

# THE LOADER



Official Newsletter Of The Professional Loadmaster Association

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Friendship Through Airlift



Professional Loadmaster Association  
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## CABIN REPORT

By Kathy Disney

Hey Load!! It's hard to believe it will be March 2020 when you receive this "The Loader" edition. Time can slow down anytime, now! It also means it's that time of year to recognize those hard working and deserving Loadmasters by nominating him or her for the 2019 CMSgt William "Bill" Cannon

Loadmaster of the Year Award. More information can be found on the PLA website, or contact Kyle Disney committee chairman, at [disneyk17@yahoo.com](mailto:disneyk17@yahoo.com). Reminder, each Chapter should have a winner in each category and submit those names to National to compete. **Award submission deadline is March 31, 2020.** This is also the time of year to get in your scholarship applications. Again, more information can be found on the PLA website and packages should be sent to Jim Engelker at [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com). **Scholarships are due April 1, 2020.** I want to mention a special "THANK YOU" to the committee chairs! As long as I am using this space for reminders and announcements mark your calendar for the next **Gathering of Loads...** August 22-26, 2021 at the Wyndham San Diego Bay, 1355 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA. We will post information on the PLA website as it becomes available. The location is amazing, and I hope to see many of you there! **Chapters** - The Golden West Chapter Loads could use help from all of us. If your chapter can donate money, every little bit will help. How about sponsoring an evening social or hospitality suite one night? It is a great venue to showcase your chapter and at the same time assist the hosting chapter. We haven't had other chapters sell swag at the Gathering for several years, which is something to consider as well. Onto another topic. Did you know the PLA has a "Charter?" I believe I heard someone refer to it as our "constitution." Either way, Bill Cannon wrote a Charter which explains the who, the what, and the why of this organization. Who - "...current and former military and civilian Loadmasters who have flown as an Aircraft Loadmaster performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft." What - "...an active membership organization for an exclusive group of people professionally recognized as, Loadmasters." Why - "Its basic mission is to guide the membership in solidarity, facilitate trust and mutual respect for one another, and inspire personal growth and the pursuit of a purposeful sense of vision for the future of the PLA." Additionally, it states "The association shall establish scholarship and grant programs to benefit eligible dependents of Loadmasters. Reunions and meetings shall be scheduled and arranged so as to provide maximum participation and productive feedback to as many members as practical. A newsletter titled "The Loader" shall be published three times a year to inform membership of Loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities." The Charter

**Cabin Report - continued on page 3**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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### PLA ADVISORS

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The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) was formed in the State of Washington as an active membership organization for an exclusive group of professionals recognized as Loadmasters. The PLA is organized and governed by a duly-elected Executive Committee of past and present Loadmasters. In March 1997, the State of Washington issued a Certificate of Incorporation declaring the Professional Loadmaster Association a nonprofit organization. PLA membership is comprised of and limited to current and former military and civilian Loadmasters who have flown as an Aircraft Loadmaster performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. A newsletter titled "The Loader" shall be published three times a year to inform the membership of Loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities. The use of "The Loader" newsletter is voluntary. Any comments, views, opinions, or advice expressed in this newsletter are solely the opinions of the individual who expresses them and should not be construed as reflecting the position, views, or policy of the PLA, or its executive members. Neither the PLA nor its current or former agents, members, executive members, employees, officers or representatives shall have any liability or responsibility for any use of or reliance upon any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, including but not limited to liability or responsibility for any direct or indirect omission or negligence. Users of this newsletter agree, in advance, to hold harmless and indemnify the PLA and its agents, members, executive members, employees, officers and representatives from and against and with respect to any and all claims, damages, liabilities, losses and expenses, without limitation, arising from or related to any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, and agree to the above terms in this paragraph.

**Cabin Report - Cont. from page 2**

will be made available on the PLA website. However, I mention this Charter because Bill put a mission statement in there! Now our goal should be, how do we execute? Ideas welcomed. Load Clear!

**Cover Photograph:** Air deflectors - Extended, Jump Platforms - Locked In Place. PLA member David Saucier on a Personnel Airdrop Mission in the late 70's or early 80's when he was assigned to the 14th MAS at Norton AFB CA. This was on a C-141A before helmets were worn. Photograph by Bill Weeper.

**East Coast Vice President**

Kent Brown, East Coast VP - GOL 2021. As the Golden West Chapter is planning and executing the next Gathering of Loads (GOL) convention, they need everyone's support. GOL's take lots of planning & money. When the Golden West asks you for help or a donation as a chapter, please help them if you can. Also, if you know of a business or individual that would like to sponsor the GOL have them get in touch with one of the chapter officers. That information can be found in this "The Loader" issue. In the past, not the recent past, all chapters have been asked to donate a little to help the host chapter. I know all chapters don't have a big bank account, but if you can donate please contact them even if they don't contact you. Believe me from experience, they can use all the help they can get. Out of the 14 chapters we have, 10 are viable and running with meetings and member participation. So that we can make the fundraising for the Golden West a little easier, don't wait till next year, send the money when you can. Maybe have a fundraiser just for that, \$500 sounds like a good goal. Golden West Chapter members it's up to you, all active, retired, reserve or civilians, to make the next GOL great. On to something else. As stated above, we have 14 chapters and 4 of those are struggling. So, if you are in the area of Charleston, Anchorage, Hickam, and Pope or North Carolina, please reach out to a regional VP and get those chapters active and doing great things. When you are asked to help, stand up and give your all, especially you retirees. You've been around the block and know how these things need your help. One last thing, at the last Liberty Chapter meeting I was asked "What's in it for me to join the PLA?" The Load that asked the question had just arrived and the ones already there had just had a spirited discussion of past experiences and adventures. When the question was asked, I thought if he had been there just five minutes before he may not have asked that question. We do live up to our motto's, but we also have great discussions on the history of Loadmasters and what has been accomplished in the past. A great example of that was at the last GOL where such a variety of speakers and so much history was conveyed. I don't know where you would ever get that without belonging to a group that has so many things in common and such a strong shared history. I can be reached at heyload@comcast.net.

