

DATE	FLIGHT		AIRCRAFT FLOWN					DUAL TIME									SOLO TIME			REMARKS OR INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE LICENSE NUMBER AND RATING					
	FROM	TO	MAKE OF AIRCRAFT	TYPE	REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE NUMBER	MAKE OF ENGINE	H. P. OR THRUST	AS PILOT-IN-COMMAND			AS CO-PILOT			AS STUDENT			INSTRUMENT	DAY	NIGHT						
AIR AMERICA LOG [®]																									
							TOTAL														TOTAL FLIGHT TIME				
I CERTIFY THAT THE ENTRIES ARE TRUE AND CORRECT							Signature		AMT. FORWARD																
							GRAND TOTAL																		

Volume 42-2

2025 April - August

Looking Back: The 2025 Reunion in Minneapolis

If you missed the 2025 reunion in Minneapolis, you missed a truly memorable week. It was a time of re-connecting with old friends, building new friendships, and reflecting on the lasting impact of the work carried out in Laos during the war. That history is now written across the faces of the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the Hmong who made America their home after those difficult years.

This year marked a milestone: the **50th anniversary of the Hmong diaspora**. The commemoration was filled with heartfelt speeches, music, dancing, and shared meals that brought people together in celebration and remembrance. Air America was recognized at every event, a reminder of the vital role it played during that time.

One highlight came from those who spoke at a local school, the Community School of Excellence in St. Paul, MN. They returned with moving stories of how the younger students greeted them with American flags and warm smiles. Older students engaged with thoughtful questions about Laos, eager to understand its history. The school's halls were lined with powerful artwork—scenes of the Hmong journey and the Secret War, depictions of Long Cheng, the refugee camps in Thailand, the May 1975 evacuation, SGU (Special Guerrilla Unit), General Vang Pao, and Jerry Daniels.

Special thanks go to **Kay Merkel Borff, Gene**

Hamner, Danny Williams, Ben Densley, Burt Brigidia, Phillpe Ritter, Yee Xiong, Kazoua Kong-Thao and Bob Noble for their time, efforts, and contributions to the program at the school. Also, thanks to **Noah Vang** for his help and support in coordinating the week's events.

The rest of the week was a mix of joy, laughter, and reflection. There were countless stories shared: memories of those we lost this past year, recollections of friends who have been gone for many years, and tales of the children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren who continue to bring joy into our lives.

As the week came to a close, one thing was certain—the reunion was not just about remembering the past, but also about cherishing the present and strengthening bonds for the future.

Looking Ahead: Las Vegas 2026

Plans are already underway for the next reunion in **Las Vegas in 2026**. We invite you to join us—whether you are a pilot, flight mechanic, Air America employee, family member, or simply someone who wants to hear the stories. Even if you never served or lived in Southeast Asia, you'll quickly feel like family. These reunions are about honoring the men and women of Air America, keeping their legacy alive, and ensuring their stories are carried forward.

Come, listen, share, and be part of something truly special.

"AIR AMERICA'S MOTTO: ANYTHING, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE PROFESSIONALLY"

AIR AMERICA ASSOCIATION, INC.

Officers

President: **Michael Hunter**
Term Exps. June 2028
Email: Michaelhunter57@gmail.com
Phone: 281-686-2742

Vice President/Nomination/Election
Committee: **Burt "Bo" Brigida**
Term: Exps. June 2026
Email: Burt.Brigida@calbt.com
Phone: 619-808-2175

General Secretary
Board Member: **Kay Merkel Boruff**
Term: Permanent
Email: kmerkelboruff@gmail.com
Phone: 214-725-6901

Reunion Coordinator
Board Member/Treasurer: **Kathy Bruner**
Air America Association
PO Box 4894
Lago Vista, TX 78645-4894
Phone: 512-689-8624
Email: Kathy.Bruner@air-america.org

Board Member: **Ben Densley**
Term Exps. June 2027
Email: RDensley@cfl.rr.com
Phone: 321-506-1456

Board Member: **Maureen Ebersole**
Term Exps. June 2028
Email: Maureen@commelifaut.com
Phone: 415-641-1481

Committee Chairpersons

**Membership Secretary/Nomination/Election
Committee:: Lesa Densley**
343 N. Tropical Tr. #106A
Merritt Island, FL 32953
Phone: 321-720-6067
Email: ldensley@hotmail.com

