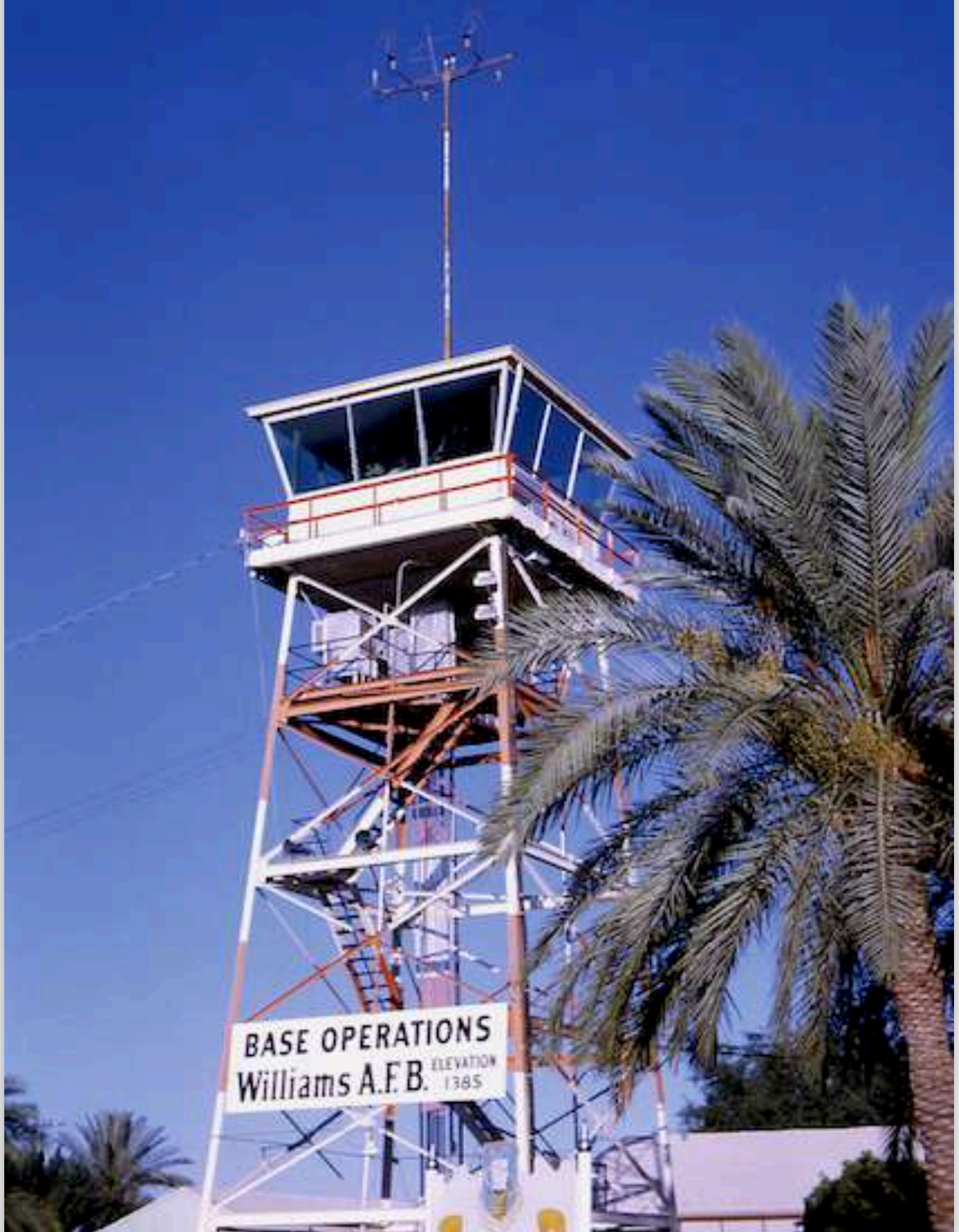


# Willie Flight 82





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



## FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful time over the holidays with family and friends. I for one am glad to put the years 2020 and 2021 behind me. Our last 2021 meeting on 11 December served as our Christmas meeting with spouses and guests. We were entertained by Glynn Gilcrease who performed as Abraham Lincoln. He was dressed and looked like Lincoln.

