



May 2019

Waco Town Crier

A bit of Trivia:

The Best Places to Live in the U.S. in 2019:



(These are ranked from first to 25th)

- Austin, Texas
- Denver
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Minneapolis-St. Paul
- San Francisco
- Portland, Oregon
- Seattle
- Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina
- Huntsville, Alabama
- Madison, Wisconsin
- Grand Rapids, Michigan
- San Jose, California
- Nashville
- Asheville, North Carolina
- Boise, Idaho
- Sarasota, Florida
- Washington, D.C.
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Dallas-Fort Worth
- Greenville, South Carolina
- Portland, Maine
- Salt Lake City
- Melbourne, Florida

FROM OUR GRADUATES:

"Thanks to my classmates for their kind and generous thoughtfulness in response to the recent loss of my husband Tom. I appreciate the phone calls, e-mails, notes, cards and Facebook messages more than words can express. Hearing from so many friends helps to soften the pain of the grief.

Now I find myself in the unique position of living alone for the first time in my life. In my early years I went from home to college dorm, to shared apartment with roommates, to marriage. I'm withholding my opinion of this lifestyle for awhile. As an old friend often said: Life is a journey."

Judy Murphy

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"I, in particular, enjoyed seeing the Waco High versus Tyler football program...it did sadden me as I looked over the team roster and realized that so many teammates are no longer with us. Tyler was a great rival and I got my ankle broken in that very game trying to spin out of a crab block by my opponent. Jeanne, please keep asking someone to step up to the plate and lead us in celebrating our 60th reunion. Thanks again... Ken Baker"

"I always enjoy reading about my classmates, as I'm sure everyone else does. I add those to my prayer list who are experiencing health issues and pray also for you and Elizabeth Bentley. You two do a wonderful job of keeping us connected.

I hope that I'll someday be able to make it to a luncheon and I hope that there will be a 60th reunion. I thank God that my health is good and I can continue to work, take care of my grandkids, sing in the church choir and be active in a great women women's education organization.
Love and blessings, - Carolyn Wolf Lloyd "

"I always enjoy catching up with everyone and I never cease being surprised at all the talents and interesting lives of the Class of '60.

--Cynthia (Copeland) Studenko"

"Always enjoy hearing about our school mates." David Daniel

"For some reason, I missed reading that Linda Lyons is ill and I don't want to be remiss in telling anyone else how important he/she is. I don't know everyone in our class and I had fun talking with many of them before the reunion. But Linda Shelby, Mary Ann Shilling and Karon Shinault sat side by side or in front of or behind one or the other in many classes, and Linda has always been special."

-Karon Shinault Jackson

"I feel there probably will be another reunion but we need to have a few to step up and help. Also said - it would have to be simpler. The older we get, simple is best. Visiting with our classmates is really what a reunion is all about. I know how much work goes into these reunions and many thanks to all our classmates who have done the work. It is difficult when living out of town.

I am so proud of being a part of the 1960 WHS class. I feel like we are a real family. I care very much for each graduate. I just wish the ones who say 'that is all in the past and they don't need it' could experience what we have experienced when seeing old friends and making new friends with classmates we had not known that much while in school.

That is enough from me but remember, I love you WHS family. Gayla Miller Webb"

Be sure to check out our website:

www.whs60.org

UPDATES:

Correction on Allan Myers's address:

Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve
2116 Dover Center Road # 101
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Please keep these folks who are undergoing chemo treatments in your hearts and on your prayer lists:

David Peeples

Phyllis Brooks

Linda Shelby Lyons

Curt Harman (son of Jeanne Holland Harman)

Also, Bless all the caregivers. Seems at our age we either are a caregiver or need a caregiver.

May Birthdays:

2- Terrell Reagan

5- Carol Leskin Allen

11- Carol Adams Scarborough

13- Tommy Kittlitz

15- Darrell Gill

23- Janene Loftis Jett

26- Kay Albright Hofer

Regarding the death of Tom Chambless:



From Thylis Chambless: The funeral today brought back many memories. Some WHS graduates were there plus folks from every school district and every job he had plus his mall walking friends. It was a good day of reflection. I know tough times are ahead, but I am thankful for the wonderful friends and family support.