**Secretary**

**NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE:** The membership voted to bring back the One Year membership at the 2019 Tacoma Gathering of Loads. New rates are: **One Year - \$ 25.00, Three - Years \$50.00, Ten Years - \$150.00 and Lifetime - \$250.00.**

**RENEWAL NOTICE: PLEASE RESPOND TO YOUR ELECTRONIC OR MAILED LETTER if you desire to remain an active member and continue receiving "The Loader" newsletter.** There are only two ways to join or renew membership and that is by mail to the P.O. Box or online. If you renew by mail **PLEASE DO NOT** send your renewal to the Secretary home address in Iowa, it will be delayed. I have to forward it to the PLA P.O. Box in Tacoma Washington so it can be deposited into the PLA account. You may also pay online at <https://pla.wildapricot.org/join>.

**ELECTRONIC LOADER:** **Thank you** to the **137 stateside** and **7 overseas** members, who have agreed to accept "The Loader" electronically. You have saved the association postage and printing costs.

**MOVING? IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE OR TRANSFER, PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND NEW CONTACT INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** We cannot get your "The Loader" newsletter to you or make contact if we don't know where you are. Send an e-mail to [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com) or thru [www.loadmasters.com](http://www.loadmasters.com) at **CONTACT US or (319) 936-2154** and remember to speak slowly and distinctly, so we can copy your information down.

**DECEASED LOADMASTERS:** If you suspect or know that a PLA member or a non-member Loadmaster has passed, please contact the secretary, [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com) and the necessary action will be taken.

**FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED:**

The PLA Secretary is seeking information on the following deceased members. **We need permission to name a Scholarship after them, but don't have any information to locate the next of kin** (mailing address, telephone number, email address, etc). **CHARLES E. BUCHER** (Big Country), **\*RODNEY E. CLAPPER** (Alabama), **\*DONALD J. FLAVIN** (Michael P. Lutzko), **CLAUDE "FRENCHY" FERRAND** (Big Country), **JOHN EDWARD GROOMS, SR.** (Smyrna, TN), **\*EL-MORE JACKSON** (Southeast), **\*ROBERT C. JOHNSON** (Indiana), **\*EDWARD R. MEZA** (Alamo), **ROBERT C. RODEMEYER** (Golden West). If anyone has **any contact information** please contact the secretary at [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com).

**PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF:** 1 February 2020

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS:** 949 (11 LOST LOADS)

**LOST LOAD CANDIDATES:**

If your "The Loader" newsletter is returned to the association by the Post Office, for whatever reason, they charge the PLA for the return. When trying to contact you for new information, and find your phone is no longer in service and you also have a bad e-mail address, **YOU WILL BE PLACED ON THE LOST LOAD LISTING.**

**LOST LOADS (11):** If you know any of these Lost Loads please contact us or have them contact us with their current contact information. **They are all Life Members** - Last address, month and year when they became lost.

*Branski, John L.	Tacoma, WA	Nov	2011
*Clay, Christopher S.	Arlington, VA	Nov	2011
*Downey, Daniel	Abilene, TX	Jul	2012
*Knight, Josh	Fort Mill, SC	Nov	2016
*Kubik, Donald B.	Warner Robins, GA	Mar	2016
*Langenstein, Jack L.	Summerville, SC	Jul	2014
*Lewis, James	Palmdale, CA	Jul	2016
*Piasecki, Michael L.	Lake City, FL	Jul	2016
*Strader, Tony E.	APO AE	Nov	2011
*Taff, Brendan G.	Rio Ranch, NM	Mar	2019
*Terrell, David L.	APO AE	Nov	2015

### Treasurer Report

Chris Dockery, Treasurer - As of February 25, 2020 the Professional Loadmaster Association has a total of \$2,121.33 in checking and \$21,766.56 in savings. Total Assets \$23,887.89.

### "The Loader" Editor

Bill Weeper, "The Loader" Editor - As always thank you to all the chapters and individual members who submitted chapter reports, articles and photographs for this issue of "The Loader." Continuing the civilian Loadmaster series "The Airline Professional Loadmaster: The Flying Emus," guest columnist Jay Cadmus wrote an article about carrying live animals on commercial platforms. Doug Gardiner provided an update on Task Force 1 concerning the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak. In this issue we are very fortunate to have 4 sponsors. I would like to thank MASSIF and Pinnacle for each purchasing a full page advertisement, our long time sponsor Larry Crain who purchased a ½ page advertisement and last but not least Kyle and Kathy Disney who purchased a ¼ page advertisement for their Meathead Ed's food truck. For those of you who know anyone who would like to advertise in "The Loader" please have them get in touch with me at weeperjr@satx.rr.com. I will be happy to send them a Media/Press Kit. Advertisements will help defer the cost of printing "The Loader." A full page advertisement is \$500.00, a 1/2 page is \$250.00, a 1/4 page is \$125.00 and a Business Card size is \$100.00.

### Webmaster



Andrew Lloyd, PLA Webmaster - After the last Gathering of Loads convention, we are formally transitioning our membership management and other services to use Wild Apricot. This will really help move our organization forward. It's been a slow-moving improvement, but we are making progress. All new members now join the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) through Wild Apricot, our member management service. It offers payment integration, so we will not need PayPal anymore. For now, I have added a link to <https://pla.wildapricot.org/join> from the PLA website for applicants to join. After clicking on the link your web browser will take you a webpage where you will find instructions to join or renew your membership. Moving forward, Wild Apricot will host our full website. Here is the plan for finishing the transition to Wild Apricot for all PLA business: 1) migrate all current members to the database; 2) move website content to pla.wildapricot.org; 3) change www.loadmasters.com URL to point to the Wild Apricot website; 4) allow members to manage their membership information; and 5) continue to add features for members to use. I hope to have this work done soon. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me at: [andrew85.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:andrew85.lloyd@gmail.com).

