Flight Captain's Remarks

Flight Captain Jim “Birdman” Burman

OK! First, before I forget, the April 12th social hour will begin at 1700 hours, followed by dinner at 1800.

Last month we had 21 members present for our meeting. This number was below the minimum number of people that the caterer requires. I visited with one of the owners and I explained what the Daedalians were and what our objectives are. She said that they will continue to serve us, and she thanked us for our service. That night’s entertainment was a video Brent Murray found of a lecture by a Lockheed A-12 pilot. The A-12 was the predecessor of the SR-71 Blackbird, with performance and capabilities comparable to the SR-71, but it was a single seat aircraft to boot, whereas the SR-71 had a crew of two. I found it interesting that the aircraft had stealth technology and Electronic Counter Measures, plus SPEED, SPEEED, and lots of SPEEEED! It served as a simply outstanding reconnaissance platform, flying numerous missions prior to being supplanted by the SR-71 in 1968.

Next month we will be conducting our annual membership drive, seeking to add new members and collecting 2018 dues & donations. $24 covers Flight 99 dues; any amount above that will help us to train more future military aviators!

Volabamus, Volamus!

Birdman
Meeting Minutes
Mike Buck, Flight 99 Adjutant

At 1630 hours on 8 March 2018, 21 Flight 99 Daedalians rejoined at the Grizzly Bend Club for our world-renown social hour. 1730 hours local saw our Flight Captain Jim Burman bring the meeting to order. Matt Lynde again lent his voice to that popular invocation authored by Scott A. Tackett, Sr.

A Battle Prayer

Young Warriors;

Should fate find you on the battlefield, may your cause be a just one.

May your courage not falter.

May you show mercy to your enemies.

May your efforts bring the blessings of peace.

May you be triumphant, and earn victory.

May your sacrifice be always appreciated.

May you endure the conflict unharmed.

Should you be harmed,

May your wounds heal.

Should you perish in the struggle, may God embrace you, and find a place for you in His kingdom.

Amen

Jerry Shanahan led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Flight Captain Burman then directed our attention to the Missing Man’s Table, set that night in honor of departed Big Sky Daedalian Col Michael E. Bolin, US Army. Provost Marshal Rex Tanberg led the toast in water to our departed comrades, and then another toast to our Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States. Proceedings were tabled with the arrival of the meal.

21 Members Present
Buck, Burman, Cameron, Carlton Cogswell, Dascoulias, Erickson, Fischer, D. Henneman, Holland, Koby, Bill Laux, Lynde, Mitchell, Murray, Scotty Rae, Schroeder, the Shanahans, Paul Snyder, and Rex Tanberg were in attendance.

Old Business

2018 Membership Push

Flight Captain Burman stressed the need to continue to engage with the 40th Helicopter Squadron and the MTANG’s 186th Airlift Squadron as part of our quest to attract new Flight 99 members.

Firearm Raffle

It is unlikely that we will be able to obtain a surplus 1911 model 45 pistol anytime soon, so we will search for some other gun in the near term that we can raffle off to earn funds to support our 2018 DFT program (formerly CFIP).

2018 Big Sky Daedalian Flight Training Program

Vince “Digger” Bakke, Flight 99 Daedalian Flight Training officer, asked that we please spread the word to the best and brightest students that we know to consider applying for a Flight 99 DFT scholarship. High School Seniors are preferred, but exceptional Juniors will be considered. Last year was a great success, and we soloed 3 students; this year we'll only have two slots, and so the competition will be keen. The deadline for applications is 15 April, and candidate interviews will follow soon after. After the brief ground school, the selected “cadets” will start flying in June, and then solo shortly thereafter.

Ensign Buck Update

Ensign Caroline Buck, USN, has completed the Aviation Preflight Indoc trination course at Naval Air Station Pensacola. She has been assigned to primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi in Texas, where she will fly the T-6 Texan II.
A Flight 99 Daedalian Has Flown West
Don R. Main

Flight 99 Daedalian Don R. Main, Lt Col, USAF (ret), Flew West on 7 March 2018 in Helena, MT after battling cancer. Don was born in Rochester, NY on 2 May 1937, the only son of Charles and Emma Main. He went to Irondequoit HS, and after graduating he attended Tufts University in Medford, MA where he studied engineering and joined the ROTC. After college he joined the Air Force and became a pilot. Don flew various planes, including the B-47, B-52G, C-119G, AC-119K, B-57C, RB-57F, and the T-39. He was particularly fond of the AC-119 Gunship, which he flew in Vietnam, and the RB-57F, which was used for high-altitude atmospheric sampling and radiation detection in support of nuclear test monitoring. After many years of flying Don hung up his wings and began working as a rapid runway repair engineer. After serving for more than 25 years in the Air Force, he retired in 1985 and began civilian life, where he worked for various companies as an engineering consultant. He enjoyed hiking, boating, and spending time with his family. Main lived in numerous places throughout his life, and he was an active member in each community, serving in the local Kiwanis and Elks Clubs and of course, the Order of Daedalians. A Vestry member of his church, he was a devoted Christian and loved serving the Lord. Don is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia (Patty) Main, his daughters and their spouses, Carla and Norm White, Robyn and Roy Barkley, and his two grandsons, Rudy and Rory Barkley. Don was laid to rest in his USAF uniform, and was interred at the Fort Harrison Military Cemetery in Helena at 1300 on Monday, 12 March. Our Flight Captain Jim Burman, along with Provost Marshal Rex Tanberg and Ken Inabnit, as well as Friend of Flight 99 Sam Birky were present for the interment. The service concluded with a twenty-one-gun salute, followed by a bugler’s playing of “Taps.”

Ode to a Deceased Daedalian

The flag is furled at half mast, and when the breezes blow, a-throbbing with emotion, each star and stripe droops low. Its folds are sadly rustling as it quivers in the breeze, and all is deathly silence, save the sobbing of the trees. The Drum’s sad roll, ‘tis muffled, hushed weirdly as in death, and sounding like the dying, a-gasping for each breath; disconsolate across the field the muffled tone that chills, and o’er the silent river it is echoed by the hills.

The roll is called- one absent, one absent from our midst. With anguished gloom o’ershadowed, we mourn for one who’s missed. That noble, manly, loving face, that body, straight and tall, among us and at flying, he answered the last call. And when the last roll sounded, with accents firm and clear, smiling, stepping to the front, He bravely answered “Here”.

Ready! Aim! Three volleys! Over a flowered bier, while many a Daedalian must shed a silent tear. The bugle’s notes are calling- sleep on! Thou soul so brave- Your last taps sadly sounding among your airman’s grave.
AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY!

The 461st Flight Test Squadron invites the Order of the Daedalians to an exclusive
TOUR OF THE F-35 LIGHTNING II
at EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CA
on WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY from 0930-1400

Events include:
• Walk-around and photograph with the Air Force’s first F-35, tail AF-1.
• F-35 capabilities brief by a 461 FLTS experimental test pilot.
• Official Edwards flightline tour with views of the F-35, F-22, F-16, B-1, B-2, B-52, and more.
• Guided tour of the Air Force Flight Test Museum and airpark, featuring the YF-22 and YA-10B.
• Catered pasta lunch.

Additional Details

• $25 per person covers all events, digital photos, and a light pasta lunch.
• All visitors must be US citizens and must provide identification information by 24 April 2018.
• Schedule of events is tentative and may be adjusted due to operational needs of the Air Force.
• Visitors will be greeted at the West Gate of Edwards AFB and escorted on base for the duration of the tour. Transportation will be provided to and from the parking lot at the West gate.
• The tour will involve light levels of activity, including walking approximately one-quarter mile and standing for up to 45 minutes,

Contact Mike Buck if Interested!
**NEXT BIG SKY FLIGHT 99 MEETING:**
Thursday, 12 April 2018
Social Hour: 1700 Dinner: 1800

**General Rand and Global Strike Command**

Major Chris Thompson, Commander of the 841st Security Forces Squadron will recount the leadership of General Robin “Baba” Rand (pictured above), an F-16 pilot who led Air Force Global Strike Command through a very difficult period.

**FLIGHT FACTS**

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<tr>
<th>99th Flight: “Big Sky”</th>
<th>Election of Officers</th>
<th>Flight Dues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Meetings</strong></td>
<td><strong>All members receive the most current membership rosters and a copy of the current by-laws.</strong></td>
<td>Flight 99’s annual dues are $24, and are due by 1 June. There’s a Lifetime Flight Dues option, too:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Sky Flight 99 conducts its regular meetings on the <strong>second Thursday</strong> of each month.</td>
<td>Nominations for flight officers are made during the April meeting, and ballots are then mailed to all members. Results of the election are announced during the May meeting, with the incoming slate of officers then assuming their positions at the meeting in June.</td>
<td><strong>To Age 30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Social Hour:</strong> 1700 Hours (Apr-Oct), or 1630 Hours (Nov-Mar). Dinner follows one hour later, and the scheduled program begins an hour after that. Program topics are varied, with most focusing on some aspect of military aviation</td>
<td>Along with the ballots, a reminder of Flight 99 dues and a request for scholarship donations is sent.</td>
<td><strong>31-35</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spouses or Significant Others are invited to the May and December meetings. Prospective members and guests are always welcome.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36-40</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **Chartered 16 Jan 1992** | **To Age 45** | **$755** |
| Flight 99’s annual dues are $24, and are due by 1 June. There’s a Lifetime Flight Dues option, too: | **46-50** | **$675** |
| **To Age 50** | **51-55** | **$595** |
| **Beyond 75** | **56-60** | **$510** |
| **Pay National Dues of $35 directly to the Order by January. There is a one-time $25 New Member fee.** | **61-65** | **$425** |
| | **66-70** | **$350** |
| | **71-75** | **$275** |
| | **Beyond 75** | **$215** |
March 2018

**MARCH IN U.S. MILITARY AVIATION HISTORY**

1 March 1912 Capt. Albert Berry, US Army, made the world’s first parachute jump from an airplane. Pilot Antony H. Jannus and Berry took off from Kinloch Park Field (now Lambert Field / Saint Louis International Airport). Flying a 1911 Benoist Type XII School Plane, the pair flew eighteen miles to the drop zone at Jefferson Barracks. The historic jump was made from an altitude of 1500 feet.

4 March 1966 USAF F-4Cs were unsuccessfully attacked by 3 MiG-17s, marking the first recorded air-to-air combat over North Vietnam.

5 March 1919 USAS 186th Aero Squadron, still based in Latrecy, France, took second place in the Formation Flying contest during the First Army “Horse and Motor Show” held in Bar-Sur-Aube.

7 March 1955 The 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron stood up at Great Falls AFB, MT. The 91st used modified B-36 bombers to carry, launch, and recover their RF-84K jets. Over two years many nearly fatal accidents occurred. The U-2 and the first spy satellites ended this program in July 1957.

8 March 1953 F-86 Sabre pilot Joseph McConnell destroyed his sixth MiG-15 in aerial combat over Korea. The next month McConnell would down 3 MiG-15s in one day, becoming the first jet “Triple Ace.”

9 March 1911 The Wright brothers made a formal offer to train one pilot for the Navy, contingent upon the purchase of one airplane for the sum of $5,000. This condition to purchase was later on dropped.

10 March 1923 The Navy’s aircraft designation system was modified, reversing the order of letters in the combination-class letter first, and manufacturer’s letter last. Thus, a designation FB indicated a fighter, built by Boeing. This system was changed by Robert McNamara in 1962 upon realizing that USAF F-110s and USN F-4s were identical.

12 March 1918 US Captain Phelps Collins of Alpena, Mich., became the first member of the Air Service to be killed on a combat mission. Collins, a pilot with the 103rd Aero Squadron, was on a combat patrol near Paris, France when his SPAD XIII fighter crashed to Earth in a high-speed dive from high altitude.

16 March 1953 Republic aircraft corporation delivered the 4,000th F-84 Thunderjet to the USAF. The F-84 began its production in 1946.

17 March 1911 Lt John Rodgers, Naval Aviator No. 2, reported to the Wright Company at Dayton, Ohio, to receive flight instruction.

17 March 1961 Northrop delivered the first T-38 “Talon” jet trainer to ATC at Randolph AFB. Since its introduction the ‘38 has been used to train over 50,000 pilots and it will remain in service through 2023.

19 March 1910 At Montgomery, Alabama, Orville Wright opened the first Wright Flying School. That site later became Maxwell AFB.

19 March 1918 The 94th Aero Squadron became the first USAS squadron to conduct operational flights across enemy lines. Their Nieuport 28 aircraft lacked guns.

21 March 1916 The French Air Service established the Lafayette Escadrille. This French squadron, made up of US volunteers, would expose the very first Americans in history to actual aerial combat.

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**To Perpetuate the Spirit of Patriotism.**

**To Accent the Ideal of Sacrifice that Places Service to Nation Above Self.**

**To Demonstrate a Love of Country.**

**To Consecrate the Memory of Those Who Have Served, and Who Serve.**

“Volabamus, Volamus”