(WHS Graduates who attended: George Compton, David Rosen, David/Janie McPhail, Tim Lasseter Latta, Ken Freeman)

Cathey White Land: "Oh my gosh! His name is synonymous with such great fun memories. I hate to hear of all our losses lately."

Nena Hunt Wallace: "Dang, lots of people dying."

Bob Easter: "This has got to stop. Not sure why but Tom's passing after Elta Anne's husband and Allan's brother--this has been a bad week."

Cynthia Kirkland Mazza: "Heart ache once again . He was my bestest male friend in high school. What a funny fellow -he lit up every room and got into teacher trouble by being the clown. Barton, Gene, Johnny and Thomas- good friends. With so many passing it just makes one wonder when the lord will call us home.....?"

Malissa Ruth Starnes Baugh: "Oh, my!!! So sorry to hear!"

Norma Cissell Smith: "I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT TOM. WE WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS. OUR PARENTS WERE LONG TIME FRIENDS. I WISH HE AND THYLIS COULD HAVE COME TO THE LAST REUNION. I ALWAYS ENJOYED SEEING THEM. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU, THYLIS, AND FAMILY. -NORMA AND WAYNE SMITH"

David McPhail: The service for Tom was great. It was a tribute to Tom's years in education and his study of the Bible. The small church was full. Tom was a great friend in high school but I lost track with him for several years when I was in the AF. His story was properly told at the service today and I was extremely proud to have known him.

Tim Lasseter Latta: Went to the funeral today. There was quite a large crowd. Tom and Thyllis are greatly loved in their church, and the man who spoke about Tom did a wonderful job. It was a very nice service, very meaningful, and Thyllis was so gracious. She was smiling and greeted everyone enthusiastically.



It thrills me to feature David McPhail this month for the SHOW AND TELL segment. Not too often do we have the honor of learning about the sacrifices and dangers experienced by our high school graduates who served in the military. At the end of the article, you will see the medals and awards that David acquired during his career in the Air Force.

We appreciate so very much what each branch of the armed forces does for us and our freedoms. These stories need to be told. Thank you, David, for your time in the service and for sharing some of that with us. God Bless you and God Bless the USA.



1960



2018

David McPhail

After graduation from Waco High School, David had the option of a partial football scholarship at Navarro Junior College or enlisting in the service. David chose to enlist in the Air Force. Even though several of David's friends joined the US Marine Corp, David chose the Air Force mainly because of encouragement from his Sunday school teacher who happened to be the local Air Force recruiter.

David's basic training was in San Antonio at Lackland AFB. Once the basics were completed, David went to Keesler AFB in Mississippi where he attended technical training in Semi-Automatic Ground Environment. This training was to become a "scope dope" (aka specialist) in Aircraft Control and Warning. Upon graduation from this technical school, David's next assignment was from 1961-1965 at Bangor Air Defense Sector located at Topsham AFS, Maine. His assignment was in the SAGE Unit- (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment). In his free time, he represented his AF Station as a middle-weight boxer. He won the majority of his fights in Maine, Massachusetts New Hampshire.

From Maine, David was assigned to Murphy Dome, Alaska as a Staff Sergeant Weapons Control Technician. His job in Alaska was to "scramble jets" because it was during an era when Russian bombers were periodically crossing the Bearing Sea.

Some other assignments for David while in the Air Force included time spent in Florida as a Radar Crew Chief – Cuban Surveillance (1966-67) and the Philippines as part of the 5th Tactical Air Command (1967-1968). David said the 5th Tactical Air Command in the Philippines was his favorite assignment. It was an 18 month assignment but some months were eliminated due to wartime service. He was in charge of security. In his free time here, he was a part of a 6-league football team--maybe that was why he liked the Philippines so much. He also spent 6 months in Udorn, Thailand as TDY ABCCC (Airborne Battlefield Command and Control) Weapons Controller. He flew almost every other day in an EC-130--call sign [Hillsboro](#) and night flight call sign [Moonbeam](#). He was responsible for controlling bombing attacks in Southern Laos.

In 1969, David completed advanced radar training at Seek Dawn School in Santa Monica, CA. Seek Dawn's primary concern was training to target North Vietnamese MiG Fighters over North Vietnam and the northern coast of South Vietnam. Upon completion of this training, during the year 1969-70 David found himself on Monkey Mountain, Vietnam. He also had a two month TDY assignment in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand where he controlled both US and Thai pilots on bombing attacks/air strikes into Laos.

