

Send photos & letters to: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor  
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Or email to: [jeanenbob@caltel.com](mailto:jeanenbob@caltel.com) If you'd like items returned,  
Please include a note with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

### TALOA Alumni Association Board Members

Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Chairman;  
Pat Stachon Kearns, Treasurer;  
Kathy Kennedy, Secretary; Janet Stachon Farmer,  
Reunion Coordinator; Mona Finlason, Membership  
Coordinator; Bill Keating, Technical Advisor



### Email...

Thanks for the newsletter --it brought back a lot of memories. Jennie Levy Cook\*\*\*\*\*

*(Editor's note: What follows is an email exchange I had with Bob Allardyce)...*



*Hi Bob, While reading through some back issues of the Taloo Newsletter, I found your story, Hangar 28's Fractured Physics. I immediately knew it HAD to go up on our website! So, you can now find it in our STORIES section. Scroll down...its about 7th on the list on this page: [www.taloo.org/stories.html](http://www.taloo.org/stories.html)*

*If you have a picture that might go well with the article, I would be happy to add that as well. Also, can you provide me with a photo of you about the time the story takes place? I'll then include it too. Thank you, Jeane Kennedy*  
Wow, Jeane! That brought back memories!!! The whole list, in fact, got me to reminiscing about TALOA. After leaving TALOA, I worked for Cal-Eastern for a while (Hangar 27). I had gotten my Flight Engineer's license at TALOA's academy (I already had my pilot's license) and applied for a job with PanAm. Nobody else was hiring. I was accepted by PanAm and told to wait orders to go to Miami.

Cal-Eastern did turn around maintenance for United States Overseas Airline (USOA). A flight came in from Tokyo, via Wake and Honolulu. An old buddy, Monk Carrol, was on it. He asked me how things were going. I told him about PanAm. He exploded! "You're not a PanAm kind of guy, Allardyce!! You're going to hate it!" (In those days PanAm's crews boarded the flights in strict order of rank: captain first, co-pilot next, F/E next, purser next, etc. He was right, of course. I wasn't PanAm material, but they were the only ones hiring, or so I told him. He said there was a notice on the bulletin board at Wake Island saying TWA was hiring. (Wake Island, of all places!) I fired off a telegram. TWA took me on, not knowing I had been hired by PanAm.

There is a point to all of this. I spent 33 years with TWA and flew all over the world. TWA had top notch people. Nevertheless, as I once told a TALOA reunion, I

never ran across a bunch of people as committed and expert at their work as TALOA had in Hangar 28. And, as I come up on 87 years old, I have had no reason to change my assessment.

As you know, there was a whole circle of life surrounding our group at Transocean. By that I mean, we had bowling teams, get-togethers, lasting friendships, etc. There were some spin-offs, of sorts. This example might be titled, "Different Cultures."

I was, at one time, in TALOA's inspection department at Hangar 28. We checked the incoming airplanes for write-ups, gave them a visual inspection and wrote up what we found so the maintenance department could make the repairs while the DC-4s were in the hangar. We signed off on the completed corrections. When the ships were rolled out of the hangar and given "test runs," we released the aircraft for flight.

At one point, TALOA had a maintenance contract with Sabena, the Belgian airline. They, like TALOA, were flying the Korean airlift to Tokyo. Sabena had sent a representative from their Brussels overhaul base to oversee the repair of one of their DC-4s that we accidentally ran into the outside wall of Hangar 28. (The impact flattened the DC-4's nose section clean back to the cockpit's windshield.) As I recall, the representative's first name was Phillippe.

Phillippe was about my age (early 30's). Phillippe was married to a darling woman. Having a more or less close relationship with him on the job, we became friends. My wife, Maxine, and I had them over for dinner on several occasions. We had some great discussions.

America and TALOA was Phillippe's first experience outside Belgium and the strict cultural corporate structure that was Sabena's nature. Corporate Sabena was formed around a rigid hierarchy with inflexible protocols. The boss-man was treated with the sort of the respect one grants royalty. One made appointments to see him. One never interrupted or overtly disagreed with whatever he said. One could lose his or her job, not for being right or

wrong, but for simply violating protocol. That's what this story is about.

