



Vought Retiree Club News

Vol. 28

April – June 2023

No. 2

President's Message

Larry Skinner

Well shucks, we've had nineteen days above 100 degrees as of August 1st – with literally no end in sight!

I vividly remember 1980 (70 days above 100), but had kinda forgotten about 2011 (73 days above 100) which is the record. Global warming? Maybe, but probably just summertime in Texas with a big 'ole heat dome over DFW. Whatever the cause, I hope you'll be very careful and stay hydrated!



*View from 14th Street, looking to the east –
NOTHING left !*

(Editor's Note: see later article in this newsletter for more photos -- taken by Bob Bardo on the day of the Annual Vought Retiree Club Annual Meeting and BBQ)

It was great to see everyone at the Annual BBQ. I think everyone enjoyed themselves – even the ones who left before the door prizes and weren't present when their names were called! BTW, whoever left their dark blue U.S. Air Force cap at Ruthe Jackson can contact the VRC office and we will get it back to you. And thanks again to Jim Minge and the wonderful associates at Texas Trust Credit Union for sponsoring the BBQ and taking such good care of us (once again)! We owe you a debt of gratitude that we literally can't repay.

This is the last time I'll mention the demolition and redevelopment of the Jefferson Street Facility. OK, that's probably not true. But take a look at the poor-quality photo I took yesterday and you'll see that it's all gone except for lots of weeds and the guard house just west of Building 6 (TV Gate). I have no idea why it's still standing, but that's all that's left of the Bomber Plant.

And that's it for me. Hope you can enjoy the rest of the summer in spite of the heat, and know that it will cool off this fall, maybe.

Larry

In Memoriam

by Ann Christmas

The Retiree Club has been notified since our last newsletter of the following deceased **members**. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the families of those listed. Each will be missed.

Peggy Ann Burnett -- 11-15-2015
Kay Jones -- 11-23-2020
James Banks – 10-22-2022
Frank C. Schoenthal, Sr. -- 5-1-2023
Adrien R. Burnett, Jr. -- 7-9-2023
Jap Lee Jones, Jr. -- 7-15-2023
Howard Walters Block -- 7-17-2023

JSF Demolition – nearly done

The Jefferson Street Facility (JSF) of Chance Vought Aircraft and LTV Aerospace is only a memory for us all now. There is very little left of the buildings where we all worked at the aircraft plant.

What a weird feeling – like we never worked there.

Below are photos taken by your Editor, Bob Bardo, after the Annual Vought Retiree Club Annual Meeting and BBQ on June 14, 2023.



Warehouses replacing the old JSF buildings.



Warehouse after warehouse.



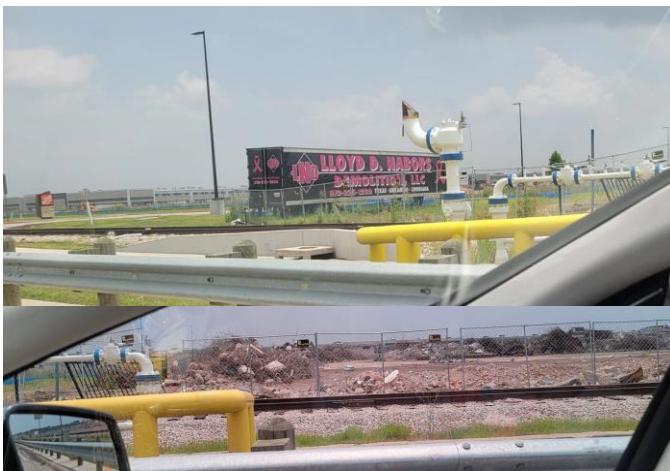
The Flagpole entrance to the plant – nothing left.



**Renew your membership for 2023,
and continue to get your
Vought Retiree Club News!**

Call the Club at (817) 478-1885

**or Email: retireeclub@vought.org
membershipprc@vought.org**



2023 Dues !

by Gaye Kortegast

It's time to send in your 2023 membership dues!
(If you're not sure whether or not you've renewed,
you may check the mailing label on this newsletter
for status of your membership.)