Glynn spoke for over a half hour discussing Lincoln's life from the time he was campaigning for the Illinois Senate in 1858 until his assassination in 1865. He spoke without a single note and gave Lincoln's well known "Gettysburg Address." An impressive performance.



We concluded the meeting by raffling off six bottles of excellent wine and two aviation books donated by Clyde and Bunnie Williams.

Our upcoming meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January will have our own Willie Flight member, CW4 Arlan Allen, speaking on VA benefits. He will be covering such topics as service-connected illnesses, Presumptive illnesses, claims procedures and the appeal process. See Arlan's biography, presentation outline, and photos on page 3-5. Finally, we will provide a brief update on the flight status as to finances, leadership, and future speakers.

In addition to the VA update, we will include the induction of our members who are new to the order of Daedalians. If anyone has not taken the Oath of Induction, please feel free to join us by participating in this opportunity. It is mandatory requirement for all Daedalian members.

Kurt Gerhart, fellow Willie Flight member, has been working on our web site and it should be up and running soon.

### NEXT MEETING:

It will be on Saturday, 8 January at The Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.

**Speaker:** Arlan Allen; bio on Page 3.

**Topic:** VA Benefits

**Time:** 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch

**Meeting Dress:** Dressy Casual

**Menu:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, and Gravy with all the trimmings served with vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee.)

**Price:** \$30 per person.

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

**Reservations:** To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 6), by Sunday, 2 January. 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.

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

2022 Meeting Calendar			
8 Jan	General Meeting	11 Jan	Staff Meeting
12 Feb	General Meeting	15 Feb	Staff Meeting
12 Mar	General Meeting	15 Mar	Staff Meeting
9 Apr	General Meeting	12 Apr	Staff Meeting
14 May	General Meeting	17 May	Staff Meeting

### 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
- Asst A-V Support: Kurt Gearhart, 480-329-1936
- Biographies: Gary Klein, 480-650-5522
- Asst Scholar/Awards: Gary Zettl, 480-415-6854
- Membership & Pub.: Pat Dooley, 480-802-9914

## BIOGRAPHY OF ARLAN R. ALLEN

Born to Arlan R. Allen Sr. and Maxine (Carman) Allen, February 24, 1949.

Attended Vaughn Elementary and Vaughn High School, graduated May, 1967.

Attended University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 1967 - 1969

Enlisted in the United States Army as a Warrant Officer Candidate, March, 1969. Graduated from the Army Flight School, designated an Army Aviator and appointed as a Warrant Officer 1. Served as a Combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam and continued serving through Desert Storm, as an IP, SIP, and NVG IP.

Graduate of the following Military courses: Methods of Instruction Course and Instructor Pilot Course; Flight Examiner Course; Aviation Maintenance Officer Course; Graduate Warrant Officer Senior Course, University of Nevada, Reno.

Retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 with the following awards and decorations: Master Army Aviator; Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor; the Bronze Star; 19 Awards of the Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Vietnam Service Ribbon; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

A parallel career, as a civilian, flying for Golden West Airlines and, later, a Corporate Pilot flying Lear-Jets followed by ten years with the US Department of Interior as a Natural Resource Pilot, followed by an additional ten year service with the Federal Aviation Administration, serving as an Aviation Safety Inspector/Aircraft Accident Investigator. Graduated from the Federal Aviation Administration Academy, Oklahoma City, OK; Graduate US Department of Transportation Safety Institute, Aircraft Accident Investigation.

I hold the following Federal Aviation Administration certificates and ratings:

Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, Airplane and Helicopter.

Type Ratings: Lear Jet; BO105; Boeing 737; Boeing 757; Boeing 767. Certified Flight Instructor, Airplane and Helicopter Including Instruments.

I have accumulated 20,000 + hours of flight time, including 1100 hours in Combat, in over 100 different types of aircraft, ranging from 2 place training helicopters and 1938 Piper J-3, to the 300 passenger Boeing 767.

