



Battlefield Cross in Bronze dedicated in Palmdale

by Dennis Anderson
special to Aerotech News

PALMDALE, Calif.—In a solemn ceremony held in 100-degree-plus summer heat, veterans, their friends, families and city leaders gathered for the unveiling of a monument to Antelope Valley troops killed in combat, what is known as the Battlefield Cross.

The memorial is seated at the base of the flagpole that flies the enormous American flag in Poncitlan Square, the community park a short distance from Palmdale City Hall.

The design of the memorial is simple, consisting of a pair of bronze combat boots that form the base, with a combat infantry rifle – the long-serving M-16 — topped by a bronze helmet with symbolic “dog tag” soldier’s identification suspended beneath the helmet.

The inscription at the base reads “In Honor of the Fallen Military Heroes of the Antelope Valley.”

Knowledge about the identities of those heroes varies depending on personal attachments to the history of those from the Antelope Valley who

served, and were killed, serving in the nation’s armed forces.

One of the Valley’s best known memorials is the Antelope Valley Mobile Vietnam Memorial, the half-scale tribute wall that honors the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., with names of the more than 58,000 Americans killed in Vietnam.

One listing is the “AV 76,” the names of 76 young men from the Antelope Valley whose names are on the Vietnam Memorial, and the Antelope Valley memorial known simply as “The AV Wall.” Special Memorial Day editions of a local newspaper published a Memorial front page with names and photographs of the more than 15 local Americans who were killed fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For many years, since the 2009 opening of the AV Wall, the community-based organization that supports it has placed a Battlefield Cross consisting of Vietnam War boots, helmet, and M-16 at center near the base of the monument.

On July 27, 2023, about 100 military supporters joined City Council members who lifted the cover on the

Battlefield Cross.

Mayor Laura Bettencourt welcomed Marine veteran Tony Tortolano who was recently named the city’s “Veteran Of The Year” to deliver remarks at dedication of the monument.

The custom of the Battlefield Cross, Tortolano said, “Is believed to have originated around the time of the Civil War. In its day, a hasty marker near where the soldier fell. In more recent conflicts, since the Korean War, the mortal remains of troops have been sent back to the United States for interment at cemeteries, but the Battlefield Cross is a symbolic component of military ceremonies.

“It is a symbol of loss and mourning,” Tortolano said. Addressing the debt owed to those who could not attend because of their death in service, he said, “Thank you for your incredible service. May we never forget the sacrifice of those killed serving their country.”

State Assemblyman Tom Lackey, a former city council member who spoke briefly, said, “Their sacrifice is permanent. They no longer can associate with their families. And for



Photograph by Dennis Anderson

The Battlefield Cross monument at Poncitlan Square, Palmdale, Calif.



Photograph by Dennis Anderson

Palmdale’s Veteran Of The Year Tony Tortolano speaks at unveiling of Battlefield Cross monument.

those who survived, many survive with many challenges.” He added, “We can’t do enough to recognize the service of veterans.”

Carl Hernandez, a leader with American Legion Post 348 and a Vietnam War veteran, said, “Seven of my friends I went to high school with are on that ‘AV Wall,’ and the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

“This symbol honors the many who sacrificed their lives for this country,” Hernandez said.

The bronze monument, built with funds from Measure AV, a voter-passed initiative, was designed with participation from area veterans’

groups that included the American Legion, Post 348, VFW Posts 3000 and 3552, Coffee4Vets, the AV Veterans Community Action Coalition, Vets4Veterans and Point Man Antelope Valley, the non-profit that serves as guardians of the AV Wall.

Editor’s note: Dennis Anderson is a licensed clinical social worker at High Desert Medical Group. An Army veteran who deployed to Iraq as embedded journalist with California National Guard, he serves as Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s appointee on the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission.



Foundation unveils three new awards

The Flight Test Historical Foundation recently announced three new awards that have been designated to honor individuals and teams who have made unparalleled and lasting contributions to advance innovation in aerospace.

The following three awards will be presented in 2024, and will join the Foundation's legacy Eagle and General Robert Cardenas Excellence in Aviation awards:

- Robert Hoover Lifetime Achievement "Feather" Award
- Carol Odgers Flight Test History Medal
- General Al Boyd "Falcon" Award



and artifacts of flight test history. The Carol Odgers Flight Test History Medal is open to anyone who has made significant contributions to the collection and documentation of the history of flight test.

The General Al Boyd "Falcon" Award is named after the first commander of the Air Force Test Center and will be given for exceptional support to flight test programs.

The recipient(s) will have made significant contributions to the success of a flight test activity, or to the advancement of flight test as a profession. The award considers the individual or team's initiative, persistence, leadership, and spirit of cooperation.

"The new awards pay tribute to aerospace legends who had a passion for the Flight Test Historical Foundation, Edwards Flight Test Center, and the Aerospace Valley," said Foundation Chairman Art Thompson. "The awards honor these giants and recognize their achievements to inspire others who follow in their footsteps."

The Foundation's awards committee will partner with the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Society of Flight Test Engineers, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and additional aviation organizations in identifying and nominating award recipients. The awards recognize specific achievements that have pushed the envelope and made a lasting contribution.

The Robert Hoover Lifetime Aviation Achievement "Feather" Award will be bestowed on individuals who have made significant individual contributions to the art and science of testing aerospace vehicles.

The nominee will have a minimum of 30 years of involvement in the testing of aerospace vehicles, have worked on projects of significant importance to society where they made specific technical innovations or provided leadership, have contributed to the education and safety of the flight test community, and have a record of providing outreach and education about aerospace to the greater community.

The Carol Odgers Flight Test History Medal is named in honor of Carol Odgers who was one of the founders of the Flight Test Historical Foundation. It will be awarded by the foundation in recognition of service to the aerospace community through efforts to collect and document the stories

The Foundation's newly renamed General Robert Cardenas Excellence in Aviation/Aerospace Award recognizes individuals and organizations who have made advancements in the breadth and depth of the safe and effective application of aerospace vehicles in all realms of space and aviation.

The recipient(s) will have contributed to the application of aerospace vehicles in new and unique areas, made significant contributions to the betterment of humanity through the application of aerospace vehicles, and demonstrated Initiative, persistence, leadership, strength of character, and a spirit of cooperation.

These awards join the Foundation's Eagle Award, which, for more than 40 years, has recognized trailblazers in flight test. The award is presented at the foundation's annual Gathering of Eagles fundraiser and dinner, which provides an avenue for camaraderie, education, and an opportunity to memorialize the history of flight test programs. The event is also a fundraiser for the Air Force Flight Test Museum at Edwards Air Force Base, university scholarships, and a variety of STEM education programs.

The 2023 Gathering of Eagles is scheduled for Nov. 11 from 5-10 p.m., at the Eliopoulos Hellenic Center in Lancaster.

The theme of this year's gathering is "First Flights over the Aerospace Valley," and features Jeff Knowles (F-35C), Tom Morgenfeld (X-35), Dough Shane (ARES), Pete Siebold (White Knight Two), Evan Thomas (Stratolaunch), and Jennifer Uchida (eCaravan). Bill "Evil" Gray will serve as master of ceremonies.

Tickets information will be available soon.

PACT Act: Claims received by Aug. 9 will be eligible for 12 months backdated compensation



to file a claim — or submit their intent to file a claim — for PACT Act-related benefits now. Most Veterans who do so before Aug. 10 will have their benefits, if granted, backdated to Aug. 10, 2022, the day that President Biden signed the bill into law.

"Thanks to President Biden, the millions of veterans who fought our wars for the past 30 years — who breathed in debris from sandstorms, fumes from burning trash, and more while overseas — are now taken care of for the conditions that followed them home from war," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We're proud that 500,000-plus veterans and survivors have applied for their hard-earned benefits to date, but we won't rest until every veteran and every survivor gets the VA health care and benefits they deserve."

For Vietnam-era veterans

Vietnam-era Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods are eligible to apply for enrollment beginning now:

- Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between Jan. 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976
- Laos between Dec. 1, 1965, and Sept. 30, 1969
- Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial

waters) between Jan. 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980

- Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) between Jan. 1, 1972, and Sept. 30, 1977

For Gulf War-era veterans

Beginning Oct. 1, 2022, Gulf War-era veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after the Persian Gulf War may be eligible to enroll in VA health care.

This also includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the following awards or recognitions:

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Service Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Campaign Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Any other combat theater award established by Federal statute or Executive Order

For Post-9/11 veterans

Post-9/11 Veterans discharged before Oct. 1, 2013, can enroll in VA health care during a special 1-year enrollment period between Oct. 1, 2022, and Sept. 30, 2023. To be eligible, one of the following must be true:

- They served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or
- They served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998.

For more information on the PACT Act, visit www.va.gov/PACT.

Readers' Services

How to contact
Aerotech News and Review
 Email: editor@aerotechnews.com
 Phone: 661-945-5634
 Fax: 661-723-7757
 Website: www.aerotechnews.com

Advertising Corporate Headquarters:
 877-247-9288
 Email: sbueltel@aerotechnews.com

Subscriber Services
 Subscriptions to
 Aerotech News and Review
 are \$59 for six months
 or \$89 for one year.
 For more information, contact
 the subscription
 department at: 661-945-5634

Story ideas, letters, editorials
 Please send all letters and editorials
 to Stuart A. Ibberson, Editor,
 at editor@aerotechnews.com.

Web Site
 Access the Aerotech News and Review
 web site at www.aerotechnews.com

Submissions for upcoming events,
 air shows and museums should be
 emailed to editor@aerotechnews.com.

