



BMLC, INC. BULLETIN

Chairman's Corner

Holiday Season Greetings!

I hope you were able to attend the Holiday Social last month. The Geweke Family generously allowed us to use their gorgeously remodeled showroom for the evening and it was decorated for the holidays and our BMLC logo everywhere. A great time was definitely had by all. Thanks again Larry, Dale, Kellie, & Nancy!! Thanks also to Fran Peace for coordinating everything.

It takes a lot of people's efforts to make BMLC a success. I'm fortunate to have a board that is engaged and supportive. So if you have a chance, thank your board members, **Dave Vaughn, Dave Schmall, Tony Bevacqua, Russ Clark, Fran Peace, Tom Walther, Dino Corbin, Sean Gilleran, & Bill Simmons** for their hard work. And speaking of **Bill Simmons**.... Bill is leaving the board at the end of the month after serving for many many years. His support for the airman has benefited countless of people and I'd like to take this moment to thank him for his service. *You done good Bill!!*

While it happened a few months ago, it should not go without mention that we had another successful golf tournament, this one chaired by **Ron Bartoli**. *Great job Ron!* Many thanks go out to all the volunteers that helped make this event happen.

Thanks to each and every one of you for supporting BMLC this last year. Whether it was as simple as continuing to be a member or choosing to be more active, your involvement made a difference to the airmen at Beale and in our efforts to keep Beale strong.

Wishing you an abundance of special moments and wonderful memories as you celebrate the Holiday Season in your special way!!

Janie Nall, BMLC Chair

FROM BEALE AFB

As we head into the holiday season, Shawn and I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to our Airmen and this base. Although, we often wait until this time of year to share our gratitude, know that your unwavering support never goes unnoticed. In a world where uncertainty awaits, our Airmen continue to provide a level of certainty thru high-altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, 24/7, 365 days a year to national decision makers globally. You remind them they are loved, cared for and are making a difference. So today, I thank you for your service and dedication to our country.

Col Doug Lee

9th Reconnaissance Wing Commander

I would simply like to extend a warm thanks and sincere appreciation this Holiday Season to the Beale Military Liaison Council for your unwavering support and care you provide our Airmen and their families. Your commitment and dedication to the members of Beale Air Force Base are paramount to the successful accomplishment of our mission, and we look forward to another year of strengthening this phenomenal partnership. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Randy Kwiatkowski

CMSgt, 9th Reconnaissance Wing Command Chief

2015 Gathering of Eagles

Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the First Flight of the U-2 and the 25th anniversary of the SR-71 Smithsonian Speed Run, legendary SR-71 and U-2 pilots shared a few of their experiences during the 27th Annual Gathering of Eagles at the Hunter Pavilion, Lancaster, Calif. Hosted by the Flight Test Historical Foundation, the annual gala raises funds to support moving the museum to a new location outside of the restricted area of Edwards AFB.

Eagle Honorees for 2015 included **BMLC's own U-2 and SR-71 pilot, Lt. Col. Tony Bevacqua**, Retired Lockheed U-2 Chief Test Pilot Lt. Col David Kerzie, Current Lockheed U-2 Chief Test Pilot Col. Robert Rowe, Col. Louis Setter, and USAF SR-71 test pilot Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding. All are USAF retired.

Members of the panel represented the complete life span of the U-2 program – one of the most unique and longest lasting Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms in the history of US aviation. One member of the panel, Mr. Tony Bevacqua, was the only pilot in the room to have flown both platforms. He shared some great stories about how he ended up in the Air Force and the fact that everyone in the U-2 cadre knew Powers as “Frank” – it wasn't until after he was shot down and the press picked up on the fact that his girlfriend (and future wife) preferred to call him Gary that he started to go by that name.

