



# THE GRANITE STATE FLYER

## GRANITE STATE FLIGHT #53

Order of Daedalians  
Fraternity of Military Pilots



**Jimmy Doolittle Distinguished Flight Award Winner**

1994 – 1996 – 1997– 1998 – 1999 – 2001 – 2002 – 2003 – 2006 – 2007 – 2008 – 2011

Web Site: <http://apollo.daedalians.org/flights/6>

Flight Captain	Chris Nevins	Pat Testerman	Chaplain
Vice Flight Captain	Kevin Grady	Barry Watkins	Membership
Provost Marshal	John Lippincott	Vacant	Programs
Treasurer	Ernie Brown	Greg Curtis	Adjutant

1 April 2019

## NOTAM #1 — Next meeting 12 April 2019

*Portsmouth Holiday Inn*

Members business & social program

Social Hour 1800 — Dinner 1900 — Adjourn 2100



**April Meeting** – Mud season is in full swing now! Driving up and down my unpaved road is like off road, mudding now and the fog outside is getting very thick with the temp dropping after a day of melting. However, there is still 12+ inches of snow around my place in the north woods. So it's time to kill the cabin fever with some medicinal beverages at the bar and meet the April guest speaker \_\_\_\_\_. Tie/scarf theme for April will be aviation theme and with respect to the color-blind Provost Marshall, color is not important.

As we have in the past, the meal will be the chef's choice; however, if anyone has a special diet need, please contact Greg Curtis ASAP to make arrangements with the chef.



**March Meeting** – We need to thank **Dino Atsalis** for his great note taking while I was wrestling quad-copter drones at Maxwell AFB, AL.

1903: **Flight Captain Chris Nevins** called the evening's meeting to order. **Greg Kann** led the Flight in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Provost Marshall John Lippincott** led the traditional Flight toasts. The FC lead a toast to active duty members of the five services who are serving around the globe. **Mike Farren** lead a toast to honor Medal of Honor recipient Joe Johnson. It was noted that member **John Brooks** had details on the event that led to the MOH.

1908: Evening dinner of baked fish with veggies and potatoes served to 24 members and 3 guests in attendance: **Leonard Seagren** introduced **Joan Nickell**. **Dave Testerman** introduced **Karen**, his wife, and grandson **David Testerman**, **Pat Testerman's** son. We all learned that David is active in the Boy Scouts.

Mike introduced **Larry Giddings**, USNA '66 graduate, former E-1 / E-2 pilot and prospective flight member. Following his tour in the Navy, Larry attended the University of Indiana Law School, then with law degree in hand opened a law firm in Indiana. Has resided in Newmarket NH since 2012.

The **PM** announced during dinner the 50-50 Raffle. A total of \$70 collected, \$35 dollars to the winner. **Bill Prince** was the winner of the 50-50, he happily donated back his \$35 winnings to the flight. Thank you Bill.

An especially pleasant evening as **John Kane** graced us with his presence, as it has been awhile since John joined us for a meeting. A hearty welcome from all of us in attendance. Good to have you with us John!!

2000: Flight Captain Nevins reconvened the meeting. It was attempted to have the minutes read, but a vote was called, vote taken, the Ayes passed the vote, with one Nay vote by John Kane, who has not missed a step. Thank you, John, we can always count on you!!

**Flight Treasurer Ernie Brown** provided a brief Treasurer's report. For the calendar year, we have had generous voluntary contributions from the Flight membership providing for a strong and adequately funded treasury to support the Flight's aviation training program for AFROTC, JAFROTC and CAP cadets.

**Vice Flight Captain Kevin Grady**, who oversees the Flight aviation program, provided the members an outline of our support. National HQ supports our program covering 50% through National's matching funds program. Cost per student for instruction to solo is approximately \$2000-2500 per student for an average of 15 hours of light lessons (Instructor & aircraft). We have been averaging approximately 2-3 students per school year.