### The Airline Professional Loadmaster Series



#### *The Airline Professional Loadmaster: The Flying Emus*

**Dave Bell and Karl Hinkamp** would like to introduce **Jay Cadmus** as our **guest columnist** for this issue's *Airline PLM*. Jay has been a Loadmaster for several airlines as well as in the military. He has flown as a Loadmaster on DC-8s, B-747s, B-767s and the C-141B. We sincerely thank Jay for relating his personal experience as an airline Loadmaster on a unique and challenging charter flight..... For years, live animals have been moved on commercial platforms - trucks, trains, ships and planes. Military movement of live animals was born out of necessity (natural disasters and relocating villages in Vietnam). International horseracing used airplanes to move horses from continent to continent and coast-to-coast in the U.S. since the 1950s. The airline I was working for routinely flew cattle charters out of Miami International Airport on DC-8s. Airlines, like all businesses, are always searching for new revenue streams. Our Miami freight broker proposed a new charter - moving a load of Emus (a relative of the Ostrich) from Miami to Manaus, Brazil. Management found nothing in the FARs or IATA regulations prohibiting this movement. The aircraft was configured similar to a cattle charter, where the cargo compartment floor is lined with empty pallets with a series of plywood walls interconnected with hinges and bolts, all secured to the pallets with straps. The floors of the pallets were lined with plastic, then covered with wood chips or some other form of absorbent material. In addition to the pilots, flight engineer and Loadmaster, we also had a flight mechanic (common for most charters) and an animal handler (familiar with the transportation and health of this species). The airplane was positioned from Fort Lauderdale to Miami and the Emus were trucked to the Agricultural Building at Miami International. Loading and departure all went normal. Once at cruise altitude,



we settled in for a long flight. The Emu's settled in for a long flight also and made themselves at home. However, we soon realized that the odor produced by cattle was tame compared to these 6 ft. tall birds. As we proceeded to Brazil, the toxic fumes in the cargo compartment continued to get worse and worse. The insidious creep of colorless, gaseous ammonia creates a pungent smell. It is caustic and hazardous in concentration. Exposure to gaseous ammonia for more than 30 minutes can produce irreversible health effects. "Navy Standards" established by The Bureau of Ships in 1962 dictated maximum allowable concentrations to one hour. Ammonia vapor has a sharp, irritating, pungent odor that acts as a warning of potentially dangerous exposure. The odor impacted everyone on board. I suggested using oxygen to clear noses and throats. Onboard oxygen was limited, so only the front-end crew donned masks. At first we considered returning to Miami or making an emergency stop at an enroute airport. The Emu urine fumes were so overwhelming that the aircraft's air conditioning system wasn't able to recycle the air fast enough to clear out the toxic fumes. Ultimately, we exercised the 'wet cloth' technique and continued to Brazil, in classic "freight dog" tradition.

### Task Force 1

Doug Gardiner, Task Force 1 - Due to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak, the FAA has issued a statement for air carriers participating in flights from China; navigate to <https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94991> to see the latest guidance. This highlights our exposure to different bacteria and viruses when traveling all over the world. While we assume the risk is marginal,

there are times when risk increases. Commercial aviation has brought the world closer together, which brings advantages and disadvantages. Kalitta Charters has been involved in moving some passengers from Asia to the US. Crain news reported on the flight <https://www.craindetroit.com/news/willow-runs-kalitta-air-ferries-us-citizens-back-china-amid-coronavirus>. Another article on the event was retrieved from Nikkie Asian Review at <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus-outbreak/Operation-Wuhan-How-US-and-Japan-planned-evacuations-of-citizens>. In other FAA news, the latest revision to weight and balance Advisory Circular 120-27F is May 2019 ([https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory\\_Circular/AC\\_120-27F.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_120-27F.pdf)). This establishes guidance for weight and balance programs for the commercial sector. Military Loadmasters will know many terms used and is an excellent introduction into commercial publications. Advisory Circulars are not mandatory in nature but have the weight of a good suggestion and useful information. Another Advisory Circular commercial Loadmasters might want to know is AC 120-85A ([https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory\\_Circular/AC\\_120-85A.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_120-85A.pdf)) with information about how to transport cargo. The FAA Loadmaster Certification Working Group report is still under review by the FAA and no new information is available. We have commented on the report in previous "The Loaders," but if you would like to read it again, the report from the group is posted at [https://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/rulemaking/committees/documents/media/LCWG%20Recommendation%20Report%20May%2018%202018%20-%20FINAL1.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/committees/documents/media/LCWG%20Recommendation%20Report%20May%2018%202018%20-%20FINAL1.pdf). We will continue to monitor FAA activity.

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## LIGHTEN THE LOAD

ON LOADMASTERS, AIRCRAFT, AND TAXPAYERS!

The following letter was written to Kathy Disney by Timothy Zadalis the guest speaker at the 2019 Gathering of Loads convention.

Maj Gen (ret.) Tim Zadalis

21 Nov 19

Ms. Kathy Disney  
President, Professional Loadmaster Association

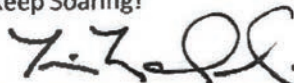
Dear Ms. Disney,

This past July I was invited as the guest speaker for the Professional Loadmasters Association (PLA) Conference in Tacoma, WA. It is rare when I am asked to speak that I attend the full convention. However, the 2019 "Gathering of Loads" was different—I chose to attend every session to gain a first-hand perspective of the organization, its goals, and the professional development program that was offered. What those in attendance and I saw was overwhelming!

Every aspect of the conference was First Class! I witnessed professional development seminars that were focused on our young crew force—they easily equaled programs I have seen at much larger conferences. Equally impressive was the respect paid to our history and those whose past deeds provide inspiration to the current generation of Air Force Loadmasters. Highlights included an inspiring briefing from two crew members on the ill-fated C-5 that crash during Operation Babylift ... Cpl Regina Aunie, the founder of modern aeromedical evacuation and CMSgt Ray Snedegar, the senior loadmaster on the flight. Their session brought many to tears. The highlight of their briefing was their reunion with three survivors of the crash—it was a powerful moment! That was followed with briefing from an Iranian hostage who endured 444 days in captivity. His brief was followed by a member of the Special Operations team that tried to rescue the Iranian hostages. In another inspirational moment, they met for the first time on stage ... an Iranian hostage and the rescuer who risked his life to free him! Moments like these are witnessed by few and the PLA attendees always count themselves as lucky to have heard these stories from those who were there!

I'd like to express my personal thank you and congratulations to the PLA for hosting a tremendous and inspiring event. Additionally, I highly recommend continued support for the conference by the Air Force and the Mobility community. The benefit of a young loadmaster attending will pay dividends for decades to come!

Keep Soaring!



Timothy M. Zadalis, Maj Gen (ret), USAF



### Alamo Chapter

Bill Weeper, Alamo Chapter Member - Buenos Dias from San Antonio and the Alamo Chapter. The chapter monthly meetings continue to rotate between the Texas Air Museum, the Basic Loadmaster School (BLM) and the 68<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron in an effort make it easier for Loadmasters to attend our meetings. It was decided to keep the chapter going but we haven't had a meeting since November 2019. The plan is still to have our next chapter meeting at the 68<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. We will increase our efforts to recruit new members and try to get old members to come back to the chapter. The Alamo Chapter sponsors a Loadmaster classroom (along with sponsoring a breakroom for all enlisted aviators) at the Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence/Basic Loadmaster Course (CEA/CoE/BLM) and we have been working on a Silver Star Loadmaster project. There are 5 living Silver Star Loadmaster recipients (that we know of) and we are honoring them by having their photographs, Silver Star award, Silver Star citation and biographies printed and framed. These will be placed on a wall in the Alamo Chapter sponsored classroom for all to see. Andy Vaquera will send out notice for the upcoming meetings or events by email, text or telephone call. Andy Vaquera is our President/Treasurer. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Andy Vaquera at (210) 559-7487, andyvaquera@sbcglobal.net.

### Aloha Chapter

Chris Baker, Aloha Chapter President - Aloha Fellow Loads. Not much to report from the Hawaiian Islands. The flying mission has precluded scheduled gatherings on more occasions than we would like, but that's the nature of the business! Unfortunately, with that said, the council has decided to forgo a 2020 golf tournament. Instead, we'd like to solicit the greater PLA nation in acquiring some Aloha "swag". We have a few t-shirt designs for sale and numbered coins. If interested, please message any of the Aloha Chapter executive council members or patron our "PLA Aloha Chapter" Facebook page. Through these sales we strive to re-invigorate the Danny Hollister Scholarship Fund dedicated to supporting education seeking Loadmasters and/or their immediate family members. Monthly gatherings are still set for the last Thursday of the month at the Puka 9-hole golf course on-or-around 1500 on Hickam Field. If you have any questions about the Aloha Chapter please contact me at (253) 209-1690 or cmbaker3@cougars.ccis.edu. Our chapter officers are: Vice President, Paul Roberts, paul.roberts.7@us.af.mil; Treasurer, WJ Morgan, (808) 346-9304, wjmorgan83@gmail.com; Secretary, Chris Bernard, (208) 794-4399; and Sgt at Arms, Josh Moracco, joshua.moracco\_amorin.1@us.af.mil.

### First State Chapter

Keo Khamone, First State Chapter President – Our Chapter Meetings are the last Thursday of odd months (Next meeting March 26th) at 1730 hrs at the Greene Turtle - Dover DE. Our chapter recently had a fundraiser by holding a raffle for a chance to win a C-5 and C-17 framed photo from Squadronposters.com. We raised over \$800. During our January meeting we discussed the annual package submissions and voted which ones we wanted to submit. We had a lot of great inputs from all of the units in the First State which included a nominee from the Air National

Guard in New Castle. Currently we are looking to solidify the First State with a new logo and some SWAG for our members.



First State Chapter members at the January 2020 meeting at Greene Turtle

We started off the year with a massive surge and the Loadmasters from all units from Dover and Newcastle have been getting worked hard and have been doing great things. One C-5M crew was nationally recognized for the teamwork and CRM they provided in response to cascading in-flight emergencies. After taking off from Barksdale, the crew experienced a pressure door unlocked warning. During descent, a passenger lost consciousness and the quick reactions from MSgt Joshua Cutrer, stabilized the passenger while the crew looked for a divert airport with suitable medical facilities. He continued to monitor the passenger as he regained consciousness. The crew safely handled the door warning issue and landed safely to get the passenger proper medical attention. A link to the full article can be found on our Facebook page, First State Professional Loadmaster Association.



C-5M Super Galaxy, 9th Airlift Squadron aircrew members pose for a photo February 4, 2020, on Dover Air Force Base, DE. From the left are 5 of the 12 Reach-190 crewmembers: Capt Geoffrey Howard, Aircraft Commander; TSgt Alexander Barnes, Flight Engineer; **MSgt Joshua Cutrer, Loadmaster**; SSgt Teagan Young, 436th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Flying Crew Chief; and 1Lt Eli Parsch, Pilot. (USAF photo by Roland Balik)

You can also find us on Instagram as First\_State\_PLA. Also, the 436th Airlift Wing had their Annual Awards at the end of

**Chapter Reports - continued on page 10**





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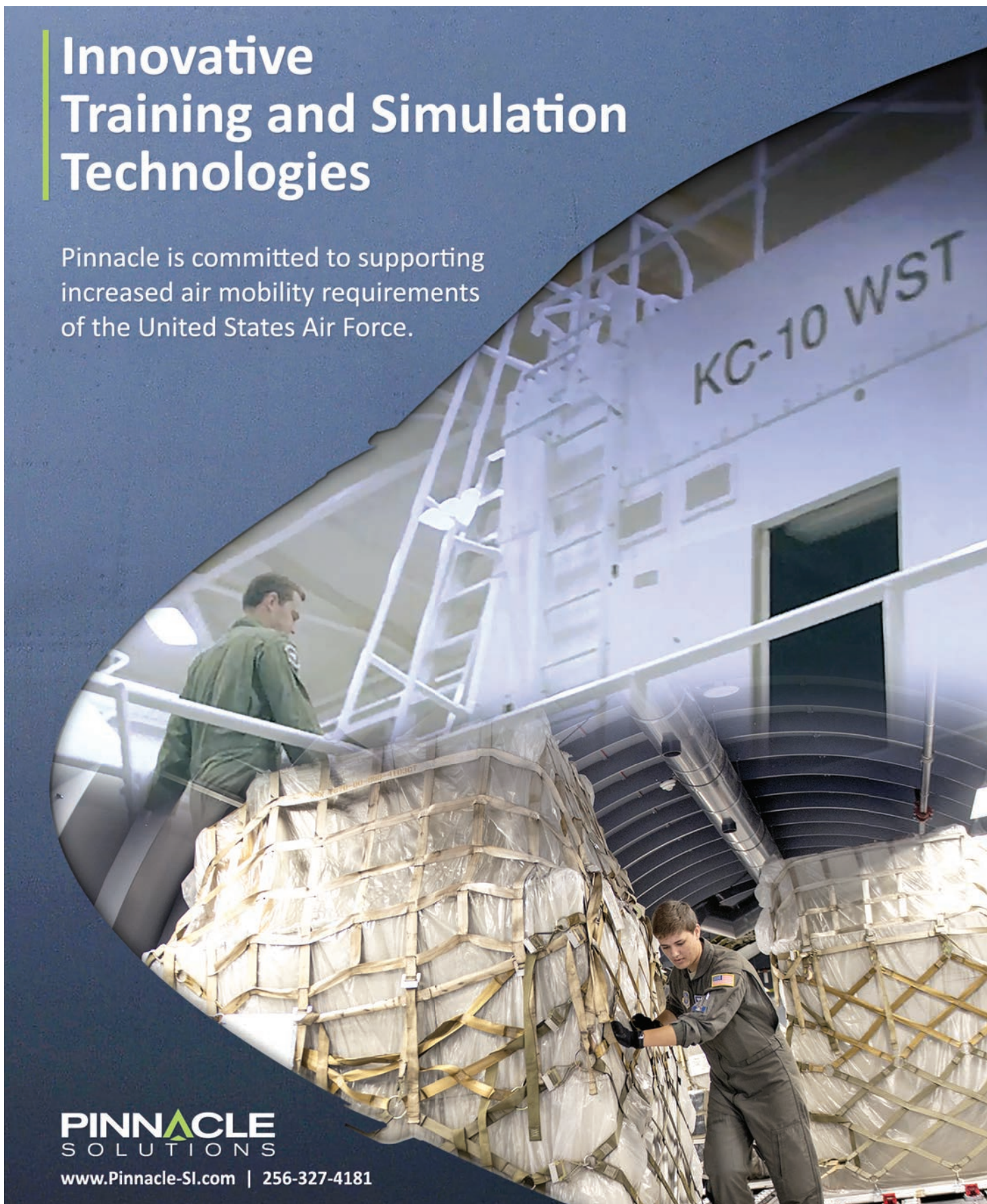


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**Chapter Reports - Cont. from page 7**

January and the Loadmasters took home two major awards! First, MSgt Kevin Siclari, 9th Airlift Squadron Loadmaster Superintendent took the SNCO of the Year award and the C-5M Mutli-Modal team led by the 9th won the Team of the Year award. Good luck as they compete at the command level! On a side note, MSgt Benjamin Fay crushed the 9th Airlift Squadron chili cook off by taking the top prize, I guess the pilots and engineers just don't know how to cook. President, Keo Khamone, ckhamone@yahoo.com, (916) 671-2467; Vice President, Shaun Flatter, sflatir2@hotmail.com, (302) 632-8503; Secretary, Benn Fay, emailbenn@aol.com, (302) 241-5757; Treasurer, Jordan Rayman, jrayman22@hotmail.com, (253) 777-8212

**Gateway Chapter**

Brandon Lenz, Gateway Chapter President - Greetings from the Gateway Chapter! Another great year begins to take shape here in the Midwest. We're making plans for a chapter breakfast, sponsoring a CEA brief for all Scott AFB 1A's, and looking to stand up a quarterly Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) award. These exciting events are bittersweet as I have to turn over the Chapter to a new executive council. It has been an honor to serve as the Gateway Chapter President for the last two years. I have really enjoyed our spring & fall socials, fundraisers, general membership meetings, and socializing in the PLA booth at the Airlift/Tanker Association's annual convention. Most importantly, the members of the Gateway Chapter are what have made this experience so great. THANK YOU! I know the chapter will be in great hands with Tim Williams as Vice President to carry on our continuity and we will soon be swearing in three more officers in the next few months. Speaking of those elections, keep an eye out for the position of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. While this may be a goodbye as the 'Showcase Chapter' President, this is just the beginning for a lifetime of friendship through airlift. There are many ways to connect with the Gateway Chapter. If you haven't visited our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayPLA/>) or connected with us on our LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/professional-loadmaster-association-gateway-chapter/>), please check us out! The LinkedIn page allows our members a professional organizational attachment to their LinkedIn persona for professional development and job seeking opportunities. We encourage members to be proud of their connection to such a fine organization. The Gateway Chapter officers are: President, Brandon Lenz; Vice President, Tim Williams; Treasurer, Patrick O'Brien; Secretary, Wayne Smith. The Gateway Chapter meetings are typically held the second Wednesday of every month at the Scott AFB VFW, Post 4183, at 1530. These times and dates are subject to change. EDNKH, LOAD CLEAR!

**Golden West Chapter**

Alfred A Montes, Golden West Chapter President - Greetings PLA Chapters! I hope this message finds you in good health and your chapters in good standing! The Golden West Chapter has undergone some changes over the past 7 months, and we are excited to share them with you. One change was the election of new Chapter Officers. Before we get into the details of what's to come we need to acknowledge Steve Clark and all he has done for

the Chapter through the years. He has been the backbone of the Golden West Chapter, and we would not be honoring our chapter if we didn't acknowledge Steve. So again, Thank you Steve! All you have done is truly appreciated. During the elections new members were nominated for every Chapter Officer position, and elected. Our new officers are as follows: Vice President TSgt Allison Kidder, Treasurer SrA Philip Ensley, Secretary SrA Christopher McKenzie, GOL Planning Coordinator MSgt Nicole McBrearty and lastly President SMSgt Alfred Montes. The Chapter appreciates your selflessness and commitment. The Chapter stepped up and accepted the honor of hosting the next Gathering of Loads (GOL). Please mark your calendars for August 22-26, 2021 and get ready to come out to sunny San Diego!! We are tremendously excited for the opportunity and can't wait to put on an incredible GOL! In very short time, we will be soliciting for donations to assist with funding the event, so please get your chapter donations ready!! On a more local level, we opted to change our meeting location to March ARB, and have held our last several meetings on base in an effort to gain a bit more participation. Our February meeting will be held at the Green Onion, aka the "Grunion." An idea recently proposed was to make the Grunion's house margarita the official Golden West Chapter's beverage of choice. Is that thing in other chapters? We would love to hear some feedback! In March, we are scheduled to hold our meeting at the Redlands Airport and intend to BBQ. The chapter had previously held meetings in Highland (near Redlands) and felt that this could be a great path to inclusiveness for the many talented Loadmasters that had attended the Highland meetings. We are hoping to vote on a Chapter t-shirt design at this meeting, potentially being able to get some prints done and begin selling to build chapter funds. In an effort to try and keep this concise, we will depart for now. Hope to catch you in the system soon as our LM world is a small one, and the world is even smaller. Regards, Alfred A Montes

**Liberty Chapter**

Michael Kent, Liberty Chapter President - Hello from Exit 7. Greetings from the Liberty Chapter! My name is Mike Kent and I am the chapter President. Mike Oxley is filling in as our Secretary and Kent Brown is our Treasurer and the East Coast Vice President. The Liberty Chapter is centered around Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. We hold our meetings the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown N.J. We meet for breakfast at 0900 and have our meeting at 1000. The diner is located about 2 miles from the main gate of the base. We had our Christmas party in December. It was hosted by JP and Barb Salisbury. We always have such a good time at this event. The group is small but we really enjoy each other's friendship. We collected unwrapped toys for a local charity. Members also brought wrapped gifts for a Yankee swap game. The gifts that seem the most sought after come in a bottle. We had 2 main courses, a fried turkey and a ham. Members each brought a side dish. We recently donated \$100 to Don Sloan for a Polar Bear Plunge. We have done this for several years now. This supports the Special Olympics in Delaware. His team raised around \$7,000 and the amount for the entire event was just over 1 million dollars. I saw on their Facebook page they had over 3700 participants. We love



supporting this event but with a water temperature of 42 degrees you won't see me in the water. Congratulations to Don and his team. We have another clean-up day scheduled at the C-141 Memorial on April 24, 2020. We will be spreading mulch in the flower beds, weeding the walkways and flowerbeds and cleaning the memorial bricks. We are always looking for help. Please come and lend a hand and don't forget your favorite yard tools. We will be starting at 1000. Kent Brown has been working with Woodie Hall from the 57<sup>th</sup> AS Alumni Association to have a granite bench placed at the memorial. Kent has also been working out the details with the base. We are starting our plans to participate in a fundraiser at the 2020 McGuire Airshow. The event will take place May 16-17, 2020. We are expecting a very large crowd this year because the Blue Angels are coming. We have been talking the Josh Piper from the 6<sup>th</sup> AS about working together. We will be volunteering to work at the many concessions stands at the show. We also may have an opportunity to sell things like T-Shirts and hats. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need as many volunteer's as we can get. Please put this on your calendar. We have 2 more events that we are planning in the upcoming months. We will be participating in an event for the New Jersey Honor Flight on June 3, 2020. This is an event that we have been supporting for several years now. We are also planning a trip for July or August to the AMC Museum at Dover AFB. They have open aircraft days the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from April - November. Kent Brown is going to make contact with the chapter at Dover and see if they would like to meet us at the museum or meet us for lunch. If you have any questions about the Liberty Chapter or volunteering for any of our events please contact me at: michael\_knt@yahoo.com.



Abilene Veterans Day Parade - Juan Levario, Frank Young and Denny Sanders standing next to Professional Loadmaster Association Michael P. Lutzko parade truck

In December we attended the Wreaths Across America at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene, TX and put wreaths on the tombstones of MSgt John Joseph Moran, SMSgt Frank Daniel Martindale and TSgt Michael P. Lutzko. That's it from the Michael P. Lutzko Chapter and we hope everyone has a super 2020.



WreathsAcrossAmerica(<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>) for Joseph Moran, Frank Daniel and Michael P. Lutzko at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Abilene, TX

The chapter officers are President Juan Levario, (325) 260-5839; Vice President/Secretary/Webmaster Frank Young, youngf@suddenlink.net, (325) 513-4994; Treasurer Robert Staples, (325) 673-1249, staf1134@aol.com; Chaplin Robert Leet, (325) 829-6152. The chapter will normally meet on the third Thursday of the month at 1100 at the Abilene VFW Post 6873 by Dyess AFB.

### Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Mark Raymond, Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter President - We continue to extend our support and help to the Golden West Chapter as they plan the "2020 Gathering of Loads" in Southern California or the location they may choose. We would also like to reach out to other chapters to help provide support their chapter as they may need. Our 2019 Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at the Travis Heritage Center (Museum) and was catered by the Delta Breeze (Travis Club vendor). As always the Delta Breeze Club provided an excellent menu and quality food. We had a great turn out and it was very special to see old friends that we haven't seen for a number of years. All Loadmasters and their families are always welcome. It's also very special for me to have my grandkids help with the raffle, Emma, Rocco, AJ, and Abram. We have already started our involvement with the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" with our own Gabe Escamilla taking



Liberty Chapter members at JP and Barb Salisbury's house for the 2019 Christmas Party

### Michael P. Lutzko Chapter

Juan Levario, Michael P. Lutzko Chapter President - Updates from the Michael P. Lutzko Chapter in Abilene, TX. Active duty had mucho TDY commitments since our last "The Loader" input. For the Abilene Veterans Day parade, we had me (Chapter President Juan Levario), Vice President Frank Young and we even managed to pick up a retired C-141 Engineer, SMSgt Denny Sanders to ride along with us in the Michael P. Lutzko Chapter/Professional Loadmaster Association parade truck.





P-A-P Chapter members at the 2019 Christmas Party 2019 held at the Travis Heritage Center (Museum) and was catered by the Delta Breeze (Travis Club vendor)

the lead as our Team Captain. We plan on hosting some social events to raise funds before the “Relay” that is scheduled for end of June 2020. To our advantage this year, the Sonoma Raceway NASCAR and NHRA events will not conflict with the “Relay” or any other event we have scheduled. The Raceway is a great source of revenue for our chapter to support our annual scholarship and Christmas Party. As I always do in this newsletter a want to thank all those loyal members that have continued to support our local chapter since 1998. It is a great tribute to those members that continue to support our chapter. We have been having our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at Delta Breeze Club (NCO Club). If you have any question, please contact me at [mark.raymond@att.net](mailto:mark.raymond@att.net) or [mark.raymond@kc10ts.com](mailto:mark.raymond@kc10ts.com).

### The Rock Chapter

Jason Kunkel, The Rock Chapter President - The Rock Chapter hosts a social the second Thursday of each month at the Toneyville VFW starting at 1630 for those that would like to relax and enjoy some time with their fellow Loadmasters past and present. We also hold our monthly General Membership Meetings the 4th Thursday of every month at 1130 at the BBQ Shack in Jacksonville. Planning for our annual golf tournament is taking place now and it will be held in April. If you’d like to get involved, please contact Jason Kunkel or Ron Sharp. Lastly, we’re looking for a new Secretary. Contact me (Jason Kunkel) if interested. President Jason Kunkel, (661) 860-6399, [jason.kunkel75@me.com](mailto:jason.kunkel75@me.com); Vice President Levi Sortomme, (707) 386-4940, [levisortomme@gmail.com](mailto:levisortomme@gmail.com); Secretary Sean Zeringue, (985) 637-1745, [eagleboy2010@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleboy2010@yahoo.com); Treasurer Nate Castle, (501) 837-3921, [nate\\_castle@hotmail.com](mailto:nate_castle@hotmail.com).

### Trailblazers Chapter

Jayne Alexander, Trailblazers Chapter President - Greetings from the Trailblazers Chapter! With the cold weather and holiday season, we have not been very active apart from our monthly meetings. We are planning on hosting a Golf Tournament in April or May, so anyone with advice on Lessons Learned feel free to send it our way! The Rock ‘N Rumble is scheduled for May 1 & 2 and

we’re planning on smoking Pit Beef Sandwiches and fundraising during that event! And last but not least, we’re planning a camping trip in the fall for all of our PLA members and their families. The year has kicked off great so far and we’re really excited for all the fun events we’re planning. In addition, our chapter is up for elections in April. Anyone interested in holding a position within the Trailblazers, please email me at [jayne.alexander@us.af.mil](mailto:jayne.alexander@us.af.mil).

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The Professional Loadmaster Association offers condolences to the families and friends of the following Loadmasters whose death has been reported to our association. **Name underlined denotes a PLA Member.** \*Denotes a Lifetime Member.

#### In Memoriam (3)

**\*Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Arthur (Art) DuReitz**, 77, passed away suddenly November 22, 2019. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the oldest child born to the late Arthur DuReitz and Ruth (nee Renner) Alter. He met the love of his life, Kathleen (Kathy) Coffin while at the Senior NCO Academy in Montgomery, Alabama and they shared 32 years of marriage. Art served his country for 25 years in the US Air Force and was a Vietnam Veteran, being awarded the Bronze Star for his service. After retirement from the USAF, Art spent another 20 years in Civil Service as Deputy Director at the Navy Air Terminal in Norfolk, VA. After “total” retirement, Art and Kathy began visiting friends in Fort Myers, FL as “snow birds” but it didn’t take them long to become permanent residents. Left to mourn his passing are his wife Kathy, one son Arthur DuReitz, Jr. (USAF ret) and wife Gabi, of Niceville FL; grandson, Casey Jones (US Army) and wife Kim of Fort Hood, TX; great-grandson, Indiana Jones, twin great-grand daughters Valerie and Ophelia Jones; Stepchildren Stacey Barry of Chesapeake, VA, John Herring of Wetumpka, AL; Grandchildren, Zoey and Katey Barry of Chesapeake, VA and Phillip and Julia Geier of Niceville, FL; Sisters Lois Hankin of, Naples, FL, Linda Latimore, Fort Myers, FL, and Joan Landry and husband Bill of Moreno Valley, CA. Art is also survived by many extended family members and friends. Art spent his retirement doing what he loved best, playing golf. He was a kind and generous soul and will remain in our hearts forever. In lieu of flowers, donations in Art’s memory may be made to the Veteran Organization of your choice. A visitation will be held Thursday, December 5, 2019 from 6 - 8 PM at Smith & Williams Funeral Home, 4889 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Burial/Graveside Services will be at Albert G Horton, Jr. Memorial Veteran Cemetery in Suffolk, VA, with full military honors on December 6, 2019 at 10 AM.

**\*Raymond Earl Martin**, 78, of Abilene passed away suddenly at his home on February 17, 2020. Ray was born on March 27, 1941 in Lebanon, PA to the late George and Mildred (Fees) Martin. He served in the United States Navy from 1958 until March 16, 1960 and then joined the Air Force on March 17, 1960 and served his country honorably and faithfully. While beginning his military career, he started a family with his former wife and they were blessed with two daughters, Lori and Jody. He received numerous awards throughout his successful career. He retired from Active duty in 1980 in Abilene and made this his home. Following his military career, he began a second career as a truck driver with several local companies and retired from Sysco Food Systems. His legacy of military service has continued in his children, and grandchildren. He also earned three associate degrees from Cisco Junior College. Later he became an active Volunteer contributing his time and efforts to the Dyess Air Force Base Pharmacy, Meals on Wheels and was an AARP tax consultant. He was a member of several veteran organizations. Services celebrating this loving father, loyal friend and faithful patriot will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home on 277 S. in Abilene. The family will receive guests for a visitation on Sunday, February 23rd from 2 - 4:00 PM at the funeral home. Burial will follow services with military honors at The Texas State Veterans Cemetery under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home.

**TSgt Harold Ray Sheffield**, USAF, Ret., 83, of Moncks Corner, SC, formerly of Bonneau Beach, died Friday evening at his residence. His funeral will be 1:00 PM Tuesday afternoon, February 18, 2020, in the Chapel of Dial-Murray Funeral Home, Moncks Corner SC. Interment will follow in Carolina Memorial Park with military honors. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11:30 AM until the hour of service on Tuesday. Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Bonneau, PO Box 130, Bonneau, SC 29431. Born December 16, 1936 in Trenton, TN, to Leonard Toy Sheffield and Ida May Ingle Sheffield. TSgt Sheffield spent most of his career serving our country, first serving in the US Navy from August 1951 thru November 1957 and then having a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force serving from January 1958 thru November 1974. He flew more than one hundred combat missions in Vietnam where he earned 13 air medals. He was also a retired foreman for the Charleston Naval Supply Center having served for 20 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Bonneau, the Professional Loadmasters Association, and the Air Force Sergeants Association. Harold was a fun and loving man and his family was his pride and joy. He loved fishing, gardening, and his Church. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Virginia Potts Sheffield; three daughters, Lynn Leath of Surgoinsville, TN, Rebecca Walters of Ignacio CO, and Cheryl Walters and her companion Pauline of Shelbyville TN; three sons, Kenneth Sheffield of Bonneau Beach, Steven Sheffield of Goose Creek, David Sheffield and his wife, Helen, of Ft. Lauderdale FL; a sister Lorraine Shapel of Germantown TN; and seven grandchildren, Jessica, Samantha, Sarah, Candice, Thomas, Amanda, and Ryan; and many great grandchildren.

#### Non PLA Members (1)

Orvis “Geno” Carpenter, 53rd MAS Norton AFB CA. Passed away December 28, 2019. <https://www.everhere.com/us/obituaries/ca/riverside/orvis-carpenter-10238059>



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### Scholarship Manager

Jim Engelker

10925 County Road 29

Ovid, CO 80744

engelkerj@gmail.com

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) offers five scholarships annually for College and/or Vocational/Technical School after high school graduation. Current college or vocational/technical students may apply to complete their educational endeavor. We have two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each named in honor of John L. Levitow and Bill Cannon. These are permanent scholarships. Three additional \$500.00 scholarships, each named for a different deceased Loadmaster, will be awarded each year. Candidates for the selection process must be from PLA members in good standing and their family members (sons, daughters or grandchildren), and are limited to one scholarship per applicant. If exceptional circumstances should arise, the Executive Committee will handle them accordingly. For more information on scholarships go to <http://www.loadmasters.com/scholarships>. Applications, located on the PLA website, may be applied for through Jim Engelker at engelkerj@gmail.com.

Timeline for Scholarships: Submission of all scholarship applications is due by the close of business on April 1st Mountain Daylight Time of the year that scholarship announcement is made. Due April 1, 2020 – selection May 2020. All scholarship applications received after that date will be returned. Announcement of the scholarship award to the individual participant shall be

no later than the middle of May of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of scholarships awarded shall be published each year in the July issue of "The Loader" newsletter.

Additional Scholarship Name Selection: Selection of names to be honored for upcoming additional scholarships shall be provided by December of the year before scholarship announcement.

When completing your PLA application you will need to know the PLA membership # and date. Please contact John Moore at [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com) to obtain this information."



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SEND TO: engelkerj@gmail.com

### Liberty Chapter Loadmaster Coins

Mailed for \$10 each plus priority shipping of \$5.80. Thirty in one box for that shipping cost. If chapters want more than 30, sold for \$9 each with shipping included. A cheaper alternative is to ship up to three, for \$4.00 shipping first class mail. Send a check made out to Liberty Chapter PLA, or USPS postal Money Order made out to Kent Brown, 28 Pineview Dr., Browns Mills, NJ 08015-6850.



### PLA Coins

The new coins have both Friendship Through Airlift and Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow around the circle on the back and now they are in full color! The US Flag is in color and unchanged. The box below the flag is empty so you may have whatever you wish engraved on it. The PLA coin is \$10.00 If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com)

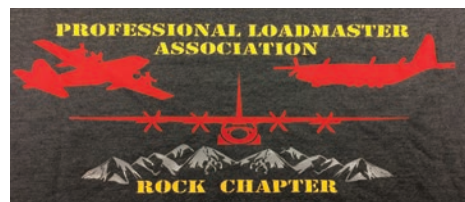


### PLA Pins and Patches

PLA Coins, Pins and Patches are available through the National Secretary. The PLA Pin is \$7.00 and the Patch is \$10.00 each, including mailing. If you or your Chapter are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: [buildsmall2@mac.com](mailto:buildsmall2@mac.com)



**PLA Clothing** - PLA clothing merchandise can still be purchased at: [https://plaload.qb-stores.com/all\\_products.html?OC=SF7606](https://plaload.qb-stores.com/all_products.html?OC=SF7606)



**The Rock Chapter Tee Shirts** - \$25.00 per tee shirt, shipping included. Send a check to: Rock Chapter PLA, P.O. Box 1113, Jacksonville, AR, 72078 or call (501) 533-5873 for a PayPal invoice & payment. Available sizes include Small-2XL



**PROFESSIONAL LOADMASTER ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Rev: October 2018**

Please limit your application to only those items requested on the form below. NOTE: If additional space is required to complete the application, please continue on a separate piece of paper, and make sure you reference the item you are continuing.

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Students:**

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Size: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT/SAT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 College(s), University(ies), and Vocational/Technical School(s) you have made application to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**College Students:**

College/University, Vocational/Technical School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
 College/University, Vocational/Technical School you are or will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**All Students:**

Proposed Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why did you choose this field of study? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships/Financial Aid you have received or still pending (include amounts): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What is your connection with the Professional Loadmaster Association? Please provide the name of the PLA member and his/her relationship to you. \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # and expiration date of PLA membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i.e., I am a member, my father/mother/grandparents are members, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you ever received a PLA scholarship in the past? If so, you are not eligible for additional PLA scholarships.**

**If at all possible, complete application and email to [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com).**

**Please attach the following items:** The following items, in addition to the requested information on page one, will be used by the selection committee to select the PLA Scholarship winners for the coming year.

1. Please provide a short biography (150 - 200 words) and a current photograph of yourself. The short biography MUST include an introduction (your name, date of birth, where born, parents names), information about education (level of grade obtained, type of graduation – high school diploma, GED, level of college), relevant information regarding any awards and achievements you have received, relevant work experience and/or qualifications, as well as hobbies and interests and a conclusion. The conclusion should include future dream goals and/or future job aspirations.

2. Explain why financially you should receive this scholarship.

**NOTE:** Photograph WILL NOT be used by the selection committee. The purpose of the short biography and current photograph will be used by the editor of the PLA Publication "The Loader" if you are selected as a PLA Scholarship winner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



**"The Loader"**

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PHONE: WORK \_\_\_\_\_ HOME \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY/BASE/UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
AIRCRAFT FLOWN \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORED BY (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTIVE \_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_ RESERVE \_\_\_ ANG \_\_\_ CIVILIAN \_\_\_ OTHER (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
HOW DID YOU HEAR OF THE PLA? \_\_\_\_\_  
WHO REFERRED YOU? \_\_\_\_\_  
PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION: U.S. POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTRONIC \_\_\_\_\_  
I CERTIFY THAT I AM/OR HAVE BEEN A QUALIFIED LOADMASTER \_\_\_\_\_  
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   10 YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ \$150.00; LIFETIME \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00

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