork, hotdogs, hamburgers, sides & salads

For more information: Maj Matthew Scheidel - 321-494-0350

Volunteers Needed

920th Rescue Wing

Family Day

4 May 2019

Patrick AFB

For information, to make a donation,
or Volunteer please contact:

Jacqueline Zavala
Key Spouse Mentor
321-696-3156
jzavala2415@gmail.com

"These Things We Do - That Others May Live"

Sponsored by the Rescue Special Functions Committee.

No federal endorsement intended.



5TH ANNUAL
**ARMED FORCES DAY
RESCUE 5K**
2019

 THE AVENUE VIERA
2261 TOWN CENTER AVE
VIERA, FL

BREAKFAST / AWARDS CEREMONY POST RACE FOR OVERALL MALE & FEMALE/ AGE GROUP TOP 3!
LIVE MUSIC, COMMUNITY FAIR & SILENT AUCTION TO FOLLOW!
\$30 PER PERSON UNTIL MAY 17th
\$35 PER PERSON DAY OF RACE

SATURDAY, MAY 18th 7:30AM

REGISTER ONLINE:
Bit.ly/RaceSignUp

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL:
RUNARMEDFORCESDAY5K@GMAIL.COM



Sponsored by the Rescue Special Functions Committee.

No federal endorsement intended.

Upcoming **Yellow Ribbon** Events

Orlando, Fla. -- June 21 - 23

St. Louis, Mo. -- July 19 - 21

Yellow Ribbon Rep:
TSgt. Catherine Herr

Cell: 316-204-0406
DSN: 854-6030
Catherine.Herr@us.af.mil



Helping maintain resiliency during all stages of deployment is paramount to the morale and welfare of our Airmen and families. The Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program is a series of events designed to provide members and families with essential resources prior to departure (pre-deployment), a level of stability and support while deployed (during deployment), and successful re-integration techniques after the deployment cycle ends (post deployment).