LOG Editor : Sofia Brigida
Email : sofiabrigida21@gmail.com
Phone : 619-818-5048

Web Editor: Brian McCabe
Email: brian.mccabe@outlook.com

Committee Chairpersons

History/Virtual Museum: Allen Cates
Email: Allen.Setac@gmail.com
Phone: 337-278-2325

Archives: Jesse Walton
Email: jwalton00@comcast.net
Phone: 239-642-5324

Official Photographer: Tony Coalson
E-mail: tmc727@yahoo.com
Phone: 256-236-3082

Stock Room Sales: AA Country Store
<http://store.air-america.org/>
Bob & Meri Noble
Email: noble2505@comcast.net
Phone: 253-514-8879

Trademark: Terry Bruner
Email: tbruner@swcwc.com
Phone: 281-435-2558

Social Media:
Email:
Phone:

Classes of Members and Eligibility: The Association shall have two (2) classes of members. The classes are regular and associate. The designation of each class, eligibility and rights of members of each class shall be as follows: REGULAR Membership is open to all former employees of Civil Air Transport, Air America, Air Asia, which are entities of the Pacific Corporation, and Southern Air Transport Pacific Division, including their spouse, former spouse, widows, children and grandchildren. ASSOCIATE membership is open to the employee's other family members. Also, all persons in other organizations, civilian or military who supported or backed any Pacific Corporation entity in Asia during the years 1950 to 1975. A regular member must sponsor associate members who will vouch for their associate status. Acceptance for Regular and provide proof of support or backing. Membership acceptance for regular and associate membership requires approval by the Board of Directors.

Air America LOG is published quarterly by the Air America Association, Inc.

The Air America Association Virtual Museum

The following is an online exhibition of materials that represent the proud history of Air America during the Vietnam War.

(Copyright The Air America Association. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be used for resale or commercial purposes without written authorization from the Air America Association and/or the owners of these materials. Appropriate attributions for exhibit materials are provided.)

Why Create a Virtual Museum for Air America

by Allen Cates

The Air America Association established a legacy by encouraging members to donate their documents to the newly decorated History of Aviation Archive inside the Eugene McDermott Library at the University of Texas at Dallas in Dallas, Texas and the Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

The archives are not museums, although both have a few items and the HAC collections entrance contains several paintings and a few artifacts that are worth seeing.

The Association members have longed for a museum that accurately describes the history of Air America with physical objects. Suggestions to join the Museum of Flight in Dallas, The Experimental Aircraft Association and the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio have merit, but Air America is minuscule in the sea of other exhibits, and we lose identity. A brick-and-mortar facility exclusive to Air America is out of the question for a variety of reasons. We don't have any aircraft to display, and the cost for such a museum along with liability insurance and maintenance is cost prohibitive.

However, virtual museums are popular,

Museum, Air Force Flight Test Museum-Blackbird Airpark, San Diego Air & Space Museum, Gillespie Field Annex-SDASM, and the Lauridsen Aviation Museum are good examples.

Virtual museums can't replace looking at the real thing, but where brick and mortar museums attract thousands, a virtual museum can attract millions from your home computer.

That doesn't mean they are easy to implement because it takes expertise and long hours. The Association approached Steve Maxner with TTU and asked him if he could do it for us. It is a work in progress, but right now today the Association has a virtual museum on our website and its very attractive.

The Association invites everybody to look at it, make suggestions, and add appropriate pictures to improve what we have so far. It will take time, but eventually, we will have a virtual museum that belongs to the members that all of us can be proud to show anybody.



If you as an employee, spouse, or dependent of an Air America employee or were in Southeast Asia with your family and you are interested in doing an oral history interview and want to contact Kelly at TTU. His contact information is:

Kelly Crager, PhD
Head, Oral History Project
Vietnam Center & Archive
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409
806-834-4834
Kelly.Crager@ttu.ed

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Nominations are open for Vice President and one director. Please notify Lesa Densley by phone at 321-720-6067 or email her at ldensley@hotmail.com. Nominations close February 1, 2026.



Please make sure we have your current address and email. You can email or call Lesa Densley with the new information. Lesa can be contacted at ldensley@hotmail.com or 321-720-6067



Thinking of going to Southeast Asia?

There is still time to join the group that is going February 17 – 28, 2026. This trip includes special in-country, up-country tours to Bangkok, Udon Thani, Vientiane, Vang Vieng, Luang Prabang and Saigon. If you are interested in joining us, contact Lloyd Coleman (skyguyonettravels@gmail.com) or Kathy Bruner (kbruner60@gmail.com). Final payments are due December 13, 2026. The complete itinerary can be found at <https://www.air-america.org/current-news.html>.