Fully retired in 2009 and started in volunteer work with various Veterans groups and Community projects. Serving as a Veterans Advocate and on the Board of Directors of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. I have served on the Board of Directors for the past thirteen years and have held the following positions: Second Vice President and Membership Chair; First Vice President and Program Chair and President During my two year term as President of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA, the Chapter received a Five Star Level of Excellence Award for both years. In addition to the work with the Board of Directors, I have helped several members with VA Disability claims, plus I have helped many survivors of Chapter members to file for Survivor Benefits and to acquire a new Military ID.

I am currently serving on the Executive Committee for the Order of Daedalians, Willie Flight 81, as the Flight Adjutant.

In 2011 I established the "AR Allen Family Scholarship" in honor of my grandfather who was a WWI Veteran. This scholarship is given yearly to recipients who graduate from my High School alma mater, in Vaughn, NM. I also award a Patriotism Award to those entering the Armed Forces.

In my spare time, flying remains my hobby. My project was the restoration of a 1947 Engineering and Research Corporation, Ercoupe 415CD. This project took me 3 ½ years to complete.

## OUTLINE FOR 8 JANUARY MEETING

- VA structure and overview
- VA health care
  - Enrollment
  - VA Form 10-10 EZ
- VA benefits
- Service Connected
- Presumptive illnesses
  - Vietnam
  - Gulf War
  - Camp Lejeune
  - Atomic Veteran
- Claims Procedure
  - Effective Date of claim
  - Adjudication Procedures
  - Manual M21-1
- Appeal Process





This photo of me as the pilot, call sign Tomahawk 23, was taken early in the morning of February 4, 1971, in route, cross border operation interdiction Ho Chi Minh Trail near Kampong Cham Cambodia. Unit: 128<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company; 11<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Battalion; 12<sup>th</sup> Group; 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade.

