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KASRA
Co-Presidents

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Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees / Surviving Spouses:

We three co-presidents of KASRA and the other directors hope you all have made it safely through another cold and stormy winter. Spring is a great time to lubricate your joints with some fresh air walks, while taking in the magic of nature's rebirth. Many of you in the southern part of our country are now awash with very green vistas and fresh flowers. The northern folks will soon be there too. We wish you all good health during this blooming season.

Our prayers go out to those who are struggling with storm damage or health issues. We hope you have some good KASRA friends who have helped you through those troubled days. If you have moved or had a dear KASRA friend move recently, don't forget that old adage that they are just a phone call (or for some of us a Skype/FaceTime connection) away. Grab your contact list and contact a distant friend this week. We think you will feel good for doing that!

The KASRA Board of Directors for many years was a group who lived in or very near the San Francisco Bay Area. But with the natural attrition of our aging association membership over the last 25 years, and so many of us relocating far and wide during

our retirement years, it required some innovative changes to maintain an active board. There are currently only three board members who live in the Bay Area. The co-presidents reside in California, Arizona and Colorado. Other members live in Los Angeles, Louisiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Washington. Luckily, modern inexpensive communications, such as high-quality phone conferencing, email and our excellent website, allow board members to literally live anywhere and still be valuable directors of KASRA.

We will continue to remind all of you in our President's Letter to file for your yearly medical expense reimbursements with VEBA. If you have any questions or are confused about what expenses are valid for reimbursement, please contact VEBA by phone at this toll-free number 1-888- 344-8322 or by email at VEBA@deltafund.com. Also, if you are an active member of your local retirees' group, those friends can often help clear up any confusing issues with your VEBA filing. Any of us on the board of directors will also try to connect you with the right people who can answer your questions. So, feel free to shoot us an email or drop a letter in the mail. We wish everyone a fun spring of visits with family/friends and getting outdoors to see the beautiful wonders of springtime. We look forward to hearing from many of you during the year with "What's Going On." Keep

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Congratulations to **Joanne Gutierrez** (Pleasant Hill, CA) and her husband Bernard, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in December. The couple has been together since their junior year in high school, including Bernard's army years at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, WA. They have a son and daughter and four granddaughters, who all live close by.

A Little of This, A Little of That . . .

Retirees from Chalmette, LA, gathered on March 13 for laughs and "serious brain stimulating conversation, which was only partially successful," says **Chuck Schimmel** (New Orleans, LA). **Ted Aucoin** (Slidell, LA) and his new bride Boni gave an account of flying over the site of the previous Chalmette Works as attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch at NOLA Lagniappe restaurant in Slidell, LA. The lunch concluded with a Louisiana favorite – Pecan Praline Bread Pudding!

Reuben Shelley (Headland, AL) says hello to his fellow retirees. Reuben worked for Kaiser Chemical plant in

Albany, GA. **Donald Waldie** (Point Pleasant, WV) expresses his appreciation to all the volunteers for KASRA, especially the three co-presidents. "The newsletter brings back many memories of our Kaiser days such as working with Mike Venie when we were Inside Sales Managers for Trentwood and Ravenswood in Spokane, WA," says Don. "I love hearing about Tony Procanik, my Outside Sales Representative for the New York Region. What a great company and all the great people associated with its golden years."

Lee Corder (Ravenswood, WV) and his wife Sue Ann have lots of fun with their grandson Colt Corder, who is active in the FFA Organization, an American 501



Herbert Henry Lewis, who passed away in 2017, worked for Kaiser in Erie, PA, and Oxnard, CA.



Joanne Gutierrez and her husband Bernard (1st row center) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in December.

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youth group that promotes and supports agricultural education and careers. The Corders recently attended the FFA Ham and Bacon Show and Sale where Colt did very well.

In preparation for the second anniversary of **Herbert Henry Lewis'** (Costa Mesa, CA) death, his surviving spouse, Irene, sent along a tribute to her husband. She noted how he enlisted in the Canadian Navy and patrolled the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean during the war. Originally from Ontario, Canada, Herb trained as a die sinker and first worked in Canada before joining Kaiser Aluminum Corporation in Erie, PA. After moving into management, Herb and his family moved to Ventura, CA, where he produced products for Kaiser's West Coast clients. He joined the Oxnard Barbershop Quartet and played trumpet in the Ventura County Concert Band. After retiring from Kaiser at the age of 62, Herb played trumpet with several dance bands, including a Dixieland band, as well as the orchestra at Missionary Church. Diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2004, Herb passed away in August 2017, two month after his 70th wedding anniversary.

Traveling Near and Far . . .

A Viking river cruise is in the works to celebrate **Thomas Pitzer's** (Spokane, WA) 80th birthday. The former Trentwood employee turns 80 on Nov. 10. When at home in Spokane, Thomas enjoys skiing, wine collecting and special golf trips. He also finds time to volunteer for Meals on Wheels and for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane.

"Bette and I were able to spend a few weeks in Stuart, FL," says **William Miller** (Honey Brook, PA). "We've also been lucky to see **Mark Cauffman** every so often here at Tel Hai Retirement Home. He's in a cottage, while Bette and I are in the high rise." William notes that they're all getting around okay and that he keeps busy with family projects, work around the condo area of the retirement home and doing some landscaping and taking care of the flower beds. The former Refractories worker also finds time for wood carving and various projects including, making small furniture and picture frames.

Condolences . . .

Condolences to **George Nola** on the loss of his wife **Carol Ann Nola** and to **Benita Schontag** who lost her husband **Peter Schontag** recently.

Best Wishes to the families of recently deceased surviving spouses **BettyJo Angell**, whose husband was **Donald Angell**; **Betty Lallman**, whose husband was **William Lallman** and to **Edna B. Walker**, whose husband was **Donald Walker**.



Ted Aucoin, Boni Aucoin, Augie Albano, Earl Bellanger and Doc Incaprer enjoyed a delicious lunch on March 13 as retirees from **Chalmette Works** gathered at **NOLA Lagniappe** restaurant in **Slidell, LA**.

MEMBER PROFILE: Glenn Willis

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, **Glenn Willis** began his 22-plus year Kaiser career in 1979 in Newark, OH. He and Judy, his wife of 52 years, moved back to Newark after traveling for several years where they are close to their son Brian, daughter-in-law Wendy and grandsons Alex and Lucas.

It seems that retirement wasn't quite what you wanted. Tell us what happened.

I took early retirement from Kaiser in 2001 at age 58. It was pretty great for the next 10 years as Judy and I traveled around the country in our motor home. We'd visit lots of interesting places and spent winters in Florida.

Market downturn in 2008 hit us pretty hard so we stopped traveling after the 2009 season in Florida. We ended up back in Newark where our son and his family live. The inactivity of sitting around that next winter in the northern climate helped me add extra pounds, so I decided to go back to work at the age of 68. That was around 2010. For the past eight years, I have been a service writer for the auto department at Walmart. I work 32 hours a week which keeps me out of trouble and gives me enough time to play golf three days a week. It also allows me to see old friends from Kaiser who stop by to have their cars serviced. Judy also went back to work for a local nonprofit.

Tell us a little about what you did before working for Kaiser.

I graduated Penn Hills High school in Pittsburgh, PA, and went on to Salem College in West Virginia. It was during the Vietnam War, and I got tired of the draft card burners, so I dropped out of college and joined the Navy. I married Judy, whom I met at Salem College, right after boot camp. We were stationed in



Judy and Glenn Willis at their grandson's wedding.

Corpus Christy, TX, where Brian was born a year later. After Texas, I was sent to Kefliveck, Iceland, for two years – without my family.

After the Navy, I got a job at a glass factory in Clarksburg, WV. I worked there during the day and went to college at night. When I finally got my degree, I was contacted by Alcan Aluminum. I went to work for them as a Maintenance Foreman. Then, in 1979, Kaiser offered me a similar position at its Newark, OH, plant. Hired in as Maintenance Shift Foreman, I helped the crews keep the equipment running. Later, I held positions of General Foreman and Maintenance Manager.

What was the most challenging part of your career with Kaiser?

The most challenging part of my career was also the most rewarding: being part of the team that set up a rod and bar facility in Jackson, TN, in 1988. Still going strong, the Tennalum plant is now an aluminum screw machine stock producer making products used in aerospace, automotive, ordnance and general industrial applications. But it

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was just a cotton field when we first saw it. Six of us worked closely together to make everything happen. Our group included: Ed Coyne from the home office; Roy Coats - Plant Manager; Mark Lane - Accountant, Tom Dixon - Mechanical Engineer, John Cole - Electrical Engineer and me as Operations Manager. Larry Swick came along after start-up and was very instrumental in developing and refining the team environment. We had so much fun working together while we oversaw the building, staffing and equipping of this brand-new plant.

Those early years brought lots of challenges and also a great deal of excitement. One of the best parts was that we were a team-run organization. Everyone was on salary, and there were monthly bonuses. It was so unusual to have a team-run plant that Kaiser sent us to other places to speak about how we made it work.

I spent 10 years at Tennialum before transferring back to Newark in 1998. That was fine with Judy and me because our son and his family lived there. He has two children, and we wanted to be closer to them.



Judy and Glenn Willis bicycle with their golf equipment on their way to a golf course in Florida.

What was it like coming back to Newark?

I had a very different experience returning to Newark. From 1998 – 2000, the U.S. Steelworkers were on strike. It was very tough on everyone. We had to hire replacement workers, and they had to cross picket lines. Not so much fun. It became interesting at home as well.

My son and his wife had moved in with us while their new house was being built, and he was the president of the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Since I was management at Kaiser, we made it a policy never to talk shop at home!

What else are you doing now?

Besides golf, I enjoy woodworking. I really love to build things. When I first retired and we traveled in the motorhome, I built a second garage at my son's home and put all my woodworking tools there. When we stopped traveling, Judy and I bought another house and I'm just finishing a new work space where I hope to build furniture and other things.

Life is good: work a little, golf a little, build a little and stay close to the grandkids, both of whom graduated magna cum laude from college this past June. One is now married and the other is two-thirds married!



This was Glenn and Judy Willis' mode of travel and home for several years following Glenn's retirement.

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or sallyhogarty@gmail.com.

* Photos encouraged.

Inside Business Aviation: Need Found and Filled!

The following article is an excerpt from a larger article in "Aviation Week & Space Technology's" Sept. 17-30, 2018 issue. It is written by Editor-in-Chief of Business and Commercial Aviation William Garvey.

Kaiser was an industrial colossus, firmly supported on legs of steel, cement and aluminum.

Its various companies built cars, road ways, bridges, tunnels, dishwashers, dams -- Hoover and Grand Coulee, among them -- and even kitchen sinks. They mined and refined coal, iron ore, magnesium and a half-dozen other minerals. During the height of World War II, Kaiser's West Coast shipyards launched a new ship -- troop transports, cargo carriers, frigates and tankers -- every day. The companies employed tens of thousands of workers in the U.S. and abroad, providing health care for most.

All of it was attributable to the imagination, hustle and chutzpah of one man, Henry J. Kaiser, an entrepreneur some say belongs in America's business pantheon alongside Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller and Thomas Edison.

And yet, once he retired in 1959, the drive to expand began to ebb just as the tide of foreign competition was rising. And by 1977 -- a decade after Henry J. died -- so, too, did Kaiser's conglomerate, which was dissolved.

Among those who saw the end coming was Ron Guerra, then the chief pilot for the Kaiser flight department, which had been operating out of Metropolitan Oakland (California) International Airport (OAK) since its founding in 1946.

Over the decades, Guerra flew members of the Kaiser family, other company executives and their guests all over the world. After being asked to run the flight department, he steadily grew the operation. In 1977, the flight department became a subsidiary of Kaiser Steel, formally named KaiserAir, and began providing lift, maintenance and aircraft management for other companies.

A couple of years later, the steel company leadership decided to sell the flight operation. Guerra said: "Why not sell it to me?" And in 1980, for \$150,000 plus all debt and the assumption of leases, the barber's son was suddenly president and majority owner of a 35-person aviation enterprise based at OAK.



The newly independent outfit (which, along with health provider Kaiser Permanente, were the only two commercial entities to retain the Kaiser name) continued as a charter and fixed-base operation

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(FBO) as well as aircraft manager and kept a steady path. However, its business expanded markedly a decade ago when a group of wealthy travelers needed lifts to their vacation homes in Kona, Hawaii.

These were all members of the Kona Shuttle, which provided regular service to the Big Island via supplemental carriers using KaiserAir's OAK terminal. However, after a series of failures by those outfits, the president asked Guerra to take on the job. Not a small request.

But Guerra embraces Henry J.'s philosophy: "Find a need and fill it." And the KaiserAir team did. They acquired a Boeing 737-700, reconfigured the cabin, trained the crews, flew shuttle flights under Miami Airlines' certificate and by 2011, had a certificate of their own. Today, KaiserAir flies two roundtrips weekly and more during holidays. Henry J.'s "finding and filling" advice is still sound.

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sending your "Kaiser friends" pictures to Sally Hogarty, our Newsletter Editor, at sallyhogarty@gmail.com or by mail to the address on your What's Going On form.

All the best!

Erach

Mike Venie

Steve Ping

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and
Steve Ping
Co-Presidents, KASRA

In Memoriam



*Ewing L. Barker
Placerville, CA*

*Victor Henry Bolian, Jr.
Slidell, LA*

*James Compton
Nine Mile Falls, WA*

*Jackson "Jack" Go
Stockton, CA*

*M. William "Bill" Lallman
Redmond, OR*

*William "Bill" Nagel Maher
Pittsburgh, PA*

*Bill F. McGhee
Myrtle Beach, SC*

*Gary Lee McNeely
Weeki Wachee, FL*

*James O. Presley
Alamitos, CA*

*Joan Pruden
Petaluma, CA*

*Mara L. Roush
Ravenswood, WV*

*T. Dale Sheldon
Carmichael, CA*

*R. Thomas "Tom" Smith
Cascade, Co*

*David "Dave" Stone
Spokane, WA*

*Bobby "Bob" Tooker
Macon, GA*

Please inform us of a retiree or spouse passing. Include date of death, city and state, and first name of surviving spouse. If possible, a copy or link to the obituary or name of the newspaper would be helpful. Contact Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-2938 or kcharlie34@comcast.net.

The Board of Directors expresses its deepest sympathy to families and loved ones.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.e-kasra.com

Baton Rouge **Nov 20**
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Juban's Restaurant, 3729 Perkin's Road. Email Bob Presson at leilap3@cox.net, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

Chalmette **Jun 5, Sep 4**
Lunch at 11 a.m. at NOLA Lagniappe, 1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$21 Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643- 0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

Erie **May 18, Jun 15, Jul 20**
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Peggy's, 3512 Liberty Street., Erie. Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email thealy1931@gmail.com.

Los Angeles **May 6, Jun 3, Jul 8**
Lunch, 11:30 am, at Marie Calendar's 540 North Euclid, West Anaheim. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email robemmet39@gmail.com.

Mead **May 6, Jun 3, Jul 2**
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. Contact Danny Petruss at (509) 218-4730 or email dpjr70@comcast.net.

Newark **May 6, Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5**
Lunch at 11 am, Cottage Pizza Route 79. Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-8328 or email colbill44@roadrunner.com.

Tacoma **Jun 5, Dec 4**
Lunch at noon at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East B St., Tacoma. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.

Trentwood **Oct 15, Nov 19**
Meet at 11a.m. Meal served at 11:30 a.m. Valley Eagles 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.



The retired Kaiser crew from Trentwood enjoyed lunch on a beautiful ski day in February at Mt Spokane. (L-R) Dave Williams, Les Stone, John Dorsch, Joe Roberts, and Tom Brattebo.