2026 Air America Reunion Las Vegas, NV

May 27 - 31, 2026

South Point Hotel Casino
9777 S. Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Group Code : AIR0527

866-791-7626 (toll free)
702-797-8901 - Direct Line

Weblink :

<https://be.synxis.com/?adult=1&arrive=2026-05-24&chain=6903&child=0¤cy=USD&depart=2026-05-25&group=air0527&hotel=11548&level=hotel&locale=en-US&productcurrency=USD&rooms=1&src%20=air0527>

Room Rate \$75 midweek & \$165 weekend

Rates listed on weblink include daily resort fee and excludes taxes

A trip to the West Rim of the Grand Canyon is planned for Thursday, May 28, 2026. More information in the next LOG.

There are a limited number of rooms at this rate. Make your reservations early.

2025 Air America Reunion
Minneapolis, MN



Michael & Sharon Hunter, Terry Anderson



Burt (Bo) Brigida, George Ritter, Michael Hunter & Phillipe Ritter



Carolyn Bevens-Dowling & Maureen Bevens-Ebersole

2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Celebrating 50 years since the resettlement in America
Hmong SGU Remembrance Day
May 14, 2025



2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Celebrating 50 years since the resettlement in America
Hmong SGU Remembrance Day
May 14, 2025



2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Celebrating 50 years since the resettlement in America
Hmong SGU Remembrance Day
May 14, 2025



2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Celebrating 50 years since the resettlement in America
Hmong SGU Remembrance Day
May 14, 2025
Evening Banquet



Ben Densley, Danny Williams and Bob Noble



Gregory & Cricket Parker, Carolyn Bevans Dowling



Lesla Densley, Ben Densley, Kim Murray and Danny Williams

2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Community School of Excellence
St. Paul, MN

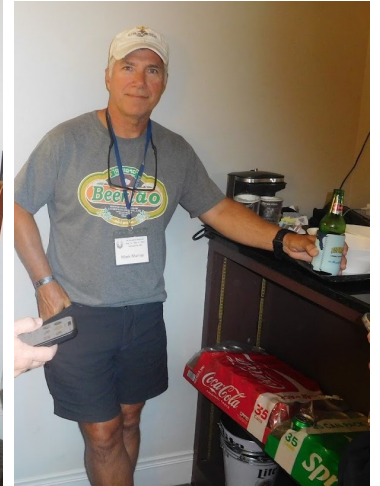


2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN

Community School of Excellence
St. Paul, MN



2025 Air America Reunion Minneapolis, MN



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Rankin, 85, passed away peacefully at his home on September 3, 2025, surrounded by family.

He was born on July 31, 1940, in Jersey City, New Jersey, to William and Grace Rankin. The oldest of four brothers, Bill was a driven young man, graduating high school early at 16 and then enlisting in the Marine Corps.



He earned his undergraduate degree in Physics from Holy Cross College in 1964 and then rejoined the Marines as an officer. In 1965, he attended flight school in Pensacola and met his wife, Cherrie.

In 1966, he served as a helicopter pilot for medical evacuation and VIP transport in the Vietnam War. After his tour of duty as a Captain, Bill flew for Air America in Saigon and Laos and then returned to the states to pursue a law degree at the University of San Diego (USD), graduating in 1974.

Bill and Cherrie then moved back to Pensacola, where Bill joined the State Attorney's Office as a prosecutor. After entering private practice, Bill became a partner of Kerrigan Estess Rankin McLeod & Thompson in 1978, where he spent more than four decades as a lawyer.

Bill's background in science and his interest in engineering made it natural for him to focus on dangerous product litigation. Among many achievements during his career, Bill was the lead attorney in a case which not only resulted in a substantial jury verdict, but also encouraged a worldwide change in crane design.

Bill was an avid reader and learner, always looking for ways to increase his knowledge and skills. After retiring from his personal injury practice, he returned

to the University of San Diego School of Law in 2016 to obtain his LLM in Taxation, where he became USD Law School's oldest graduate and presented his son, Zac, with his diploma as Zac graduated with his law degree the same year.