Arlan Allen

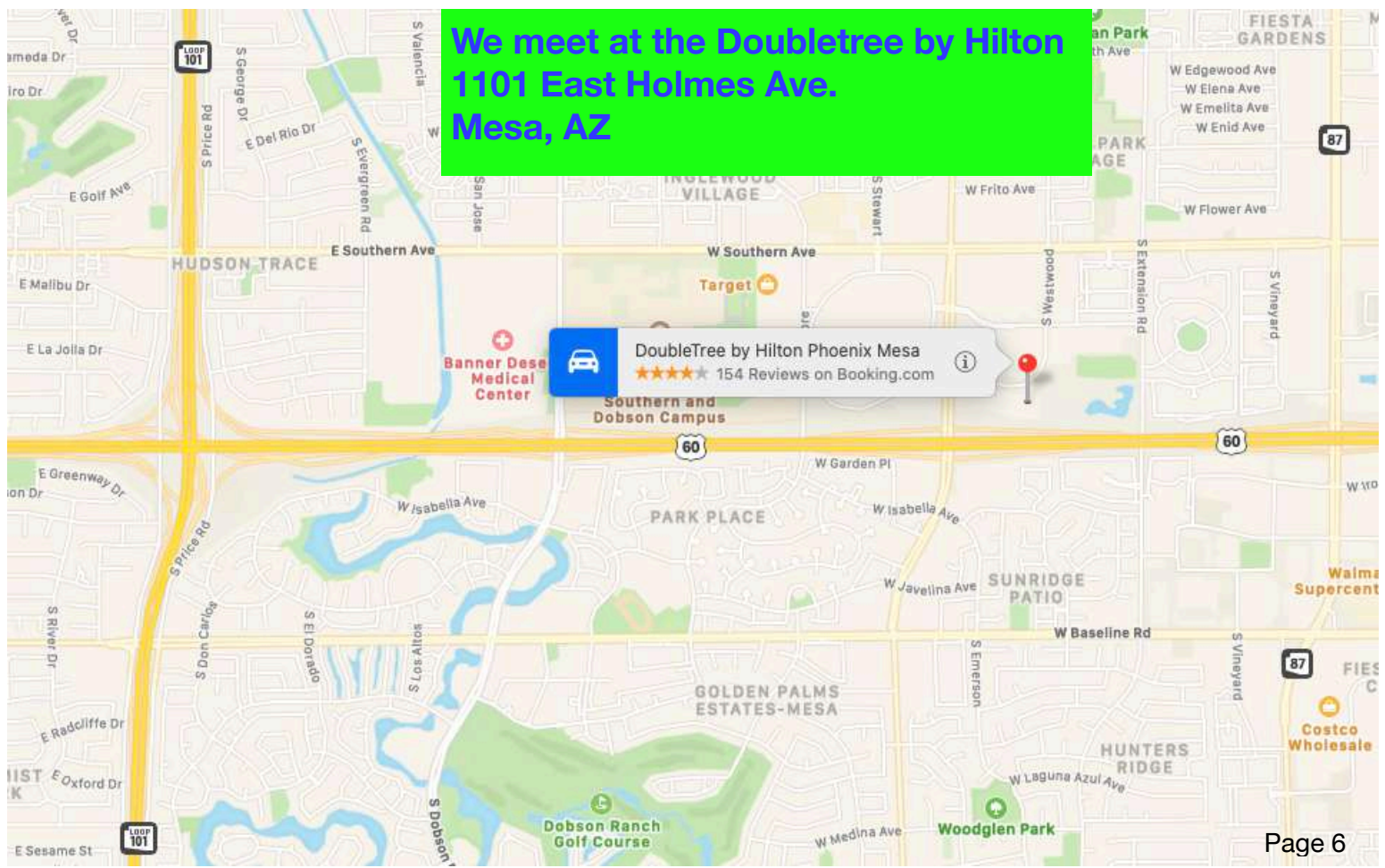


**Attention All : Your element Leader may have changed; be sure to check it out!!!!**

**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
1) ALLEN TO DICKMAN	ARLAN ALLEN	<a href="mailto:cw4allen@cox.net">cw4allen@cox.net</a>	480-244-5782
2) DOOLEY TO GRAYSON	BUDDY SIMS	<a href="mailto:tisims@centurylink.net">tisims@centurylink.net</a>	970-445-7573 or 623-535-1952
3) GREGORY TO KARP	GARY ZETTL	<a href="mailto:gzettel@msn.com">gzettel@msn.com</a>	623-680-2603
4) KIEHLBAUGH TO McD	DAVE OLDROYD	<a href="mailto:doldroyd3@cox.net">doldroyd3@cox.net</a>	480-844-0445
5) McGRAIN TO PELTON	BILL FOLLETTE	<a href="mailto:Bill@strategicquality.com">Bill@strategicquality.com</a>	602-619-5445
6) PERKINS TO SLOAN	JOHN SLAUGHTER	<a href="mailto:john.slaughter@outlook.com">john.slaughter@outlook.com</a>	602-684-8463
7) SORENSON TO VANDEVENTER	TOM WALDRON	<a href="mailto:mojack7@msn.com">mojack7@msn.com</a>	480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661
8) VANGSNES TO WOOD	RON PERKINS	<a href="mailto:rbperkins@cox.net">rbperkins@cox.net</a>	602-295-3880



**One of our long time Flight members, Tom Grayson, took his final flight west recently. He was a familiar figure at our meetings, especially at Christmas time when he would share with us a wonderful stand up comedy routine based on his experiences as an airline pilot. Tom will be missed.**



Thomas Garland Grayson passed away on the 13th of November 2021 at the age of 72. Tom was born to Bernard and Alma Grayson on October 21, 1949, at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C.. During most of his childhood, he and his family traveled around the world following his father's Air Force career. Notably, the family lived in Japan and Turkey and eventually settled in Salt Lake City, Utah, where Tom grew up with his brothers Larry, Scott, Mike, and Terry.