Kevin informed the Flight that Brandon Dumas, a 2012 high school graduate and recipient of our aviation training program, has completed Air Force UPT at Columbus AFB, MS, and has been assigned to fly the C-17. Congratulations to Brandon.

The **FC** reminded the membership of flight officer elections at the May 2019 meeting. Chris introduced the Nomination Committee members; Mike Farren, Dave Testerman and Dino Atsalis. Dino spoke on behalf of the Nomination committee outlining the positions open for election; Flight Captain, Deputy Flight Captain, Treasurer, Provost Marshall and three (3) positions for Directors of the Flight. Nominations close at the April meeting. Kevin Grady, John Lippincott and Greg Kann have made their interest known to serve as flight officers. Email from the committee will be sent to all flight members later in March. The Nomination Committee encourages all members to consider running for one of the above listed positions. Contact a Nomination Committee member to make your willingness to serve the flight.

2017: The **FC** introduced the evening's guest speaker; Chicago native and flight member **Bill Diggle**. Bill provided us a short-detailed presentation on his experiences as an Army helicopter pilot, starting with his enlistment in DEC 1951. Bill and his wife are Air Transport Pilot (ATP) certified.

Bill's goal for enlistment was to be an aircraft crew member; crew chief or engineer on the B-29. After entering the Army in Chicago in DEC 1951, he waited some three weeks before finally boarding a C-46 flight at Midway Airport for San Antonio TX, with a stop in St. Louis MO, to report to basic training at Lackland. Following eight weeks of basic training, Bill learned what "needs of the Army" means, as he did not get assigned to his first choice of aircraft maintenance or second choice of flight engineer. Needs of the Army to Bill was his first assignment to Military Police school at Camp Gordon, Georgia that included two weeks of Advance Infantry Training (AIT), the Army's K-9 security training program.

With military police training completed, Bill then traveled to California to board a boat for a three-week ocean crossing to Yokohama, Japan and a bus ride to Fuchu Air Base, located in a western suburb of Tokyo. At Fuchu, Bill joined a replacement unit for what was then K2, South Korea, providing security support for military engineers responsible for construction of landing strips. Following one year in Korea, Bill's DEROS allowed him to depart Yokohama for St Louis. At the time, Tokyo was considered to be in the "war zone," which meant before returning to Tokyo, Bill needed to be "away for one year." "Away for one year" meant a rather choice assignment to Europe for two years in France and Germany.

Hold on, we're getting to the flying stuff! In 1957 Bill decided to separate from the Army, to attend Embry Riddle University. There he earned his pilot license in 1958, and commercial license in 1959. In 1960 a friend encouraged

Bill move to Long Island NY where Bill flight instructed for four years. Bill took the opportunity to join the New York Air National Guard at MacArthur Airport. There, he answered a local newspaper advertisement for Army helicopter training.

1965 found Bill traveling to Fort Wolters, TX, assigned to the Army's Basic Primary Helicopter Center, to attend basic training and flight training in the H-23. Completing his flight training, Bill was assigned to Fort Rucker AL for instrument qualification training in the UH-1.

Bill shared the best advice he received before attending his Army flight training assignments, "Don't tell the instructors you know how to fly." Following completion of his training requirements in 1966, upon graduation Bill was offered an UH-1 instructor position at Fort Rucker. Bill noted that his son graduated helicopter school at Fort Rucker twenty years to the month after Bill graduated.

Returning to NY for local training program at Staten Island NY. Bill then flew out of Brookhaven Airport and was checked out in the Cessna L-19 / O-1 Bird Dog. Bill shared with the flight his Bird Dog accident experience at Brookhaven Airport.

In total, Bill served 42 years of military service; 12 Active duty, 30 Reserves, holding both fixed wing and rotor instrument qualifications. In the early 90s, Bill was assigned to fly in the first Gulf War, safely returning to the United States to then retire in 1993. Bill relayed to the flight that his Daedalian named membership is in honor of WWI pilot with the last name Diggle. The FC thanked Bill for sharing his experiences with the members. Thank you, Bill, for your service.

2040: A motion was made to adjourn the flight meeting. Flight Captain Nevins called for a vote, the Ayes passed the motion. The only solo voted Nay, from none other than John Kane!



### ***Flight Captain's Mission Briefing:***

Ladies and Gents,

How sweet it is to be able to once again experience the first signs of spring blooming, it's a sure sign of good things to come. Working in the yard almost seems like a pleasure (for now).

This past month has proven fruitful in making contacts with the Air Guard and active duty units. A special event was held on a recent Sunday for the departure of the last KC-135 before the arrival of the new KC-46. Approximately 1500 people attended the ceremony, which included both NH Senators and local dignitaries. The last unit aircraft that departed also happened to be the oldest aircraft in the KC-135 inventory. It was a nostalgic day for those of us who flew the tanker and it was nice to see that several of our Daedalians were able to attend.

As you know, an oft spoken topic at our meetings is the difficulty we have getting new members, especially younger ones. When at the departure ceremony I was able to make contact with the Base Commander. He is willing to allow us to make a presentation to the rated troops and as I write this we are trying to finalize a date and time, but I know it will be soon. Kevin Grady and I are coordinating on this project and we will update you at our Flight meeting.

Your nominating committee has been working hard this past month and you can see they have added some information in this newsletter to bring all of you into the process. The election will be held at the May meeting.

Sick Call: Barry Watkins has been in the Portsmouth hospital fighting an infection. We wish him a most speedy recovery.

Volabamus Volamus, Chris



Dear Members of Granite State Flight 53,

As the three-member Nomination Committee appointed by the Flight Captain, we would like to encourage each member of Flight 53 to consider forwarding their name for Flight Officer and Directors of the Flight elections at the 10 MAY 2019 flight meeting, for the term 1 JUL 19 to 30 JUN 2021.

The nomination committee would like to identify candidates for officer positions or Directors of the Flight no later than the 12 April 2019 flight meeting. IAW with Chapters II and III of the Flight 53 Bylaws, the elected positions are:

Flight Captain  
Deputy Flight Captain  
Provost Marshal

Treasurer  
Directors of the Flight (3 elected positions)

Chapter III, Section 1 of the Flight Bylaws identifies the four (4) *Directors of the Flight*, three (3) of whom are elected. The fourth (4th) is the outgoing Flight Captain who is a member to Directors of the Flight (ex officio) for two years following his/her incumbency.

Chapter II, Section 4 of the Flight Bylaws directs the Flight Captain to appoint the Flight Adjutant and Chaplain.

The Flight Board of Directors is comprised of the 10 positions (7 elected, 2 appointed, 1 ex officio) as identified above.

To date, the following flight members have identified to the Nomination Committee their willingness to serv

Flight Captain: Kevin Grady  
Deputy Flight Captain: Sue Desjardins  
Provost Marshal: John Lippincott  
Treasurer: Greg Kann

Directors of the Flight (3):  
Mauri Foster  
Jerry Gittlein

***If you would like to be nominated and placed on the ballot for election to a Flight officer position or as one of the three elected Directors of the Flight, please contact a Nomination Committee member(s) by email and/or phone:***

Mike Farren: [mffacs@comcast.net](mailto:mffacs@comcast.net)  
Dave Testerman: [Aardvark@sanbornhall.net](mailto:Aardvark@sanbornhall.net)  
Dino Atsalis: [k.ja@comcast.net](mailto:k.ja@comcast.net)

603-396-3578  
603-320-9524  
603-770-0207

For any organization like our Flight 53, the viability of our flight is dependent upon a broadening of experience in the flight leadership from amongst our flight membership. We strongly encourage you to consider putting your name forward for the upcoming Flight elections, we look forward to hearing from you.

Volamus Volabamus,

Mike Farren, Dave Testerman, Dino Atsalis

