

Tarheel Guardisman

February/March 2012



Join us at the beach!

NCNGA Annual Convention
20-21 April 2012

Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes

Military Lodging Discounts

By Teri Foster

Wow — we have a lot of travelers out there and they have been letting me know about some great places.

Max & Glenda S. wrote to tell me that they are RV'ers now that Max has retired and enjoy staying at the military campgrounds that are across the US. There is a website for military campgrounds that they use —

www.militarycampgrounds.us. A few of their favorites: Fort Benning, GA - Uchee Creek Campground; Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, CA; and the campground at West Point was especially great. Eligible patrons are Active Duty, Reserve/Guard, Retirees and sometimes DoD employees (check with the facility).

Keith H. wrote about several places he has stayed and his experiences there:

I am responding to your request to travel info. I recently stayed for an extended period at Andrews AFB just outside of Washington DC. My transient rate was \$39 per night. Staff at the Presidential Inn was friendly and very helpful. The on-post facilities are great — PX, Commissary, Fitness Center, Golf Course, Starbucks, gas station, and shoppette. Easy access from the DC beltway. It is cheaper than the other military bases in the area (FT Meade, Annapolis, and Quantico). I never had a problem getting a reservation when I needed it or a problem adjusting my stay schedule with the hotel staff.

Ellsworth AFB is a great place to stay if you are visiting Mount Rushmore or Sturgis for bike week. A short drive to the Badlands, Devil's Tower or the Corn Palace in Mitchell, SD or other sites in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Easy access from the interstate. Room pricing is about half to a third of hotels in the area, depending on seasonal pricing. Full accommodations on post, Commissary, PX, gas station, including pet-friendly transient quarters. If checking in after 1800, make sure to call ahead for room key pickup coordination. Staff is very helpful with directions and ideas to local sites.

Another I would highlight in your travel updates is FT Fisher. I recommend it to all military personnel I meet looking for a great vacation location.

Steve E. wrote: *My wife and I have also taken advantage of Military Lodging since I retired.*

In October this year we stayed at Charleston AFB, SC for \$39 per night. It afforded very nice accommodations that were very convenient to the downtown historic area via I-26.

In November, we stayed at Moon Hall on Ft. Bragg for \$61 per night. This was not as nice as Charleston AFB, but they did have a free continental breakfast and it was convenient to a meeting we were attending.

We have reservations at Keesler AFB, MS, between Christmas and New Year's Day for \$39 per night and are expecting the accommodations to be on par with Charleston AFB.

We are planning a trip to New Mexico next spring and will probably make use of AFB lodging out there.

I think it would be a great regular column in the Tarheel Guardsman to report on various locations and nearby attractions.

Thank you to everyone that responded - I know this information will be helpful to our members.

One web site use a lot for military lodging is www.dodlodging.com - it is a one-stop shop for finding out if there is military lodging near your destination. You can search by branches and it doesn't matter which branch you are - we are retired Army and have stayed at Air Force and Navy lodging (they didn't hold it against us!!!).

Recently, we went to Annapolis MD for my son's band competition. We stayed at the Naval Academy's lodging and it was very nice and reasonable. If you have never been to Annapolis, you should definitely make the trip — it is a beautiful city and the tour of the Naval Academy is a must (it makes your patriotic goose bumps pop right out!).

If you have somewhere you would like to let our members know about, please contact me by email at terieakes@bellsouth.net or 800-821-6159 ext 1. Thanks & Happy Travels! ~ Teri Foster



TARHEEL GUARDSMAN

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Scholarship Applications:

Applications will be accepted for the 2012-13 school year as follows:

College Students — 1 Feb 2012
High School Students — 1 Mar 2012

Applications and scholarship amounts are on our website:

www.ncnga.org/education-foundation-2/scholarship-information/

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Deadline for submitting articles to the Tarheel Guardsman:

APR/MAY issue: 5 MAR 2012

Send articles/photos to Teri Foster, Editor at the NCNGA (7410 Chapel Hill Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607-5047) or email (terieakes@bellsouth.net)

Address changes or questions?

Call us toll free in NC at 1-800-821-6159 or if out of state, 919-851-3390.

Our email address is ncnga@bellsouth.net and our web site is www.ncnga.org

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Members receive the publication free with their membership. The annual subscription rate for non-members of the Association is \$15.00. Please include your old address when requesting change of address.

Deadline for submitted material to the *Tarheel Guardsman* is the 5th of the month, two months preceding the calendar date of issue. Manuscripts and photographs on subjects of general interest are invited. Unless otherwise indicated, material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *Tarheel Guardsman* and the author where listed. Articles and photos will not be returned, unless requested. (USPS 533-640)

Advertising is accepted. For details contact the Association headquarters. Advertising, including political ads, published in this publication does not represent the endorsement or approval of the North Carolina National Guard Association.

Teri Foster, Editor

263rd Returns From Historic Mission In Support of Drawdown: NC unit leads US Air Force's largest and quickest employment of tactical communications since beginning of Iraq conflict.

December 2011, 50 members of the 263rd Combat Communications Squadron returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia. In late June, US Air Forces Central Command asked for volunteer units to provide communications at several air bases in support of the

drawdown of combat forces in Iraq. The 263rd quickly stepped up to the mission. The scope and location of the mission changed several times; eventually in August, the 263rd was tasked to support the stand-up of an air base for F-16 and Navy EA-18 aircraft providing close air support and convoy escort operations over Iraq. Once deployed, the 263rd

was augmented with other Guardsmen, Reservists, Active Duty, and DoD civilians to provide communications for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) as it relocated from Joint Base Balad in Iraq to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The 332nd AEW commander, Brigadier General Neubauer, praised the work of the 263rd, "They are in a word, remarkable! The reactivation of this air base from a cold base status required the largest and quickest employment of US Air Force tactical communications since the start of Operation NEW DAWN. The 263rd made it look easy."

