



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 1 Issue 2

June though December 2009

## FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

**A**s we approach the end of the fifth year of the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association the members should be very proud of this outstanding organization. During the recent FTVA Hall of Honor induction ceremony we were discussing the FTVA as a great organization, and I voiced the fact that while the FTVA is a great organization and I am proud to be a lifetime member of the FTVA, it is not better than the AMTA, just bigger. It is larger because it has been around longer and encompasses far more people than the AMTA. AMTA membership is an exclusive organization and is only for aircrew members flying and performing maintenance on United States Air Force aircraft flying reconnaissance missions. According to the AMTA Articles and Bylaws no one else can become a member of the AMTA. The FTVA has the Hall of Honor and the AMTA strongly supports the FTVA and what they do, and in the last three years we have had two AMTs inducted into the FTVA Hall of Honor, Delano Jolly and Charley King. This is not an automatic process, these men are very deserving of the honor and that is why the FTVA Hall of Honor selection board chose them from many other candidates to be a part of the FTVA Hall of Honor. If you missed the 2009 reunion in San Antonio you missed a great one. We had

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approximately 130 to attend the AMTA banquet on Friday evening. We were honored to have Col Bob Cope as our guest speaker. His speech was short but extremely rewarding.

We had 53 AMTs attend the reunion and most of those attended the general membership meeting (GMM) Thursday morning. The FTVA golf tournament was a little soggy but none the less a lot of fun. While no tours were planned and none were done, the ladies had no problem finding plenty to do. At one point they were playing cards due to the rainy weather and everyone seemed to really enjoy it. Thanks to Bonnie Hurst and Elaine Miller for obtaining the cards. We cannot say enough to thank Mike McLaughlin, Noe C. Guerra and Bob White on a terrific job. I would be wrong if I did not mention the fact that Whitey Gross worked very hard during the reunion to ensure the total success of everything. The silent auction was a tremendous success this year. I will not attempt to list everyone that donated items to the silent auction as we had many AMTs and their wives that donated excellent items and if I start to list names I will forget someone. But in order for the silent auction to be a success we needed people to bid on the items and everyone was very generous to ensure it was successful. The banquet on Friday evening was also a huge success and again it was the people that made everything so nice and enjoyable. Thanks to everyone for the outstanding support you give to the BOD and to the AMTA.

We hope to see you at the next reunion, probably 2011, and if you have not made one yet you should start making plans now as they are enjoyable and everyone will attest to it.

*Johnnie Estes  
AMTA President*

## FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

**A**MTs and friends, another year is coming to a close and I hope it has been a good one for each of you.

The economic mess we are in now has likely touched everyone and changed many views on where we are headed as a nation. Hopefully things will get better, although this is not much consolation to many who were, and continue to be, drastically affected.

The 2009 AMTA reunion in San Antonio was a huge success. The Hilton hotel near the airport is a great facility and the staff was very helpful in accommodating our needs. Fifty three AMTs were able to make it to the reunion. Along with guests, over one hundred and twenty five attended the banquet. The next reunion is scheduled for 2011 and will likely be held at the Hilton also. The Hilton has already offered a preliminary contract for our next reunion which includes a further reduction in room rate.

Since the 2005 reunion, for the first time, we offered dated reunion T-shirts and RC-135 T-shirts. The shirts were on a pre-order basis but we ordered some extras. In all, nearly one hundred shirts were given away for donations. If we have a continuing interest, more shirts can be acquired; an email or phone call to me is all it takes.

*Michael McLaughlin  
AMTA Secretary*



Margaret Pike and daughters singing God Bless America at AMTA Reunion. Awesome.

## AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 951 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???

# 104 DECEASED

Let's Locate  
Others  
To Help  
Remember  
**THEM!**

Veteran who served during wartime  
Veteran who died on active duty after  
May 27, 1941  
Veteran who served after January 31,  
1955  
Peacetime veteran who was discharged  
or released before June 27, 1950  
Certain persons who served in the  
organized military forces of the  
Commonwealth of the Philippines while  
in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and  
who died on or after April 25, 1951  
Certain former members of the Selected  
Reserves

*John Hurst  
AMTA VSO*

### SOME GOOD VSO INFORMATION

**A** number of burial benefits are available to former active duty and retired military members. I'll go over the basic facts, but remember you can get all the assistance you will need at the time of the veterans death from your local veterans service officer, the VA regional office and funeral directors. VA burial arrangements cannot be made in advance of a veterans death, but a few things can be done to prepare in advance.

#### Preparing in Advance

**For Burial in a VA National Cemetery**  
Gravesites in [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance; however, reservations made prior to 1962 will be honored. Families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, collecting the veteran's military information including discharge papers, and by contacting the cemetery where burial is desired.

#### For Burial in a Private Cemetery

I suggest that if burial will be in a private cemetery and a Government headstone or marker will be requested for the Veteran's grave, that the family complete VA Form 40-1330, [Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery](#), in advance and place it with the Veterans military discharge papers for use at the time of need.

#### For Burial in a State Veterans Cemetery

I suggest contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs in the state where the veteran is to be buried for the location of the nearest veterans cemetery and eligibility details.

Generally, a veteran discharged with other than a dishonorable discharge, his or her spouse and certain disabled child, can be buried in any National or State veterans cemetery at no cost. Burial Arlington Cemetery is controlled by the Army and is limited to military retirees, and certain other decorated veterans and government officials. Contact the VA or a service officer for details

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish the burial flag for memorialization for each veteran indicated below, other than a dishonorable discharge:



### Airborne Maintenance Technician

11615 Old Hills Lane  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

### FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

**A** funny thing happened to me during the AMTA reunion, I was elected AMTA Vice President. That came out of nowhere. Never did I expect such a thing, but I was extremely honored to be considered for this position. I will do my best to maintain the high standards set up by those before me and continue to promote the AMTA. For anyone with questions or comments, I can be reached through the AMTA web site, at [mervgross@verizon.net](mailto:mervgross@verizon.net), or my home phone 410-551-8996.

If you missed our reunion this year, you missed it! This was without a doubt the best reunion yet. Of course, the reunion committee had a tremendous impact on the whole event by obtaining the San Antonio airport Hilton as the venue. The hotel staff was always available to ensure we had all that we needed and took care of a couple glitches quickly and professionally. It looks like the hotel has

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#### **AMTA Board of Directors:**

Johnnie Estes - President and Director  
Mervin Gross - Vice-Pres, Newsletter and Director  
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director  
Robert White - Treasurer and Director  
Jim Hargrove - Director  
Joe Jesty - Director  
Stan Aarhus - Director  
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)  
Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.**

**T**he biggest event this year for me was the reunion of the Airborne Maintenance Technicians of the Air Force Security Service and succeeding commands. It was a time of restoring relationships that had lapsed for thirty-one years. We were scattered all over the country and because some were neighbors they realized a need to put the family together again. I'm so thankful that Tom and Del and others "found" me. Thank you all for searching.

Just seeing the guys I served with and hearing their voices served to restart something deep within the spirit. The reunion is almost like filling a hole in the spiritual part of us, a reuniting of family. Thank you all who prepared for it and made it happen. Now it is for all of us to find the other guys in the family and encourage them to come to the next reunion.

This reestablishing the relationships we had is a bit like what the GOD of the universe has done. According to the Holy Bible He created humans in His image and gave us a will so we would not be robots, but could reason. He gave some rules for man to obey but man disobeyed God's rules so the relationship was broken.

So God made a way for a reunion. Two thousand years ago He provided a sacrifice to pay for our sins. That Sacrifice is Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God. It was the blood of that Lamb that paid the price for our sins.

