

## **SIXTEEN OSU AIR FORCE GENERAL OFFICER ALUMNI!**

We all know that OSU provides an excellent education. One measure of what a great job the university does is the number of highly successful alumni.

As near as can be determined, there are a total of 16 OSU alumni who have served/are serving as general officers in the Air Force.

They are quite a diverse group of individuals and include the pilot of the 4<sup>th</sup> B-25 to fly off of the USS Hornet, an advisor on the United States Government Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) from 1969-73, the Commander of Alaskan Air Command, a POW from NVN and the OSU school record holder in the 110-meter high hurdles in 1971.

A distinguished group of highly motivated individuals in whom we all can take a great deal of pride!

### **Our 16 OSU ROTC general officer alums:**

**Lt. Gen. Robert Ruegg '39**, at 95, was our most senior alumnus, in both age and rank. General Ruegg was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (2<sup>nd</sup> only to the Medal of Honor) for extraordinary heroism in action as a Lieutenant & acting Squadron commander near Port Moresby, New Guinea. General Ruegg retired from the Air Force as Commander, Alaskan Command. He was an avid sports fan, following both Beaver football and golf tournaments. General Ruegg died in 2009.



**Lt. Gen. Robert Ruegg**

**Lt. Gen. Royal Allison (42)** was assistant to the chairman, JCS, for Strategic Arms Negotiations. From 1969 through 1973, General Allison was the principal military advisor on the United States Government Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). General Allison died 31 Oct 1995.



**Lt. Gen. Royal Allison**

**Maj. Gen. A. Kent Davidson '57** was a primary crewmember on the YC-14 and YC-15 during the flight-test program and the 1976 Farnborough and 1977 Paris air shows. He also flew the YC-15 during its record-breaking non-stop air-refueled flight from Long Beach, Calif., to Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall, England, in 1976. His work on the YC-15 led to the highly successful C-17 transport program. General Davidson was named to the OSU Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999.



**Maj. Gen. A. Kent Davidson**

**Maj. Gen. Donald Rigg '56**, is fluent in Portuguese and was assigned to Lajes Field, Azores, in May 1984 as Commander of the U.S. Forces, Azores, and Commander of the 1605th Military Airlift Support Wing. In 1992, General Rigg retired as Deputy Commander, 6<sup>th</sup> Allied Tactical Air Force, Turkey.

**Maj. Gen. Lewis Parker (29)** On his second combat mission with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Feb, 1944, General Parker was shot down, bailed out and captured 40 miles south of Bremen, Germany. He was imprisoned at Sagan, Southeast of Berlin, for 10 months, transferred to Moosburg, Northeast of Munich, released on April 29, 1945 and returned to the United States. General Parker died 26 Aug 1995.

**Maj. Gen. Don Darrow (33)** General Darrow was named senior staff officer and advisor to the Air Force delegate of the United Nations Armistice Delegation at the beginning of the Korean Armistice negotiations. He served with the armistice delegation for 13 months and negotiated the final wording of the Korean Armistice document with the Korean and Chinese officers. General Darrow died November 20, 1988.



**Maj. Gen. Don Darrow**

**Brig. Gen. Randy Kee '85**, was Vice Commander of Vice Commander, 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. General Kee earned his navigator wings in 1986 at Mather AFB, CA and flew B-52's from 1986 – 1989. He then entered pilot training and earned his pilots wings in 1990 at Vance AFB, OK. He has a total of more than 4,300 hours, including 330 combat hours. General Kee has flown the following aircraft: B-52, C-21A, C-37A, C-130E, C-130H and KC-135R/T.



**Brig Gen Randy Kee '85**

**Brig. Gen. Al Guidotti '56**, completed his Air Force career as Vice Commander of 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force and, upon retiring from the Air Force, was an executive with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing for more than 12 years. General Guidotti was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year for Huntington Beach, California in 2007. He played three years varsity baseball at OSU and remains a dedicated fan, and is currently serving on the OSU Alumni Association Board.



**Brig. Gen. Al Guidotti**

**Brig. Gen. Jim Sehorn, '63**, who was shot down over North Vietnam, spent 63 months as a POW. After retirement from the Air Force, General Sehorn served as the Inspector General for the State of Georgia.



**Brig. Gen. Jim Sehorn**

**Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson '71** General Leon A. Johnson was the mobilization assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs in the Pentagon. He has commanded a Reserve fighter squadron and a fighter group, been a vice wing commander and the vice commander of 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force. In his civilian career, he is the Airbus Fleet Manager at the United Parcel Service Airline. General Johnson is also our fastest alum, having set the OSU school record in the 110-meter high hurdles in 1971.



**Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson**



**Brig Gen Johnson on left, taking the baton handoff from teammate in relay.**

**Brig. Gen. Roger Binder '75**, is Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, USAFE, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. General Binder has commanded both a fighter squadron and an operations group, and served as vice commander at both the wing and numbered air force levels. In his civilian career, he is a First Officer at American Airlines, flying the Boeing 777 on international routes.



**Brig. Gen. Roger Binder**

**Brig. Gen. Thomas Kennedy (43)** In May 1963, General Kennedy went to SEA as commander of the 315<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, which was responsible for airlift operations including the operation of aerial ports. He established the airlift system and procedures used for the movement of cargo and personnel throughout SEA, supervised the development of the aerial port structure and developed the procedure for transport aircraft night flare support (Blind Bat) of strike fighter operations. General Kennedy died 4 Nov 1999.



**Brig. Gen. Thomas Kennedy**

**Brig. Gen. Everett Holstrom (40)** General Holstrom volunteered for a highly classified mission, which resulted in his piloting a B-25, as a Lieutenant, off the flight deck of the USS Hornet as a member of Jimmy Doolittle's attack on Japan. The B-25 that General Holstrom flew on 18 April 1942 was the fourth bomber off

the Hornet. He was forced to bail out in China, after dropping his payload on Tokyo. There, at Kunming, he assumed command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron from early 1942 until the end of 1943. General Holstrom died 2 Dec 2000.



**Brig. Gen. Everett Holstrom, on far left with crew in front of his B-25.**

**Brig. Gen. Norman Callish (34)** General Callish was our “Fast Burner,” advancing from 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant to full colonel in under three years. He was promoted to captain in 1941 and rose through the ranks of both major and lieutenant colonel in 1942. During the same year he became the assistant chief of staff, A-3, for the Western Flying Training Command and in 1943 he received his promotion to full colonel. General Callish died in 1971.



**Brig. Gen. Norman Callish**

**Brig. Gen Jack Gibbs (39)** General Gibbs was our “Spook.” Upon graduation from Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) in 1953, he served three years with the 1009<sup>th</sup> Special Weapons Squadron and was then



assigned to the 1007<sup>th</sup> Air Intelligence Service Group, Washington, D.C. General Gibbs work with the 1007<sup>th</sup> Air Intelligence Service Group earned him the Legion of Merit in 1958. General Gibbs died in 2000.

**Brig. Gen. Thomas Hayes (37)** General Hayes was our “Ace.” He shot down eight and one-half German planes in Europe. After his transfer to the Pacific, he was shot down by a Japanese Zero over Bali. He went on to score two Japanese kills for a total of 10 and one-half kills. He was deputy commander of the 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, which was credited with the highest kill ratio for the U.S. Army Air Forces in Europe. The 357<sup>th</sup> produced 42 aces and had more victories against German planes than any other unit. General Hayes died in 2008.



**Brig. Gen. Thomas Hayes holds up five fingers to signify his fifth kill and advancement to “ace.”**

### **Some interesting facts about our General Officers:**

Both **Generals Ruegg '39** and **Sehorn '63**, majored in Forestry at OSU.

Both **Generals Guidotti '56**, and **Rigg '56**, were classmates at OSU, thus providing the Class of 56 the distinction of having the largest percentage of General Officers as alumni in the history of AFROTC at OSU. This resulted in the Class of '56 also being known as “the class of stars!”

### **A note about the year of graduation:**

Some of our general officer alumni do not have their year of graduation noted. This is because a surprisingly large number of them were not college graduates.

Due to the high demand for pilots prior to and during World War II, the Army Air Corps required all candidates for the Aviation Cadet Program have just two years of college prior to entering the program. Upon award of their wings, they were commissioned as Lieutenants in the Army Air Corps.

The question arises, “If these general officers did not graduate from OSU, are they alumni?”

In short, the answer is, “Yes.”

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) defines an alum as someone who has successfully completed one semester at a college/university.

Because the OSU academic year equals three terms, the OSU standard for an alum is two terms.

Those alumni listed above who graduated from OSU are indicated with the year of graduation, as in '42. Those who completed the required amount of school and joined the service as an aviation cadet are indicated with the year they were awarded their pilots wings and commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants in parentheses, as in (42).