Lt Col Brent McManis, the 263rd commander, said "I am extremely proud of the women and men in the 263rd. This was a unique opportunity for us to deploy as a squadron with our equipment to stand up a new base. We haven't had the opportunity to do this since 2003. When the tasking came we had more volunteers than available deployment positions. I think we surprised NGB when

they asked us for our shortfall list and all that it had was equipment and no personnel. Because this was a short notice deployment, we relied heavily on support from the 145th Airlift Wing to complete last minute deployment requirements and get our people and equipment to the fight. The JAG office, Family Readiness office, 145th Medical Group, 145th Comptroller Flight, 145th Forces Support Squadron, 145th Logistics

Readiness Squadron, and 145th Security Forces Squadron all provided outstanding support that ensured the 263rd was able to meet the requirements of this time sensitive mission."

In short time the 263rd provided communications to the entire base.

"Anything involving communications that is needed, we're setting up," said Senior Airman Brenton Briggs, a network infrastructure technician. "We have limited resources,

we had to engineer our own solutions to provide communications and to provide room for expansion in the future." Despite the challenges, Briggs has seen the benefits of his work. "I walked in and saw 100 people using communications seamlessly for their mission. Seeing everybody using communications and not needing to call us is a job done right."

In addition to providing communications for the flying mission, the 263rd also provided communications for morale. In just a few days a morale center was established. "It felt good to see all those people using the phones and computers I installed to talk to people back home," said Senior Airman Jerry Shockley.

Later the 263rd also installed Armed Forces Network television throughout the base and assisted contractors in installing a morale network where base personnel could use Skype and other social networks to stay in touch with family members and others back at home.

Master Sergeant Bruce Burton, a heating and air conditioning technician, deployed to provide cooling for servers and other communications equipment. In addition to providing cooling for communications equipment, there was plenty of work to be done in repairing the rest of the base infrastructure.

"I piggybacked with the civil engineering squadron to help with their backlog of air conditioning issues in sleeping quarters," said Burton.

continued on next page ~



Did You Know...

As a member of the NCSGA, you are entitled to discounts from many businesses, nationwide and statewide. Listed below are a few of them. If you would like a complete listing, please contact Kathy Ford at 1-800-821-6159, ext. 2.



Hilton Head

Island Condo — \$50 per wk or 10% off daily rates. Call Kevin Johnson @ 704-398-4939.

Sam's Club — Receive \$15 Sam's Gift Card when joining or renewing your membership. Available to Active & Retired Military and their spouses.

2nd Annual 30th Engineer Brigade Reunion

Date: March 17, 2012
Location: Charlotte Armory, 4240 West Blvd.
Time: 5:00-8:00(Social hour and dinner)
Cost: Dinner cost expected to be \$12:00-\$15.00 per person

POC for questions, confirmations, and changes of address:

CW5(Ret) Galen Cassada 704-363-9260

MSG(Ret) Frank Stroupe 704-821-6162,
email FLSJR55@AOL.COM

Check out our web site for discount info — www.ncnga.org

263rd Returns from Historic Mission

Continued from page 4 —

In addition to Burton's military HVAC experience, he also works for a commercial HVAC company. "Most of the systems were in bad repair, it was a big issue since it is 115 degrees here almost every day, so I figured I would jump in and help," said Burton. Burton repaired the air conditioning for about 20 dormitory rooms, including many dorms that belonged to day-sleeping members of the security forces squadron.

"He used his civilian job skills in HVAC to assist in ensuring our Airmen's air conditioners were fixed, which improved the quality of life base-wide," said Master Sergeant Wheeler, the Security Forces First Sergeant. "His willingness to help is a perfect example of everyone working together to get our location ready for our mission. We didn't just build a base, we built a team."

Lt Col Anthony Sullins, the 263rd deployed commander said "This was a very tough mission, but our unit members are incredibly

talented and dedicated, everyone worked 12-18 hours a day with no day off for about the first 20 days. Our exceptional Senior NCO leadership kept the mission on track no matter what challenges were placed in front of them. Our deployment date was delayed several times, but the date for establishing communications was set in stone; the jets were



coming and the base had to be ready to put them back in the air over Iraq as quickly as possible to provide top cover for withdrawing troops. I am proud to say that our team not only met all target dates, but delivered all communications ahead of the dates required to make the air mission successful."

SrA Henry installing communications cables in a tent that housed aircraft maintenance functions.



