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SILVER EAGLES

June 2019

We have no new members this month. We have sad news of the passing of a former Board Chairman. Then we have great news of a volunteer to guide the Silver Eagles into the future! This is the first cooperative newsletter between myself and **Scott Dunham**. In this one I collected the news from each of you and passed it on to Scott for some dazzle in a new distribution system. (*I suspect that he will explain.*) We also have an update from **Robert Moore**, the unsung hero of our website. Like me, he may need to initiate someone into his control of the website in the future, but now he may need some help with resizing photos? Finally, we have lots of news! Enjoy!

THE NEWS!

Former Chairman Jim King

This from **Ron Battocchi**: I have been advised by the family of **Jim King** that he passed away unexpectedly on June 9. Jim was **chairman of the NTSB from 1977-1982**. He spearheaded many safety initiatives including the accelerated installation of rail tank car head shields which eliminated or minimized the release of toxic chemicals in derailments and collisions. He was also the Director of the Office of Personnel Management from 1993-1997. He served as an Associate Vice President at Harvard University, and later became a Senior Vice President at Northeastern University in Boston, and he was employed by Trinity College as executive. I have contact information for anyone who wants to contact his wife. Jim King's obituary can be found here: <http://obituaries.gloucestertimes.com/obituary/james-king-1075102108>





News From Bridget Serchak

When I was chief of public affairs at the DoD Inspector General (January 2012-September 2016) - the job I took right after I was at NTSB, I was tapped by the Military District of Washington (the command that handle all of the ceremonies for the DC area) to be the designated escort for the official family photographer for presidential state funerals - a duty and honor that my current agency Voice of America permits me to continue. I was called into action in early December to support the state funeral for President George H.W. Bush for the full week of ceremonies. A few weeks ago I was honored at Fort McNair by MG Howard at a ceremony recognizing 22 of us (out of the 5000+ who were part of the state funeral across the government). I received the Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award. The citation reads: In recognition of her distinguished performance as a Department of Army Public Affairs Family Photographer Escort, Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and the United States Army Military District of Washington during the period 1 December 2018 to 6 December 2018. In this role, Ms Serchak served as the Family Photographer Escort for the family designated photographers for eight National Capital Region rehearsals and ceremonies. She coordinated transportation, rehearsals, and event movements for Bush family photographers, media and public affairs representatives. Ms Serchak coordinated directly with family representatives on a number of last minute changes for photographer movements, which resulted in the photographers capturing the best images of each event for the Bush family and the nation commemorating an historic event. The distinctive accomplishments of Ms Serchak reflect

credit upon herself and the Department of Defense.

Very humbling to participate in this event for sure, Jim. Thanks for all you do! I retire five years to the day tomorrow - May 17 - my birthday. I cannot wait to join your ranks! Bridget (*Hey, we don't discriminate against those who left NTSB without retiring. You are in our ranks. Looks like you had a good time in Bratislava!*)

Hector Casanova Update

You are doing a great job and we all appreciate it. I would help you, but my computer skills are very low and my plate is very full.....so full, that sometimes I have to take a vacation from my retirement involvements. I have slowly gotten involved in our church's men's club, as well as the Knights of Columbus, a couple of veterans organizations, and the Ambassador Club at DFW Airport. I am still teaching accident investigation courses in Latin America about once or twice a year, and as of last November I am now a Precinct Chairman for one of our two major political parties. Sometimes I lose focus on my main job.....which is going on cruises!!!! Have done two short ones and have two more on my calendar. We are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary the end of August in between the cruises.





Scott Dunham Checks In

I recently took a travel agent fam trip aboard the AMA Waterways ship AmaCerto, along the Danube River from Vilshofen, Germany to Budapest, Hungary, with three days in Prague before the cruise and three days in Budapest afterward. I'd never been to that area before, and it was everything I expected: lots of medieval history, combined with quite a bit of WWII and leftover Communist touches that seemed rather unpopular with the locals. On the way from Prague to Vilshofen to board the ship, we took a walking tour of Regensburg, Germany, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After leaving Vilshofen, we stopped in Passau, Linz, Weissenkirchen, Vienna, and Bratislava, with side trips to Melk Abbey (stunning), as well as Durnstein, Germany, and Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic, two medieval towns that were fun to wander around. On arrival in Budapest, we docked short of the central area and waited until dark for an evening tour to the other side of the city. The main buildings of Budapest are all lit at night - it's quite beautiful. The picture above is the Hungarian Parliament, which I later toured in the daytime. Incredible building...bigger than the US Capitol! It was a great trip - very relaxed atmosphere, great food, nice people. Highly recommended!

