DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Greetings Fellow Daedalians,

Thanksgiving is over and we are now taking the runway, lighting the burners and accelerating towards Christmas and another New Year celebration. Needless to say, it will be here before we know it! Tempus Fugit as my Latin teacher used to say!

Our next gathering will be Thursday, 14 December, at the Wyndam Hotel, 1600 S. 52nd Street, Tempe, AZ 85281. The social Hour will begin at 1100 and the meeting will start at 1200. A plated open-faced turkey sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy will be served, followed by Colonel (ret) Mark W. Tillman giving a presentation entitled "Flying Air Force One, During 9-11". Spouses are cordially invited to attend. Please respond to your element leader not later than 10 December if you plan to attend so that we have an accurate number to provide to the hotel. This is important since the meals are plated based on the number we provide.
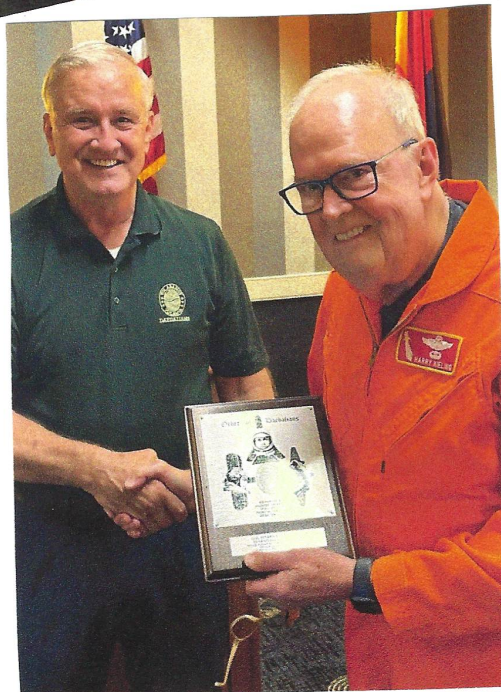
Stay safe and be well,

Rick Drown

Flight 82 Luncheon Reservation Procedures:

When you get this newsletter, please contact your Element Leader (shown below) to make a reservation by the Saturday prior to the meeting. If that does not work, please contact Gary Schooler (480-208-6615)

MEMBERS	ELEMENT LEADER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
ALLEN TO BURKE	SIG NELSON	sig.nelson@cox.net	602-793-4367
BUSHKO TO FOLLETTE	ART STARK	artstark6160@gmail.com	480-277-4700
FRANKLIN TO JOHNSON	GARY ZETTL	gzettl@msn.com	480-415-6854
JONAS TO OLDROYD	BILL FOLLETTE	bill@strategicquality.com	602-619-5445
OLNEY TO STARK	RICK DROWN	rickdrown@msn.com	480-518-7665
SULLIVAN TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	rbperkins@cox.net	602-295-3880

NOVEMBER GATHERING

Speaker Colonel Harry Kieling

Freedom is not Free

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN
PROUD VETERAN

UNITED WE STAND

Willie Flight Speaker 14 Dec, 2023

Col Mark Tillman
"Flying Air Force One, During 9-11"

Colonel (ret) Mark W. Tillman was selected as President George W. Bush's pilot and the commander of Air Force One in 2001. Col. Tillman commanded AF-1 on Sep 11, 2001 keeping the President and his staff well protected and invisible to those that would do him harm. His plan of escape and evasion ensured the President remained connected to first responders and key decision makers around the world.

Excellence and motivation in a zero-fail environment is the cornerstone of Col. Tillman's success. Shortly after the liberation of Iraq the President asked to visit the men and women of the United States Military in Iraq. Specifically he wanted to have Thanksgiving dinner with the troops. Traveling to the other side of the world with the President of the United States is challenging in itself, but this mission required Col. Tillman to develop a plan that ensured complete secrecy with little to no help from the US military. Fooling the world, he orchestrated and personally executed a covert operation allowing the President to serve the US servicemen and women Thanksgiving dinner in war torn Baghdad, Iraq without incident. Once again, flawless planning and execution of a mission with high stakes and zero margin for error.

Col Tillman's distinguished career spanned 30 years in the United States Air Force. Utilizing his Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering (Tulane Univ '79) and a Master's degree in Aeronautical Science (Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ '95) he has worked as a Rocket Propulsion Engineer, T-37 Instructor Pilot for undergraduate pilot training, C-130 transport pilot, VIP airlift as a pilot in the Gulfstream III and IV and Presidential pilot in the VC-25 or Boeing 747.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 2004 and promoted to Brigadier General by the President of the United States—the first military line officer to receive this honor (not confirmed by the Senate Armed Services Committee). Honored to have served the White House, proud to be a member of the United States Military, Col Tillman's career is filled with potentially life altering events—responsibility that few leaders have experienced.

Col Tillman continues to mentor others serving as a consultant in the aerospace industry and flying as a corporate pilot.