NC National Guard Association

51st Annual Convention Registration Form

Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes

20-21 April 2012

Registrant's Name _____	Association Member <input type="checkbox"/>	First Convention <input type="checkbox"/>
Guest Name _____	Association Member <input type="checkbox"/>	First Convention <input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Telephone _____		E-mail _____

****No Refunds after 1 April 2012****

Registration	_____	@ \$50 per person	= \$	_____
Registration-after 6 April	_____	@ \$60 per person	= \$	_____
Business Session Only	_____	@ \$0 per person	= \$	N/A
Child's Lunch (Chicken Tenders)	_____	@ \$15 per child	= \$	_____

Saturday Night Events (choose one event) (see page 11 for more info)

Big "M" Casino	_____	@ \$30 per person	= \$	_____
Alabama Theatre	_____	@ \$27 per person	= \$	_____
Legends in Concert	_____	@ \$28 per person	= \$	_____
Credit Card Fee — \$2.00			= \$	_____
Total Amount			= \$	_____

Saturday Lunch Choices

Attendee:

New York Strip Sirloin _____

Chicken _____
(with prosciutto, mozzarella & sauteed spinach)

Spouse/Guest:

New York Strip Sirloin _____

Chicken _____
(with prosciutto, mozzarella & sauteed spinach)

Method of Payment: _____ Check enclosed (payable to NCNGA): Charge my: _____ MasterCard _____ Visa

Account # _____ Expiration date _____ 3 digit security code _____

Authorized Signature _____

Complete & Return To:

NCNGA, 7410 Chapel Hill Rd. Raleigh, NC 27607 (Or Fax to: 919-859-4990 Or Call: 919-851-3390)



Marriott Resort & Spa Accommodations Information

For Reservations: Call 1-800-228-9290 or go to <http://www.marriott.com>.
Give Group Booking Code: **ncnncna**

*Rooms \$89 (Marriott accepts most major credit cards)
Check-in: 4:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m.

*\$89 for single or double occupancy. \$20 more for each additional adult. *If disability accommodations are required, please notify hotel. Reservations must be received prior to the cut-off date of 20 March 2012. After the cut off date, reservations will be accepted at the group rate, based on availability. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Deposits are refunded only if the reservation is canceled at least two (2) days prior to arrival date. **Contact hotel for No-Show Policy.** Self parking is complimentary. Valet is \$18 plus 9% tax per car per night.

**NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION
20-21 APRIL 2012**

Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, 19 April 2012

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Golf Tournament
Educational Foundation
Black Bear Golf Club,
N. Myrtle Beach

6:00 p.m. – until Reverse Drawing –
Educational Foundation
SC National Guard Armory

Friday, 20 April 2012

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration/Exhibitors/
Silent Auction

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. First Business Session

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Unit Representative Workshop

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms Open

8:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Dance/Cash Bar/DJ Barry Miller

Saturday – 21 April 2012

7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Silent Auction

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration/Exhibitors

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Second Business Session
Awards & Installation Ceremonies

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. NCONGA Auxiliary Business Session

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon/Guest Speakers

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Annual Meeting –
Educational Foundation

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pick up items – Silent Auction

To be determined Travel to Big “M” Casino
Alabama Theater
Legends in Concert

2012 Convention Information

The 51st Annual Convention will be held at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. Rates for guestrooms are \$89 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy. Reservations must be received prior to the cut-off date of 20 March 2012. Reservations not received by this date will be reserved at the group rate on an availability basis only. Special room requests should be directed to the Marriott.

The Marriott is located right on the ocean and all rooms feature balconies. A European spa and health club is also located in the hotel. You’ll also find an indoor pool and large tropical oceanfront pool with water slide.

The convention officially begins Friday with an afternoon business session, but the Educational Foundation holds their annual Golf Tournament and Reverse Drawing on Thursday. These events are fundraisers for the scholarship program. An application for the golf tournament is located in this issue of the magazine and separate tickets can be purchased for the Reverse Drawing by calling the Foundation office at 919-851-3390 ext 5. Please join us for these events as well....you’ll have a great time!

After the business session on Friday, hospitality rooms with food and drinks are open. This is a great time for you to get to know members running for a seat on the Executive Council and to renew acquaintances. Afterwards, we are having a dance with a very entertaining DJ.

Saturday morning we will have our second business session to include the Awards & Installation Ceremonies. We are changing our format this year and instead of a banquet on Saturday evening, a luncheon will be held immediately following the Saturday business session for all registered attendees. Special guest speakers have been invited to speak on Guard issues that affect the Guard Family such as legislation that affects Guard retirement benefits; current and future Guard programs; and a discussion on employment opportunities for the Guard Family. We hope you and your spouse/guest attend the luncheon – you do not want to miss these very informative briefings.

Three different entertainment venues have been selected for guests to choose from on Saturday evening. You can choose from the Big “M” Casino Boat, Alabama Theatre or Legends in Concert. The Big “M” Casino Boat will include an all you can eat buffet dinner, \$5 bet on the roulette table, \$10 casino cash or \$20 casino match play, one beverage at the bar, Big “M” casino souvenir and a free spin on a \$1 slot machine. Bus transportation will be provided to the Big “M” Casino boat.

Alabama Theatre, known for some of the best concerts and shows in Myrtle Beach, as well as a top-notch variety show, will be another option. Information on performers will be made available at a later date. And, last but not least, is Legends in Concert, the place to go for superstar look-alikes (and sound-alikes) such as the Blues Brothers, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Michael Jackson, and many other legends. Alabama Theatre and Legends in Concert are both located within several blocks of the hotel. Transportation may or may not be provided, but will depend upon the numbers of attendees that register for each show. Both are within an easy driving distance from the hotel.

Make your reservations today and send us your registration form. You don’t want to miss the fun!

ATTENTION RETIREES!

On April 20-21, 2012, the North Carolina National Guard Association will conduct its 51st Annual Convention at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort and Spa at Grand Dunes, in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Recently, a group got together to discuss the feasibility of hosting a Retiree Hospitality Room at the upcoming convention. As many of you know, the hospitality rooms are an integral part of the festivities, and this being the 51st Annual Convention, it would be nice to have a hospitality room hosted by the retirees. This initiative would provide us an opportunity to maintain connectivity between active Guardsmen and those of us who are retired.

