

Tonight we would like to present James (Jimmy) Richard Mayer as the 48th Alumni Banquet Awards Recipient.

Jimmy graduated from NOHS in 1964. After graduation, he attended Coyne Electronics School in Chicago, Illinois. In early September 1965 the Army drafted him.

On October 19, 1965, Jimmy Mayer enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. From October 1965 to January 1966, he was assigned to Lackland AFB in Texas for Basic military Training. He was then sent to Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana for Basic Russian Language Training for 37 weeks. In October 1966 he went to Goodfellow AFB in Texas for Ground Equipment and Airborne Equipment Training until March 1967. At this time he was sent to Perrin AFB in Texas for Altitude Chamber Training. From March 1967 to June 1967, he attended Survival School Training at Fairchild AFB in Washington. This training included a special survival course for those who would be assigned to the United States Air Force Security Service Command.

Finally in August 1967, after two years of training, he was assigned to Yokota Air Base in Japan to begin his flying career on reconnaissance aircraft. It was here that he married Marlene Spicer from the class of 1966 on February 1968. Marlene and their two children, Stephen and Tamara, traveled with Jimmy during his whole career in the Air Force.

In September 1970 Jimmy was assigned to Rhein Main Air Base in Germany, flying on the RC-130A and C-130B Aircraft. In May of 1973 he was selected as part of a crew to test a new upgraded system on an RC-135 aircraft. This took place at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. After testing of this aircraft, he continued to fly missions from Offutt and Forward Operating Bases in England and Alaska as an Airborne Mission Supervisor and Flight Examiner on 5 different models of the RC-135 aircraft.

In September 1976, Jimmy went to the Presidio of Monterey, California for 37 weeks of Intermediate Russian Language Training. Then he was stationed at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England and back on the RC-135 aircraft as an

Airborne Mission Supervisor and Flight Examiner and Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Standardization/Evaluation.

In June 1982 he was assigned to Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona and another new aircraft, an EC-130H Electronic Combat aircraft. As Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Evaluation section, he helped to establish the Evaluation Program for linguist on this aircraft and flew as a Mission Crew Supervisor and Flight Examiner.

In July 1985 he was assigned to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Airborne Operations and back on the RC-135.

In September 1989 he went to Sembach Air Base in Germany as the Operations Superintendent and back on the EC-130H, again flying as the Mission Crew Supervisor and Flight Examiner.

His last assignment in the U.S. Air Force started in June 1991 at Royal Air Force Mildenhall in England as the Operations Superintendent and back on the RC-135 aircraft.

On November 1, 1995, after 30 years, 12 days in the U.S. Air Force, which included 27 years of flying, over 900 missions and over 9,000 flying hours, Jimmy Mayer retired from the U.S. Air Force.

In 1997 CMSGT Mayer was one of 4 people inducted into his Command's Hall of Honor. A part of his legacy reads: "amassed over 900 reconnaissance missions and over 9000 flying hours...His skills as an Airborne Mission Supervisor were legendary and key to winning the coveted O'Malley Award for the top reconnaissance crew in the United States Air Force two consecutive years."

Awards and Decorations:

Air medal with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters

National Defense Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster

Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster

Combat Readiness Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters

Air force Outstanding Unit Award with/Valor with 12 Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 9 Oak leaf Clusters

Air Force Longevity Service Award with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters

NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon/Rifle

Air Force Training Ribbon

Jimmy now lives in Lacey, Washington. He is current President of the Prop Wash Gang – a group of old codgers (over 930 members) who were cooped up in the back ends of the reconnaissance aircraft dating from WWII to present day.

Jimmy helps people with projects wherever needed and is active in his Homeowner's Association and does much volunteer work.