In addition to his interest in history, poetry, and classical music, Bill was also a dedicated exercise enthusiast. He ran marathons, rollerbladed, and bicycled, to name only a few, and even bicycled from Pensacola to New Jersey. In his later years, Bill took up rowing, taking his rowboat out every morning along the bayou. Above all, Bill loved his family – his wife of 53 years, Cherrie, and his sons, Max and Zac. His family motto was “duty, honor, family,” and Bill embodied those values throughout his lifetime.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Tommy and Jimmy. He is survived by his wife, Cherrie; his broth-



In Memoriam Notices

In Memoriam notices should be sent to:

Info@Air-America.org

All notices with the families permission will be posted on the Air America Association Inc., Facebook page as soon as received. It will be added to the website as soon as possible and will be included in the next LOG. Family members can send obituary, a short note and any pictures they would like included.

IN MEMORIAM - Continued from Page 13

James G. Kilcullen, of Greenwood Lake, NY, left us peacefully with his family by his side, on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY. He was 87 years old. Jim was born in New York, NY on July 1, 1938, to the late Anne (Naughton) and John Kilcullen.



Jim was a soldier, builder, entrepreneur, police officer, teacher, protector, and storyteller.

He faithfully and proudly served his

country as an Airborne Infantryman, a Green Beret, and as a “Kicker” with Air America, exemplifying courage, dedication, and honor throughout his service.

After his time in the military, Jim continued to protect and serve through a career in law enforcement. First, as the Manhattan Borough Commander of the NYPD Auxiliary Police, as Chief of the Rockland County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (SPCC), as a Deputy in the Orange County Sheriff's Office, as Investigator for the Hudson Valley Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and was a 9/11 First Responder. Jim was an instructor for the Orange County Police Academy and taught Law Enforcement at Orange Ulster BOCES.



In addition to service, Jim's life was defined by his love of family. He is survived by his children, James Kilcullen and his wife Jennifer of Trumbull, CT; and Brian Kilcullen of New York, NY; his four grandchil-

dren: Juliette, Frankie, Sean, and Eamon; as well as a small army of nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Jim was predeceased by his wife, Lillian Reif Kilcullen and his siblings: Anne Marcucilli, John Kilcullen, Catherine Hirrel, Thomas Kilcullen, and Sharon Metaxotos.

Memorial donations may be made in James' name to the Hudson Valley Honor Flight. <https://>



Stan Waite – I am so sorry to let you know my uncle Stan Waite passed away on September 29, 2025, at 82. He was a larger than life man who was accomplished, hardworking, adventurous and lived with Honor. He was part of Air America in Vietnam; he was a helicopter mechanic and pilot retiring with the Martin County Sheriff's Dept. in Florida. He flew helicopters for news channels, celebrities, and fire fighting throughout his life. He was fiercely pro guns and pro Trump. He was an avid Harley Man.

Looking through all the photo albums last night, I don't think

he missed out on much. I was fortunate enough to let him know how much he means to me and how thankful I am for him as he was leaving us. I prayed that my grandpa met him in Heaven with a fishing pole in his hand.

Chantelle Mullen DosRemedios



IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Page 15

Robert J. Halsworth, “RJ” as his wife Mickey would call him, mostly, except when she was mad at him, and then he was “meathead” or “Jackass”. To his friends he was “Bob”. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 10, 1920, to Jackson Ray Halsworth and Marie Teresa Murt Halsworth – Bob’s mother was a second-generation German. Every member of the Murt family was an artist, poet, musician or craftsman – they created their town in Germany.

Bob was a student at the Indiana School of Art from 1941 to 1942, and photos exist of him and his brother, posing “nude” (wearing jock straps but of course), for the life drawing classes at the Art School.

He was called to Active Duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps on October 30, 1942, and on May 20, 1943, Bob was a Second Lieutenant and departed November 3, 1943, for the European Theater, flying a B-24. His mission was heavy bombardment, and Bob was shot down on February 24, 1944. He was captured and held as a Prisoner of War, North 1 Compound at Stalag Luft I, Germany.

On January 25, 1945, Bob was decorated with the 1” Oak Leaf Cluster: For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these officers and enlisted men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States. Bob was released on June 9, 1945, left Germany, and he returned to the United States on June 15, 1945. Upon Bob’s return, he remained in the Army Air Corps for one year.