We are excited about this idea, but as you know, it takes money and volunteers to fund and operate a first class hospitality room. The purpose of this article is to request your support. We would like to request you consider a donation to support this event in the amount of \$10 to \$25 dollars. Checks may be made payable to: Retiree Hospitality Room – 2012 and mailed to the Association office at 7410 Chapel Hill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607 no later than March 15th in order for us to begin serious planning.

If you can attend the convention and would be willing to assist in the setup, operation of and cleanup of the area, please include a note along with your donation.

Our Association has provided many benefits for our membership over the years. We enjoy the benefit of the State Retirement Plan every month! Please seriously consider sending a donation today, and come have a great time and make this project a success.

Please feel free to contact those listed below if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

John Atkinson — 910-739-3567

Gene Ray — gene7356@nc.rr.com

Kerney Peoples — 919-389-7725

Steve Blackwood – 919-724-0625

Are you Insured with the NCONGA?

Is your former spouse still your beneficiary??

What about an ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend??

Did you know that no matter who your spouse is now – if you still have an ex-spouse listed as your beneficiary on our policy that, by law, we have to pay the claim to the ex-spouse?

If you are insured through the NCONGA (active or separated), and you have had a change in your relationship status since you applied for the coverage – please call us and verify your beneficiary. It is easy to change a beneficiary and don't you want the loved ones that are in your life now to be taken care of in the event of your death?

Please call our office at 1-800-821-6159 and speak with Teri Foster (ext 1) or Rhonda Arndt (ext 0).

A Message From EANGUS

EANGUS has a new website! WWW.EANGUS.ORG is the new portal of information about the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. Check back often as the information contained here is periodically updated.

EANGUS has only one mission--to provide a voice on Capitol Hill on enlisted National Guard issues. These issues affect not only National Guard but all reserve component members.



***The North Carolina Department
of the American Legion
Thanks You for Your Service to
Our State and Nation!***

***We invite you to visit any of our 334
Posts, statewide, visit our website***

***www.nclegion.org,
email us at nclegion@nc.rr.com,
or call 919-832-7506.***



***“For God and Country -
Still Serving Proudly.”***



NCNG Soldiers Cross Into Military History

By Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – In the early morning hours of Dec. 18, while most service members stationed here were sleeping, a small group of Soldiers from the North Carolina Army National Guard’s 1452nd Transportation Company from Winston-Salem were busy making history.

“It was just surreal,” said Sgt. Alan DuBois. “I was actually on the very last mission out of Iraq.”

DuBois and fifteen other Soldiers were part of the final convoy to leave Iraq, closing the gate on a conflict that has lasted almost nine years.

“All I could think of when I crossed that border was about my wife, who is due in March,” said DuBois, a native of Rochester, NY. “I kept thinking about my unborn daughter, how when she goes to school, she’ll read about this and know that her daddy was a part of it.”

For many Soldiers of the 1452nd, the road from Iraq to Kuwait is a familiar one. This is the second time the unit has been mobilized for combat. From 2004-2005, the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, earning more than 250 Army Commendation Medals and 30 Bronze Star Medals.

One of the Soldiers who knew this exact route, thanks to the previous deployment, is Sgt. 1st Class Antuane L. Simmons.

“I’m so thankful that we made it through two tours,” said Simmons, a native of Charlotte, NC. “Being on the last convoy was important to me because it means that we

made sure that all of our brothers and sisters in uniform made it safely back home.”

The Soldiers have been conducting numerous convoys between Iraq and Kuwait to assist and support Operation New Dawn and the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq since the unit arrived in Kuwait in September.

“Everything we did on this last convoy, down to the smallest things like locking doors or pressing the gas pedal down — it was the last time we’ll be doing it in Iraq,” said Pfc. Jordan Miller.

“When we left [Contingency Operating Base] Adder, I looked in the side mirrors. Where there would normally be Soldiers and lights, there was nothing,” said Miller. “When we reached K-Crossing [the Khabari Al Awazem Crossing], it wasn’t a transition point; it was now the site for a conclusion.”

When Sgt. Schjuana Suggs passed through K-Crossing, she couldn’t help but feel as though a major chapter in her military career had just closed.

“I raised my right hand for the first time at the Brooklyn, N.Y. MEPS [Military Entrance Processing Center] on Sept. 11, 2001,” said

Suggs. “After I enlisted, I went to a holding room where I saw the planes crash into the twin towers on TV.”

“My first deployment in Iraq was scary, but I loved serving my country. I’m happy to be one of the ones closing Iraq; it’s definitely an accomplishment for me,” she said.

Sgt. Daniel SaintSing graduated high school in 2003, at the beginning of the war in Iraq. For SaintSing, Iraq has been a war zone for most of his adult life.

“It’ll be interesting to see how this changes things back home,” he said. “I’m so proud to have been a part of this historic crossing.”

The sixteen Soldiers admit that they now have a unique bond, and will never forget the experience of representing the state of North Carolina in the last convoy. The Soldiers

have safely returned to their main base here, anxiously awaiting their next mission.

“But right now, I’m just tired and hungry,” said SaintSing. “That is one long drive.”



CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
- A team of North Carolina Army National Guard

Soldiers of the 1452nd Transportation Company take a group picture in front of a Heavy Equipment Transporter here Dec. 19. The night before, this crew were part of a small group of NC Guardmembers who participated in the last convoy out of Iraq. (US Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs)

Flaherty's Departure from NCANG Leaves Families Well-served

By Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins, 145 AW Public Affairs

After a relationship of more than two decades, the 145th Airlift Wing bid farewell to one of its truest standard bearers. Retired Lt. Col. Kathleen Flaherty retired from civilian service to the North Carolina Air National Guard's Charlotte base, where she spent the last 12 years initiating and developing the Wing's Family Readiness program.

As director of Family Programs, Flaherty touched the lives of every 145th AW Airman deploying somewhere in the world. The program was non-existent before Flaherty volunteered to create and maintain it. In 2000, a meeting between her, then newly retired Brig. General Fisk Outwater and Col. William Richardson proved fortuitous and timely. They formed the core of the Family Readiness program just before September 11, 2001, and the Wing was better prepared for the unrealized pressures of war the men and women of the 145th AW and their families would face in the years to follow.

Since that beginning, Flaherty, a military member of the unit between 1989 and 1999, has been on hand to support Airmen and their families, directing them to appropriate resources, counseling and guidance; and to advise Wing and Air Guard commanders on the status of their troops. She created programs that helped Airmen transition between deployments, keep stable homes and do their jobs with less stress. She also penned directives that ensured continuity and quality in supporting Airmen and their families.

But Flaherty's groundbreaking career in the National Guard didn't start with Family Programs. She was the first woman to enlist in the New York Air National Guard outside a medical field in 1970; just the ninth in the country. She spent ten years as an enlisted personnel specialist there before her commissioning and another nine years in the New York Guard.

Once she transferred to North Carolina, she held several executive and command positions placing her in areas of high visibility where she stood as a role model for many other Guard women.

"Being the only female for many

years in leadership positions gave me the opportunity to mentor other officers and enlisted women, and help create an environment where diversity was an important part of job and promotion selections. For this I am very proud, being one of the first ground breakers, opening the way for the great unit we have today," Flaherty said.

According to Outwater, her 12 years working with the families of the 145th AW have become legendary not only in the base community, and North Carolina, but over the last several years, she contributed nationally as well.

Outwater claims, "She has become a valuable resource for National Guard Bureau and national family readiness, as she has helped write several operating instructions; not the least of which was the OI for the Air National Guard Family Readiness Program, and she also helped to implement and provide training for other states in several important areas such as the emergency program that tracks our service members and their families in times of natural or manmade disasters."

Considering Flaherty's recent activities, her most proud moments came with the creation and development of two programs serving military families. "Operation Kids on Guard" — a military kids support program with many versions in the Guard across the nation, and the "Community Area Research Team" which brought community leaders and local agencies together with all military unit leaders in our community (Guard, Reserve and Active Duty), to support and assist



Retired Lt. Col. Kathleen Flaherty (2nd from left) received well wishes from a variety of colleagues and friends as she departed her role as Director of Family Programs for the 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte. Flaherty closed the book on more than two decades with the unit as a trail-blazing military member and civil service technician. Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Wilkins

continued on next page ~

Flaherty's Departure from NCANG

Continued from page 10 —

military members and their families. Although the North Carolina Air Guard hadn't used such programs before, Flaherty saw their value. She suggest "Operation Kids on Guard," brings our military kids together, to learn leadership, to support each other through deployments, and to make new friends who are like themselves (military kids). The annual event has grown from 70 to more than 250 kids of all ages six years later. Flaherty says the program involved Airmen, their families, Guard retirees, friends, and the community, all with one idea, helping and supporting our military kids. She added, "I truly loved getting to know our Airmen and their families, watching them grow during these past years."

145th AW Commander, Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, remarked that Flaherty's experience with the unit was one of reversed encounters, since she began her tenure with the NCANG as an executive at the top of the food chain, in the State Adjutant General's Office, then in

progressive movements, as Mission Support Commander and finally in Family Readiness she had moved even closer to the people she served.

Flaherty was honored at a ceremony on the 145th AW's Charlotte base December 7, where friends and colleagues proffered comments of nostalgia and appreciation. Hugs and tears were in abundance, as speakers recalled times and deeds past with relish.

Moving west to be with her family, Flaherty says while she whittles down the items on her bucket list; whether she is visiting Italy, driving through the Bad Lands or Grand Tetons, "One thing I will carry with me is the great friendships I have made with Airmen, their families, community leaders, and retirees. I will treasure them always."

Officers and Warrant Officers (Active and Separated) —

It is not too late to register for the 2012 NC Army and Air National Guard Military Ball. Registration information is on our web site (www.ncnga.org) or contact the PAO at 800-621-4136, ext 46889 (or email at pao@ng.army.mil)

Help Your Association — Run for the NCNGA Executive Council!

The Nominating & Credentials Committee is actively seeking qualified candidates to run for Executive Council seats. Upcoming vacancies for each major command will be filled at the next convention to be held 20-21 April 2012 at the Marriott Resort Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Qualifications to run for office: you must be a member of the North Carolina National Guard Association and have served on an active committee within the past five years (except Junior Council members).

If you are qualified (see above) and interested in being an important part of your Association, complete the application below and mail to the NCNGA. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Foster at the NCNGA 1-800-821-6159 ext 1 (terieakes@bellsouth.net).

