

Willie Flight 832



Willie was initially named **Mesa Military Airport**. the name was changed October 1941 to **Higley Field**, the base being in the proximity of the town of Higley, Arizona. In February 1942, the growing military airfield's name was changed to **Williams Field** in honor of Arizona native 1st Lt Charles Linton Williams (1898–1927). Lieutenant Williams died on 6 July 1927 when his Boeing PW-9A pursuit aircraft crashed near Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. Williams Field was re-designated **Williams Air Force Base** on 13 January 1948. The Base was closed in 1993 and officially reopened as Williams Gateway Airport in March 1994. In 2007, the name of the Airport was changed to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.



WILLIE FLIGHT 82
Order of Daedalians
 P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248
<http://www.willieflight.org>



FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER



At the Saturday luncheon we learned a little more about what it takes to fly air tankers on forest fires. Thanks to Gary Schooler we learned about the aviation structure for combating these disasters from the air and some information on the aircraft that are used. Needless to say there's more to it than random application

of retardant.

Our next speaker for the luncheon meeting on April 9th will be Col. Richard "Dick" Toliver, Retired, who will speak on the Tuskegee Airmen.



We are actively looking to get new members. Having a heavy number of Air Force members we'd like to see more from the other services will help us become more rounded and a base to recruit more members. Of course, the Air Force will always be welcomed.

Scholarship season is here and we are always looking for people to represent the Daedalians. We give out six scholarships per year which is much more than most Daedalian chapters. Help us out by getting involved and Gerry Homewood or myself if you want to help.

Speaking of help, "HELP"! We are desperate need of a Chapter Treasurer. If you can balance your checkbook and figure your taxes every year, you're qualified. If you have been going to our meetings and enjoy them, we'd appreciate your jumping in and become a part of the organization and decision making on the inside instead of watching from the outside.

That's all the stark reality for the month. Let's look forward to April 9th which should be a very interesting meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

It will be on Saturday, 9 April at The Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.

Speaker: Col. Richard "Dick" Toliver; Bio Page 3

Time: 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch **Meeting Dress:** Dressy Casual

Menu: Salisbury Steak, vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.

Price: \$30 per person.

Note: Please pay with a check (raffle tix are 6 for \$5).

Reservations: To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 6), by Saturday, 2 April. For questions, please call Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

Cancellations: If you have made reservations and you cannot attend, please contact Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant. Cancellations made after the Sunday before the meeting will incur a \$30 charge.

Need a ride? Art Stark for help; 480-277-4700.

2022 Meeting Calendar			
9 Apr	General Meeting	12 Apr	Staff Meting
14 May	General Meeting	17 May	Staff Meting
10 Sep	General Meeting	13 Sep	Staff Meting

Officers & Staff:

Elected Officers:

- Flight Captain: Ron Perkins, 602-295-3880
- Vice Flight Captain: Art Stark, 480-288-9301
- Treasurer: Jim Vandeventer, 602-618-2401
- Scholarships Chairman: Gerry Homewood, 602-790-8151
- Provost Marshal: Bill Follette, 602-619-5445

Appointed Staff:

- Flight Adjutant: Arlan Allen, 602-283-5862
- Elements Co./Chaplain: Tom Waldron, 602-743-3661
- A-V Support: Art Stark, 480-288-9301
- Webmaster: Kurt Gearhart, 480-329-1936
- Biographies: Gary Klein, 480-650-5522
- Asst Scholar./Awards: Gary Zettl, 480-415-6854

9 April Speaker
COLONEL RICHARD “DICK” TOLIVER, USAF, RET.

Tuskegee Airmen Protégé

Air Force Veteran in Blue - Pioneering Combat Pilot

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame



Col. Toliver graduated from Tuskegee Institute (University) in February 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is a protégé of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and was mentored, trained, and commissioned under their tutelage. Later, he graduated from the USAF Fighter Weapons School (“Top Gun”) at Nellis AFB, NV and completed two tours in Southeast Asia with 446 combat missions. He also held key roles in advanced research, development, and testing of tactical fighter aircraft. In addition, he directed the testing and evaluation of other weapon systems for the Department of Defense and allied military programs. One of Col. Toliver’s most fulfilling experiences involved training the first top five Israeli pilots in the F-15 Air Superiority jet fighter. The Colonel held several key staff and command positions in multiple major commands of the Air Force. His duty assignments included bases throughout the United States, Southeast Asia, Europe, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf. He is a Command Pilot with 4,000 flying hours in the F-4, F-15, F-16, OT-37, O-2, T-33, and several civilian aircraft. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, March 1, 1989 after 26 years of distinguished service.

Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal with 27 Oak Leaf Clusters. Col. Toliver retired from the United States Air Force March 1, 1989 after 26 years of distinguished service.

Since retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Toliver pursued several business, economic development, and political ventures in New Mexico, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. He was recruited by Ross Perot's United We Stand America and became a national advocate for education, economic, and government reform. He served as the State's Executive Director of New Mexico and the Southwest Regional Director of twelve states for three years. Later, he served as the National Spokesperson and Coordinator for Minority Community Outreach for the Reform Party during 1996. His public service includes several years in New Mexico on the Public Safety Advisory Commission; Board of Regents, University of New Mexico; and Board of Directors of the Kirtland Partnership Committee.

Since moving to Arizona in 2003, he was the founding president of the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and held a key role in securing the Congressional Gold Medal for them in 2007. He also resumed his commitment to community affairs and served on the Board of Director's for the West Valley Hospital in Goodyear. Colonel Toliver continues to be in demand as a motivational speaker nationwide and overseas, including trips to Canada, Germany, Israel, Iraq, Kuwait, Spain, Hawaii, and Japan. He has extensive experience with local, state, and national television, radio, news media, and speaking engagements. His published books include "An Uncaged Eagle," a book of his memoirs (2009) and "WOMAN—A Godly Creation," a book that celebrates and honors the historical and continuing accomplishments of women worldwide (2014). His recent awards and honors include the following:

- **October 2014**, inducted into the *Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame* in Shreveport, LA. He was the keynote speaker for an event that featured all sixty-four classes that graduated since the school's opening in 1950.
- **September 2015**, Co-featured on the poster for the *68th Birthday of the United States Air Force*.
- **February 2016**, included in Air Force's *Veterans in Blue - a Pioneering Combat Pilot*.
- **October 2016**, inducted into the *Tuskegee University Reserve Officers' Training Corps Hall of Fame*.
- **October 2016**, inducted into the *Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame*, October 28, 2016.

Colonel Toliver has been married over fifty-eight years to the former Margaret A. Hairston of Baltimore, Maryland. They have eight adult children, five of which are adopted or part of the family through acceptance, commitment, and love. The Tolivers recently resettled in Litchfield Park, AZ. More about Colonel Toliver and autographed copies of his books can be obtained on his website, www.anuncagedeagle.com.

His books will be available for purchase for those who desire and/or a donation will be accepted for ARAC's youth program.

Willie Flight 82 Needs your Help

We are looking for a new treasurer to start in September. It is a key position on the Willie Flight staff and is very influential in helping set the direction for our Flight. Please consider joining us.

If interested, please contact Ron Perkins at rbperkins@cox.net.

What Did You Fly?

Got any Pictures? Hero Pictures?

Kurt Gerhart, fellow Willie Flight member and Master Webmaster, has been diligently working to vastly improve our web site. He has asked for photos of our members with the airplanes they flew. We