But just as our members had to be flying maintenance techs to belong to the AMTA, we have to believe in Jesus to be accepted by God. Jesus wants to live in us and he made that clear by His statement in the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1) chapter three and verse twenty "Behold I stand at the door [of your mind] knocking, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."

When we associate with Him, this relationship becomes known to those we associate with everyday. So the Apostle Paul made clear for us in his letter to the church in Rome to be transformed by the renewing of our mind...that you may prove what the will of God is. This is the

daily reading of God's word. But why would you read His Word if you don't know him?

So, for the Christmas season to be more meaningful to you please make it a new beginning. Decide to follow Jesus the Christ today. Ask Him to come into your life and be your Lord and Savior from this time on. Then read the Gospel of John and apply those truths to your life. Transformation is a process which will take the remainder of your life to accomplish.

Please have a blessed Christmas. In Christ Jesus.

*Henry Leupp  
AMTA Chaplain*

**TREASURER'S REPORT...**

**T**he fifth AMTA Reunion was held in San Antonio, Texas at the Hilton San Antonio Airport 23-25 September 09. This was the best turn out of AMT attendees we have had. The fellowship and visiting with old and new friends was marvelous. The reunion was capped off with the reunion banquet and Silent Auction. Funds raised from both the Silent Auction and donations from the memorabilia were a success. Thanks to all that joined in and participated. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next scheduled reunion in 2011. Christmas for the Troops in 2009 was another success! In December 2009 members of the AMTA donated \$1350.00 to the 97th IS, Det1 and the 25IS towards "Christmas for the Troops" fund. The AMTA is always ready to support worthy causes and this is one we can surely identify with. The AMTA thanks all of its members in supporting the servicemen and women of the military.

Tom Joines and a number of other AMTA members have been active in trying to locate past AMTs that are not present members, as well as contacting current members that have let their memberships expire. Trying to keep the AMTA data base current and updated is a massive task. Thanks to everyone one that's attempted to boost

AMTA membership and spread the word what the AMTA is all about. In 2009 there were 19 memberships renewed and 12 Life Memberships added.

The AMTA financial status is well enough to meet present financial commitments such as the Air Force Enlisted Village. The bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia. However, support towards "Christmas for the Troops" is strictly from donations at Christmas time. Hopefully we can contact all AMTA members in advance of our next endeavor for donations. Getting the word out and allowing our members time to respond is the key in collecting donations. We as an organization still need to come up with other ways to raise money to meet our goals. If anyone has an idea that we can draw upon please feel free to contact the AMTA Board of Directors with realistic inputs.

I would hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas in 2009. I truly appreciated the support and hard work of all the AMTA members, thank you! May 2010 be a joyful and successful year for all.

*Robert J. White  
AMTA Treasurer*

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offered us an even better deal for our next reunion in 2011. So, for those that attended this year and those that didn't, start making plans for the 2011 reunion and join us for another great time. May all of you have a terrific and prosperous New Year.

*Mervin A. Gross  
AMTA Vice President*



Some talk, while others work. ☺



AMTA Yahoo Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:  
[www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)

## HOUSEHOLD TIPS.

### COFFEE FILTERS

Coffee ..who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Tree for almost nothing.

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave.

Coffee filters make excellent covers.

2. Clean windows and mirrors. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.

3. Protect China. Separate your good dishes by putting a coffee filter between each dish.

4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.

5. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the to absorb moisture and prevent rust.

6. Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.

7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.

8. Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.

9. Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.

10. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through drainage holes.

11. Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.

12. Do you think we used expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.

13. Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc on them. Soaks out all the grease.

14. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."

OH YEAH, FILTERS ARE GREAT TO USE IN YOUR COFFEE MAKERS ALSO

The secret of golf is to turn three shots into two.

Bobby Jones



One of the Silent Auction tables



More Silent Auction items



Banquet tables



Del Jolly and Pat Riley



Where our boss' set



the WIREBENDER  
 Staff:

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"It's your newsletter for use to communicate with other members."