Phillipe was both shocked and confounded by the relationships we TALOA employees enjoyed with our superiors. It was common for us to walk into Mike Lepai's or even Al Morjig's office and say our piece, sometimes in anger. To Phillipe, this was as unthinkable as swearing at the top of your lungs in church. Nevertheless, Phillipe could see that the results of this unrestrained communication got the job done and in a surprisingly efficient fashion. How we managed our interpersonal relationships, as a result of Phillipe's observations, dominated many of our after-dinner conversations. To me, the subject was something akin to asking how and why we breathed air. I never thought of our behavior as being otherwise. It was all that I knew. As some wag once put it, "A fish will be the least likely to discover the water in which it swims."

It so happened that, years before meeting Phillipe, I had run across a book written by a professor of psychology at the University of Scotland. The book's title said something about how to talk to one's boss in order to get a raise in pay. He suggested that one pause and mentally prepare oneself before entering the boss's office. The reason? The boss sat behind a great oaken desk separating the visitors from him in a way that was intended to be intimidating; one up-manship, so to speak. To offset this affect, the good professor suggested that one pause to create a mental image of the boss sitting behind his desk, but completely nude. The lack of clothing not only stripped the boss of his dignity but introduced an element of humor. This practice leveled the mental playing field, so to speak. It put the visitor more at ease and offered him an opportunity to more openly state his case. Phillipe was fascinated and asked if he could borrow the book. Promising to mail it back to me, he took it with him when he returned to Brussels.

When Philippe returned to Brussels he and his wife wrote us a letter thanking us for our friendship and hospitality. After that, for a year or so, silence. Then came the day when a package arrived. We opened it. There was the book I had lent Phillipe. Inside the cover was a cryptic note, "I followed the professor's advice when I returned to work. We have been transferred to Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo." Signed, "Phillipe."

Apparently, Phillipe's "Ugly American" act was too much for his superiors. Phillipe and his lovely wife were banished to the rectum of Sabena's world, Leopoldville. So much for cross-cultural exchanges.

If you find this bit of TALOA's extended history in anyway useful, feel free to edit it as you see fit. Warm personal regards, Bob Allardyce. \*\*\*\*\*

Jeane: It worked! Thanks so much for helping me with the newsletter link. I printed it out and it's a great edition!

Found only one typo in the entire newsletter on the very last page! In the photo of Joe Stachon standing in front of the "Wanted! Good Woman" sign, the last word on the sign is HANGAR, not hanger. Same with the joke about the Fox News photographer...the word "hanger" should be HANGAR. I learned that the hard way when I was young and first worked at TAL and was assigned to Bill Rivers in HANGAR 28!!

When I went to work there at eighteen years of age I didn't even know what the initials UAL or TWA stood for (I had never before been to the airport or flown in a plane)....you just learned as you went....sink or swim. But it was certainly an experience I wouldn't trade for the world. Working for Transocean Air Lines in the Golden Age of flying, even though I only had a small part in it, was memorable and has stood me in good stead all of my life...and I'm pretty old now! I credit the airline for teaching me to persevere when faced with a difficult situation. Thanks again, Arue\*\*\*\*\*

After reading in 'STORIES' on the *Making of Island In The Sky* with John Wayne I would like to mention my experience with The 'Duke'. In '57/'58 I worked in production for 20th Century Fox on two films in Japan. One was 'Stopover Tokyo' with Joan Collins and Bob Wagner and the other was The Barbarian and The Geisha. In this film John portrayed Townsend Harris, the first ambassador to Japan. I spent six months with Wayne and as we became acquainted I told him that I had been employed by Transocean and my experience dispatching during the time 'Island' was made. We talked about his experience in the making of 'Island'.

Before me on my den wall I have 3 photos taken during filming. One is signed "Lou, don't forget the Honey Bucket", a gift at our Christmas party. Another: "Lou, it has been a pleasure, Duke".