If you would like to **renew for 2023, please send
your dues as soon as you can !**

The cost is still only \$5.00 per person per year.
You may renew for as many years as you desire.
Or, Lifetime memberships are only \$50 per person.

We hope to hear from you soon.
Thank you !

Volunteer Events

by Johnnie Johnson

Volunteer events give us all an opportunity to make a positive impact in our communities by helping those who are in need.

Retirees, family, and friends are invited to participate in these events. Give me a call and let me know if you would like to join us.

For more information, call Johnnie Johnson at 817-845-7576, or the Retiree Club at 817-478-1885.

Thanks for your help!

Johnnie Johnson

Chance Vought Survivors



Dick Guthrie (richardguth56@msn.com) is the contact for the Chance Vought Survivors.

Annual Vought Retiree Club Meeting and BBQ – June 14, 2023

Now for more light-hearted fare -- photos from the 27th Annual Vought Retiree Club Meeting and BBQ, which was held on June 14, 2023, at the Ruthe Jackson Center in Grand Prairie.

Over 150 retiree club members attended, as well as many Texas Trust Credit Union employees who graciously helped with the door prizes and the jelly bean guessing contest.

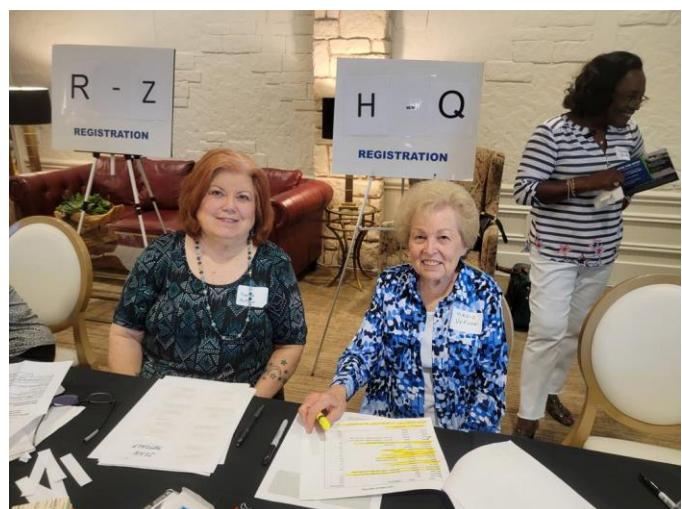
Photos below were taken by the photographer from Texas Trust Credit Union and a few by Bob Bardo.



Bob Snegon and Wat Watkins greeting attendees at the door



Registration Tables



Vynita Hutson, Madie Vernon, and Johnnie Johnson



Holly Walters, Camilla Gardner, Brenda Skinner,
and Nelda Bacon at the Registration Tables



Karen Sauls at the Registration Tables;
in the background --TTCU's Terrilyn Hicks



1928 Ford Model A Coupe with Al Schahn



Half-scale Vought F4U Corsair
outside the front door



*Rumble seat in the 1928 Ford Model A Coupe,
admired by TTCU's Terrilyn Hicks*



*1928 Ford Model A Coupe interior,
with Chirs Rauh talking with Al Schahn*



Bill Schahn entertaining at the piano



*Joe Johnson picks out a T-Shirt from Mickey
Branum and Paula Hastings at the Merchandise
Table*



*Jim Hill at the Jelly Bean guessing contest table,
with TTCU employee Carolee Lopez*



Albert Mantell guessing the number of jelly beans in the jar; with TTCU employees Carolee Lopez and Tianna Burns



Charlie Nutt and Jim Minge (TTCU CEO)



TTCU's Tianna Burns and Albert Mantell



Larry Skinner admiring Wat Watkins' woodwork



Flo Morgan and Jean Bennett Robbins at the Jelly Bean guessing contest table, with TTCU employee Carolee Lopez