2012-2013

**Application for Nomination
Candidate for the Executive Council
North Carolina National Guard Association**

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Telephone No. _____

Business Telephone No. _____

Unit _____

Email address: _____

Indicate office you want to be considered for:

- President (at large)
- Vice President (at large)
- 30th HBCT – Council Seat
- 130th MEB – Council Seat
- 60th Troop Command – Council Seat
- JFHQ-NC – Council Seat
- HQ 449th Theatre Avn Bde – Council Seat
- 139th Regiment (CA) – Two (2) Council Seats
- HQ 113th Sustainment Bde – Council Seat
- Air National Guard – Council Seat
- Junior Council – Two (2) Council Seats
- Associate Membership – Council Seat

**Attach a list of your current/past committee
and/or Executive Council involvement.**

Deadline for submitting applications: 1 April 2012



Brigadier General (R) James Summers Forrester

January 8, 1937 – October 31, 2011

By Colonel Steven D. Martin, NC Air National Guard

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote:

“Lives of great men all remind us, we can

make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time.” On October 31, 2011, James S. Forrester passed from this life to his reward. During my lifetime, he served as a senior military officer, doctor, mentor, and elected representative. All of these titles are that of an honorable man, but I will remember him most as a friend.

To say that Jim Forrester was a great man seems to almost minimize who he was. Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, he gazed upon the Statue of Liberty as a boy and set foot on American soil at Ellis Island. He came to a country that promised him endless opportunities as it had thousands before him. He was not blessed with wealth or fortune; he did not have position or standing. His first step on our soil was that of boundless promise and unlimited opportunity. Becoming an American Citizen was an accomplishment that he treasured the rest of his life.

He sold Bibles to put himself through college and medical school. Fresh out of medical school, he spent part of his residency working with Dr. B.G. Weathers, Sr. in Stanley, North Carolina. His exposure to the small town of Stanley struck a chord with him and he determined that being a family doctor in a small town was the primary call of his life. He settled in Stanley and opened a family practice. This calling to heal, to help make the sick better, to prevent disease, to help those who could not help themselves did not end with the science and technology used by the medical community. He provided a lift to spirits, knew something of the families and background of his patients, called them and their children by their first names, helped to calm their fears and comforted those that grieved. He was more than a doctor - he was a friend.

My mother, a registered nurse, worked

for him for twenty-eight years at that family practice in Stanley. When you work with someone, you begin to understand their nature, not only their positive traits, but their flaws as well. When your nature and the spirit of your heart overshadow your flaws, you are respected, trusted, and admired. Not only did he treat his patients with respect, Dr. Forrester also treated his employees with respect. I never heard my mother say one bad thing about him and her respect for him was as high as I've ever heard her speak of anyone. He took care of his employees, carefully investing in retirement plans to make sure they were taken care of in their retirement years. Dr. Forrester also knew about the families of his employees. From the time I was a young boy until I last saw him a few months ago, he always made me feel like I was important to him. I would say that the way he treated me was the rule rather than exception. That is just who he was - a friend.

He came into the military in 1963 as a way to help serve his nation. He certainly didn't have to join the Air National Guard, but he wanted to make a difference; and this was a way he could serve his community, state and nation. As a flight surgeon, he flew aboard aircraft on long missions to Vietnam to bring back wounded military to the states. He traveled all over the world as a member of the military.

I remember traveling with him to Bolivia in 1989 on a medical aid mission to deliver an old Civil Defense Hospital to a remote village with no power and a single water source in the center of the village. It gave a place for the circuit doctors to treat patients when they stopped by the village. It wasn't a glamorous mission, but it made a difference in the lives of people who didn't have the advantages we have here in America.

He eventually rose to the rank of Brigadier General and served as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air. As he was about to retire, the North Carolina Air National Guard had a shortage of doctors that impacted their ability to perform their mission. He did the unthinkable by volunteering to take a reduction in rank from Brigadier General to Colonel to be able to stay in and assist with the ever growing medical workload until more doctors could be recruited and trained. A lesser man could not have done it. How many would willingly take a reduction in rank to best serve the interests of the organization? Pride and ego would have gotten in the way of most, but Dr. Forrester did what was needed - the organization was bigger than his ego.

My fondest military memory is that of a teenage boy who was trying to find my way in life. He recommended that I join the Air National Guard. I took him up on it and he swore me into the Guard thirty-two years ago. Though he left the Air National Guard fourteen years ago, his contributions to the organization are still paying dividends.

As a state legislator, he consistently served his constituents with honor. He was always a man you could trust to vote according to his conscience and his faith. Whether as a local county commissioner or state senator, he was not afraid to live up to his values. He did not wear his convictions on his sleeve, but you never wondered where he stood. He held to his beliefs, never giving in to the latest trends or

continued on page 13 ~

Forrester —

Continued from page 12

special interest groups. His popularity with his constituents was a result of the confidence and trust they had in him to do what was best for them, and they knew that he would not be blown about by every wind of change. He was not afraid to stand by his convictions, even alone if he had to. He stood for his convictions and took the heat if he had to, but he was true to himself up until the very end.

He was also a dedicated family man who clearly loved his wife, children and grandchildren. His dear wife, Mary Frances, stood by his side for fifty-one years and he could not have had a more ardent supporter. He loved his children, Wyndi, Gloria, Paige, and Jimmy. His family supported him in all things, and they not only shared his love, but they were a source of inspiration to him. What a heritage he leaves to his grandchildren of what it means to be an American Citizen.