would like you to send photos to both him at

kurtgearhart@mac.com and Bill Follette, Newsletter Editor, at

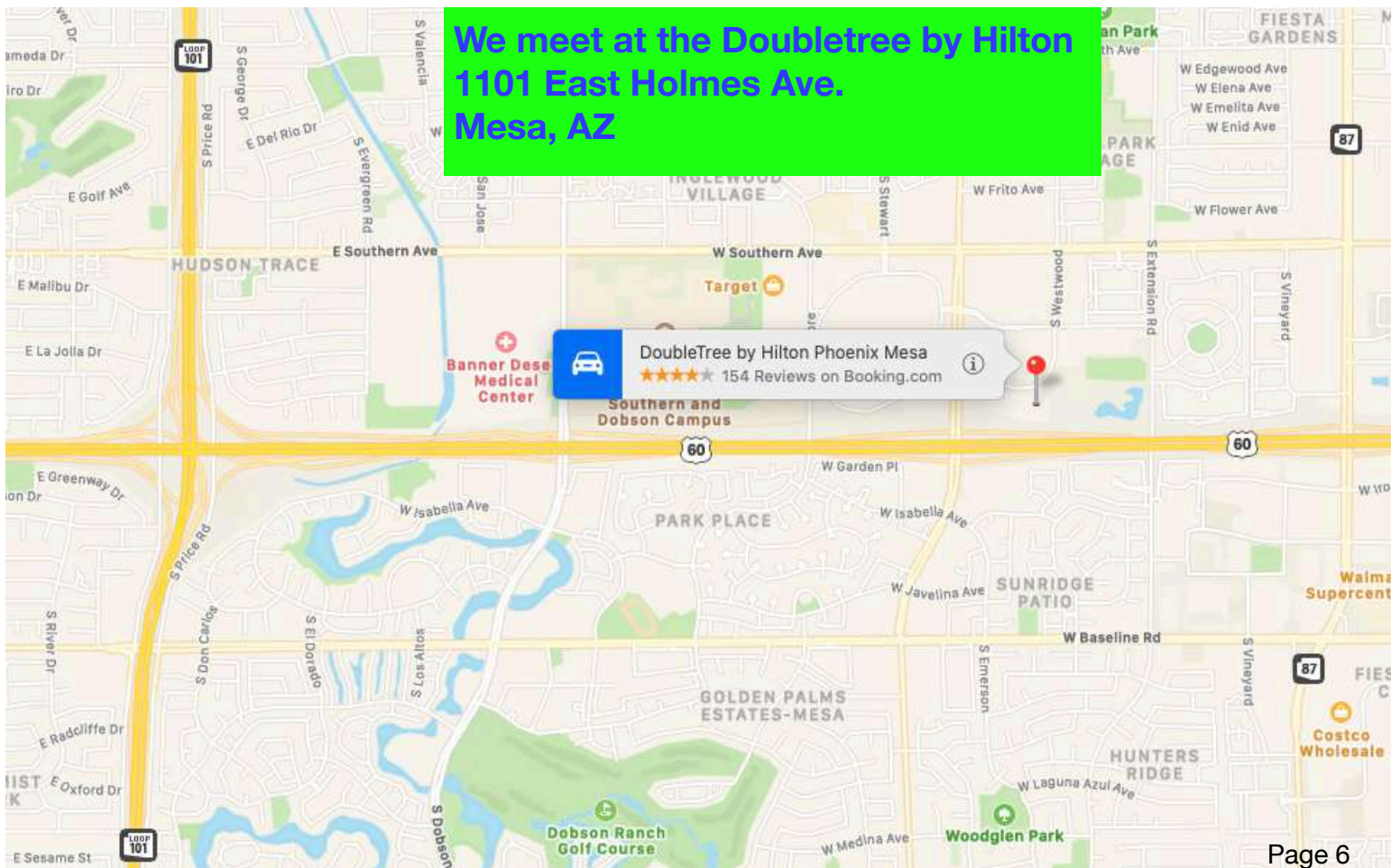
bill@strategicquality.com

Attention All : Your element Leader may have changed; be sure to check it out!!!!

Flight 82 Dinner Reservation Procedures:

When you get this newsletter, please contact your Element Leader (shown below) to make a reservation by the Sunday prior to the meeting. If that does not work, please contact Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

MEMBERS	ELEMENT LEADER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
ALLEN TO DICKMAN	ARLAN ALLEN	cw4allen@cox.net	480-244-5782
DOOLEY TO GORMAN	BUDDY SIMS	tisims@centurylink.net	970-445-7573 or 623-535-1952
GREGORY TO KARP	GARY ZETTL	gzettl@msn.com	623-680-2603
KIEHLBAUGH TO McD	DAVE OLDROYD	doldroyd3@cox.net	480-844-0445
McGRAIN TO PELTON	BILL FOLLETTE	Bill@strategicquality.com	602-619-5445
PERKINS TO SLOAN	JOHN SLAUGHTER	john.slaughter@outlook.com	602-684-8463
SORENSEN TO VANDEVENTER	TOM WALDRON	mojack7@msn.com	480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661
VANGSNES TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	rbperkins@cox.net	602-295-3880



Willie Flight 82 2022 Dues are Due Now and Delinquent 31 March:

If you have not yet paid your Flight 82 dues (\$15), please do so ASAP -- use the form below or **pay at the next luncheon.**

NOTE: National dues are collected separately -- Daedalians' HQ will bill you directly if you are not a life member.