For questions concerning the web site,
 contact the webmaster at
webmaster@aerotechnews.com.

Where you can get
Aerotech News and Review
 For information on
 Aerotech distribution,
 call 661-945-5634 or visit
www.aerotechnews.com/distribution.

Aerotech News and Review is published
 the first Friday of the month, serving
 the aerospace and defense
 industry of Southern California,
 Nevada and Arizona.

News and ad copy deadline is noon on
 the Tuesday prior to publication. The
 publisher assumes no responsibility
 for error in ads other than space used.
 Your comments are welcomed and
 encouraged. Write to the address below.

- Publisher Paul Kinison
- Business Manager Lisa Kinison
- Editor Stuart Ibberson
- National Advertising
 Manager Paul Kinison

Aerotech News and Review
 email: editor@aerotechnews.com
 Visit our web site at
www.aerotechnews.com

Board votes to retire Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall

The AV Wall Board voted recently to retire the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall following the November 2025 display in Palmdale.

“The AV Wall Board has been discussing retiring our memorial for some time and with the 50th Vietnam War Commemorative program coming to an end in 2025, there was no doubt that it is the best time to retire The AV Wall,” said Mike Bertell, president of The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall. “It will be a bittersweet ending for all of us having spent 18 years of planning, organizing, and watching our baby go on display across Southern California.

“There are endless memories that will stay with the crew and volunteers for the rest of our lives. We have made many friends,” Bertell continued. “There have been tears shed and plenty of joy. We have met people from many cities; people who would never have come into our lives on a normal basis. I know we have touched the hearts of hundreds of families. We have laughed (at times making fun of each other) and we have been held together by the love of a dream.”

The current schedule calls for the Wall to be on display Nov. 7-12, 2023, at Westpark Elementary School in Rosamond. Volunteer information will be available in August with the Mandatory

Volunteer Training scheduled in October.

Other dates confirmed are:

May 24-27, 2024: Smith Park in Pico Rivera

May 23-26, 2025: Rancho Tapo Community Park in Simi Valley

November 25: Palmdale Amphitheater

Communities in Southern California who would like to host The AV Wall in November 2024 can submit their request at <https://avwall.org/about/the-av-wall/>

“We do not know what the future is for the AV Wall at this time,” said Bertell. “There have been many suggestions and the board will discuss our options in depth over the next two years. In our hearts we would like to see the AV Wall go on forever, but those of us who have been traveling from city to city since its inception are tired. Leaving home for five days and making a long drive back after packing it all up has taken a toll on us.

“We are a family now and will be getting together and partying like old people do. Plus, we still have the drive to help veterans in need,” Bertell said. “That will go on as long as there are soldiers. It is what gives us our moti-



Courtesy photographs

vation.”

The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall is a half-scale mobile replica of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

It was created by and for the Antelope Valley (hence the nickname “The AV Wall”). The AV Wall is cared for and displayed by a 100 percent volun-

teer workforce. Point Man Antelope Valley (a nonprofit veteran ministry group) is the Guardian of The AV Wall.

Point Man Antelope Valley is an Outpost of Point Man International Ministries, a non-denominational, evangelistic, mission-oriented, faith ministry committed to facilitating healing and restoration of the spiritual,

emotional and physical needs of veterans and their families.

Weekly veteran to veteran meetings allows military veterans of all ages to meet in a safe environment to share stories and help each other heal. Weekly meetings are held at 6 p.m., Tuesdays in the Antelope Valley College Veterans Center.

VFW Post 3000 honors Blue Star Mothers

by Dennis Anderson
special to Aerotech News

For many of the early years of the war and strife-torn early 21st century, mothers who consoled other mothers met by chance at military funerals for troops killed in the wars that followed the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

That was how it went for Colleen Crowley-Goodman. She had a son in the Air Force, so when there was a funeral for a local soldier, Ryan Clark, she attended. She met Clark’s grieving mother.

She also encountered for the first time the local chapter of a national organization of military family members, the Blue Star Mothers. That was in 2006 and she has been participating with them ever since, even after her son left the Air Force after overseas deployments and eight years of honorable service.

After his departure from the active Air Force, “He presented me with his uniform, with all the medals on it, and said, ‘This is yours Mom, for all the years you served with me.’”

That is most often how close the bond is between adult children in service and the mothers that send them off to serve.

You may have seen these women at the Antelope Valley Fair, sitting at table with patriotic merchandise for sale at prices both modest and fair. They are fundraising for the Blue Star Mothers.

Also, they can be found on the last Friday of the month at Vince’s Pasta and Pizza on Avenue L at the portal to Quartz Hill, or on a Saturday morning in front of Smart and Final, hoping people will put something in the jar, or buy something for the troops serving at home and abroad.

None of the fundraising is for them. It is for the sons and daughters on active service, and the Blue Star Mothers of the Antelope Valley Chapter 14 are their mothers, wherever those sons and daughters might be serving worldwide.

This past week, at Halley-Olsen-Murphy, a Lancaster memorial services home that has a large meeting space, the war veterans of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3000 hosted a luncheon to honor the Blue Star Mothers of the Antelope Valley. They were also supported by the memorial home’s Managing Director, Mark Stanfield, and luncheon support from Firehouse Subs. That’s how it works in a veteran-friendly community.

The Blue Star Mothers of the Antelope Valley have been serving, and sharing together, for 18 years, noted Kathleen Crowley-Staats, mother of a Marine and a Navy sailor. Along with her sister, Colleen Goodman, the two have held most of the board posts in the small but mighty organization.



Photograph by Dennis Anderson

The Blue Star Mothers of the Antelope Valley are honored by VFW Post 3000. Seated are President Jessica Mellick (left) and Past President Kathleen Crowley-Staats.

“I actually became a Blue Star Mother the day my son Jason graduated boot camp in the Air Force, and I held his face in my hands, and said ‘You’re not my baby any more,’” Colleen Goodman said.

Jessica Mellick, current Chapter 14 president, recalled moving to the Antelope Valley in 2017 with teenaged sons. The three of them were united in their enchantment with “Star Wars,” and that meant heading out to the Los Angeles County Air Show in 2019 to see what real warrior pilots looked like.

At the air show, one of the sons started talking with pilots and within a short time was in the Air Force recruiter’s office.

“It happened so fast,” Mellick said. “I wasn’t prepared. I teared up,” she said, tearing up. “I also had never felt such pride.”

Through her tears, which did not relent, she found the Blue Star Mothers organization and transformed her maternal anguish into action. “It was a packing party,” she said.

The group raises funds to send out hundreds of packages, at least twice a year. The packages contain those extra somethings, cookies, toiletries, snacks, the things that make being away from home seem not so far away.

Additionally, Mellick said the group is raising funds to pay for headstones at historic Lancaster Cemetery, where about 70 veterans of wars ranging from World War I through the Korean War are

without decoration. The group hopes to provide the cemetery with one or two headstones a year for the veterans’ graves that need them.

Ron Guyadeen, commanding the Honor Guard of VFW 3000 commended his battle sister, Gulf War sailor Laura Anners Smith, for helping organize the event to recognize a group that does nothing for the recognition, but does everything for the sons and daughters in service. The Honor Guard presented arms and saluted the group being recognized.

The VFW Honor Guard, in ceremonial uniform, presented the colors and saluted the mothers for their service.

As Honor Guard commander, Guyadeen also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to another veterans’ advocate and Air Force mother, Nayda Fugee, and her husband, Air Force veteran Ed Fugee. Guyadeen recognized the couple for all the assistance provided for organizing a Veterans Outreach event at Post 3000 last year. The event, he said, served 200 veterans in receiving the “compensation, entitlements and benefits they earned through service to the nation.”

Information about the group and when it meets can be found on Facebook at Antelope Valley Blue Star Mothers Chapter 14.

Editor’s note: Dennis Anderson is a licensed clinical social worker at High Desert Medical Group who deployed with National Guard to Iraq to cover the war for Editor & Publisher magazine and regional press. An Army paratrooper veteran, he serves as Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s appointee on the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission.



Photograph by Dennis Anderson

The VFW Post 3000 Honor Guard salutes the Blue Star Mothers of the Antelope Valley.

Armstrong awards scholarship to Quartz Hill student

by Jay Levine
NASA Armstrong

The NASA Armstrong Employee Exchange Council presented the 2023 Harold W. Walker Memorial Scholarship Award to Samantha Redifer on July 26, 2023.

Redifer is a 2023 graduate of Quartz Hill High School in Lancaster, Calif., who plans to major this fall in computer engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles. She earned a 4.0 grade-point average — a weighted GPA of 5.2 — and ranked eighth academically out of a class of 727 students.

The scholarship provides \$2,000 per year for up to four years for attendance at a four-year college or university, provided the recipient maintains a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. Applicants for the annual scholarship must be high school seniors with a parent working at NASA Armstrong.

In addition, Redifer was one of the first from NASA Armstrong selected for the \$2,000 a year, for up to \$8,000, from the NASA College Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded to NASA employee dependents planning to pursue a science, technology, engineering, or math degree.

Redifer is the daughter of Matthew Redifer, who is the center's X-59 aircraft deputy program manager for

integration, and Saynne Redifer, of Palmdale, Calif.

Samantha Redifer posed with the Space Shuttle Endeavour on Sept. 21, 2012, on its host NASA 747 at NASA Armstrong during its stop at the center during its last flight. It was that event that inspired the then elementary school student's engineering interest. Her father and generations of family engineers provide motivation and advice — do well in school, study hard, and make career and personal connections.