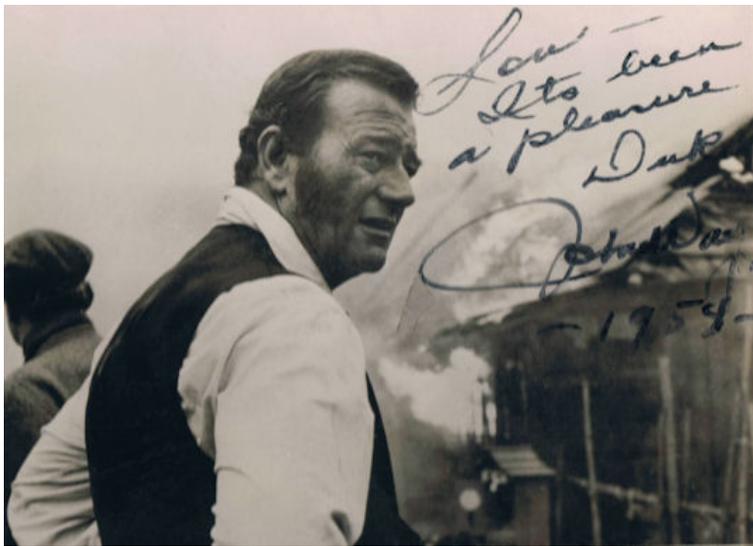
In 'STORIES' I also read Frank Kennedy's article about the '28 Chevy the crews owned. In '51 I bought that flivver and drove it for nearly two years. I don't remember having that wetting problem with the roof, although it could get pretty damp at times. Lou Barbas\*\*\*\*\*  
Following photos from the Lou Barbas collection:





Photo at left reads, "Lou, Don't forget the honey bucket"  
John Wayne  
Below: John Wayne and Lou





Above photo reads: Lou – Its been a pleasure, Duke John Wayne – 1954 –



Above: Lou and Joan Collins



Above: Lou at the camera



Above photo, going over a scene, left to right: Lou Barbas, Dick Breen (director), Joe Rickards (assistant director), actor Robert Wagner.



Above: Louis Jourdan, Julette Prouse, Lou, Maurice Chevalier, Joe Rickards.

*Editor's note. The STORIES section referred to by Lou in his email to us is located on TALOA's website:*

*[www.taloe.org/stories.html](http://www.taloe.org/stories.html)*

*There's many great stories to read as well as lots of room to add more! Please consider submitting one of yours! ➔*



Hi Jeane, I was rummaging around in my spare room looking for some NRA medals from my youth and I came across an envelope containing several things from about 1961. I remember competing in an NRA match in Eureka, CA where Dad lived at that time. One of the items was a TALOA pin. I seem to remember Dad giving me this pin



for winning my division at that youth match. I had since forgotten about it. I NEVER throw things like this out. I'm a "pathological" pack-rat. I may not always remember where I put stuff

for a decade or two, but I NEVER lose them. I also now seem to remember seeing Dad wear this on occasion. I always admired it. I've attached two pictures of it. One is the Museum Hat I now have it on, and the other is a close up. Are these pins common amongst TALOA employees? Or is it just a gift shop item? It's marked Sterling on the back and it's a screw-type mount. Thanks for all your help and I've already put in for some vacation time before and after September 12th! Jeff Ward\*\*\*\*\*



Joseph A. Reilly was my father and V-P, General Counsel, for Transocean. I remember as a teenager meeting both Orvis Nelson and Ed Ringo. I have many great stories and fond memories of those days. Dennis Reilly \*\*\*\*\*

I grew up with my father, Joseph A. Reilly representing Transocean Airlines. It was a very exciting time. Our father traveled around the world with Nelson and Ringo negotiating and we were heart broken when Transocean Airlines went under. It is thrilling to hear about the TALOA Alumni Association. Thank you for doing this. My family is thrilled to have this legacy live on. Put me down for your newsletter. Marjorie Reilly Smith\*\*\*\*\*

Jeane, I had a wonderful phone conversation with Lou Barbas several weekends ago. We talked a lot about the loss of flight 806 and the fact that Lou was the one who initiated the distress call to the coastguard after the flight had failed to radio in on it's next scheduled call. I had a few goose bumps when he said he went out to the landing strip at the time the flight would have arrived just in case it was a loss of the radio.

I think that what is really memorable about all my conversations with Taloa people is the strong working relationship everyone had within the group. There is definitely a common thread of adventure, fraternity, and a love of flying. Our conversation covered many areas of Lou's career with Transocean and our common interest in

why sometimes things go wrong with a flight, including the recent miracle on the Hudson. One can only envy Lou's vast experiences and travels.

