

# 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



We had a good turnout for our February meeting with 28 attendees. James McLeroy, Army Special Forces Officer, gave an outstanding presentation on “The Battle of Kham Duc”. He shared his personal experience of the battle. He co-authored a book about the battle, called “BAIT”. Carl Schneider,

Major General, USAF (ret) said that the book was first hand, exhaustively documented account of a large battle in the Vietnam War that showed the decisive role of air power. The strategic potential of the three-day attack by two NVA regiments on Kham Duc, a remote isolated Army Special Forces camp, on the eve of the first Paris peace talks in May 1968, was so significant that former President Lyndon Johnson included it in his memoirs.



Clyde Williams donated two books, The Air Force, The Historical Foundation and The Encyclopedia of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Air Warfare. These were raffled off along with our normal raffle prize. Thank you, Clyde.

CWO 2 Gary Schooler will speak on “Fighting Forest Fires from the Air”, for our upcoming meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. You can check out his biography on page ??????. I hope to see you there.

We still have 41 members who still owe 2022 Dues. You can use the form in this newsletter and send in your dues to the Willie Flight address: WILLIE FLIGHT 82, Order of Daedalians P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248

Kurt Gerhart, fellow Willie Flight member, has been working on our willieflight.org web site. He has asked for photos of our members with the airplanes they flew. We would like you to send photos to Bill Follette, [bill@strategicquality.com](mailto:bill@strategicquality.com)

We are looking for someone to replace our current treasurer, Caroline Evernham. If interested, please contact Ron Perkins at [rbperkins@cox.net](mailto:rbperkins@cox.net)

**NEXT MEETING:**  
 It will be on Saturday, 12 March at The Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.  
**Speaker:** Gary Schooler Bio Page 3  
**Time:** 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch **Meeting Dress:** Dressy Casual  
**Menu:** Entree 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 Sunday, 6 March. 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			
12 Mar	General Meeting	15 Mar	Staff Meting
9 Apr	General Meeting	12 Apr	Staff Meting
14 May	General Meeting	17 May	Staff Meting

**Officers & Staff:**  
**Elected Officers:**  
 Flight Captain: Ron Perkins, 602-295-3880  
 Vice Flight Captain: Art Stark, 480-288-9301  
 Treasurer: Caroline Evernham, 478-973-2093  
 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

## 12 March Speaker

### Fighting Forest Fires from the Air CW2 Gary Schooler Biography



I received my student pilot cert. in 1963 and my private pilot cert. in 1965. After finishing my second year of college I enlisted in the Army in the Warrant Officer Program.

I was sworn in Oct 31, 1966 (trick or treat). I entered flight school Jan. 1967 at Ft. Wolters TX. Then moved on to Ft. Rucker Alabama in June and graduated in Oct 1967. I was one of

seven selected for CH-47 transition out of flight school.

I reported to the 178th Assault/Support Helicopter Company (ASHC) in Jan. 68 Just before Tet. I returned to Ft. Hood in Jan 69 and released from active duty in Apr 70.

It took about 5 years to get a flying. My first job was Agriculture (Crop Dusting) work in both fixed and rotorcraft, this was seasonal work and allowed me to move into firefighting as the seasons do not conflict. I flew for California Department of Forestry for 6 years and then moved into fixed wing tankers for private contractors.



I hold airline transport pilot airplane & rotorcraft type ratings: BV-44, BV-234, G-S2, L-188, L-P2V and LR-JET. I have a total of 18,000 + hours.

Currently I am the caretaker for a 1948 Globe Swift which I maintain and fly until I pass it on to a new person someday.



Willie Flight Daedalians,

We are trying to establish a member's side to our website. This will eventually allow each of us to update our own contact information and at the same time limit access of information and photos we would rather not make available to the general public. Please visit the site and sign-up.

[www.willieflight.org/](http://www.willieflight.org/)

It will take a day or so to get approved once you have completed your request. We are still working to add content to the "members side."