"I want to help guide our planet towards a sustainable future, maybe by working on making future transportation more environmentally friendly," she said. "Engineers can change the world, and I aim to become one of those engineers."

She is a valedictorian, an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, a member of the National Honor Society, and earned California Scholarship Federation recognition. Redifer qualified and competed in California Interscholastic Federation golf events with her high school team for three years and was a key fundraiser. She is also involved in the school's robotics team and related activities.

"Even when she was in elementary school she was involved in science, engineering, and robotics," said Saynne Redifer.

As a member of the school's American Cancer Society Club, she helped

raise funds to battle the disease. She volunteered to help with food distribution at the South Antelope Valley Emergency Services in Palmdale during summers, and for the Quartz Hill Chamber of Commerce Food Pantry she helped sort donations and deliver meals.

Matthew Redifer summed up one of his daughter's best qualities: "She has tenacity. If there is a problem she can't solve, or something she doesn't

understand, she will put all of her effort into figuring it out."

The 2023 NASA Armstrong Exchange Scholarship is named for Walker, who was chief of the center's Aerodynamics Branch and was associated with the rocket-powered X-15 aircraft, the supersonic XB-70 experimental plane, lifting body aircraft, the supercritical wing plane, and the oblique wing aircraft.

The Exchange scholarships are

named for five former NASA Armstrong employees, with honorees selected on a rotating basis. In addition to Walker, the other four people are Thomas Finch, a center engineer who specialized in stability and control; Joseph Vensel, a former director of Flight Operations; Joseph Walker, a chief test pilot; and John Russell, who led the rocket propulsion group. Scholarship funds are raised from council activities.



NASA photograph by Steve Freeman

The Employee Exchange Council at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif., recently awarded its 2023 scholarship to Samantha Redifer. NASA Armstrong Center Director Brad Flick presented Redifer with the 2023 Harold W. Walker Memorial Scholarship Award on July 26. From left are Flick, Redifer, Matt and Saynne Redifer, and Irene and Tim Htut.

WELCOME HOME

CANYON CREEK APARTMENTS

Our apartments offer spacious interiors with ceramic tile counter tops in the kitchen, mirrored closet doors in bedrooms and beautiful landscaping around the complex. Washer/dryer hookups in select units and central air and heat. Close to schools and shopping.

38121 25th Street East • Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 402-9373 • www.canyoncreekpalmdale.com

Managing Partner
California's Custom Pool & Spa Builder

661-273-7231 **HAYWARD**
We Build Better.

www.alanjsonpools.com

Serious study, brain breaks help PRIME students for STEM success

by Harley Huntington
Edwards AFB, Calif.

The Edwards Air Force Base's Prioritizing Relevance and Interest in Mathematic Experiences outreach program wrapped up yet another year of serious study interspersed with fun aimed at spurring students to success in the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

PRIME, a four-week summer curriculum, is specially designed to empower incoming freshmen by strengthening their math skills and showcasing the vast array of STEM-related career opportunities available in aerospace and aviation in the Antelope Valley. During the program, the students immerse themselves in hours of math instruction and lectures, solidifying their foundation in various STEM-relevant principles.

Although the instruction portion of class takes up most of the day, the teachers leading the program are mindful of burnout potential and work to strike a balance, allowing for lighter classroom moments. PRIME instructor Anna-Marie Leon calls these moments brain breaks. Leon said after periods of intense lectures they "will change it up and do a share or a group activity that gives the students an opportunity to reset."

"These moments of levity help promote teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills — essential traits for success not just in STEM careers but also in life," Leon, said.

Matthew Winheim, STEM and Mathematics Educator for the Palmdale School District and PRIME mentor, expressed his enthusiasm for the program.

"This program affords students an opportunity to see and experience career fields where mathematical literacy and problem-solving skills are critical," Winheim said. "We aren't just telling them they'll use math in the future; we're showing them how professionals in our Aerospace Valley are using it right now. Students learn that there is no such thing as a math mind, and with practice, they can excel at it. That's when it becomes really exciting."

The PRIME program is completely voluntary. The 28 students enrolled in the class had to apply for their slot, demonstrating their eagerness to participate. While their peers might be indulging in typical summer break activities, PRIME students approach the break with a different perspective and a passion for learning, said both teachers and students.

"I know if I were at home I'd just be doing nothing," Paul Toledo-Barajas, PRIME student said. "I wanted to come here and put my brain to work and also work on my future."

"Math is the core essence of all the sciences," Leon added. "The reason why we focus on math is because research shows that less than one percent



Air Force photograph by Harley Huntington

Matthew Winheim, Palmdale School District STEM and mathematics educator, teaches a lesson to students in the PRIME program. The voluntary STEM program has dozens of students apply and enroll in the class, demonstrating their eagerness to participate.

of the student population pursues a math degree. This is very concerning. When interviewing students, we learned that they do not care for math. They are afraid of it, and they do not understand how it is used in real life. This is why PRIME was developed — to address these core issues. When students visit Edwards and meet our STEM professionals in the Center of the Aerospace Testing Universe they can clearly see how math is being used every day."

As Edwards continues its efforts in STEM outreach, the PRIME initiative remains a successful example of the impact that dedicated educators and innovative programs can have on shaping the future of young minds, PRIME instructors said. The base looks forward to welcoming today's Edwards students as tomorrow's STEM professionals.



Air Force screenshot

Paul Toledo-Barajas, PRIME student



MORE than you might think



Auto



Home



Life



Banking



Credit Cards

You might know USAA for our awesome insurance for your car, home and other belongings. But we also have banking and other perks, all for the military community and their eligible family members.

Find out more today at usaa.com



Investments/Insurance: Not a Deposit • Not FDIC Insured • Not Bank Issued, Guaranteed or Underwritten • May Lose Value
Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. To join USAA, separated military personnel must have received a discharge type of Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may join USAA. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association (USAA), USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, Texas; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe) and is available only to persons eligible for property and casualty group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Coverages subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Life insurance and annuities provided by USAA Life Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX and in New York by USAA Life Insurance Company of New York, Highland Falls, NY. All insurance products are subject to state availability, issue limitations and contractual terms and conditions. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Credit cards are issued by USAA Savings Bank and serviced by USAA Federal Savings Bank. Other bank products are provided by USAA Federal Savings Bank. Both banks are Member FDIC. All credit cards subject to approval. No Department of Defense or government agency endorsement. © 2023 USAA. 292572-0423

Thankful for the great memories!

by Cathy Hansen
special to Aerotech News

I am easily diverted when I start looking at some of the old photographs on my computer and realize that my husband Al and I shared a wonderful life together meeting so many famous people in the aerospace community.

This photo was taken of my husband, Al Hansen, talking with former NASA test pilot Bill Dana under the wing of White Knight (Scaled Composites Model 318) carrier aircraft, in April 2003 when SpaceShipOne and White Knight were first presented to the media.

Al and I enjoy the community of aerospace pilots and engineers who seem to gravitate to Mojave Air and Spaceport.

A California native, William

pilots Joe Walker, Neil Armstrong, William J. "Pete" Knight and Bruce Peterson, the "real" six-million dollar man!

His first assignments included development of a rudimentary performance simulator for the X-15 rocket plane and stability and control research involving the F-107A fighter prototype. In September 1959, he transferred to the Flight Operations Branch as a research pilot. Over the next three decades he flew a variety of aircraft, including the rocket powered X-15 and wingless lifting bodies.

He flew the X-15 16 times, reaching a top speed of 3,897 mph and a peak altitude of 310,000 feet, almost 59 miles high. He flew the X-15's last flight of the program and achieved an altitude above 300,000 feet.

When asked what it is like to fly over 300,000 feet, Dana replied, "It's a beautiful view. You're in dark sky. The atmosphere appears as a bright blue ring, just like you see in the movies. It's peaceful. It's quiet. There's no gravity so your heart isn't working as hard to move the blood, so it's kind of relaxing."

He was then assigned to fly the HL-10, M2-F3, and X-24B lifting bodies to validate engineers' assertions that such vehicles could be precisely controlled during approach and landing, and providing NASA with the confidence needed to proceed with designs for the Space Shuttle orbiter.

Later he was a project pilot on the F-15 HiDEC (Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control) research program, the Advanced Fighter Technology Integration/F-16 aircraft and the F-18 High Angle of Attack program.

Officially, Dana retired from NASA's Dryden (now Armstrong) Research Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., in 1998 as chief engineer, but he was often there after retirement as a consultant and expert specialist.

Dana was born in Pasadena, Calif., on Nov. 3, 1930, but was raised in Bakersfield, Calif. Ever supportive of young people, Dana said, "An aeronautical career affects the



Courtesy photograph

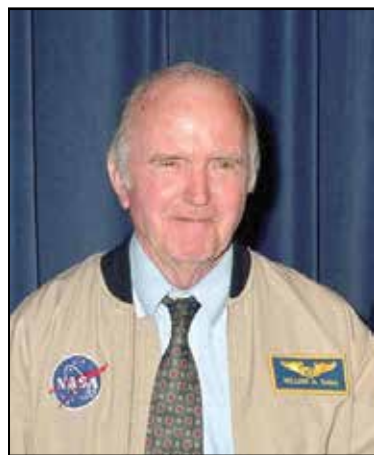
Al Hansen and Bill Dana.

world in which we live by making our country safer and making our world smaller. I would recommend an aeronautical career to a young

person because they can make a difference."

Dana passed away in 2014 after a lengthy illness. I am ever thankful

for the opportunities of meeting and knowing so many wonderful aviation greats like Bill Dana. Heaven welcomed Bill Dana!