It was Salt Lake City, Utah where Tom culminated his youth by graduating from Skyline High School and was accepted into the United States Air Force Academy. In the summer of 1973, after four intense years, he proudly graduated as a member of 7th Squadron and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Following graduation, Tom was stationed at Williams Air Force Base in Phoenix, AZ where he would not only fulfill his dream of becoming a pilot. After pilot training, he continued as both a T-37 instructor pilot and a pilot training academic instructor. It was during this exciting time in his life that he met the love of his life, Debbie. The two began dating and would go on to be married on November 17, 1979 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Two short years later, they welcomed their first son, J.T. and shortly thereafter, they moved to Downers Grove, Illinois. It was here in which their next two sons, Jeff and Dano were brought into the family, each two years after the last.

While in Illinois, he joined the Illinois Air National Guard as an A-37 Dragonfly pilot and was the corporate pilot for Evans Furs company. The family of five then moved to Phoenix, Arizona where they would happily spend over three decades together. In that time, Tom was hired at America West Airlines where he began his career as a commercial airline pilot. He passionately followed his dream through the, as he put it, "ups and downs" of the airline industry, to include qualifying on multiple airplanes, starring as the pilot in an interactive aviation exhibit at the Arizona Science Center (which is still there), and even flying on the east coast during 9/11.

Despite a busy airline career, Tom will be forever known as a man that made people laugh. He was always quick with a joke and a smile and even had a side career in stand-up comedy. He competed on the armature stand-up circuit and even co-founded the Ahwatukee Comedy Club, which stood up to rave reviews. Upon retiring as an Airbus Captain with over 30,000 flights hours, Tom immediately found a continuation of his life's work as a simulator instructor for American Airlines. Meanwhile, the joy he found in his career was only matched by his pride in his family.

Tom dearly loved his three sons whom he leaves behind: J.T. and his wife Kateley, Jeff and his wife Marisa, and Dano. As well, he became a proud and loving grandfather in recent years when his two grandchildren, Lucas and Charlie, were born to Jeff and Marisa. But most of all, Tom loved his wife Debbie, a loving partner and soul mate through all of their adventures. The two would have celebrated their 42nd year together last Wednesday. Tom was an amazing man, friend, husband, father, grandfather, son and brother, and he will be missed by everyone that ever had the pleasure of meeting him.



**Willie Flight 82 2022 Dues are Due Now:**

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





# News from National

## National Dues to Increase Next Year

Annual National Daedalian dues for **2022** are rising to **\$70** due to increasing costs of production, mailings, and software. Please know that they will continue to send out our hard copy magazines, paper dues reminders, and work to make their communications tools like the Airpower blog and Aviator newsletter even better. They are working towards an engaged membership and connection to other aviation agencies, and hope they will continue to have your support as they advocate for military airpower.

Life membership will stay at its current rates below:

Age
<30-40 — \$1,300
41-55 — \$1,200
56-70 — \$1,000
71-75 — \$750
76+ — \$500

## Matching Scholarships

The Daedalian Foundation matches up to \$2,000 in Flight scholarship awards, and then adds another \$1,000, allowing each Flight to receive up to \$3,000. When a flight awards multiple scholarships, the Foundation's matching, up to \$3,000, is done in accordance with flight instructions.

## Member Portal Launched

National Headquarters has recently released their new Member Portal. In the portal, members can update their contact and duty information, check their dues status, upload documents they want HQ to have and view our Daedalian history books. They are rolling the portal out by state, so members who live in a state that starts with "**C-F**" or in the **Washington, D.C.** area and want access, please email [info@daedalians.org](mailto:info@daedalians.org) or [membership@daedalians.org](mailto:membership@daedalians.org) with your request. They will be adding more access in the next couple of months. Stay tuned!

# GOOD DEAL!!!!

The CAF and AAHF SW Chapter will host the first Annual Helicopter Show at the Commemorative AF Wing at Falcon Field in Mesa AZ. The event will have 15 helicopters along with all the museum aircraft on display including the B17 and C47. The event will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 starting at 1000 and ending at 1600.

Cost is \$15.00

\$12.00 for Veterans

Free for Disabled Veterans

Children 12 and under \$5.00

The AZ NG will have a UH60 Blackhawk and UH72 on display and we will have many Vietnam Helicopters including Hueys and Light Observation aircraft. There will also be many commercial helicopters, and we will also do Cockpit tours of many of our aircraft.

Come join us for a first and very special event.

