



39TH (EAGLE) FLIGHT

ORDER OF DAEDALIANS

P.O. Box 98557

ROBINS AFB, GA 31098

WWW.39THFLIGHTEAGLE.ORG

[HTTP://APOLLO.DAEDALIANS.ORG](http://APOLLO.DAEDALIANS.ORG)



“AMERICA’S PREMIER FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY PILOTS”

VOL. XXXVIII, No. 12

NEWSLETTER

26 Nov 2012

OFFICERS, STAFF

Flight Captain

Maj Bob Komlo
USAF, Ret.
284-6310

Vice Flight Captain

Lt Col Rick Jones
USAF, Ret.
922-1651

Adjutant

CAPT John Strohofer
USN, Ret.
361-0269

Treasurer

Lt Col Don Netzinger
USAF, Ret.
953-8277

Provost Marshal

Col Tom Prior
USAF, Ret.
328-8949

Historian

Col Ken Clark
USAF, Ret.
474-1924

Membership

CAPT John Strohofer
USN, Ret.
361-0269

Programs

Lt Col Art
MacDonald
USAF, Ret.
361-5954

Scholarships

Lt Col Doug Lewis
USAF, Ret.
922-2569

Newsletter

Lt Col Monica Smith
USAF, Ret.
442-4254

Upcoming Events:

8 Dec Christmas
Party
23 Jan Meeting

Next Staff Meeting:

5 Dec Staff Mtg
9 Jan Staff Mtg

Annual Christmas Celebration – Saturday, 8 December – RAFB Horizons Club

Dinner Meeting - Spouses and other guests are cordially invited



Cocktails (cash bar): 18:30

Dinner: 19:15

Dress: Coat and tie, cocktail attire



Speaker: Mr. Bill Elder

Bill Elder is a leading voiceover artist of national acclaim. Formerly a popular radio personality, he was recently inducted into the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame

Menu

Choice of roast prime rib (\$23 for club members; \$25 for non-members) or marinated chicken breast (\$19 for club members; \$21 for non-members), wine, coffee, tea, dessert (PLEASE BE SURE TO STATE YOUR CHOICE OF CHICKEN BREAST OR PRIME RIB WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS)

Reservations

Please call Doug Lewis (922-2569) or Art MacDonald (361-5954) before **Noon, Thursday, 6 Dec.** Please remember to specify either chicken breast or prime rib for each member of your party.

Check Six

We had a lively discussion about unmanned air systems during Monica's presentation on the Global Hawk. The officer slate will be voted upon at the December meeting. Remember national and flight dues are due. Please note the January meeting will be on the 23rd.

Flight Captain's NOTAMS

I hope all 39th Eagle Flight members can make the 8 December Christmas dinner. Eagle Flight had a very successful 2012 and this very vibrant flight will continue to have a bright & energetic 2013. And what a great way to celebrate the fruitful year while also enjoying the holidays among compatriots! All of your 2012 39th Flight officers will return in their current positions and continue to provide great monthly programs, including a scholarship & award program that honors deserving students. We will also continue to work towards the objectives of the 39th Flight: to further the Order of Daedalians as set forth in official publications of the National Order, and to foster good fellowship among military aviators through membership and participation in Flight activities.

For the new year, I ask this flight to consider getting involved with the Egan and CFIP scholarship programs, any & all members to attend the 2013 Daedalian convention and, just as important, increase our membership rolls from the healthy numbers that we have now. Speaking of new members, the 39th is currently looking for someone to take over our recruiting staff position. We do have some initiatives on-going to increase our rolls and Apollo is a big help with finding local national members that are not yet involved with the flight...so, if interested please call me.

Finally, one initiative that I did this year I will continue for 2013. That is to continue to educate the flight and myself on Daedalian history and traditions. I will start in January's newsletter talking about a gent who around 855 AD claimed to be the first person to fly: Abbas Ibn Firnas. This, of course, flies in the face of our mythological namesake, Daedalus, who accomplished this feat in Greek mythology days of lore, showing our Order what it means to be heavier-than-air!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! V/V, Bob Komlo



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MILITARY AVIATION HISTORY NOTES

The Pledge of Allegiance

The following is from an article of the same title by U.S. Senator John McCain.

As you know, Senator McCain spent five and one-half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of his confinement he was kept in solitary confinement, or in a tiny cell with two or three other prisoners. In 1971 they were moved into large rooms with as many as 30 or 40 men to a room. One of the men in McCain's room was a young Navy pilot named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17 he enlisted in the Navy and later entered Officer Training School and eventually became a Naval Flight Officer. He was shot down and captured in 1963. Mike had a deep and keen appreciation for the opportunities this country and our military provided for people who wanted to work and succeed.

Along with better treatment of prisoners in 1971, the Vietnamese allowed some to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other clothing items. Mike got himself a bamboo needle and over a period of several months produced an American flag which he sewed inside his shirt. Every afternoon before his fellow prisoners headed for a bowl of soup, Mike's shirt was hung on the wall and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

One day the guards discovered this custom, tore down the flag and beat Mike severely in front of the others for several hours. When they left, his cellmates cleaned him up as best they could. The room they lived in had a concrete floor and four naked light bulbs, one in each corner. When things quieted down, Mike seated himself in a corner under one of those dim bulbs and started sewing again. His eyes were swollen nearly shut from the beating for making the first American flag, but he began at once on another. Not because it made Mike Christian feel better, but because he knew how important it was for his cell mates to pledge their allegiance to our flag and our country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, think of the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. Remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

Ken Clark