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FLIGHT 82 DUES FOR 2022: If you need to pay your local dues or would like to make a scholarship donation, please print out this form, complete it, clip at dotted line, and send to:

*Willie Flight 82
P.O. Box 11261
Chandler, Arizona 85248*

Enclose a check for Flight dues (\$15) and add any scholarship donations you would like to make. Please make your check out to "Willie Flight 82"

NAME: _____

(First) (Last)

RANK: __ SERVICE: _____ ACTIVE __ RETIRED __ or OTHER _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: Annual Flight Dues (\$15): _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____



March 2022 Meeting



VA Hotlinks



VA Pensions for Surviving Spouses

Did you know VA provides tax-free, supplemental income for qualified, surviving spouses? Learn how to apply for this benefit by watching the YouTube video and visiting the web links in the video description.

[WATCH](#)



[Sherwin-Williams](#) 15% off discount on Paints, Stains and Painting Supplies

[GelPro](#) 25% off discount for online purchases

[Veteran Roasters Coffee](#) Use code VETERANS20 for 20% off.

[VIEW ALL DISCOUNTS](#)

File a Claim for Military Exposure

If you have an [illness or condition related to in-service exposure](#), you may be eligible for disability compensation. VA is now processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials and encourages Veterans who were previously denied to file a claim.



National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, Cancer Prevention, and Late Life PTSD

In this episode of The BLUF we look at the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, cancer prevention and late life PTSD.

[WATCH](#)



De-stress With 3-minute Breathing Space

Through mindful awareness and self-care tools, you can take charge of your health and well-being to live your life to the fullest. Breathing space is one area of mindful awareness that can help you become fully aware and tuned in to what is going on right now, in the present moment, and without judgement.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Coping When Current Events Bring Up Past Trauma

When armed conflict arises — no matter where in the world it happens — Veterans can experience a range of challenging emotions as events unfold. This can be especially true for combat Veterans who may be reminded of their own deployment experiences.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Aviation News



US Navy confident it can fix its fighter jet shortfall — and avoid another

by Megan Eckstein via DefenseNews

The U.S. Navy has a carefully balanced plan to dig out of a fighter shortfall and stave off another in the 2030s — but several pieces must come together exactly as planned.



The Dangerous Allure of the No-Fly Zone

by Mike Pietrucha and Mike Benitez via War on the Rocks

A press conference with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson captivated the world when Daria Kaleniuk, a Ukrainian activist, implored him and other Western leaders to set up a no-fly zone over Ukraine to shelter its people from Russian aircraft. The tragedy of the current situation, the sincerity and sadness of the activist, and prime minister's delicately worded but practical response — in which he told her that there would not be a no-fly zone due to the risk of a NATO-Russian war — made footage of the press conference go viral.



Space Force Is Still Finding Its Way. Space Force Offers Clues.

by Ramin Skibba via Wired

One year ago, it was unclear whether the beleaguered US Space Force would survive. It was former president Trump's initiative, and a widely ridiculed one at that, and some wondered if President Biden would can it. He didn't. Now, the US military's sixth branch is struggling to find legitimacy and purpose in a world that still snickers at its Star Trek-ian logo and goofy name.



US Army & UK Launch Future Vertical Lift Partnership

The future of helicopter warfare in the “lower tier” of airwar will be informed by an interesting developmental, technological and conceptual alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom, long-time allies with a shared history of military collaboration and joint operations.

Air Force special ops chief says it's time to embrace new missions

By Rachel S. Cohen



Jolly Green II rescue helicopter on track for operational tests this month

The U.S. Air Force's next combat rescue helicopter is expected to begin its operational testing phase by the end of the month.

Member Memory Pictures

Buddy Sims

FAC to MOAB



Dave Vangsnes

SAC Supreme