As the sad news of his death reached me, I wondered how many people he had helped over the years. My mother told me of him going out and buying used band instruments to give to local schools so underprivileged children could participate in band. He regularly spent time at the local health department to treat those that had no money or means to pay. How many letters did he write for high school and college students to help them attend college or get a job? How many nights did he stay up late to carefully craft legislation to make his community and state a better place to live? How many bodies did he help heal and how many broken spirits did he help mend? How many times over the years did God show his love to us through this one man?

Jim Forrester - the general, the mentor, the legislator, the employer, the husband, the father, the grandfather, and the friend has now met his savior. Jesus is the righteous judge of the world and his judgments are not known to us. But in my imagination, I hear him saying, "I gave you one talent, the opportunity to live in a free country and you took that one talent and rather than hiding it, you multiplied it many times over. You helped people; you stood for what you believed in; the lives you touched are better because you passed their way. You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Jim Forrester was one of the greatest men I have ever known, and I will miss him dearly.

6th Annual Len Adams NCNGA Educational Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament

In Honor of MAJ Wayne
Jenkins, MSG Jamie Robinson
and SFC Danny Hunter



Format: 4 Man Scramble
Where: River Oaks Golf Club
When: Monday, 2 April 2012
Time: 13:00 Shotgun Start
Entry Fee: \$70.00

Please make plans to join us on 2 April, 2012 at River Oaks Golf Club to honor MAJ Wayne Jenkins, MSG Jamie Robinson and SFC Danny Hunter for their retirement from the NCARNG.

Entry fee includes golf, cart, beverages, food, door prize tickets, and two mulligan's each. Tickets will be put into the raffle box for door prizes when entry fee is paid. Dinner will be served immediately after the round. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place teams. All par 3's will have a closest to the pin prize and we will also have a long drive prize. Hole sponsorships may be purchased for a \$50.00 donation. Fees and donations are tax deductible.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the North Carolina National Guard Association Educational Foundation (NCNGAEF). The first \$1000 raised will go to our 505ECB Len Adams Memorial Scholarship NCNGAEF Fund, the next \$1500 raised will be used to purchase 3 bricks in the NCNGAEF "Walk of Honor" at JFHQ in Raleigh in honor of MAJ Wayne Jenkins/MSG Jamie Robinson/SFC Danny Hunter's retirement. All additional funds raised will go to the NCNGAEF General Endowment Fund.

Sign up as a foursome or individuals will be paired up. Make checks payable to Mike Sherrill, 2100 Robinwood Road, Gastonia, NC 28054.

The address for the golf course is River Oaks Golf Club, 233 Broken Arrow Dr, Statesville, NC 28677. Phone (704) 883-8724.

Player A _____

Player B _____

Player C _____

Player D _____

In Memoriam

Listed below are those members (and non-members), spouses and dependent children that have passed away between November 4, 2011 and January 10, 2012. If we have missed someone, please contact the Editor, Teri Foster at terieakes@bellsouth.net or 919-851-3390 ext 1.

Below are individuals not mentioned in the Dec/Jan issue, that passed away prior to November 4, 2011:

Alla F. Davis
Waynesville, NC
17 January 2009

Gideon B. Forbes
Elizabeth City, NC
18 July 2010

Alton M. Hester
Raeford, NC
29 November 2010

Douglas B. Flythe, Jr.
Conway, NC
24 March 2011

James A. Williams
Waxhaw, NC
27 June 2011

William H. Clippard
Lenoir, NC
3 July 2011

Elijah Lloyd
Tarboro, NC
20 October 2011

Maylon C. Baker
Princeton, NC
November 4, 2011

James D. Dunn
Tarboro, NC
November 6, 2011

James C. Lamonds
Biscoe, NC
November 7, 2011

Kristen Tinsley
Daughter of
Douglas V. Tinsley
145th COMM FLT
Catawba, SC
November 11, 2011

James (Jay) A. Richey
Fountain Inn, SC
November 11, 2011

Linzy R. Clifton
Norlina, NC
November 12, 2011

Roy J. Rucker
878th EN Co (-)
Shelby, NC
November 15, 2011

Deborah K. Dion
Spouse of
James P. Dion
882nd EN Co (-)
November 22, 2011

Carlton Wayne Johnson
Raleigh, NC
December 4, 2011

Patricia Cardwell
Williamston, NC
December 8, 2011

David Donovan
Raleigh, NC
December 9, 2011

Hubert K. Strickland
Dunn, NC
December 9, 2011

Robert J. Goss
Independence, VA
December 12, 2011

Timothy C. Parker
Marion, NC
December 13, 2011

Barbara A. Lewis
Spouse of
Kenneth Lewis
Snow Hill, NC
January 2, 2012

Charles T. Huggins
St. Pauls, NC
January 4, 2012

William D. Miller, Jr.
C Co 131st AVN
Statesville, NC
January 8, 2012

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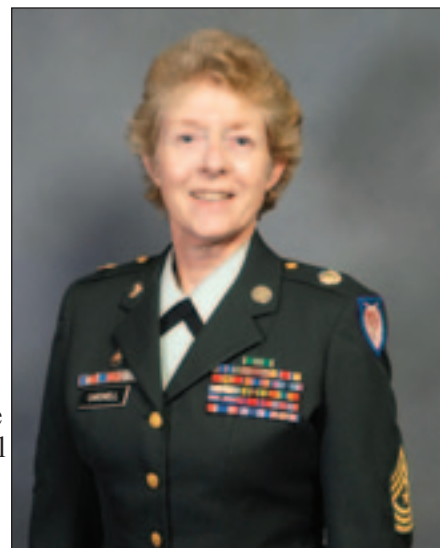
CSM (Ret) Pat Cardwell

By CSM (Ret) Bob Suber

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Patricia Griffin Cardwell, the North Carolina Army National Guard's first female Command Sergeant Major, died 7 December 2011 of complications from cancer. Pat was a native of Williamston and enlisted in the Guard in December 1979 after a short period of service in the USAR. She joined the military technician ranks in November 1981 as a military pay clerk and entered the AGR program as a legal clerk in May 1984. Pat had continued assignments in the personnel/administrative field, completing her service as the Human Resources Office Sergeant Major at JFHQ, Raleigh.