NASA photograph

Retired NASA research test pilot Bill Dana was all smiles when he was awarded civilian astronaut wings during a 2005 ceremony for his flights above 50 miles altitude in the X-15 rocket plane in the 1960s.

"Bill" Dana graduated the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served four years in the U. S. Air Force. He joined NASA on Oct. 1, 1958, the day it was founded, which made him NASA's first official employee.

"I knew I was in the company of giants when I got here," Dana said of working at NASA in the early days. Dana worked with other NASA test



NASA photograph

Pilot Bill Dana looks up as the B-52 "mother ship" cruises over NASA's HL-10 "lifting body" on Muroc Dry Lake, California, in 1969. Lifting bodies were wingless vehicles that flew because of the lift generated by the aircraft's body. The research proved that future spacecraft could land like an airplane, helping to pave the way for the development of the space shuttle.



NASA photograph

Bill Dana and the X-15.

Edwards pilot selected for USAF Thunderbirds aerial demo team

A member of Team Edwards, Maj. Bryce "Triple" Turner from the 416th Flight Test Squadron, has officially made the Air Force Thunderbirds team as Thunderbird #8 for the 2024-2025 show seasons!

Turner will be the Advanced Pilot and Official Narrator for hundreds of upcoming shows across the world!

Triple most recently achieved a historic feat by becoming the first Air Force pilot to fly the T-7A Red Hawk. For more on the T-7A flight, visit <https://www.aerotechnews.com/edwardsafb/2023/07/05/three-generations-of-breaking-barriers-t-7a-red-hawk-soars-with-u-s-air-force-test-pilot/>.

He will continue to serve here at Edwards until officially joining the Thunderbirds this fall.



On this date...



Aug. 5, 1954: The first production Boeing B-52A Stratofortress made its first flight from Boeing Field, Seattle, Wash. The B-52A differed from the XB-52 and YB-52 in that its cockpit was arranged for side-by-side seating, rather than the B-47-type tandem arrangement of the prototypes. It also had an inflight refueling system allowing it to receive fuel from an airborne KC-97 tanker. This aircraft, along with two sister ships, was used as a service test aircraft. It was used to test the shorter vertical fin of the B-52G.

Aug. 5, 1975: NASA test pilot John Manke flew the X-24B from 60,000 feet to an unpowered landing on the main runway for the first time, following an unpowered descent from 57,050 feet. This demonstrated that a space shuttle-like vehicle could safely be landed following a mission in space.



Aug. 5, 2010: AeroVironment's Global Observer Aircraft 1001 took off from runway 04L at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and climbed to an altitude of 4,000 feet, where it performed a series of maneuvers before successfully landing an hour later.



Aug. 6, 1998: The solar-powered Pathfinder-Plus, an upgraded version of the original Pathfinder vehicle, reached a peak altitude of approximately 80,300 feet during a 15-hour flight in Hawaii. This was the highest altitude ever reached by a propeller-driven aircraft. The vehicle carried a simulated payload of 68 pounds.



Aug. 7, 1963: The Lockheed YF-12 interceptor, with Lockheed test pilot James D. Eastham in the cockpit, made its first flight. Three YF-12A prototypes were built. They were Mach 3-plus interceptors developed from the CIA "Oxcart" Lockheed A-12 reconnaissance airplane.



Aug. 9, 1976: The Boeing YC-14 — a twinjet short take-off and landing tactical military transport aircraft — made its first flight. It was Boeing's entry into the U.S. Air Force's Advanced Medium STOL Transport competition, which aimed to replace the Lockheed C-130 Hercules. The YC-14 was competing against the McDonnell Douglas YC-15.



Helping to SAVE LIMBS

PALMDALE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER offers The Limb Preservation Program focused on prevention and early intervention to help heal legs, feet and toes.

Our multidisciplinary, individualized treatment plans may include specialties like wound care, cardiology, podiatry, endocrinology, physical and occupational therapy, and prosthetics.

We support patients from diagnosis and prevention to treatment and rehabilitation.

Learn more about our services at
SWHpalmdaleregional.com/limb

**Southwest
HEALTHCARE**
PALMDALE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



Paid Advertisement. No Federal endorsement of advertiser(s) intended. Physicians are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Palmdale Regional Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, visit our website. 231292056-1390043 7/23

WWII vet met Patton, shot down Stuka

by Dennis Anderson
special to Aerotech News

ROSAMOND, Calif.—It was a long way from Normandy right after D-Day, all the way, almost to Berlin at VE-Day, Victory in Europe, and Chestley “Chet” Styles has lived nearly 100 years to tell the story.

Along the way, Styles was awarded a Bronze Star for shooting down a Stuka dive bomber, the Nazis favored terror weapon. He also got to have a “walk and talk” with Gen. George S. Patton, and nearly make it to Berlin.

“We were cut off before we could get there,” Styles said, recalling how Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower went along with the command decision to let the Red Army take Berlin because of the war crimes and suffering the Nazi invaders inflicted on the Soviet Union.

“I saw the sign,” he said. “The sign said ‘Berlin — 38 kilometers. But we got cut off.’” But not before the Allies — the United States, the United Kingdom, and France — crossed the Rhine River into the heart of Germany.

Most of us have never gotten closer to the legendary World War II general than the movie *Patton*, with actor George C. Scott playing Gen. George S. Patton standing in front of a big American flag.

That’s not the case for, 99-years-old, who spent 30 years working out of Palmdale on the Los Angeles County Road Department. Styles was close enough to the iconic World War II leader to see he had blue eyes as penetrating as the general.

A buddy on guard roused Styles from a catnap in the field, and let him know that Patton was coming through to inspect their gun position. The gun was in a pit dug by hand in ground rock-hard and still cold from Europe’s most bitter winter in 50 years.

Styles, a private 1st class, had been one G.I. in the massive Allied Army pushing toward Berlin in 1945. His unit, Battery D of the 546th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, was perimeter security for Patton’s Headquarters.

Speaking with a faint Arkansas drawl, Styles said, “Our battery, we must’ve been good, because they picked us to guard General Headquarters.”

“I reported, and saluted, and Patton said a few friendly words to me, and I said a few friendly words to him,” Styles said in a conversation at his din-

ing table. “He looked at me with those big blue eyes, and said, ‘Let’s have a look at that weapon.’”

The weapon he referred to was called a “Quad Fifty,” an array of four .50 caliber machine guns on a turret.

“He asked me questions, and I ain’t bragging, but I didn’t miss a one,” Styles said.

The “Quad Fifty” featured an electric trigger. The general, and the private, showed each other they both knew everything about it, including its massive 100mm gunsight.

“The last thing he said before he went on his way was, ‘I wish this weather would clear up so we could get on with the business.’”

The business was finishing history’s biggest war.

Anti-aircraft guns were vital at headquarters because even though the Nazi air force, the Luftwaffe, was nearly spent by the end of the war, the aircraft that could still fly were doing any damage they could.

It was Styles skill in handling that array of four monstrous machine guns that saw him awarded the Bronze Star before he went home at Christmas 1945.

The Americans would stop short of Berlin because of the Allies decision to let Joseph Stalin and the Red Army capture the bombed ruins of the Third Reich capital. Styles was on duty at the gun to ward off a last-gasp attack.

“I shot down a Stuka dive bomber,” Styles said. “With those .50 caliber machine guns, I was sitting in the turret, I had everything set and ready for him.”

The Stuka signature attack run was to scream in from the sky and let its bomb drop at the last second from a steep dive. Styles shot first.

“On his tail, I spotted a tiny swastika,” Styles said. “I pressed the button and let go with a burst for one, two, three seconds ... and down he went.”

The dive bomber crashed in a tree line by a farmer’s field, “And that was it. He was dead.”

Close in time to that target acquisition, Styles shot down another bomber, probably a Heinkel-111, that did drop a bomb in the general direction of headquarters. He got that one too. Even today, Styles prides himself on his marksmanship.

That’s how it went for the quick and the dead at the end of the war, with the Third Reich defeated and a new world waiting following Japan’s surrender



Photograph by Dennis Anderson

Chestley “Chet” Styles served in World War II, and met Gen. George Patton.

four months later.

Styles made it home for Christmas, went to work, raised seven children, and planted a photograph of Patton near his Bronze Star on the mantle.

Styles looks forward to his 100th birthday in November. He still goes shooting, and his neighbors, Barbara and John Ament say he is a good shot.

Editor’s note: Dennis Anderson is a licensed clinical social worker at High Desert Medical Group. An Army paratrooper veteran, he is Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s appointee on the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission.



Courtesy photograph

Chestley “Chet” Styles during World War II.



Courtesy photograph

Chestley “Chet” Styles during World War II.



Chestley “Chet” Styles’ medals and ribbons. Styles is a World War II veteran who served in Europe following the D-Day landings. During his time in Europe, Styles met Gen. George Patton.