Quick Notes

Michael P. O'Neill, Safety Consultant ("If you think safety is expensive, try an accident") sent the following: Just a short note to let you know that I am one of the safety managers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda, Md. I was coming from a facilities meeting in our Building 9 when I spotted a young man helping his father get into a wheelchair to bring him into Building 9. The young man was **Steve Bennett**. We were both very surprised to see each other. Steve's father is a veteran and goes to Walter Reed for treatment. Steve couldn't stop talking about all the golf tournaments we had at NTSB and how much fun they were. It was so good seeing a familiar face at Walter Reed. God bless our wounded warriors!!

This from **John Beckius**: "Hi Jim, good to hear from you. Yep, I was selected as the Director of the Air Cargo Division here at TSA. Recent legislation required the creation of a cargo division and I was selected as the Director. Your ears must have been burning because your name came up when I had lunch with Joe Kris today. Hope all is well." (*Couldn't happen to a better guy!*)

Joe Kris has returned from Germany - the contact list has his current information.

Apparently **Paul Voorhees** no longer plays snowbird and lives permanently in Arizona, so I removed his Washington State info from the contact list. **Paul** also said: "Well, we've been doing a lot of traveling: Mexico City, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Scandinavia and Russia in the last 12 months. More coming up..... gotta do it while we still can! (*I heartily agreed.*) Also still playing ham radio..... nothing not to like about retirement!" (*Agreed!*)

Newsletter and Website Notes

Scott Dunham: Jim has been valiantly publishing the Silver Eagles newsletter for years now, and Robert Moore has been supporting the website for years as well. They'd both like a little help, so I have volunteered to assist Jim in putting the newsletter together. We're trying a new way of building it and sending it out - still a little rough around the edges! If it doesn't look right or ends up in your spam folder, please let us know. Send comments/questions to Jim and I at jhenderson815@verizon.net and silvereaglesnews@gmail.com. The contact info list access will be coming via a separate email, probably tomorrow.

Robert's website summary follows:

From **Robert Moore**:

Hey, Jim and Scott. I have to apologize for my failure to stay on top of the website. I have great intentions, but the actions leave much to be desired. I've been reminding myself recently (at least every time I get a new newsletter) that I need to catch up, but at this point, the task is pretty intimidating. Some little time and effort are involved in updating the people page from your monthly newsletters; **what's more time-consuming is the resizing of photos for the gallery**, then editing the pages and adding thumbnails and links to the larger photos. It's not that it's hard, it just takes time and attention (which I've been short of for a while). If, as I had intended, I had kept it up to date all along, it wouldn't have been hard to manage. But I've let it get so far behind now (many folks to update, many photos to manage) that I keep putting off getting back to it.

If you'll bear with me, I'm perfectly willing to keep at it, and I promise to work steadily, if slowly, to bring us up to date. **OTOH** (*on the other hand*), **if someone else is interested in doing it who has, or will get, a hosting service**, I can supply all the files currently in use on the site. Switching over to GoDaddy, which I've considered, might be something to think about. I have three other sites I'm associated with that use GoDaddy, and they work fine and are pretty easy to maintain.

I have various versions of the Silver Eagles logo in png format, along with the original eagle, also in png. Let me know if you want them.

Thanks for doing all this, Jim, and thank you, Scott, for stepping up to secure the future for the group. We all appreciate it!

Anyone interested in giving Robert a hand or taking over the website maintenance?

That's it for the June edition. Have a sparkling Fourth of July!

Thank You Scott! Thank You Robert! And thank you all!

Don't forget the Silver Eagle Website: www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html

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