After graduating in 2002 from the United States Army Sergeants Major Course (Resident), Pat was promoted to Sergeant Major in April 2004. She made National Guard history in October 2006 when she became the first female in the North Carolina Army National Guard to be appointed to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. She served as CSM of the 217th Human Resources Battalion until her retirement in December 2007. CSM Cardwell led the way for enlisted women in leadership positions in the NCARNG.

A lifetime member of the North Carolina National Guard Association, Pat is survived by her mother, Mrs. Betty Griffin of Williamston, and two brothers.



Legacy Bridge Program

Last year, Active Associate Representative Al Rose introduced a program that is designed to financially carry the Association through our present fiscal transition period. As we move from a system where we depended on our investments and insurance premiums to pay our Association's expenses to one that will rely on new revenue sources to cover our budget, the Legacy Bridge Program will provide the interim funds to meet budget costs until the transition is complete. Our projection is that this should occur within 2-3 years, and as such it is a closed end program.

The short-term plan is to use the income from the Legacy Bridge Program until our new revenue sources come on-line allowing us to insulate our investments so that they are allowed to grow over the long-term. At the end of 2-3 years, the new revenue sources, along with insurance premiums, will be our main income sources and the Legacy Bridge Program will close.

Long-term, we hope to reach an investment fund goal of \$3 million. At that point, even at a modest 4%, the Association could survive indefinitely should our insurance and new revenue sources take a hit during lean times.

Please consider joining us in the Legacy Bridge Program. And, if you would like to remember or honor someone, please consider making a donation in their name. Take a few minutes to fill out the application and to write a check. Al and his team have started us in the right direction. It is up to us now to make it happen.

Questions? Please call us at 919-851-3390.

***Our Newest Members of the Legacy Bridge Program:**

207. Michael Mills
208. In Honor of Gwen Perkins -
First State President of the
NCNGA Auxiliary 1975-76
209. Janice O. Richardson
210. Jimmy L. Richardson
211. Joe Anders
212. Ralph W. Peters, Jr.
213. James J. Reilly
214. Gregory Simpson

**As of press time*



NCNGA LEGACY BRIDGE PROGRAM DONATION



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ NCNGA Life Member: Yes ___ No ___

Unit: _____ Rank: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

() I would like to make this donation in honor of () in memory of ()

\$100 Donation (Donations are not tax deductible)

\$25 Quarterly Installments _____ \$100 Full Payment _____

_____ Check _____ Money Order _____ Master Card/Visa (Add \$2 credit card fee)

Credit Card Information:

Acct # _____ Exp Date: _____

3-digit Sec Code: _____ Signature: _____

Return Application & Payment To:

NCNGA
ATTN: Legacy Bridge
Program
7410 Chapel Hill Road
Raleigh, NC 27607-5047



Tarheel Guardsman
NC National Guard Assoc.
7410 Chapel Hill Road
Raleigh, NC 27607-5047

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Raleigh, NC

PLAY GOLF AND SUPPORT THE NCNGA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

FORMAT: 18-Hole Captain's Choice
WHERE: Black Bear Golf Club, Longs, SC
WHEN: Thursday, April 19, 2012 – Shotgun Start at 9:30 AM
ENTRY FEE: \$60.00 (Make checks payable to NCNGA Educational Foundation, Inc.)
DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING: All checks must be received by Monday, 2 April 2012
TEAM PRIZES: 1st Place Team — 4th Place Team
MAIL TO: NCNGA Educational Foundation, Inc., 7410 Chapel Hill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

The cost includes cart and green fee, all prizes (Longest Drive Front and Back Nine, Closest to the Hole All Par 3's, Hole in One All Par 3's, Putting Contest at Conclusion of Round, Door Prizes) and Driving Range prior to round. Mulligans may be purchased for \$5.00 (3 for \$10.00). Money from mulligans will be added to the donations to the NCNGA Educational Foundation. Cost for Putting Contest is \$10.00. Prize for Putting Contest is 50/50 split the pot on the cost, with the remainder also added to the donations to the NCNGA Educational Foundation.

You may put together your own team or sign up individually and I will place you on a team

For additional information, contact Terry Westbrook at (919) 664-6393

Open to all golfers during the 51st NCNGA Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC and their guests. All proceeds go to the NCNGA Educational Foundation. Check must accompany entry form. Convention attendance not required to enter tournament. Entry fee will be returned if tournament is cancelled due to rain.

If you would like to register as a team, all four entry forms must be submitted together with checks totaling \$240.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone: (home) _____
(cell) _____ (work) _____

I declare myself physically able to compete in this event. I waive all rights for claims for injury or illness which may occur during this event.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

NCNGA Educational Foundation estimates the value for each entrant to be \$45.00. Charitable contributions are deductible only to the extent that they exceed the value of any goods and services received. Your cancelled check is acknowledgement of your contribution.