I cannot begin to tell you the importance of having these first hand conversations with everyone who has been so kind in taking their time to speak with me. I truly appreciate all your help in putting together some of the past for me. Laurie

*Thanks for you wonderful note, Laurie, but it doesn't surprise me that your questions have been met with warmth and understanding by Taloans who can help you fill in some gaps. From my earliest memories (about 3 years old and living in Fairbanks, Alaska), I always felt a "family relationship" with the various people who worked with my dad for Transocean Air Lines. Our home was always open for dinner, an evening visit, and an empty couch to crash on if necessary. Each employee seemed to know what it felt like to be somewhere away from your family and they were always ready to step up and provide the comforts of home whenever they could. And that care and consideration for others was so instilled in the Transocean family that even today, so many decades later, TAL employees love to get together, share their adventures, and see how each of the other families are getting along. We're so glad you found us...welcome aboard! Sincerely, Jeane \*\*\*\*\**

My dad, Bob Stearns Sr. worked for Taloa on Wake Island. He later was a 747 captain for Pan Am. Do you have any members from Wake Island? My Dad lives in Massapequa on Long Island. His telephone number is (516) 541-2625. You may use my e-mail address also. Regards, Bob Stearns Jr. [Bob@LongshipLLC.com](mailto:Bob@LongshipLLC.com) \*\*\*\*\*

My Dad, Theodore Blegen, receives the Taloa Newsletter. His wife, Maegel, passed away in January and he has moved to the following address: Theodore Blegen 2860 Country Dr #244 Fremont, CA 94536-5376

I must admit this was the first time I had seen this newsletter. It was interesting to read about all the people who still keep in touch from Transocean Air Lines. Thanks, Barbara Blegen \*\*\*\*\*



*A special thanks to TALOA Alumni Association Treasurer, Pat Stachon Kearns! She's busy all year long as each of the Taloa alumni send in their dues along with their greetings. Here are some of the cards and letters she's received from all you wonderful folks this year...*

Happy New Year!! I saw a great picture of your father...seems to me he is doing great in Napa. Hope you had a great Holiday and Happy New Year of 2009. Chiseko Chapin\*\*\*\*\*

I have written several times about getting a window or bumper decal designating the TALOA Alumni. I have an original if you would think there would be an interest. Bob Withrow *Editor's note...At the February Alumni Board meeting, Pat raised the decal issue. We are researching the costs now and will let everyone know if decals become available.* \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for your hard work for TALOA. Paul Zimmermann \*\*\*\*\*

Just a note to send along with my 2009 dues. Thanks for all the hard work you do. See you at the next reunion. Derrel Gibbins \*\*\*\*\*

Pat, Belated reply to your card. I do appreciate your time and effort in keeping the association alive! Sincerely, Eunice Hoenninger \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pat, My wife, Joan died on January 18, 2009. Please remove her name from your address label. She had been seriously ill since November 2008. Sincerely, James T. Herlihy \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pat, I received the email newsletter today and enjoyed it greatly. However, I noticed my name was missing from the member list so I must have overlooked sending in my dues. Enclosed is a check for 2009 membership. Warren Vest \*\*\*\*\*

We enjoy the newsletter very much. Keep up the good work. Sherry Waterman Parker \*\*\*\*\*

Hello Pat, Here is my Life Member dues as promised. Hope to meet all you nice folks at the 2009 reunion! Thanks, Jeff Ward \*\*\*\*\* *Editor's note: Welcome Jeff! You are now a TALOA KID !!!*

Gordon & Marty Palmquist, Sheldon Paul Purdy, Mary Richter, Jose & Maria Rimorin, Janis Roach, Eddie Robeson, Douglas & Pamela Rogers, Shirley & Daniel Seid, Charles W. & Tokuko Smith, Margaret Soares, Joseph Stachon, Robert & Inger Stearns, Richard & Jean Stuber, Arue Szura, Elaine Yuen & Carl Timm, Jeane Kennedy & Bob Toynbee, Holly Nelson & Dick Veale, Tom Von Eckardt, Jeff Ward, Richard & Margaret Werling, Laverne Witteveen.

#### **2009 Members:**

Val Bednekoff, John J. & Jane Benterou, Walter & Mary Blessing, Arthur & Joanne Buckelew, Veronica Dixon, Donna Ferrell, Ramona Finlason, Derrel T. Gibbins, Faith Glenn, Phillip & Joyce W. Glock, Anne & Charles Gobel, Bill Gower, Harold Green, Oscar Grohs, Delores Hamm, Robert & Doris Ann Harder, Joe Hennessy, James Herlihy, Eunice Hoenninger, Henry & Dang Thai Holt, Rosemary Baumgartner Jones, Elizabeth Ann Kearins, Katharine Graham Kohler, John & Gloria Lannom, Penny Loerke, Charles Mac Quarrie, Erik Moberg, Sue Nelson, Sherry Waterman Parker, Floyd & Georgene Pileggi, Richard & Ruth Price, Dr. Charles Quarles, Jack & Gloria Ratliff, Sigvard N. Sivertsen, Bernald & Marilyn Smith, Rick Stachon, Rodney Stich, Louis & Erma Sylvia, Warren & Ingrid Vest, Janet Whitaker, John Willhalm, Ron Winiker, Robert V. Withrow, Paul & Yasuko Zimmermann.