Thank you. *Kurt Gearhart* - Webmaster



## **Willie Flight 82 Needs your Help**

We are looking for a new treasurer ASAP. 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](mailto: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](mailto:kurtgearhart@mac.com) and Bill Follette, Newsletter Editor, at

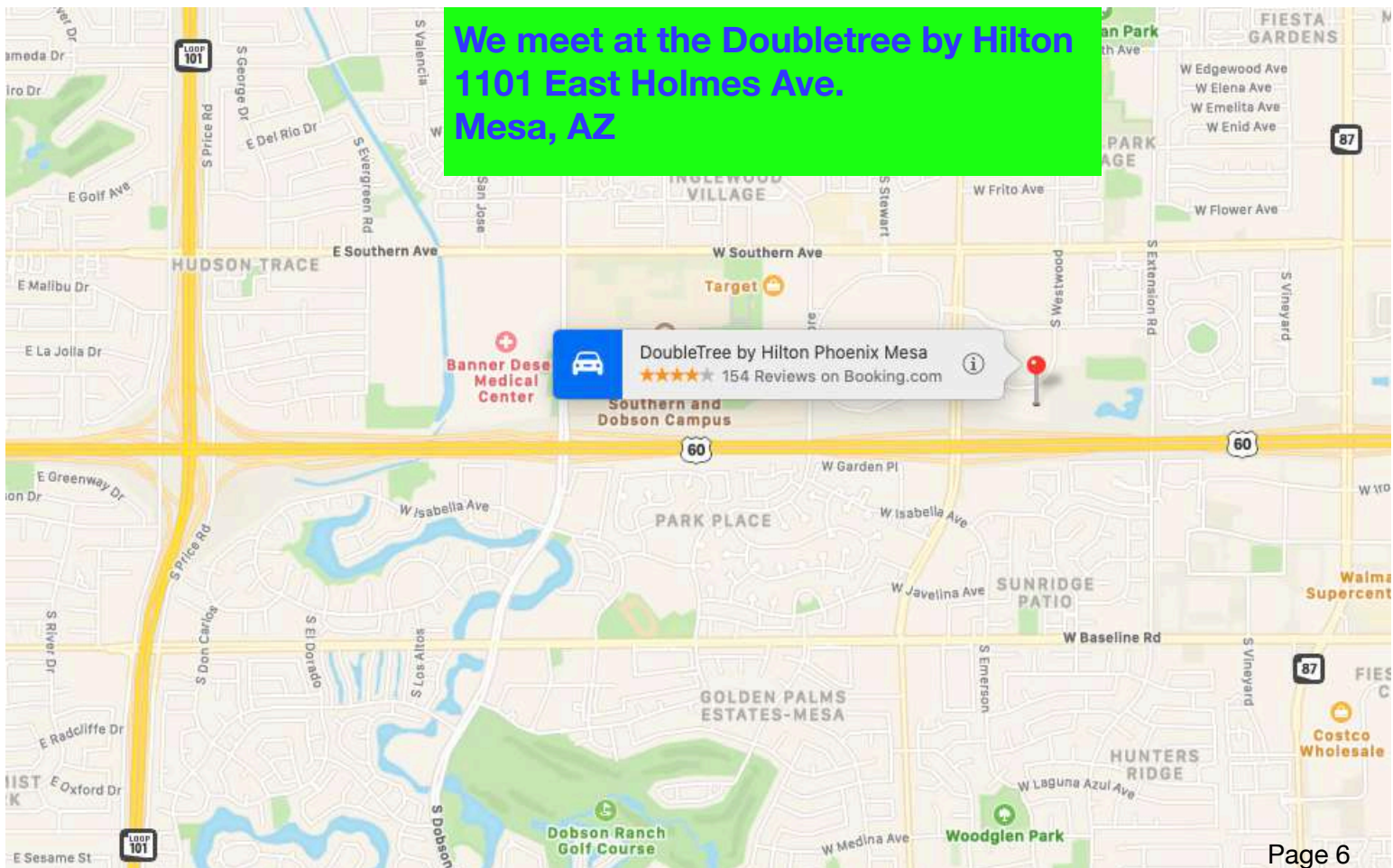
[bill@strategicquality.com](mailto:bill@strategicquality.com)

**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	<a href="mailto:cw4allen@cox.net">cw4allen@cox.net</a>	480-244-5782
DOOLEY TO GORMAN	BUDDY SIMS	<a href="mailto:tisims@centurylink.net">tisims@centurylink.net</a>	970-445-7573 or 623-535-1952
GREGORY TO KARP	GARY ZETTL	<a href="mailto:gzettl@msn.com">gzettl@msn.com</a>	623-680-2603
KIEHLBAUGH TO McD	DAVE OLDROYD	<a href="mailto:doldroyd3@cox.net">doldroyd3@cox.net</a>	480-844-0445
McGRAIN TO PELTON	BILL FOLLETTE	<a href="mailto:Bill@strategicquality.com">Bill@strategicquality.com</a>	602-619-5445
PERKINS TO SLOAN	JOHN SLAUGHTER	<a href="mailto:john.slaughter@outlook.com">john.slaughter@outlook.com</a>	602-684-8463
SORENSEN TO VANDEVENTER	TOM WALDRON	<a href="mailto:mojack7@msn.com">mojack7@msn.com</a>	480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661
VANGSNES TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	<a href="mailto:rbperkins@cox.net">rbperkins@cox.net</a>	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: \_\_\_\_\_



# February 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.

[Learn More](#)



## Free Tax Prep Available

Tax season can feel overwhelming, especially for military families, but programs like AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide can help you file your state and federal tax returns. Tax-Aide is free and available (*appointment only*) to all Veterans, service members, and their families [regardless of age or whether they're AARP members](#).

SCOP NEWS GROUP

Featuring  
Charles Tapp II  
VBA CFO

THE  
**DAILY**  
**SCOOP**  
PODCAST  
with FRANCIS BODE

podcast

Veterans Benefits Administration Chief Financial Officer Charles Tapp II discusses how VBA oversees the delivery of \$150 billion worth of benefits to veterans every year and modernization efforts underway at his organization.

## Daily Scoop Podcast: VBA Chief Financial Officer Charles Tapp

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Chief Financial Officer Charles Tapp II discusses how VBA oversees the delivery of \$150 billion worth of benefits to Veterans every year and modernization efforts currently underway.

[LISTEN](#)

# Aviation News



## Air Force Strategies Chipping Away at Pilot Shortfall

by Kimberly Johnson via [Flying Magazine](#)

*Ramped-up retention efforts and new training programs are helping, slowly.*



## The Marine Corps is officially flying its 'most powerful' helicopter ever

It's official, "the most powerful helicopter the United States has ever fielded" is joining the Marine Corps rotary wing fleet.



### **'Sidewalk,' 'Terminally Stupid,' and 'Meatloaf' — How military pilots get their call signs**

*"Most are based on the pilot screwing something up."*



### **Air Sick**

by Greg Hadley via [Air Force Magazine](#)

*The cancer rates for some aviators are higher than others. Lifelong monitoring may be the only viable solution.*

### **Three takeaways from the US Navy's first F-35C deployment**

Aircraft carrier Carl Vinson returned home Feb. 14 after a six-and-a-half-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific, in the U.S. Navy's first deployment of the "air wing of the future." [Read More](#)



**Blackhawk pilots could fly with AI ‘assistants’  
in the near-future**

Artificial intelligence “assistants” embedded in augmented reality headsets may help Blackhawk pilots “see” critical information to perform tasks and deal with emergencies.



**11 amazing facts about aircraft ejection seats**

The Air Force can't afford to keep buying all the piloted bombers and jets it plans, the service secretary says, so he's considering a hybrid force of drones operating in tandem with aircraft like the new B-21 stealth bomber.