Foundation Trustee Jens Neelsen presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Keith Jamieson for a pledge of \$50 thousand from the Glen and Lois Jamieson Family Fund to the Foundation's Capital Campaign. This pledge allowed the FTTHF to qualify for a \$300,000 matching grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Chairwoman Lisa Gray stated “I am very pleased to announce we have now raised enough money to break ground outside the gates of Edwards AFB. We have initiated the offer of gift to the United States Air Force, the first tangible step toward building the new museum.”

Congratulations to the Flight Test Historical Foundation's Gathering of Eagles, but especially to Tony Bevacqua, one of the honorees at their prestigious gala.



Honorary Commanders Update

The BMLC Honorary Commander program is alive and well. Thanks to all who have participated! We had a large turnover of host commanders at the base this summer. We have been going through the process of assessing the program and pairing new honoraries and hosts. We should have the selection process complete the first part of 2016. Stay tuned!

Editor's Muse: A Politically Correct Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
And labor conditions at the North Pole,
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear,
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked
stupid!

The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,
And millions of people were calling the Cops,
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.
Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite
frightened, and his fur trimmed red suit was called
"unenlightened".

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation, demanding
millions in over-due workers compensation.

So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,
joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion
that making a choice could cause such commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...
Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might,
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,
each group of people in every religion.
Every race, every hue,
everyone, everywhere...even you!
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."



With the holiday season upon us, the BMLC Board of Directors express their warm wishes to each and everyone of you!

A laugh, a huge grin, a tear of joy – they’re all signs of Christmas. Bring your family and friends together, savor the season and make the little moments feel magical. It helps us appreciate the love in our lives we can often take for granted. Your generosity and continued support of BMLC in making a difference for Beale is a reminder of the Christmas spirit year-round. May God fill your heart and home with many blessings this holiday season.

Dave Schmall, BMLC Vice Chair



A very special thank you to all those who serve and support Beale Air Force Base! I want to wish all of you Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Dave Vaughn, BMLC Treasurer



As we pause to celebrate the season, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of our members for your friendship and support. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our Beale community and to share in the excitement and accomplishments of this great organization. The investments we make to support our airmen go beyond the gates at Beale. Your generosity and spirit-of-giving transcends far into neighboring counties where support for Beale is genuinely contagious. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the BMLC family. May the magic of Christmas fill your heart and be with you throughout the New Year. All my best!

Fran Peace, BMLC Secretary



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BMLC, INC.

May you and yours have the spirit of Christmas which is peace, the gladness of Christmas which is hope, and the heart of Christmas which is love.

Tony Bevacqua, BMLC Board Member



I encourage everyone to think about and pray for our troops serving in combat areas around the world. It is a tough time to be away from family. I spent 2 consecutive Christmas / New Years holidays in Da Nang, Vietnam. I can tell you, ALL CONTACT from the home area is appreciated.

Thus, please send your well wishes to any of our forward area troops, you may know this holiday season. Let them know that their service is appreciated!

Russ Clark, BMLC Board Member



Happy holidays to each of you! May you enjoy this precious season with family and friends in mind. Please think of and appreciate the many sacrifices our armed forces make each and every day and keep them in your prayers that they will be kept out of harm's way.

Tom Walther, BMLC Board Member



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new members for joining with BMLC in our efforts to support our men, women, and their families at Beale AFB. We simply could not do the things we do without your support and financial contributions. BMLC is often referred to as the best organization of this type serving our military by Air Force leadership. We strive to push the limits and think outside of the box when it comes to assisting Team Beale.

The impact that BMLC has at Beale is quite amazing and deeply appreciated by the troops. I hope that as we move into 2016, you take the opportunity to join us at some of our social events with Team Beale, as they look forward to showing their appreciation for our support. I also encourage you to introduce your friends to BMLC and encourage them to join us.

Thank you once again for your generous support of BMLC, and we look forward to seeing you in 2016. Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Dino Corbin, BMLC Board Member



Warm holiday wishes to my extended BMLC family. It is an honor working with you to support the airmen at Beale. May the gifts of love, health, peace, and prosperity be yours this joyous season and in the coming year.

Sean Gilleran, BMLC Board Member



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