#1 Homebuilder in the Antelope Valley! \$5,000 INCENTIVE*

for active military, retired, and service personnel to use towards options or upgrades



PACIFIC
CREEKSIDE
ENCORE

Pacific Creekside Encore
FINAL OPPORTUNITY
2105 Cork Oak St., Palmdale
(661) 742-6255

LARGE 1 & 2-STORY HOMES
West Palmdale
2,207 - 2,741 Sq. Ft.
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 4 Baths

From the high \$600,000's



PACIFIC
MARIGOLD
Encore

Pacific Marigold Encore
FINAL OPPORTUNITY
1758 East Holguin St., Lancaster
(661) 946-3523

LARGE SINGLE-STORY HOMES
CHALLENGER WAY AND AVE. I
1,867-2,462 Sq. Ft.
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 3 Baths

From the Mid \$500,000's



PACIFIC
WILDFLOWER

Pacific Wildflower
NOW SELLING
E. Ave. R and 35th St., Palmdale
(661) 733-8974

1 & 2-STORY HOMES
Close to Schools
2,179-3,230 Sq. Ft.
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 3 Baths

From the High \$500,000's



PACIFIC
MONTERA

Pacific Monterera
COMING SUMMER 2023
Highland Ave. & W. Ave. P-12
West Palmdale
(661) 733-8974

1 & 2-STORY HOMES
Walking Distance to Schools
2,179-3,230 Sq. Ft.
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 3 Baths

Join the Intest List Online

PacificCommunities.com

**PACIFIC
COMMUNITIES**

Old Traditions, New Innovations

Prices, terms, and features are subject to change without notice. Homes are subject to prior sale. Photos are representational only. Buyer must sign contract and close escrow per the purchase agreement on a home at one of the above listed communities. *\$5,000 incentive and can be used towards options and upgrades. This promotion expires March 31, 2023. Proof of employment must be presented to obtain incentive (recent paystub and/or military identification will be required). Only one promotion per purchase contract can be used. Cannot be combined with broker co-op. Terms and conditions are subject to change without prior notice. Pacific Communities reserves the right to change features, elevations, community information, materials and pricing without notice or obligation. Drawings, renderings, square footages, floor plans, elevations, features, colors and sizes are approximate and for illustration purposes only and will vary from the homes as built. Not all features available in all plans. CA BRE License # 02129925; Contractor's License # 660968.

TPS grad, former TW commander retires from AF

by Michele Donaldson
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

As a military child, Lt. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer was surrounded by aircraft his entire young life, and his biggest ambition was just to fly. Attending the U.S. Air Force Academy and commissioning into the Air Force were the first steps in achieving that dream.

In his 33 years serving in the Air Force, Schaefer did much more than just fly. He ends his military career this week as Deputy Commander, Air Force Materiel Command.

“My desire has been to be a servant leader, to be humble in these jobs, and to make sure that I am approachable,” said Schaefer. “So, post Air Force, I don’t see my mindset changing. The desire is still to take care of people and treat them with value.”

Schaefer was commissioned in 1990 as a distinguished graduate from the Air Force Academy and subsequently served in a variety of flying and staff assignments.

“I never actually saw the Air Force as a job. I loved flying and it never felt like ‘work’,” said Schaefer. “I came in to achieve my dream of flying and



Air Force photograph

Air Force Academy Cadet Carl E. Schaefer is shown in his yearbook photo. Schaefer graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a member of the class of 1990.

2006, serving as commander of the 445th Flight Test Squadron, until July 2008; when he became deputy commander of the 412th Operations Group — a position he held until July 2009.

He again returned to Edwards in March 2015 to serve as commander of the 412th Test Wing. In July 2018, he left Edwards and became the deputy commander of Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air

Schaefer says he got the best advice in his career while serving as a major at the Pentagon from his boss, then Maj. Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. Welsh, who went on to become the 20th Air Force Chief of Staff, took the time to individually talk to each major in his organization to encourage them to make their families a priority.

Welsh encouraged attending family medical appointments, whenever possible. The Air Force demands a lot from Airmen, he said to those he mentored, and there would be times when every Air Force member would be away for important occasions.

“If you make your family a priority, you end up getting a lot of grace when the Air Force requires you to be away,” said Schaefer. “Take time to care for family, so you run out of Air Force before you run out of family.”

He is especially grateful to his family and to his wife, Pauline.

“She sacrificed a lot in the last 32 years of marriage and poured herself into taking care of Airmen and families,” said Schaefer. “I cannot thank Pauline and all military spouses enough for all they do so we can serve.”

As deputy commander, Schaefer was responsible for the evolution of aerospace systems from conceptual phase through production and introduction



Courtesy photograph

For Lt. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer, flying was a passion from an early age. His father Col. (ret.) Charles Schaefer also served in the U.S. Air Force and inspired his son to seek military service.

and future Air Force needs are crucial, especially with Congress.

“We have the most lethal Air Force on the planet, just as we did in the 1990s, because of the quality of our people, the quality of our training and the quality of our weapons systems,” said Schaefer. “But, we need to ensure our Airmen know the threat and know what part they play in the mission to counter that threat.”

His advice to those considering joining the Air Force is simple.

“Come in — make it a career. The Air Force is big enough for your dreams,” Schaefer said.

Schaefer and his family have not yet made definite plans, but they intend to take some time off to enjoy their young grandchildren and see what’s next. As he considered his last few weeks wearing the uniform, he talked about how he felt about serving.

“I feel nothing but gratitude. It’s been the honor of my life, truly, to serve our nation and be part of the Air Force,” said Schaefer. “It’s been an honor to be deputy commander in AFMC for the last five years. Thank you to Team AFMC and all who continue to serve and sacrifice for our nation.”



Air Force photograph

Lt. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer pilots a T-38 Talon at the Combined Test Force, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The T-38 is a chase bird for other test platforms.



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class James Johnson

Lt. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer, Air Force Materiel Command deputy commander, presents a folded American flag to his wife Pauline during his retirement ceremony at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force June 15, 2023.

stayed in for the people.”

He enjoyed an early assignment at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, as a captain flying the F-15E, but he noted that his squadron commander of over 600 Airmen rarely smiled and did not look like he was having fun. This leadership example influenced Schaefer’s decision to leave operational flying and attend the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

“Everyone is watching how you react and interact, how much you smile, how proficient you are ... and that can impact a generation of leaders,” said Schaefer.

Schaefer graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., in February 2001. Following graduation, he served as an F-15/T-38 instructor/evaluator at the school, a position he held until July 2003.

He returned to Edwards in July

Force Base, Ohio.

After graduating from the TPS, Schaefer became a command pilot, with more than 3,100 flying hours in more than 40 aircraft types. He has flown combat missions in support of operations Deny Flight and Allied Force.

His supervisors in the test community changed his mind about leadership and rejuvenated his desire to stay in the Air Force and to lead.

Schaefer’s only goal was to make lieutenant colonel and become a squadron commander. He not only achieved that goal, but he also commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels.

“I expected to retire as a lieutenant colonel, so I’ve been in my retirement job since then,” said Schaefer. “Fortunately, I had the honor to lead beyond Squadron Command.”

into the operating inventory. He directed policy and procedures affecting AFMC aircraft logistics, product acquisition and sustainment, technology research and development, and system test and evaluation to meet known and anticipated operational requirements.

His focus as deputy commander, however, was taking care of Airmen.

“I feel my greatest accomplishment though was the opportunity to build leaders that will come and take my place,” said Schaefer. “Over my career I’ve been able to mentor a lot of junior officers and enlisted members to be the future leaders of our Air Force.”

As for challenges, Schaefer says it’s always about money and communication. Stable funding is critical for programs, weapons system sustainment, installation and mission and support, so clearly communicating our current



Air Force photograph

Brig. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer shares the stage with Air Force legends. From left: Schaefer; Brig. Gen. Charles “Chuck” Yeager; former Air Force Materiel Command Commander, retired Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski; and retired Brig. Gen. Robert Cardenas. Cardenas piloted the B-29 Superfortress that launched Yeager in the Bell X-1 supersonic experimental aircraft — the first aircraft to exceed the speed of sound in level flight.



Air Force photograph by Rebecca Amber

Maj. Gen. Arnold Bunch Jr., Air Force Test Center commander (left), presents the 412th Test Wing guidon to Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer signifying the beginning of his new command at the 412th Test Wing change of command ceremony March 31, 2015, in Hangar 1600.

VICTORY Baptist Church

10173 South Loop
California City

Ron Smith, Pastor

• Sunday School 10:00 am • Morning 11:00 am
• Sunday Evening 6:00 pm • Wednesday 7:00 pm

For transportation from Edwards AFB call

(760) 373-7314

Independent - Fundamental
www.victory-baptist.org



A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.

JDRF IMPROVING LIVES CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES jdrf.org



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation is located on the island of Saipan of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The mission of Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation is to provide quality, comprehensive health services and promote healthy environments for individuals at every life stage for a resilient community.

CHCC is committed to exceed standards by providing a culture of compassionate, quality care, honoring the dignity of its stakeholders and community, and promoting accountability, equity and transparency throughout the corporation.

Join our team and be a part of the CHCC!

We are continually seeking qualified applicants for our Corporation.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation currently has the following positions to fill:

- Physician - Saipan, CHCC • Physician Assistant - Saipan, CHCC
- Certified Nursing Assistant - Saipan, CHCC • Graduate Nurse - Saipan, CHCC
- Licensed Practical Nurse - Saipan, CHCC • Registered Nurse - Saipan, CHCC
- Immunization Nurse - Saipan, CHCC • Respiratory Therapist - Saipan, CHCC
- Physical Therapist - Saipan, CHCC • Audiologist - Saipan, CHCC
- Speech Language Pathologist - Saipan, CHCC • Clinical Supervisor - Saipan, CHCC
- Registered Dietitian - Saipan, CHCC • Mental Health Counselor - Saipan, CHCC
- Mental Health Counselor (In-Training) - Saipan, CHCC
- Manager of Respiratory Services - Saipan, CHCC
- Certified Nursing Assistant- Tinian Health Center
- Registered Nurse - Tinian Health Center
- Certified Nursing Assistant- Rota Health Center
- Licensed Practical Nursing- Tinian Health Center
- Registered Nurse - Rota Health Center

Contact Us Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation • P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Human Resource Department at (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3583/3404

For additional list of opportunities, visit: www.chcc.health/jobopportunities.php



Lancaster Baptist Church

Experience community. Understand truth.