After David's Southeastern Asia tours were over, he was reassigned to a Tactical Air command unit at Shaw AFB, SC from 1970-1972. Although he was stationed there for radar support, David and his crew went on a mission to Puerto Rico and while enjoying some free time there, were able to "jerry rig" a radar antenna which gave them the opportunity to watch Joe Namath win the Super Bowl between the Jets and the Colts. It is not surprising that David would figure out some way to have fun while on assignment!

David also had duties in Fort Lee Virginia at SAGE Region Controller Center, at Peterson AFB, CO as Command Director Technician on Bravo Crew in Cheyenne Mtn Complex (1972-1977), back to Alaska at a Remote Alaskan Radar Site as Senior Master Sergeant in 1977-78. David said the Russians were still flying across the Bering Strait and he was still responsible for scrambling new jets to chase them back to Russia. In 1978-1980 David was in Oilton Radar, TX (near Laredo) as Commander of a small radar site. In 1980 David was at NORAD Command Post in Colorado but did not find this very interesting so he traded assignments and went to Hancock Field, NY. This was his last post and he finally retired on September 1, 1982 as Chief Master Sergeant which is the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force. As a Chief he could have stayed in the service for 30-33 years but he decided to retire after 22 years and seek a new career in higher education since he had facilitated courses at both Maria Regina College and Columbia College.

During his career, David earned a lot of worthy medals which are pictured at the end of this article. One of those medals was the Bronze Star. David reports:

"I received the Bronze Star Metal for Meritorious Service between 11 August 1969 to 10 August 1970. This was my third tour in the Southeast Asia Combat Zone. It is noted 'Staff Sergeant McPhail's strong leadership has made his section one of the most effective in the Tactical Air Control Center-North Sector. His thorough knowledge of Southeast Asia air operations made him an invaluable member of the training staff.'

Although I am very proud of being awarded the Bronze Star for the work done on a one-year tour of duty on Monkey Mountain, Vietnam (620 TAC Con Sq DaNang AB (PACAF), I, perhaps, value my Air Metal with two Oak Leaf Clusters as much or more than my Bronze Star. Both awards were noted on my selection for Chief Master Sergeant in later years. As noted earlier, I was a staff sergeant; therefore, I had to go through tech sergeant, master sergeant, and senior master sergeant before I could be considered for Chief Master Sergeant."

David's higher education was obtained while in the service and completed at:

A.B.D., Doctor of Public Administration, Nova Southeastern University
Fifty-four credits (academic and comprehensive) completed.

Master of Arts, Webster University, 1981
Major: Procurement and Acquisitions Management

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Southern Colorado, 1979.
Major: Management

Associate of Applied Science, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell
AFB, AL. Major: Work Center Management and Safety

With Air Force retirement under his belt, David embarked on his civilian career. In 1983 he moved to Cleburne and was hired by Hill College to facilitate classes in Cleburne and Hillsboro. He met Janie in his first class and said he fell in love with her although she challenged him that very first night of class. They were soon married in Las Vegas, now what is almost 35 years ago! David stayed at Hill College for 5 years before accepting a position at Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI. In Fond du Lac he managed night classes at nine different locations throughout Wisconsin. He got tired of running up and down the highways of Wisconsin so after about three years, he accepted a position with Ivy Tech State College in Lafayette, IN. However, when Marian University in Fond du Lac offered him the position of Dean of the Business Administration, he gladly accepted and he and Janie moved back to Fond du Lac. He became active with City Council and on the Planning and Zoning Commission there. Although the Air Force was David's favorite job, the time he spent with Marian University in Fond du Lac was the second most favorite period in his career.

David and Janie moved back to Cleburne in 2007 and entered civilian retirement. David has enjoyed serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission in Cleburne, only stepping down in 2018. Janie likes to grow flowers and David says he "digs the holes" for her. Nowadays, they spend a lot of time up and down the road to Waco attending most of our quarterly luncheons and any other interesting things that might be happening in Waco or nearby. The 60 miles between Cleburne-

Waco are a piece of cake compared to all the other traveling he has done in his lifetime.