In December 1945, Bob and Mickey met at the Canary Cottage in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mickey was working at the Pure Oil Company for the Zone Manager as his Executive Secretary, and the Canary Cottage was a restaurant/bar and grill in the Pure Oil Building. Mickey lost her hat pin, and Bob was the hero who found it. From that moment it was a marriage, through sickness and health, for richer or poorer, in good weather and bad. Bob was promoted to First Lieutenant on February 9, 1946, but he didn’t re-enlist in the Army Air Corps due to receiving notice of transfer. Bob instead chose the Armed Services Reserves and went to work at Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company in Indianapolis, Indiana – he did this because of Mickey. Robert J. Halsworth and Hazel Naomi Kelly were joined in Holy Matrimony on August 31, 1946, in Indianapolis, Indiana. At the time of his passing on January 29, 2007, Bob and Mickey were married for sixty and one-half years – a number to be proud of – a reality they both cherished – RJ passed and although he left this dimension, Bob did not leave Mickey behind. Bob and Mickey parented four children William Michael Halsworth, Michele Halsworth, Roberta Lynne Halsworth, and Fred Jay Halworth.

Bob was ultimately fired from Eli Lilly Company for blowing the whistle on practices that were clearly illegal and harmful to health. Because he had remained as reservist in the Armed Services while working at Eli Lilly, he was called back to full time service to fly the Berlin Air Lift during the blockade of Berlin by the East Germans.

On March 23, 1951, Bob was once again a fully active pilot.

He completed Helicopter Pilot Training at Randolph AFB, Texas in 1956. During the years 1957 to 1960, Bob was stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. He continued his education at the University of Alaska and completed his two-year undergraduate work there.

Bob also took up the game of golf as a serious hobby while living in Alaska. He moved to Vancouver, Washington and on January 1, 1961, Bob was promoted to the grade of Major. Bob was decorated with the Air Force Longevity Service Award in August 1963. During the years of 1960 and 1964, he attended Clark College in Vancouver, Washington and he acquired credits in Zoology, Anthropology, Sociology, plus general studies. In 1964, Bob was transferred to Richards-Gebaur AFB. He left for Udorn, Thailand in 1965, to set-up the Search and Rescue (SAR) Center for the USAF. Bob retired as a USAF Major, Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center, MAC, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Missouri on May 31, 1966.

In June 1966, Bob Halsworth was hired by Air America and left for Saigon, Vietnam to fly helicopters. Bob flew for AAM from 1966 to 1972. He returned to the United States in 1972, and it was at this time that Bob committed to the game of golf as a serious athlete. He also learned about the real estate business and became a broker in Vancouver, Washington, but he was bored with real estate, not enough action, Mickey says. Bob and Mickey had joined the Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Washington, in 1960, and when they returned from Southeast Asia, having kept up their membership, Bob became an accomplished golfer. In 1975, Bob learned to create golf clubs from the Pro at Royal Oaks, and he started up his own small golf club business in Halsworth’s home garage. Bob played pro-am golf, he was passionate devotee of the game, he was health conscious, and a life-long exerciser and body builder.

When Bob suffered his first attack in 1977, everyone was shocked, but not nearly as shocked as he was. Bob and Mickey moved to Sun Lakes, Arizona in 1980. In 1985, Bob suffered two heart attacks and underwent quadruple bypass surgery. He lived with Mickey in Sun Lakes from 1980 until 2002, when they moved back to Vancouver, Washington. During their 22 years living in Sun Lakes, after his bypass heart surgery, Bob was able to play golf, work at his golf club business and honor a strict diet.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
LESA DENSLEY
AIR AMERICA ASSOCIATION INC.
343 TROPICAL TR #106A
MERRITT ISLAND FL 32953
TEL. 321-720-6067

Name _____
 Last *First* *Initial*

Spouse _____

Address _____
 Street

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Telephone _____
 Home *Work*

Company Background Information
(List dates, job titles, supervisor and locations)

Military History _____

Annual dues for Regular or Associate members is \$35.00.
Widows and MIA spouses \$15.00.

If Associate Member, please print name of sponsor.

Email Address _____

Dues may be paid up to three (3) years in advance.

Dues Amount \$ _____

I would like to receive my quarterly Air America LOG

_____ Email _____ Postal Mail

Please credit my donation to the Air America Association. \$ _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Total Amount \$ _____



LESA DENSLEY
AIR AMERICA ASSOCIATION, INC.
343 N TROPICAL TR. #106A
MERRITT ISLAND FL 32953
www.air-america.org
KEEP US ADVISED OF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES
SUPPORT OUR CAT/AIR AMERICA ARCHIVES
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED