

LOCAL & STATE

First black commander at Wright-Patt dies at 85

Titus Hall rose to the rank of two-star general.

By **Barrie Barber**
Staff Writer

A former Wright-Patterson commander who was the first black leader at the base and rose to the rank of a two-star general has died.

Titus C. Hall, a retired Air Force major general, was 85 when he died Sunday. He lived in Palm Bay, Fla., where a memorial service is scheduled Saturday with burial at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Hall was named commander of Wright-Patterson in January 1976 after serving as vice commander of the 2750th Air Base



Maj. Gen. Titus C. Hall took the helm at Wright-Patt in January 1976.

Wing.

The high-ranking Air Force officer was a role model throughout Dayton when there were few blacks in the role he held, said Sharon Howard, a former Dayton television broadcaster and a long-time family friend.

"He knew he was the first so he knew he was blazing a path for those after him, but he loved it and he took on that role proudly," she said. The former military officer was a patriot who "loved

this country and everything the Air Force stood for," she said.

Pamela Green of Atlanta, one of Hall's daughters, said her father considered his time at Wright-Patterson one of the "mountaintop" experiences of his life.

"To reach those kind of heights, black, white or whatever, was just phenomenal," said Green, 56, who graduated high school and attended college in the Dayton region. After a 30-year Air Force career, the Pflugerville, Texas native in the 1980s became a vice president at Brevard Community College, now known as Eastern Florida State College.

The Vietnam veteran spent eight years at Wright-Patterson in various posts.

Purple Heart Day celebrated

Vets

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combat. "But, once you receive it, you're very proud of it."

"My grandson's in the military," he added. "I hope he never gets one."

Ryan's 26-year-old grandson, Tech. Sgt. Jac Lloyd, a member of the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing, was among a couple of active airmen to attend the luncheon.

"It's impressive to see a group of heroes getting

together," Lloyd said. "It's good for them, it's good for the community."

The wing's vice commander, Col. John Thompson, opened the luncheon with an overview of the base's current missions, including the remote flying of Predator drones, then took a moment to express his gratitude.

"You folks haven't paid the ultimate price, but right up to it," said Thompson, a former F-16 pilot who flew combat during the first Gulf War. "I'm humbled to be standing before you."

Richard Jacobs, a lifelong Springfield resident and Chapter 620 member, lost his right arm during World War II while fighting in Europe with the 44th Infantry Division's

324th Regiment.

Now three months shy of his 91st birthday, Jacobs helped raise four children after coming home.

"I had a good wife for 62½ years. I always say she was my right-hand man," Jacobs said. "I've had a good life."

Shot in France on Feb. 15, 1945 – it was a Friday, he remembers, and his arm was amputated that Monday – Jacobs keeps a unique stance on his life-altering wound.

"I'd like to find the German that shot my arm off," he said Wednesday. "I'd like to thank him for sending me home. I saw a lot of guys who didn't get to come home."

Contact this reporter at 937-328-0352 or email Andrew.McGinn@coxinc.com.

Coaches to help students

Clark State

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a roadblock, as well, because students pay tuition but do not earn credit toward a degree, experts say.

The coaches will help by attending the remedial courses, calling students if they miss a class, connecting them with resources they might need such as help from Job and Family Services, helping them with computer skills, offering workshops

on financial literacy and more.

The AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches Initiative provides the coaches with a "modest living allowance" and a \$5,550 education award to help with college debt at the end of their 11-month service term, according to the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, a partner in the program.

"The feedback that was received from last year's program was very good. That was the reason why it was funded again in the second year," said Jeff Ortega, spokesman for the association.

Last year, 25 percent of students completed their remedial classes and their first-year required cred-

its on time, said Nadine Wise, of ServeOhio.

Clark State's full-time coaches, Miles Crabtree and Lesley Pihlajamaki, start on campus today after three days of training Columbus. Crabtree is a Clark State alumnus and currently completing his bachelor's degree at Wittenberg University. Pihlajamaki holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Miami University and leaves a full-time job as a developmental specialist at the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities to join the program, according to Clark State.

Contact this reporter at 937-225-2342 or email Meagan.Pant@coxinc.com.

District's bus fleet inspected

Buses

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own inspections to ensure the buses will pass inspection.

"The mechanic is on-site, and as soon as (inspectors) find something, he takes care of it right then," White said.

A few minor infractions were found Wednesday,

including a burned out light bulb on a running buzzer that didn't sound and a windshield wiper fluid hose that was clogged. All the items were fixed by the district's mechanic. No critical violations, which would require the bus to be marked as "out-of-service," were found, Dendler said.

With about 1,500 students transported daily, White said it's reassuring to know the Springfield fleet is in good shape for the Aug. 21 start of classes.

"Our state patrol has inspected them from the front to the back, under-

neath and inside, and they're ready to go," she said.

Dendler said he was impressed by the condition of the district's buses.

"The buses look great. The kids will be safe. Springfield does a really good job of taking care of their fleet," Dendler said.

This won't be the only inspection for the district. The highway patrol also completes spot inspections, which happen during the school year and are unannounced.

Contact this reporter at 513-705-2843 or email Jessica.Heffner@coxinc.com.

Summer Sky event set Aug. 17

Happy Half

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While the agency has a number of events throughout the year, and "it's one strategy among many," she calls it "our

premier event."

They're always looking for foster parents, especially for older children. The agency currently has about 100 children in foster care but only 44 foster homes. Other children are sent to other licensed facilities and out of Clark County.

Meermans says last year's Summer Sky "broke all records, attracting hundreds of people." The day will include a petting zoo, carriage

rides, inflatable moonwalks, animals from the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, face painting, CO-SI Mobile Science Stations, raffles for gift cards and prizes plus music, craft-making and games. Glen Helen Hunters of the Sky is set for 1:30 and 3, The Bug Man display from 2 until 4 p.m. and Project Jericho from 4 until 5 p.m.

The free event runs from 1 until 5 p.m. at The Heritage Center, 117 S. Fountain Ave.

OBITUARIES

Champaign County

SMITH, Roberta

Clark County

DOW, Betty
HALL, Anthony
MELCHI, Robert
RAY, Paul
VALE, John
WILDE, Anne

Greene County

BARRINGER, June
SPARKS, Edward

Madison County

BUSH, Delmar
JORDAN, Patrick
LANDES, Catherine

BARRINGER, June

Age 82, of Fairborn passed away Aug. 5, 2013. Memorial 11 AM, Aug. 9 at Maiden Lane Church of God, Enon. Burcham Jennings Funeral Home.

BUSH, Delmar "Del"

Age 79, of London, passed away August 7, 2013. Visitation August 9, 4-7 p.m., Eberle-Fisher F.H., London.

DOW, Betty

93, of Springfield, died Tuesday August 6, 2013 in Springfield Regional Medical Center. She was born August 12, 1919 in Urbana, Ohio, the daughter of Clarence and Frances (Fetz) Short. Survivors include Survivors include his son, Randy Dow of New Carlisle; two grandchildren, Mindy Lindenmeyer and Stacy Reid; three great-grandchildren all of Ft. Meyers, Florida. She preceded in death by her parents; husband James R. Dow Jr. and two sisters. Private services will be held for the family. The family is being served by LITTLETON & RUE FUNERAL HOME. You may express condolences to the family at www.littletonandru.com

Littleton & Rue
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

HALL, Anthony Mason

Passed away August 4, 2013. Visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m., August 8, INGLING WILLIAMS AND LEWIS FUNERAL HOME, South Charleston.

JORDAN, Patrick E.

Age 82, of London, passed away Aug. 6, 2013. Visitation 4-7 p.m., Aug., 9, Rader-Lynch & Dodds Funeral Home, London.

LANDES, Catherine S.

Age 93, of London, passed away Aug. 5, 2013. Rader-Lynch & Dodds Funeral Home.

MELCHI, Robert "Bob"

Age 86, of Springfield, passed away Aug. 7, 2013. Services by Jackson Lytle & Lewis Life Celebration Center.

RAY, Paul

Age 72, of Springfield, passed away Aug. 5, 2013. Service 11:30 AM, Aug. 9 at Jackson Lytle & Lewis Funeral Home.



SMITH, Roberta M.

66, of Mechanicsburg passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at Springfield Regional Medical Center. She was born August 19, 1946 in Springfield, Ohio, the daughter of the late Pearl Lee and Sarah Francis (Vaughn) Whetstone. Roberta was a 1964 graduate of Springfield North High School. She retired from Champaign Residential Services. Roberta was a member Beacon Street Church of Christ in Christian Union. She enjoyed doing crafts and going to the movies. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Dewey Smith; daughter, Jeany (Bob) Smith Stouffer, Spring Valley; brother, Leonard (Mary) Whetstone, Mechanicsburg; sisters - in-law, Sandy Smith, Mechanicsburg, and Jean Smith, Nancy Smith and Vassie Cunningham, all of Tazewell, TN; aunt, Marcella Burke of Washington; and a host of nieces, nephews and other family members and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Phillip Whetstone; sisters, Dorothy Jean Clark and Barbaralou Osborn. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 5-7 pm on Friday, August 9, 2013 in the SKILLMAN, McDONALD & VERNON Funeral Home, Mechanicsburg. Funeral Services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, August 10, 2013 in the Beacon Street Church of Christ in Christian Union, 1617 Beacon St., Springfield, Ohio officiated by Rev. Joseph Dillard. Burial will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Mechanicsburg. Condolences may be made to the family at www.vernonfh.com

SPARKS, Edward

Age 87, of Yellow Springs, passed away Aug. 7, 2013. Arrangements pending at Porter-Qualls-Dunlap Funeral Home.

VALE, John H.

70, of So. Vienna, died August 6, 2013. Visitation will be Friday 5-8 PM in the RICHARDS, RAFF & DUNBAR MEMORIAL HOME. Funeral Services will be Saturday at 11:00 AM in the memorial home.

Richards, Raff & Dunbar
Memorial Home
www.richardsraffanddunbar.com



WILDE, Anne M.

94, of Springfield, passed away Monday, August 05, 2013 in Eaglewood Care Center after many years of failing health, with her daughters by her side. She was born August 31, 1918 in Springfield, the daughter of John G. and Anna P. (Poplis) Veyveris. Anne was a 1936 graduate of Catholic Central High School and attended St. Joseph Catholic Church until her failing health. She loved life, was an avid bridge player and for many years she enjoyed ballroom dancing, traveling extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Lithuania, gourmet cooking and hosting and entertaining many dinner parties when she and her husband lived in Washington D.C. Anne loved her children and grandchildren. She is survived by two daughters, Marianne Wildermuth, Springfield and Karen (Don) Petticrew, Hartland, MI; six grandchildren, Jill (David) Stroupe, Springfield, Jon (Denise) Petticrew, Granville, Amy (Grant) Burns, Punta Gorda, FL, Tammy (Tom) Meisel, Howell, MI, Scott (Deb) Petticrew, Adrian, MI and A.J. (Natasha) Wildermuth, Springfield; 15 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Arthur J. Wilde in 1969 and two brothers, John (Evelyn) and Frank (Melissa) Veyveris. Visitation will be held on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday in the CONROY FUNERAL HOME with Deacon Norm Horstman officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads Hospice, 8069 Washington Village Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45458. Condolences may be expressed at www.conroyfh.com

In Memoriam



Edward A. Laveck, Sr

11-14-1929 - 8-8-2011
Gone are the days we used to share, But in our hearts you are always there, the gates of memory will never close, We miss you more than anyone knows, With tender love and deep regret, We who love you will never forget. Loving and missing you more with each passing day. Wife-Marjorie, Daughter-Linda Purdy, Sons/wife - Ed Jr & Treva, Bill & Celeste, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandson

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