David has the great talent of being an excellent dancer. I do not have any 'action' pictures of his dancing with Janie so all I can say is, **"come to the next reunion and they will show you their dance moves"**.



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If you click on this you will see David in Panama doing the Panama Native Tribal dance of that area; however, this is so understated to the dance moves he does with Janie. He and Janie love to travel and usually have some neat place to visit in the works. Their next trip has already been planned to go back to Fond du Lac and points around. Hopefully, he will provide us with pictures so the rest of us can enjoy vicariously.

Thank you so much, David, for sharing with us. Kudos for a life well-lived in service to others!

Following are some pictures of David during certain periods of his life....



a young serviceman, David McPhail



Seek Dawn

David is on the back row, third from the left. Half of these men went to Monkey Mountain, Vietnam. The other half went to Thailand. David managed to do both!



Driving up Monkey Mountain, Vietnam

Awards and Medals:



Bronze Star Medal- The Bronze Star Medal (BSM or BSV) is an award presented to United States Armed Forces personnel for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service.



David shows his Air Force Jacket that fit him when he weighed 160 lbs. He is wondering how he gained to become 190 lbs?? (I can tell you easily--- 58 years!!!)



Meritorious Service Medal/2 Oak Leaf Clusters This award may also be issued for outstanding service in specific combat theater.



Air Medal/2 Oak Leaf Clusters The Air Medal (AM) is given to military personnel for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.



Joint Service Commendation Medal/1 Oak Leaf Cluster The Joint Service Commendation Medal (JSCM) is a decoration presented by the United States Armed Forces to individuals who, while serving as a senior on a joint military staff, have performed either an exceedingly heroic act, exceptional achievement, or commendable service that has not been recognized by a higher award.



Air Force Commendation Medal/1 Oak Leaf Cluster The Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM) is a mid-level award that is granted for prolonged acts of heroism or meritorious service.



Army & Air Force Presidential Citation The Air Force Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) is awarded to units who demonstrate exceptional heroism in action against an armed enemy.



Air Force Outstanding Unit Award/with 3 Oak Leaf and a Valor device also awarded for combat support The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) is bestowed upon any command of the U.S. Air Force



Air Force Organizational Excellence Award The Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (AFOEA) is presented to internal units within larger organizations of the Air Force.



Combat Readiness Medal The Combat Readiness Medals (APCRM) is awarded to a member of the United States Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard who has "accomplished sustained individual combat mission readiness or undertaken the preparedness for direct weapon-system employment".



Good Conduct Medal (USAF)/6 Oak Leaf Clusters The Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM) is granted to any enlisted personnel of the U.S. military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service."



National Defense Service Medal The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a decoration presented to recognize all military members who have served in active duty during a declared "national emergency".



Vietnam Service Medal/Medal with Silver Star The Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) is a decoration of the U.S. military presented to personnel of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who performed military service during the Vietnam War and meet specific qualifications laid out by the United States Department of Defense.



Air Force Professional Military Education Graduate/1 Oak Leaf Cluster The Air Force NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon (AFMER, AFPME, NCOPME) is a service ribbon issued by the U.S. Air Force for completion of any Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Course.



Small Arms Expert Marksmanship The Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAE, SAEM) is an award of the United States Air Force that is used to recognize Airmen who have reached the expert proficiency in either the service rifle or pistol.



Air Force Longevity Service Award/4 Oak Leaf Clusters The award is presented to Air Force personnel after completing 4 years of service.



Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Medal/with Palm The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was a decoration presented by South Vietnam to recognize valor and gallantry while serving in active combat against enemy forces.



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (VCM, VNCM) was a decoration presented by South Vietnam to recognize members of allied forces who served in the Vietnam War for a period of at least six months.



The Patio at David and Janie's.

I am sure they often enjoy cocktails on this patio.



some dance moves



more dance moves

JOKES:



After being married for 55 years this month, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Fifty-five years ago we had a cheap house, a junk car, slept on a sofa-bed, and watched a 10-inch black and white TV. But hey, I got to sleep every night with a hot 23-year-old girl. Now I have a \$750,000 home, a \$45,000 car, a nice big bed, and a large screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 78-year-old woman."

So I said to my wife, "It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a junk car, sleeping on a sofa bed, and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve an old guy's problems.