Lancaster Baptist is a church with a friendly, family atmosphere, compassionate vision, and strong commitment to Bible truth. We offer small groups specifically designed for military families and singles.

lancasterbaptist.org

only 15 minutes from Edwards South Gate



4020 E. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93535
661.946.4663
lancasterbaptist.org
Paul Chappell, Pastor

ROSAMOND HOUSE FOR RENT

Westpark

2002 Home

3BR/2BA

1,750 Sqft,

3-Car Garage

with 220V

Washer/Dryer

and Patio

Central Air/Heating

Quiet, Near K-12

Schools/EAFB

\$2,300 /Mo.+

Security Deposit

No Smoking,

Dogs or Cats.

Call Paul

562-714-6686



Live Life Better at Palm Vista!

Palm Vista Senior Living, a Community designed for you to *Live Your Life Better!* Our welcoming staff would love to meet you! Let us show you how we provide our residents a life of purpose, passion, and lots of play. At Palm Vista, we are dedicated to your health and wellbeing, while providing a stimulating and connected lifestyle.

Come in for yourself to experience our community! Take a tour and stay for lunch!

Amenities & Services Include:

- Restaurant-Style Dining
- Transportation to Outings
- Putting Green
- On-site Therapy
- Daily Activities
- Community Garden
- Walking Area
- Secured Community

Call us today to schedule a private and personal tour, 661-202-3999



A Protea Senior Living Community

CALL US TODAY!

661.202.3999

3850 W. Rancho Vista Blvd
Palmdale, CA 93551



PalmVistaSeniorLiving.com

LISCENCE # 197#10286



Mementos of war

by Bob Alvis
special to Aerotech News

Looking in some old boxes in my closet, I was taking my time looking for something I had no idea what.

This happens often as I search for subject matter and topics, and I look for some nugget of history and a story to tell, and whatever chance deals me in some old box.

After some items caught my attention, I was about to move on when a small envelope caught my eye, and I remembered it from a chance encounter many years ago when I was heavily involved with the P-38 National Association.

It was from the many reunions I attended with World War II pilots who flew the P-38 in every theater and training facility in the world.

At one of these events, I made friends with a pilot named Virgil from the 1st Fighter Group who flew combat in North Africa against the Germans, who were making a play for the rich oil fields of the region, as well as protecting the Mediterranean from Axis advancements in the region. After several hours of hangar flying and enjoying some adult drinks, we became good friends, and I listened intently to his stories of flying combat in the most inhospitable desert in the world.

Many times, you see movies and read books that show the pilots returning to bases in other European locations and even though very primitive, they had many creature comforts to distract pilots from the stresses of those early combat years of World War II.

When the 1st FG got the call to move out of England and set up operations in North Africa there could not have been too many happy faces, as heat, sand, and scorpions became just a part of everyday life along with

living in tents and the stress of fighting Germans in brutal conditions. It was bad enough risking life and limb every day, but then add in heat, weather, and the constant threat of blinding sandstorms. It's amazing more men did not fold and quit.

One can only imagine those nights in the desert sleeping, if you could, in those tents and facing day after day of relentless duties of Airmen in a 1940s sandbox.

Spitting camels, sand spiders, and locals you didn't know were friendly, just added to the overall feeling of unease. In every aspect of your days and nights, you pressed on only to end up grieving the deaths of your fellow combat pilots.

Back when I was taken into the fold of the World War II pilots, I was blessed to become a trusted ally of their memories and many times our relation grew to many phone calls and letters, and the sharing of obscure stories that had been locked away in the gray matter of the aging veteran. As time moved on and the Greatest Generation became just a memory, I found myself looking into my own gray matter and looking for the things that would bring a value to current generations.

As I sat looking at that old box and envelope, the memory had my hands shaking as I opened it up to find the treasure of a World War II P-38 pilot that had sent me a memento of his time in North Africa that survived a long journey from the battlefields.

At the time, Virgil was getting ready for a Fighter Group move north and he wanted to visit the location of one of the German bases whose planes his unit was always mixing it up with in the air. They made an unscheduled stop at the old German field and walked around the shot-up and abandoned aircraft that at one time was chasing him across the

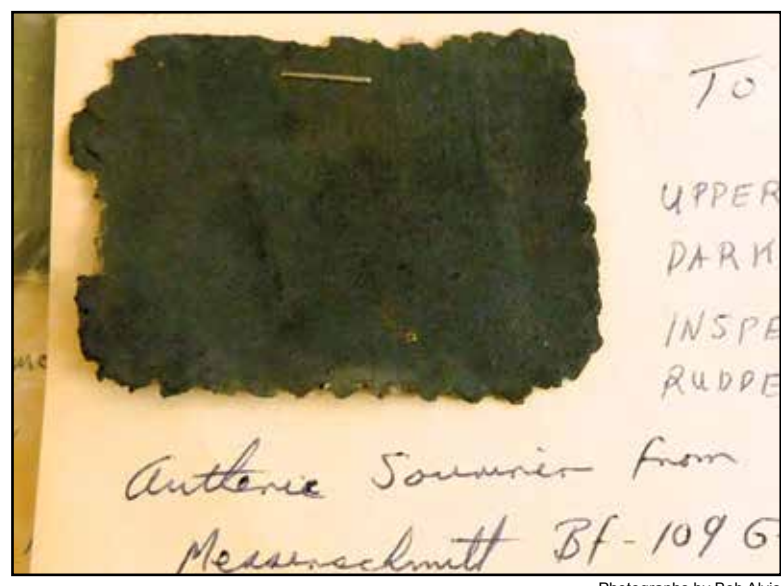
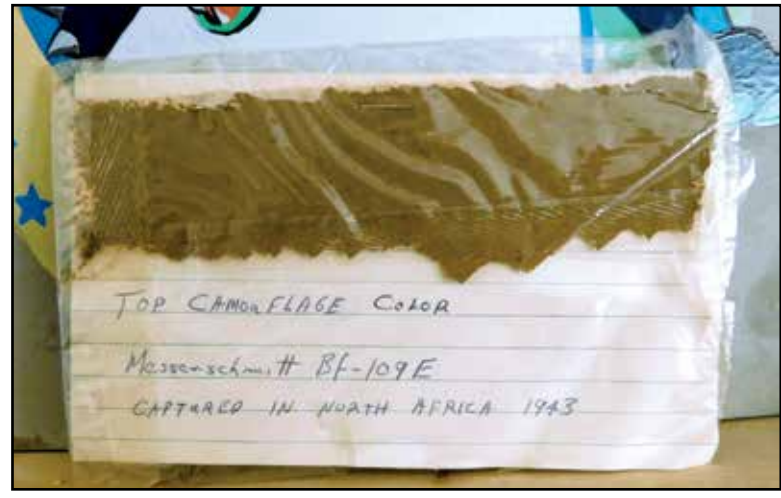
desert sky. One particular German ME-109 Messerschmitt caught his attention as it pretty much looked like the foe he had tangled with on a few of his sorties. Walking over to the plane, he circled it a couple times, made his peace with it, then turned to leave. But something made him turn back, and he walked to the rudder of the plane, took out his knife and cut some fabric from the plane as a keepsake.

Thus, the journey started for one man's memento that he carried all the way to his end-of-duty assignment flying combat, and a long trip home over the Atlantic in a troopship only to find a spot in his home albums of collectibles that helped share the story of his time flying combat in one of the most godawful places on earth in World War II.

Pressed between pages hiding in the dark, the memento was visited when the need and the heart required it, and little did I know that at some point in their existence that wrinkled old hands would put them in that envelope with my address on it, and end up becoming one man's experience passed off to another in the hopes of his journey continuing on long after his death.

Virgil in some manner, felt that this memento belonged with me more than anybody else as what was left of his service and experiences and family got all his other treasures from his war years. But somehow a part of that old German war plane he believed he had chased and been chased by, in the skies over the sand needed somebody who could understand. A person who valued that moment when the Messerschmitt gave up its skin to become a young man's memory; an item he felt would define his life.