**TALOA KIDS:** Claudia Turner Cook, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Pat Stachon Kearns, Holly Nelson Veale, Kathy Kennedy, Janet Stachon Farmer, Jeff Ward, Doug Rogers. \*\*\*\*\*



#### **Lifetime Members:**

Robert & Barbara Allardyce, Trenton W. Barber, Val G. Barrett, Clifford G. Berg, Augie Blasquez, Lillian A. Bunbury, Chiseko Chapin, Scotty Charnley, Richard "Chic" Collins, Sarah Collins, Jennie Cook, Claudia Turner Cook, Verna Cravens, Don & Alice Crooke, Joseph & Susan Delazerda, George E. Dijeau, Helen Dillard, Stuart Downing, Martha-Jane Ekstrand, Janet T. Farmer, Raymond Foster, Mike A. Gambino, M. C. "Manny" Garcia, Derrel T. Gibbins, Bob Glattly, Francis R. Grinnon, Dorothy Guinther, Earl S. Holmquist, Lee & Marion Jenkins, Carol Johnson, Marion Johnson, Billie Joiner, Stu & Elva Jones, Pat Stachon Kearns, William & Billie Keating, Nadine Kendall, Kathy Kennedy, Colm J. Kennedy, John Ketler, Barbara & Robert Kilian, Mildred Kosteff, Ed & Gun Landwehr, Lorraine Landwehr, Robert & Rita Lang, Gene Longo, David McQueen, Florence Morjig, Mrs. Orvis Nelson, Ralph & Eileen Padilla,

#### **Where do my membership dues go?**

- ➔ One yearly membership (\$20) pays for about 1½ months of keeping [www.taloa.org](http://www.taloa.org) online.
- ➔ A Lifetime membership (\$100) assures viewing of [www.taloa.org](http://www.taloa.org) for 7 months.
- ➔ One yearly membership pays for printing & sending one newsletter edition to about 27 members.
- ➔ A Lifetime membership prints & sends out one newsletter edition to about 135 members.
- ➔ Your dues also help subsidize our yearly reunions. This holds down luncheon costs and encourages more to attend.



**Got pictures you want to share?  
Send them to the editor:  
Jeane Kennedy Toynbee  
PO Box 243  
Copperopolis CA 95228  
Photos returned upon request.**

# 2009 TALOA Reunion & Luncheon



DATE: Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
TIME: 12:00 noon - 4 PM, Luncheon served at 2:30 PM

PLACE: Oakland Aviation Museum  
8260 Boeing Street Building  
#621 North Field  
Oakland, California  
Directions: Interstate 880 to Oakland Airport/Hegenberger Road exit. Follow the signs to Oakland Airport. Cross Doolittle Drive intersection and immediately turn right at the North Field sign onto Earhart Road. Drive 7/10ths mile on Earhart until Hangar #6 (Alaska Airlines) on your left. Turn right at the Museum sign.

**FREE** this year to all TALOA Alumni Members and their families!

*But to be included, we must have your reservations!*

Luncheon cost for all others: \$30.00/each adult \$10/each child under 12 years.

Fill out the form below and send by August 22nd to:

TALOA Treasurer, Pat Stachon Kearns  
1516 Richardson Ave  
Los Altos CA 94024

## Menu

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Chicken in a white wine and mushroom sauce	Carrot cake
Pasta with marinara sauce	Soft drinks and bottled water
Green salad	Beer, wine, and snacks will also be provided
French bread rolls and butter	

For additional information contact:  
Janet Stachon Farmer, Reunion Chairman  
Tel # (650) 948-1274  
[janetf@speakeasy.net](mailto:janetf@speakeasy.net)



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**FREE to all TALOA Alumni Members and their families.**

Luncheon cost for all others: \$30.00/each adult \$10/each child under 12 years

Number of Persons in my party \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children

Amount of Enclosed Check (if not a TALOA family member) \_\_\_\_\_

List names of all those attending (Please print clearly so we can get those name tags right!):

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