

View From The Tower

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RAMEY AIR FORCE BASE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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FLIGHTLINE CARGO DELIVERY

An Air Force C-121 Constellation transport parked on the tarmac in front of Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico, Hangar 405 to offload cargo, probably in the mid-1950s. "Connies" were part of the Military Air Transport Service, a Department of Defense Unified Command.

Photo/U.S. Air Force

SAN DIEGO 2022: It's almost time to go

BY Louis A. Arana EDITOR

Plans are 90% complete for the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association San Diego annual reunion and business meeting May 3-7, 2022.

"Now it's almost time to meet," said Terry Bucklew. The former association secretary and his wife, Shelly, planned the event.

It's at the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel & Marina. That's on the Santa Anna Sound. (www.islandpalms.com)

To reserve a room, call (619) 222-0561. Say you are

with the Ramey reunion to get the discounted price.

At press time, Bucklew said, some 30 members had signed up to attend.

"Just remember, meals and events are subject to change based on the number of people that attend," he said. That could mean more costs. So, to help compensate for the rising fees, the board of directors voted Feb. 8 to increase the reunion budget.

"And that's why we must know if you plan to attend. Attendance affects our plans and expenses," President Joyce Lanier

DON'T FORGET: The reunion silent auction is May 7. So, bring Ramey items and help raise funds for the Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum.

More on Page 2

said. "Especially in the bus transportation to venues."

Do you plan to attend? Call Lanier (309) 251-1740. Or email her at mrzip@mtco.com.

"That way we can have everything ready for our attendees, without a hitch," Lanier said.

Members who can't attend can still join the May 7 annual business meeting. They can log on via Zoom. Members with an email address will get the online link to join the meeting May 7, Lanier said.

All members must vote by mail, in advance. This way every member gets the opportunity to vote.

"We will mail members a ballot and a stamped return envelope. The ballot postmark deadline is printed on the ballot, Lanier said.

"So, please call in your

► SEE **SAN DIEGO 2022** PAGE 2



2 Time to vote for two association board members

Still time to register

Please fill out the form on **Page 19** to attend the San Diego reunion.

3 Harry's 108 and is still our oldest member

17 Museum gets more visitors and donations

275

NUMBER OF MEMBERS AT PRESS TIME

Two candidates seeking spots on the board

The association will vote for two board members May 7, 2022, during the San Diego reunion business meeting. There are two candidates.

Louis A. Arana Jr. is up for reelection (honorary life member).

Terry Bucklew, the past association secretary, is running for office again.

■ **Arana.** He's a Casino Baby, Aguadillano and Gulf War and Afghanistan vet. Served 26 years in Air Force blue. Was an elementary school kid at Ramey. Joined association in 2015 and has been a board member and newsletter editor for two terms. A former small business owner, he brings that knowledge and 45 years' experience in journalism to



Louis Arana



Courtesy photos

Terry Bucklew

the board, and association newsletter.

"Ramey and Aguadilla are in my DNA. This association keeps the memories of Ramey alive. I want to continue to be a part of that," he said.

■ **Bucklew.** Proud Ramey brat. He went to elementary school, junior high and one year at Ramey High School. Vietnam vet. A life member since 2005, he served three terms on the board. Until last year, he was the association secretary. A small business owner, he would continue to bring that experience to the board.

"I believe that we are in a position, with the association, to take a great leap forward after the setbacks from the pandemic and its effect on our society," he said.

The details on the upcoming election are in President Joyce Lanier's commentary on Page 4. — editor

SAN DIEGO FROM PAGE 1

change of address. And don't hold on your ballot. Send it in right away," Lanier said. "Vote. Sign it and drop it in your mailbox." Write ins are welcome.

■ **Registration.** The mail-in registration fee is \$210 per person, if postmarked by April 1, 2022. It's \$215 to pay via PayPal.

There's a \$10 late fee to register, via mail or online, after the April 1 cutoff.

Members must cancel reservations on or before April 10 to get a refund.

No refunds after April 10. But anyone who must cancel for something beyond their control, like illness, will get a refund.

*All the details for signing up are on the registration form on **Page 19**. Please fill it out and mail it in today. — editor*

■ **Some limits.** Because of skyrocketing costs, there will be less travel and fewer meals provided, Bucklew said.

There is a dinner at an Old Town San Diego Mexican café May 6. And there's a breakfast and final banquet dinner at the hotel May 7. Plus, there is food at the opening check-in and reception and two lunches.

That's a key reason members should let Lanier know if they plan to attend.

"We'll send a mass email to people with all the final details in mid-March or early April," she said.

Reunion at-press-time agenda

■ **Day 1 Tuesday, May 3.** Afternoon check-in at hotel hospitality room. It's the hub of event activities. Pick up welcome packet.

■ **Day 2 Wednesday, May 4.** March Field Air Museum. Will take most of the day.

■ **Day 3 Thursday, May 5.** Morning. Tour the USS Midway Museum. Afternoon. San Diego Bay harbor cruise.

■ **Day 4 Friday, May 6.** Afternoon trip to tour Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial. Then Old Town San Diego shopping, a visit to the old Convair Plant to tour library and B-36 Peacemaker artifacts displays. After that there's dinner at an Old Town Mexican café, followed by the silent auction closing back at the hotel.

■ **Day 5 Saturday, May 7, 2022.** Morning breakfast. Then comes the annual business meeting and election results. The closing banquet is in the evening.

Sunday, May 8, 2022. Adios until next year at Ramey.

Don't forget silent auction and 50/50 raffles

Hey, Shelly Bucklew donated a hand-made quilt for the auction. It's made of old Ramey reunion and museum T-shirts. "Bring something for the auction," President Joyce Lanier said. Donations go to Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum fund. Items will be on display in the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel & Marina hospitality room for bidding throughout the event. And there will be daily 50/50 drawings.

Board votes to award two association scholarships

College-bound students going into aerospace or aeronautical studies may now apply for one of two \$1,000 Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association scholarships.

The association board approved unanimously to go from one to two annual awards at their Feb. 8, 2022, online board meeting.

"Now, we'll make two young people happy," President Joyce Lanier said.

On another note, the scholarship fund also received a \$1,000 from an anonymous donor.

Since 2018, the association has awarded five scholarships to Ramey area students.

■ **FINANCES.** This is the Jan. 31, 2022, financial update from Treasurer Bill Williamson:

Scholarship fund	\$12,019.61
Museum fund savings	\$14,421.87
Reunion funds	\$(671.95)
Capital fund	\$13,561.16
Life membership fund	\$7,321.80
Undedicated funds	\$23,942.73
Net Worth	\$70,595.22

■ **MEMBERS.** This is the Jan. 31, 2022, membership update from chair Cindy Williamson:

	2021	2022	Change
Annual	86	86	no change
Patron	132	117	down 15
Life	53	55	up 2
Honorary	16	17	up 1
Total:	287	275	down 12

■ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.** The association is happy to welcome a new member.

♦ *José Nieves* of Aguada, Puerto Rico. Though he didn't serve at Ramey, he retired from the Air Force. Now, he brings his long service experience to his new job as a Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum volunteer.

■ SURPRISE! DID YOU KNOW?

A big chunk of association members — 80 — are the children of service members who served at Ramey.

And 18 are spouses of a Ramey troop or one of their kids, but some lived there and some didn't.

That's a hodgepodge.

And that's about 36% of the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association. "I'm sitting in front of the

membership list in amazement," President Joyce Lanier said.

She found the info after a "fairly thorough" evaluation of membership stats. Most — 117, about 43% — are former service members who served there.

She also found that 18 members are Ramey High School grads; 37 went to base schools.

There are 17 members, Casino Babies, born at the base hospital.

And, amazingly, she said, 10 family members either weren't born at the base nor attended school there.

"They joined to honor the memory of their veteran father who, in most cases, was or is an association member."

■ AGUADILLA WANTS TO CHANGE BURNS TO BORINQUENEERS ROAD

BY Gerry Giles MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Some of you may not know where Burns Road is on Ramey. But I received a call from an Aguadilla city representative who told me the city is keen on changing the name to Borinqueneers Road.

Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment "Borinqueneers" arrive by train from Camp Henry, in Cayey, Sept. 9, 1939, to help build the base.

Burns runs from just north of Gate 1, to the east past the Tropical Acres/Lazy R entrance, and ends at PR Highway 459, next to the Taíno Mini Golf and Café.

It is the road the military used to transport heavy weaponry from the base bunkers to the arming stations near the flightline's alert ramp.

Nobody seems to know who Burns was or if naming the street after that person had historical significance.

But the Borinqueneers name is significant. A point of pride since the unit served with distinction in the Korean War. Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum volunteer Augustin "Pito" Martinez is a Borinqueneers.

It's a great name choice. Several of my uncles and great uncles were Borinqueneers. — editor



U.S. Air Force photo
General Goldsworthy in 1973, Air Force deputy chief of staff for systems and logistics.

■ Happy 108th Harry!

Retired Lt. Gen. Harry Goldsworthy will still be the association's oldest member when he turns 108 April 5, 2022. A patron member, he may be the oldest living Air Force general. "He's always paid his dues on time," President Joyce Lanier said. As new pilot in 1940, Goldsworthy went to Borinquen Field with the 25th Bombardment Group and flew World War II anti-submarine patrols from Puerto Rico to Trinidad through 1943.

Final Flyby

The Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association mourns the death of two dear members. May they rest in eternal peace.

♦ **Arnold Port** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Dec. 28, 2021. He was 97. A retired lieutenant colonel, he was a World War II bombardier and navigator from 1943-1945. He left the military at war's end. Recalled to active duty in 1951, he served in the Korean War. He was a 60th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron B-36 Peacemaker bomber navigator at Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico, from 1952-1955. Then he served in the Vietnam war. He attended his first association reunion at Warner-Robbins AFB, Ga., in 2010. During his long flying career,



Arnold Port

he logged almost 5,000 hours flying B-36s and B-47 Stratojet bombers.



Courtesy photos

Francisco Rosario

♦ **Francisco "Frank" Rosario** of Vacaville, Calif., died Jan. 4, 2022. He was 92. A life member, he was born in Aguadilla. At 17, he moved to Queens, N.Y., and later joined the Air Force. While at Ramey, from 1971-1974, he was a KC-135 Stratotanker crew chief. But he spent most of his service career as a flight engineer. After retiring from the Air Force, he began making annual trips to his hometown in Puerto Rico to visit his family. He was an active member and was often "the life of the party" at many association reunions.

Surprise, surprise!

BY Joyce Lanier PRESIDENT

What a month! It's been full and we've had some surprises.

Surprise! A reunion "is" going to happen! We are in full swing planning the reunion and annual business meeting. Thanks to Terry and Shelly Bucklew's dedication, details are in the final stages. It is demanding work and I applaud them for a job well done. You won't be disappointed.



Courtesy photo
Joyce Lanier

Surprise! May 7's annual meeting is live via ZOOM again. A room full of attendees, and ZOOM attendees, complicates things. This technology isn't my forte, but we'll figure it out.

I'll send invitations to join the meeting via email early May 7. Mark your calendar.

March 15 I will send an email to everyone to confirm your email address. If you don't hear from me March 15, please email me at (jlanier466@gmail.com) or call me at (309) 251-1740 with your email address. Mark your calendar.

We need candidates for the board of directors. We need new blood. It's just

simply good for any organization. Please consider joining us on our quest to preserve the history of Ramey Air Force Base by running for a position on the board.

Surprise! ALL voting for board members MUST be by mail (including attendees). It was a good thing last year. Voting online during the ZOOM meeting is complicated. Members will receive the candidate bios, a letter of explanation, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope in the mail. The return ballot must be postmarked April 10 or before.

Surprise! We received an unexpected — anonymous — \$1,000 scholarship donation. Thank you! And thanks to each of you who has given. The winners and the board of directors are appreciative. The board has approved giving two scholarships per year starting with the 2022-23 school year. Keep up the magnificent work.

Surprise! Thanks Ramey dependents! I was pleasantly surprised and grateful when I realized about 36% of our membership are military family members. Some lived at Ramey. Others are "Ramey adoptees," like me. I fell in love with the association's mission and history, and the island, after my Ramey vet husband, Elton, introduced me.

How could I not love what I do here? I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. Adelante.

MAIL

Want to comment on the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association or its members? Tell us by phone, email or mail because we'd like to know. We may publish your comment. With submissions, please provide your name, where you live, when at Ramey, unit and what you did there. Stay safe.

About John Hughes. I wanted to mention that my good friend, life member John Hughes (Jan. 1, 2022, Final Flyby) was never a veteran of Borinquen Field or Ramey Air Force Base. He came to the island wanting to introduce lobster breeding in the early 1980s, I think. How he came to the Aguadilla area is a mystery, but I will seek that out. I remember meeting him and his wife Virginia, in the late 1980s. They loved to golf, so maybe the Ramey golf course was an attraction. The couple ended up spending every winter here. Virginia died of uterine cancer in the 1990s, but John kept returning every winter until recently.

Gerry Giles, life member, Ramey

Thanks for the memories. I am the daughter of Joseph Vincent Ridgely, who served as a communications officer at

Borinquen Field during World War II. We hoped to visit your museum this year, but COVID-19 had other plans. So, I wanted to write and ask if you were interested in a small cache of photos, newspapers and other materials from my father's collection. They include a Thanksgiving menu, several copies of the base newsletter and pamphlets handed out to new arrivals. One of the more entertaining stories my dad told me (documented in the photos) is that he and a buddy, who was a very talented engineer, acquired and renovated a couple of slot machines, which they installed in the Officer's Club. Even at the loosest setting, they made so much money they were hard pressed to figure out how to spend it. So, they provided various luxuries for the base like a barber. I'm sure this wasn't entirely legal, but hopefully the statute of limitations has run out. Plus, my father died a few years ago, so I can tell the story. I'm happy to provide photos of the items, which are well annotated — my father became a professor after the war. Thanks for all your efforts to preserve Borinquen's history

Julia Ridgely, via email



**RAMEY AIR FORCE BASE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico • Established: April 9, 1998

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View From The Tower is the official quarterly newsletter of the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association (RAFBHA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3). RAFBHA fulfills mission goals with deeds, members and board of directors, annual meetings, Ramey museum tours, scholarships, this publication, U.S. military archives and civilian groups. Articles, images and expressed views do not necessarily reflect association, board or member views and do not imply endorsement.

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Proofreaders: Gail Cole Arana, Joyce Lanier.

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2022 deadlines

Publication date	Date info due
Jan. 1, 2022	Dec. 1, 2021
April 1 (March 1), 2022	Feb. 1, 2022
July 1 (June 1), 2022	May 1, 2022
Oct. 1, 2022	Sept. 1, 2022
Jan. 1, 2023	Dec. 1, 2022

Send official mail (not for newsletter):
RAFBHA

104 Justice Dr
East Peoria, IL 61611

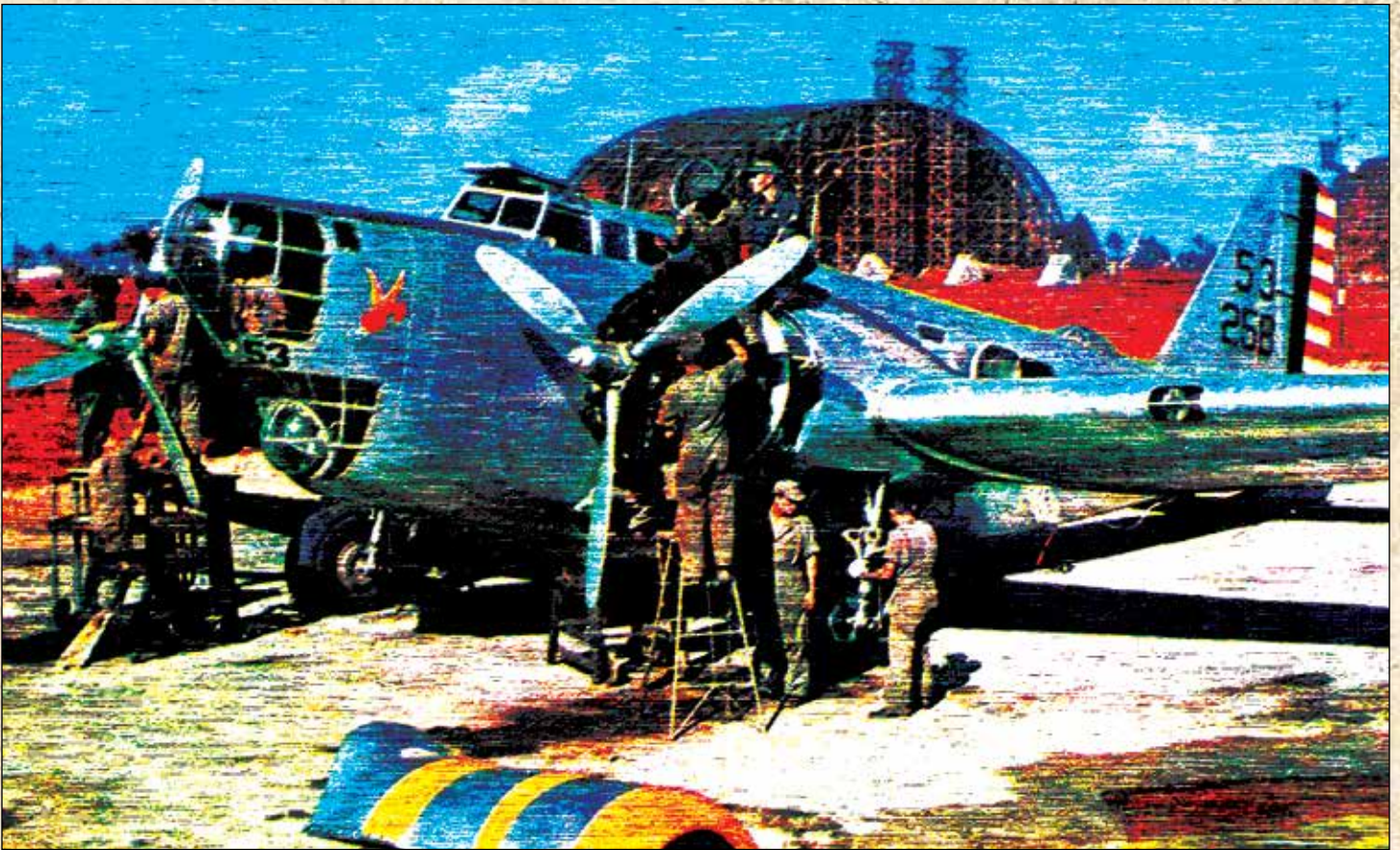
Mail or email all membership info:

Cindy Williamson
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BORINQUEN FIELD RAMEY AIR FORCE BASE

— MUSEUM —



PLEASE JOIN US IN

Keeping The Spirit Of Ramey Alive

90 Wing Rd, Aguadilla Pueblo, Aguadilla, PR 00603

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— Open Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. —

Borinquen Field Ramey Air Force Base Museum

The troops set up camp and began to build. With a tremendous construction boom, Borinquen Field arose from the cane fields.

Aguadilla changed forever. Soon afterward, the 25th Bombardment Group arrived with its B-18 Bolos. Then, as the base expanded to include basic amenities, families started to arrive with service members. Once there, their lives changed forever, too.

After the war, Borinquen became Ramey Air Force Base. Its namesake was U.S. Army Air Forces Brig. Gen. Howard Knox Ramey. The base closed in 1973, but its flightline didn't.

Now, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen and its key mission is on watch.

After time, the legacy of the base mission, its people and all that made it what it was began to fade. Some people who couldn't bear the thought of anyone ever forgetting Ramey vowed to keep the Spirit of Ramey alive.

A group formed the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association, a nonprofit. The Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum grew from that dream to preserve the base's history, allure, buildings and memories.

Known as RAFBHA, the group promotes the historical significance of Borinquen Field and Ramey Air Force Base from day one to the day it closed — and beyond.

It wants to educate people about the base's original role and function as a strategic World War II air base.

And it wants to make sure no one forgets Ramey's key air power role during the height of the Cold War and other conflicts.

Today, at its new location, volunteers who rebuilt the museum continue to spread the Ramey word and the base's continued importance to Aguadilla, Puerto Rico and the nation.

Please enjoy your visit.



Brig. Gen. Howard Knox Ramey



Photo/U.S. Army

Borinquen before Ramey. This is Borinquen Field Dec. 28, 1939. The runway was a mile long. In November 1939, 28 officers and 228 enlisted men of the 27th Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at the base. The squadron's nine B-18 Bolo bombers arrived Dec. 5, 1939, when the runway opened.



A flight of B-18 Bolo bombers from Borinquen Field's 27th Reconnaissance Squadron fly over the capital building in San Juan, Puerto Rico.





Photo/U.S. Army

A soldier watches a Republic P-47N Thunderbolt — known as the Jug — land at Borinquen Field,, sometime in 1944. Notice that the pilot has his canopy open. The World War II combat aircraft landed at the base to refuel.



Photo/U.S. Army

A little bit of rain wasn't going to stop the construction boom at Ramey in the 1940s, like on iconic Hangar 5, sometime in 1941.



First Lt. Howard K. Ramey receives a promotion, and huge captain's bars, March 1, 1932. He was a first lieutenant for 12 years.



Photo/U.S. Army



Dance rehearsal in 1942 for the local Mona Show at Borinquen Field. Identified civilian employees are, left to right, Mary Rodriguez, Carmen E. Rodriguez, Maria Rivera and Sally Salich.



Ramey was a huge golf haven. These golfers on this post card are on the putting green at the Ramey golf course, in front of the original clubhouse, circa 1949.



The 338th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron RB-50 Superfortress, *Cock 'n Bull*, lands at Ramey in January 1951.

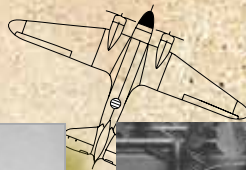


Maintaining the peace. A huge RB-36E Peacemaker reconnaissance/bomber of the 72nd Strategic Reconnaissance Wing makes its final approach to the Ramey runway sometime in 1954. The converted World War II bomber, tail number 44-92006, was built in 1944 and served until February 1957.

Ramey's first chapel was a temporary wooden structure (T-441) build in 1941 or 1942. In 1956, Hurricane Clara badly damaged the building.



Ramey saw people to of the offi



Photo/U.S. Air Force

The Ramey beer garden opened in February 1955 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Left to right, are Capt. T. C. Jones Jr. and 1st Lt. John Frierson; Brig. Gen. Alfred Kalbrer, cutting the ribbon; Eli Noriega, Hiram Barlotta and base commander Col. Solomon Cutcher.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

aw a flurry of post-World War II building activity as its Cold War mission grew. That brought more to the base on windy Punta Borinquen. The ongoing construction is evident in this Oct. 6, 1952, photograph of the new Wherry housing. The runway, hospital and hangars are visible.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

Airman 1st Class Fred Mischke prepares to launch a weather balloon at Ramey sometime in 1951. A long time RAFBHA member, he passed on in 2014.



Some of the base's first students get out class at Borinquen Field Army School sometime in 1947.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

A Douglas C-74 Globemaster makes a low pass over the newly renamed Ramey Air Force Base in 1948. Douglas only built 14 of the planes. Crews hated the 'bug-eyes' canopy.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

The long-lost second pavilion at Ramey's Surfer's Beach, in it's 1945 glory. The structure was a favorite Officer's Club hangout.





Photo/U.S. Air Force

A 72nd Bomb Wing B-52 stands alert duty on the Ramey tarmac sometime in 1969--during the height of the Cold War.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

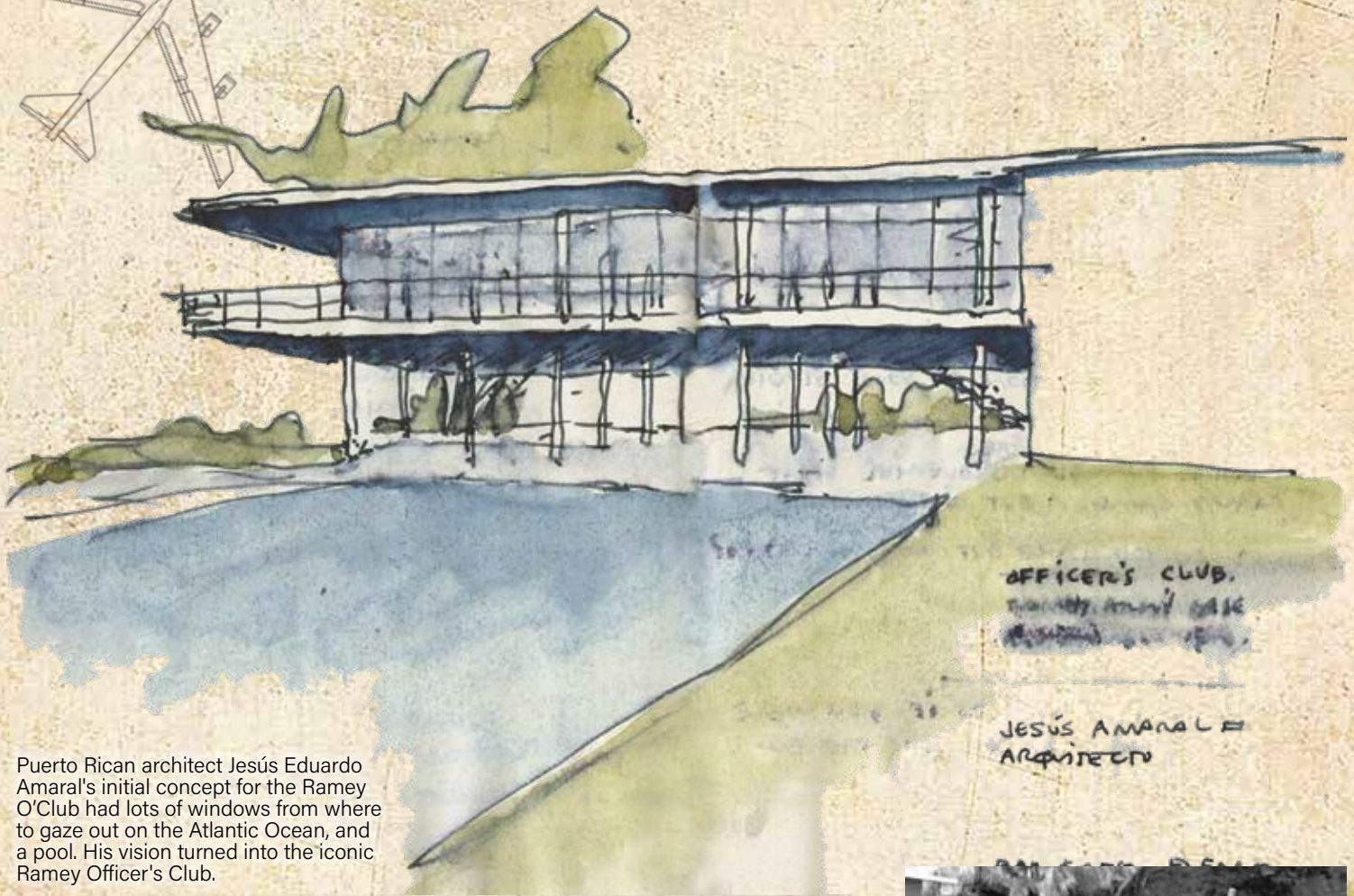
The Ramey housing boom was still in full swing in the early 1950s, with more infrastructure builds. At the beginning of the phase one construction period for the Wherry Housing area, a groundbreaking ceremony took place March 20, 1952. Building began of the 575 housing units.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

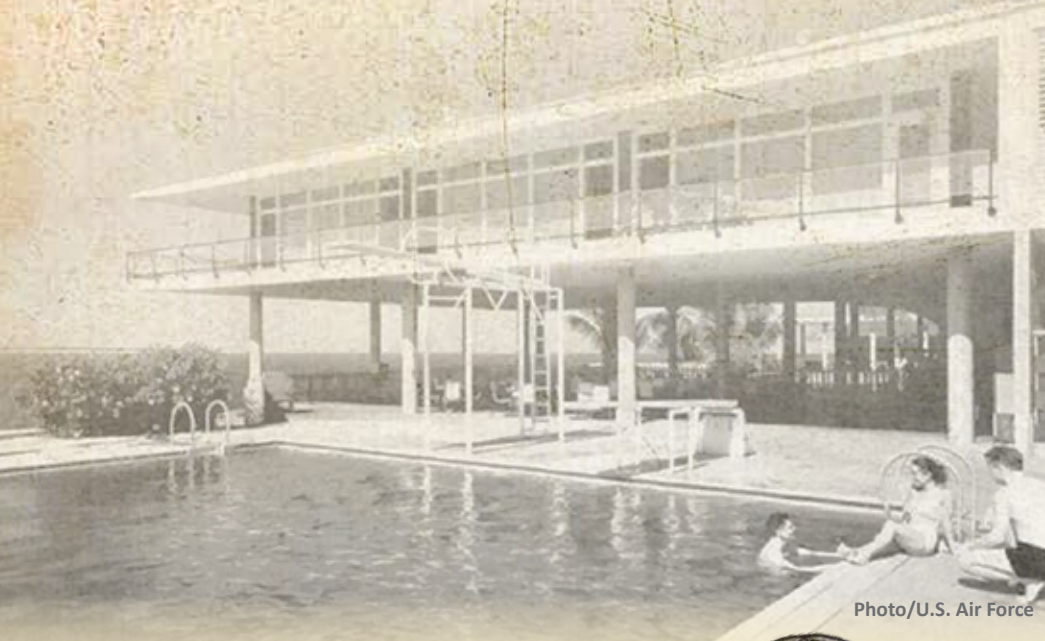
Every kid on Ramey wanted a hula hoop during the craze, and a transport plane full got to the base in 1961.





Puerto Rican architect Jesús Eduardo Amaral's initial concept for the Ramey O'Club had lots of windows from where to gaze out on the Atlantic Ocean, and a pool. His vision turned into the iconic Ramey Officer's Club.

OFFICER'S CLUB.
JESÚS AMARAL
ARCHITECTO



Photo/U.S. Air Force



Photo/Courtesy Warren Graff

Ramey High Schools free divers, left to right, Warren Graff, 15; Russ Elliott, 14; and George Vigneault, 16, show off their day's catch in Graff's front yard at 75 Hook Road.



Photo/U.S. Air Force

Ramey 72nd Periodic Maintenance Squadron troops by the RB-36 Peacemaker, tail number 49-2691, they finished working on, circa 1953-1956.



Photo/U.S. Air Force



Courtesy photo

Ramey Riding Stables at Borinquen Beach circa 1956. This is a different stable than the Lazy R, which was near FHA Housing, later Tropical Acres.



President Lyndon B. Johnson holds his grandson, Patrick Lyndon Nugent, and plays with his favorite dog, Yuki, as he walked at Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico, on March 3, 1968. The president and his family visited the base for the weekend. Johnson took to the base golf course shortly afterward. Rameyites turned out en masse to see the 36th president take a stroll at the base.





Courtesy photo

A group of the first Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association members who went to Puerto Rico for the group's first reunion in 1998. A group went to the Ramey flightline to tour a C-121 Lockheed Constellation that was there at the time. They are association founder Ken Coombs, left, Ed Anderson and a Puerto Rico government official, Chaplain F. Williams Miles, Mrs. Wright, unidentified woman, Bill Wright, unidentified man, Mike Kudkudjaroff, an unidentified man and woman and Bonnie Coombs.

Volunteer Power keeps the Spirit of Ramey alive

The Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum runs solely on volunteer power.

These dedicated people spend countless hours working, archiving, cataloging, researching and sharing all they know about Ramey with visitors.

It's something they care about. That they love.

They want people to not forget that Ramey is worth remembering. And no one can really measure the full impact the base has had on the defense of the nation.

No doubt the base and its people also left a lasting

impact on the local people and economy.

But Ramey changed the way of life for thousands of service members, civilian workers and their families who lived and worked there from 1939-1973.

Museum volunteers preserve that Spirit of Ramey. That way it's preserved for future generations.

They are: Gerry Giles, museum director and Miriam Acevedo, Mabel Suarez, Rafael Rivera, Rosie Ruiz, Jorge Torres, Carlos Venero, Tiffany Martínez, José Nieves, Victor Berrios and "Semper Fi" Joe Miranda.

PLEASE JOIN US IN

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Open Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Museum visitors, donations picking up

There's more interest as over 630 visitor left more than \$2,000

BY **Gerry Giles** MUSEUM DIRECTOR, RAMEY

Activity at the Borinquen Field-Ramey Air Force Base Museum has picked up — so have donations — though the pandemic keeps some people away. “We’re getting visitors. Interest is picking up,” museum director Gerry Giles said.

“And people are still making donations. We had 27 visitors today (Feb. 12).”

That’s good news. From July 2021 through Feb. 13, 2022, the museum had 638 visitors, Giles said.

The “donation jar” got \$787. And merchandise brought \$1,520 in donations.

The \$2,158 total all goes right back into the museum fund, Giles said.

That’s good since the search continues for a spot to place a satellite museum.

“But no word yet,” he said.

The museum received an “OPEN” sign from longtime museum volunteer Rafael Rivera.



Photo/Gerry Giles

Volunteers completed the new museum's first display in December 2020.

Becky Taylor, who owns Ramey’s Surf Zone store, donated **I ♥ Ramey** stickers on sale for a dollar.

Proceeds, Giles said, will go to the Residentes Pro-Calidad de Vida Ramey (Pro-Quality of Life Residents of Ramey).

“They support us 100%,” Giles said.

“So, we help each other out. We are also going to take some of the stickers to the San Diego reunion.”

Since reopening at the Punta Borinquen Resort May 20, 2020, volunteers keep the museum open.

Volunteers are: Giles, Miriam Acevedo, Mabel Suarez, Rivera, Rosie Ruiz, Jorge Torres, Carlos Venero, Tiffany Martínez, José Nieves, Victor Berrios and “Semper Fi” Joe Miranda.

The volunteers are considering opening the museum Sundays, in addition to Saturdays, beginning in May 2022, Giles said.

Volunteers have always been there to keep the museum open.

“Without our volunteers, we wouldn’t have a museum,” President Joyce Lanier said. “We owe them a lot.”

When the Ramey museum moved to its new home at the Punta Borinquen Resort, people started to notice the signs. Now more people are dropping by.



Photo/Gerry Giles

True confession: Ramey High School prankster spills the beans decades after a long-ago phone call

BY Carla Rye Faherty MEMBER Fort Worth, Texas

I was in ninth grade when my family shipped out to Puerto Rico. My stepdad transferred from Carswell Air Force Base, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Ramey AFB.

I was not sure how to manage school. Stateside, I attended a civilian school. This was a whole new world, the first time the rank of one's dad was a judgment factor.

Everyone at Ramey already had friends. So, I waited until a batch of new kids to arrive. Luckily, Hope Seik arrived and we bonded as the newest kids in school.

I was always a good student and enjoyed school. I was in the National Honor Society. But I was invisible for a while and that was fine. I was studious and quiet. I made no trouble, followed all the rules and loved a school that allowed me to walk outdoors between classes and go home for lunch.

Even if I had wanted to misbehave it would have been futile. We lived across the street from the school. My mom could see me unless I was in class.

Even with friends, being quiet and reserved put me in the position of being a "goody two shoes." When teachers were looking for a culprit, they never looked my way. That was when my career as a prankster began. My classmates will never know how many times they overlooked me while trying to determine who was guilty.

Many students were in the Civil Air Patrol. I had no interest in wearing a uniform, attending meetings or doing whatever they did. I later learned it was an auxiliary of the Air Force that assists with emergencies and disasters.

When I was in eleventh grade, there was an upperclassman I tried to avoid. He was a big kid, extremely smart who often was intense.

He was Evan Cruthers, a popular guy. I tried to not cross him. I grew to know him. He was a nice person focused on his goals.

Evan was the student commander

of the Ramey CAP, and he took it very seriously. He was always trying to recruit new members, but I had no interest.

During the summer they continued training and would camp out, run drills and other stuff somewhere on the base.

One sunny summer day, Hope and I went to play tennis at the courts near the gym. I had never seen the CAP encampment before but this year it was next to the gym. After our game, we went to the gym to cool off.

We noticed the windows looked down at the camp. We did not see any training, drilling or anything remotely military. There was trash strewn around. Everyone was asleep.

It just so happened that Hope's boyfriend was at the camp. He had given her the camp telephone number. How convenient. A plan revealed itself. We found a phone and called.

Someone answered and this was the conversation:

Them: Hello.

Us: This is General Martin's secretary. Is he there yet?

Them: No.

Us: When he arrives, please ask him to call his office.

Them: OK.

Then the fun began.

We watched as panic ensued. Evan was bellowing orders; cadets were cleaning up the trash and putting the camp in order. They assigned one person to look out for the base commander's car. Before long the camp was ready for inspection, uniforms were on, beds made, trash was gone — but no General Martin.

Then it hit Evan it was a prank.

He was not happy. We decided that we better leave the area. Neither one of us ever told another soul. We thought Evan would do his worst.

When school began in September, Evan proclaimed he was going to find out who had played the prank on him, and was going to make them sorry.

Again, no one ever asked me, "You know anything about this?" Eventually, it became old news and faded away.

Many years later I heard Evan was



Photo courtesy Carla Rye Faherty

Carla Rye Faherty at Ramey's Borinquen Beach sometime in 1960.

ill from head injuries suffered playing college football. He was terminal.

We had become friends over the years, and I wanted to reach out. So, I wrote Evan and confessed. I did not want him to go to his final reward not ever knowing who pranked him.

Evan was a brilliant man and went on to have a successful career. I knew he did not obsess over the high school prank, but I needed to let him know.

I received a lovely letter from his wife telling me Evan enjoyed my confession and that it made him laugh.

He passed on shortly thereafter.

I hope he had a smile on his face.



REGISTRATION FORM

Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association

2022 Annual Reunion May 3-7, 2022

San Diego, California

■ Guest 1 full name

Name you want on reunion name tag

Street address

City

State

ZIP

Home phone

Cell phone

Email address

■ Guest 2 full name

Name you want on reunion name tag

■ Were you born at Ramey? (Circle one: Yes or No)

Under what name

Year

■ Are you a Ramey High School grad and, if so, what year did you graduate? (Circle one: Yes or No)

Year

■ Do you have any special needs? Let us know:

Registration fee:

\$210 per attendee — for mail ins — if your registration form is postmarked by April 1, 2022.

Registration deadline/late fee:

There's a \$10 late fee, per person registered, for forms postmarked after April 1, 2022.

Your fee:

(# of attendees, mailed in) _____ x \$210 = \$ _____

(# of attendees, PayPal) _____ x \$215 = \$ _____

(Late fee, if needed) _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Total due \$ _____

☐ Enclosed is my check/money order, made **payable to RAFBHA**, for amount: \$ _____

☐ I paid with PayPal \$ _____

Mail payment and registration to:

RAFBHA

104 Justice Dr, East Peoria, IL 61611-1468

Refunds: Sorry, we can't refund the registration fee if you notify us after April 10, or if the person decides to not attend the reunion. **We will refund the fees** to people who must cancel for reasons beyond their control, like a sudden illness or natural disaster.

Accommodations: Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel & Marina. On-the-water, marina location on San Diego's picturesque Shelter Island. Check their website for details: www.islandpalms.com.

-Group room rate: \$145 per night (plus tax) for single and double reservations made before April 1, 2022. To get special the rate, when you make your reservation, remember to say you're with the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association 2022 reunion. Need a room for a special needs person? Ask while making your reservation.

-Reserve room now at: (619) 222-0561. The hotel doesn't take email reservations. Remember: When reserving a room, say you're from the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association to get the group rate.

-Discounted parking rate: \$7.50 per day

Questions? Email Joyce Lanier at mrzip@mtco.com



Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association

c/o Cindy Williamson

540 Ambrym Dr, Fairview, TX 75069

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Don't Forget Us

•Are you a family member

who gets this newsletter
for a deceased member of
the Ramey Air Force Base
Historical Association?

•If so, please let us know.

Mail Cindy Williamson at
540 Ambrym Dr, Fairview,
TX 75069, or reach her via
email: cindy2156@aol.com

•We want to recognize

all those Ramey members
who served before us.



TO THE RESCUE

With rotors whirring, a Sikorsky H-19 Chickasaw rescue helicopter (in this postcard image), from Ramey's 28th Air Rescue Squadron, readies for takeoff sometime from 1949 to the early 1950a. The choppers operated from the base until around 1955-1956.

Photo/Staff Sgt. Roland Cloutier, U.S. Air Force