Here we are in August of 2023, and 80-years later Virgil's story still carries on as a tribute to all the Virgils of World War II, but also to those over the years who have embraced the stories and passions of veterans and did their best to do right by their service,



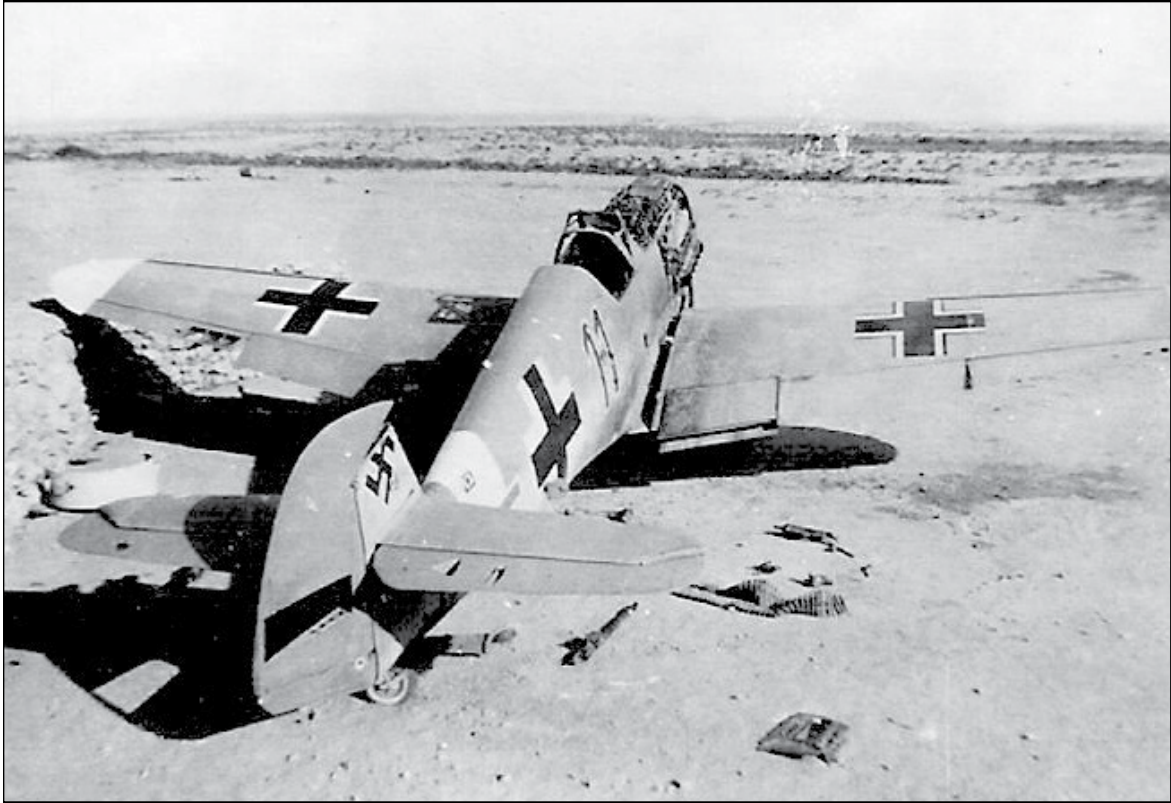
Photographs by Bob Alvis

making sure their stories carry on for future generations.

Funny you can read a blockbuster novel or see a big production Hollywood movie, but in reality, many times sitting down with a few old artifacts from a time long ago, does more to

reach the soul. This memento makes me feel blessed that the soldier who lived this story felt his moment in time needed me to be its publicist and champion.

I'm truly blessed.
Until next time, Bob out...



Courtesy photographs





FREE SEMINAR

Wellness for Older Adults

Friday, August 11 • 2 pm



Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.

License No.: 197602540

Prestige Assisted Living
at Lancaster
43454 30th St W
Lancaster, CA 93536
prestigecare.com/lancaster

Metro-floors

"The Floor Improvement Store"

Contractor's License # 482566



Carpet • Hardwood • Laminate
Tile • Waterproof Floors • Countertops

FREE ESTIMATES

Installation always available

44830 Valley Central Way, Ste. 113
Lancaster Marketplace

942-1185

www.metrofloorsinc.com



\$20 OFF



Shell
ROTELLA

ANY SIGNATURE OIL CHANGE

No other offer or discount applies

A/C SERVICE • TIRES • BRAKES • SPARK PLUGS

JIFFY LUBE ROSAMOND
3100 N. Sierra Hwy. • 661-256-6008

JIFFY LUBE TEHACHAPI
550 Tucker Rd. • 661-822-5300

Tequila & Taco

MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 11-12

Palmdale, CA



Gourmet Street Tacos



Award-Winning Margaritas



Top-Shelf Tequila Sampling



Live Music

TequilaAndTacoMusicFestival.com



CITY OF PALMDALE

Visit
Palmdale

CURE :: PREVENT :: TREAT

JDRF IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.



A CFC participant. Provided as a public service. jdrf.org

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions code. Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code, provisions of the Civil Code.

The Undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding at www.storage-treasures.com to end **August 26, 2023 at 10:00 am** on the premises where said property has been stored & which are located at: **Storage Solution Lancaster, 42738 4th St E Lancaster, CA 93535** County of Los Angeles, State of California.

The following Property consists of: Furniture, Wall Art, Appliances, Personal Items & More

NAME:

Davidson Cato - Johnny Cornell

Brandon Hansford - Latasha Johnson

DUCKS UNLIMITED

ducks.org
800-45-DUCKS

JOIN TODAY!



Join Ducks Unlimited today to ensure that wetlands thrive for wildlife, for you and for generations to come.

A CFC participant - provided as a public service

ASK ABOUT OUR MILITARY DISCOUNTS

WE HAVE YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION!

Electronic Gate Access	Online Bill Pay & Auto Pay
Individual Door Alarms	Safe, Secure & Convenient
Surveillance Cameras	Uhaul Rentals & Moving Supplies

CALL US TODAY! 

42738 4th Street East • Lancaster, CA
661-952-7864 • www.storagesolution.com

VA Expert Lender

Roy Torrence

805-890-8792

Will Help You Get the Loan

Active-Duty or VA-Eligible

Call Roy or Pam or Roe

We Will Be YOUR Team!


NMLS #448471

VA Expert Realtors

Pam Cook and Roe Leer

818-646-2111 or

661-265-7788

Will Help You Get the House

LA and Kern Counties

We Will Be YOUR Team!

LEER REALTY

#02151571 CalDRE #00950560

ROSAMOND HOUSE FOR RENT

**Santiago Estates
2006 Home**

3BR/2BA, 1,450 Sqft,

2-Car Garage

Central Air/Heating

Microwave/

Dishwasher

Laundry-hookups

Patio w/Vista View

Pool/Spa

Quiet, near

schools/EAFB

\$2,100/Mo. +

Security Deposit

No Smoking,

Dogs or Cats.

Call Paul

562-714-6686

Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since we opened 50 years ago. And we won't stop until no child dies from cancer.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Finding cures. Saving children.

Call **800-822-6344** or visit stjude.org/cfc to learn more.

A CFC Participant. Provided as a public service.

FROM
\$41
PER MONTH!

NEW CUSTOMERS RECEIVE
\$10 OFF
WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD

2020
BEST
Valley Press

TWO GREAT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU



UP TO 30% OFF
3 MONTHS ON
SELECT UNITS



LANCASTER
825 W Ave L12
(661) 535-1246
Tue-Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun-Mon Closed

PALMDALE
3305 E Palmdale Blvd
(661) 797-8034
Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat-Sun 10am - 5pm

Safe - Clean - Well-Lit - Secure
BEST SELF-STORAGE IN THE AV



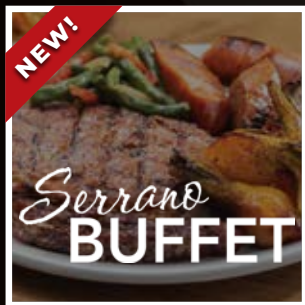
Individual Unit
Alarms/Security
Extended Access
Drive-up Convenience



NovaStorage.com

★ AN EXCLUSIVE ★ FOR OUR HEROES

U.S. Armed Forces members & veterans, enhance your reward experience at Yaamava' Resort & Casino at San Manuel with a Club Serrano Star Card and its new benefits:



BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE BREAKFAST OR LUNCH ON WEDNESDAYS



\$10 FREE PLAY EVERY WEDNESDAY



\$15 FREE PLAY ON JULY 4TH, VETERANS DAY & MORE



STAR CARD SLOT TOURNAMENT - THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 15% discount at Bear Springs Hotel®
- Exclusive gift on select dates
- 50% OFF one item at Rock & Brews Merch Shop
- \$10 Serrano Vista Cafe or The 909 on Star Holiday Visits

Evidence of affiliation required. Sign up for Club Serrano at any Guest Services booth. To see complete list of benefits and details, visit yaamava.com.



777 SAN MANUEL BLVD., HIGHLAND, CA 92346 | 888-777-7404 | YAAMAVA.COM |
 MUST BE 21 OR OVER TO ENTER. PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY. 1-800-GAMBLER.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALES

Business & Professional Code Section 21700-21707

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hours of **12 noon on the 16th day of August 2023** or thereafter. The auction is being held at **www.selfstorageauction.com** by competitive bid. The property is stored by **Nova Storage located 825 W Avenue L12., Lancaster, CA 93534.**

The items to be sold are generally described as follows: Furniture, clothing, tools and or other household items stored by the following persons.

- 0283 Smith, Arlene
- 0312 Dawes, Andrea
- 0324 Cortes, Eduardo
- 0093 Kirkham, Dawnita
- 0414 Selyer, Toi Juan
- 0574 Siebenhoven, H. Von
- 0318 Greenberg, Tracy
- 0555 Valko, Joshua

July 28th, 2023 Signed NOVA STORAGE

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 et seq. of Business & Professional Code of the State of California. The owner reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "As Is" and must be paid for and removed at the time of sale. Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between owner & obligated party. Auctioneer: Nova Storage

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions code. Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code, provisions of the Civil Code.

The Undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding at **www.storage-treasures.com** to end **August 5th, 2023 at 10:00 am** on the premises where said property has been stored & which are located at: **Storage Solution Challenger Way, 42133 Challenger Way Lancaster, CA 93535** County of Los Angeles, State of California.

The following Property consists of: Furniture, Wall Art, Appliances, Personal Items & More

NAME:

- Joseph McLarnin • Simon Vasquez
- Jessie Agbunag • Jennifer Taylor
- Deon Newsome • Nancy Cole
- Cuntessa Solomon • Timothy Ayres
- Charles Roberts • Marqui Biggers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALES

Business & Professional Code Section 21700-21707

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hours of **12 noon on the 16th day of August 2023** or thereafter. The auction is being held at **www.selfstorageauction.com** by competitive bid. The property is stored by **3305 E. Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale, CA 93550.**

The items to be sold are generally described as follows: Furniture, clothing, tools and or other household items stored by the following persons.

- E372 Campos, Armando
- E416 Smith, Shautonya
- C274 Buyard, LaChina

July 28th, 2023 Signed NOVA STORAGE

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 et seq. of Business & Professional Code of the State of California. The owner reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "As Is" and must be paid for and removed at the time of sale. Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between owner & obligated party. Auctioneer: Nova Storage

ALWAYS FREE ACCESS!

Frequent Updates – Breaking News – Local • Regional • National



Your one-stop source of news and information for military, defense industry and aerospace professionals as well as aerospace enthusiasts, and military veterans.

We offer our advertisers access to a great market of employed, educated professionals with stable incomes.

**Phone: 661-945-5634 • Toll free: 877-247-9288 www.aerotechnews.com
www.facebook.com/AerotechNewsandReview • www.thinkmilitaryads.com**

A COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST EVENT

2023 GRACEFEST

CITY OF PALMDALE | CITY OF LANCASTER | B&B DOORS AND WINDOWS

PRESENTS



CHRIS TOMLIN

MAIN EVENT
SEP 9 3-10PM
PALMDALE AMPHITHEATER



WE THE KINGDOM



TASHA LAYTON



CONSUMED BY FIRE



JONATHAN TRAYLOR

WORSHIP NIGHT
SEP 8 4-9PM
PALMDALE AMPHITHEATER

TICKETS [GRACEFESTAV.COM](https://gracefestav.com)



Enjoy Friends, Family and Freedom

KHovnanian
Homes

Here at K. Hovnanian® Homes, we understand what HOME means. It's where your heart takes you at the end of a long day. It's where you enjoy your family and play with your dog. It's a place where neighbors connect and memories are made. If this is what you're looking for, consider West View Estates and Tehachapi Hills: two breathtaking new communities of spacious single-family homes, with up to 4 beds and 2,406 sq. ft. of versatile living space.



Both communities offer:

- ✓ Easy commuting to major employment hubs including Edwards Air Force Base, Air Force Plant 42, and Mojave Air and Space Port
- ✓ Our innovative Looks program, developing a cohesive interior design aesthetic that reflects your personal taste

We also offer a range of financing incentives[^] to fit your priorities and budget, including:

- ✓ Our Hometown Heroes promotion, offering \$1,000 off of options or closing costs for military, aerospace employees, and others working for the safety of their community*
- ✓ Special interest rates, closing cost reductions, base price discounts, "No Cash to Close" refinancing^{^^} and more

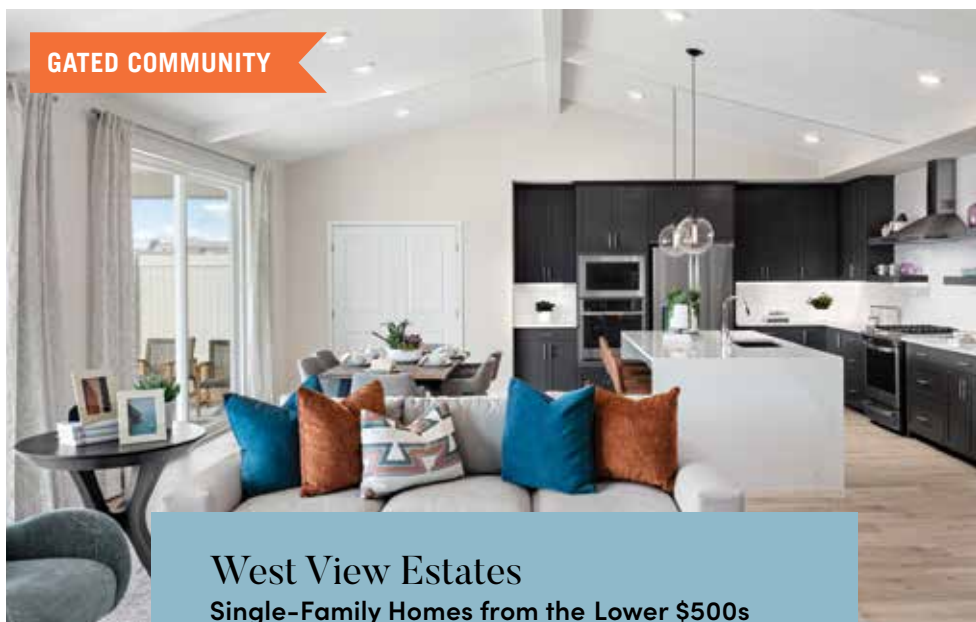


SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Contact us today to learn more and schedule an appointment—we'd love to hear from you!

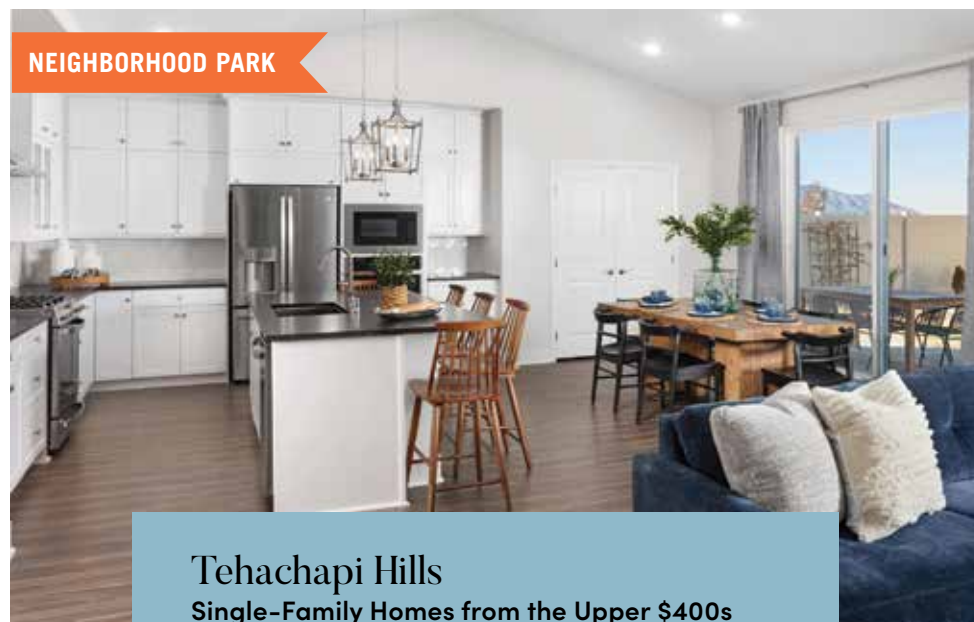
VISIT US AT [KHOV.COM/ANTELOPEVALLEY](https://www.khov.com/antelopevalley) OR CALL US AT 888-807-0881

GATED COMMUNITY



West View Estates
Single-Family Homes from the Lower \$500s

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Tehachapi Hills
Single-Family Homes from the Upper \$400s

*Tehachapi Hills is offered by K. Hovnanian Communities, Inc.. Sales Consultants: Miranda Ezell DRE#02068397 and Michelle Roybal DRE#01967793. West View Estates is offered by K. Hovnanian at West View Estates, L.L.C.. Sales Consultants: Damien Felix DRE#01985204 and April Mirabella DRE#02083596. ©2023 K. Hovnanian California Operations, Inc. DRE#01183847. All dimensions are approximate. Features and options may vary. Unless stated hardscape, landscape and decorator items not included. K. Hovnanian California Operations, Inc. reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes or modifications without prior notice. Value of Heroes incentive not to exceed \$1,000. Unless otherwise specified, incentives may be applied towards closing costs, upgrades or options. Offer may not be available in all communities. Incentive must be included at the time of contract. Offer valid for owner occupants only. Additional conditions or restrictions may apply. To qualify for the incentive, applicant must show proof of eligibility at the time of contract signing. To be eligible the applicant on the contract and mortgage must show proof of military or employment status with an ID card or other official documentation. Void where prohibited by law. Incentive is per applicant. Seller contribution limits may apply and affect maximum financing. Maximum closing cost assistance may vary based on the purchase price, product and occupancy. The incentives are based on the use of K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. ("KHAM") for financing or an all cash purchase. If KHAM or all cash is not used, the incentives will be reduced by \$1,000. K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. 3601 Quantum Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33426. NMLS #3259 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). Licensed by California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Lic. #4130532

[^]Special Financing Incentives may vary and are subject to change without notice. Special Financing Incentives may not be combined with any other offers. Seller contribution limits apply and may affect maximum financing. Maximum closing cost assistance may vary based on the purchase price, product and occupancy. Special Financing Incentives are based on the use of K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. ("KHAM"). K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. 3601 Quantum Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33426. NMLS #3259 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). Licensed by California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Lic. #4130532

^{^^}Offer is subject to program requirements, credit and underwriting approval, and use of K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. (KHAM) for the financing of your K. Hovnanian Home purchase. Limited to one-time refinance per household within the first three years from KHAM closing date. Offer excludes government recording costs or transfer taxes, funding fee, upfront mortgage insurance premium fees, interest per diem or escrow funds set up. Equal Housing Opportunity. K. Hovnanian American Mortgage, L.L.C. 3601 Quantum Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33426. NMLS #3259 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). Licensed by California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Lic. #4130532. See a Sales Consultant for full details. Equal Housing Opportunity.

The list price for qualifying quick move-in homes may reflect a portion or all of the base sales price reduction.