Paula Hastings, Earl Hastings, and Dick Guthrie admiring Wat Watkins' woodwork



Wat Watkins, Rick Hill, and Jim Hill
admiring Wat's woodwork



Charles Standard, Jerrell Stracener, and
Bill Rhoades



Wat Watkins with his woodwork



Bob Bardo, Al Schahn, and Sarah Vaughan



Erna Carlile, Pat Gardner, and Tom Gardner



Willy Kelsey, Alex Godina, and Lonnie Morgan



Norm Bartee, Robert Clark, and Jack Neal



Sue Nutt and Les Gedeon



TTCU employees Tyra Garcia, David Garza, Austin Silvas, and Carolee Lopez



Ken _____ and _____



Linda Thomas and Kay Sievers



Gunther Reins and Larry Johnson



Dick Guthrie and Charles Standard



Earl Hastings



Dick Guthrie and Charles Standard



Sarah Vaughan and Bob Bardo



Sarah Vaughan, Stu Reichert, and Bob Bardo



Inez Wright, Sandra Jordan, and Joe Johnson



Inez Wright, Sandra Jordan, and Joe Johnson



Lloyd Farris and Gunther Reins



Betty Blocker



Bert McDowell and Nelda Bacon



Searle Lawson, ___, and ___



Norm Bartee, Bob Weiss, and Lynda Davis



Carolyn Chilton and Wat Watkins



Robert Clark



James Burchfield and Evelyn Burchfield



Lloyd Farris and Jay Johnson



Karen Sauls



Karen Sauls addressing attendees



Rosa Garza, Cris Garza, and Fidel Conde



_____ and Claude Dunn



Attendees reciting the Pledge of Allegiance



Larry Skinner addressing the attendees





Bert McDowell and Ann McDowell



Bob Bardo and Sarah Vaughan



Jim Minge honoring John Pulice who flew the F-8



Cathie Barrington addressing attendees



John Pulice and Joyce Smith



Food provided by 225° BBQ in Arlington



Robert Clark going through the BBQ line



Robert Underwood and Alex Godina helping attendees with luncheon



Rick Hill going through the BBQ line



TTCU's Pattie Morales helping attendees with drinks



Scott Meigs helping Hank Smetak with his drink



Leann Santiago and Alex Godina (TTCU volunteers) serving ice cream



Bob Szabados with TTCU volunteer Washima Huq



Rosa Garza, Cris Garza, and Fidel Conde



Jim Minge announcing the door prizes



TTCU's Joseph Morris serving attendees dessert



Hank Smetak awarded as oldest member attending



Rick Hill



Austin Silvas (TTCU volunteer) serving ice cream



TTCU employee Fred Trusty calling out door prize winners



Bill Newberry awarded by Jim Minge;
Charles Standard on left



Robert Smith -- door prize winner



Bill Newberry with his door prize



Chris Mills awarded door prize
by TTCU's David Turner



Les Gedeon awarded door prize by Jim Minge



Jerrell Stracener awarded door prize by Jim Minge



Claude Dunn awarded door prize



Wat Watkins awarded door prize



Don Branton awarded door prize



Sherry Siler awarded door prize by Jim Minge



RM Bary awarded door prize



Bert McDowell awarded door prize



Madie Vernon awarded door prize by Jim Minge



Inez Wright awarded door prize
by TTCU's David Turner



Joe Johnson awarded door prize



Larry Viegas awarded door prize



Bill Rhoades awarded door prize by Jim Minge





Marlene Smith awarded door prize by TTCU's David Turner; Robert Smith on right



TTCU's Toni Nichols calling out the winner of the Jelly Bean guessing contest -- Cris Garza



Jim Hill awarded door prize



Cris Garza -- winner of Jelly Bean guessing contest



Joe Johnson with door prize



Fidel Conde awarded door prize by Jim Minge



Rosa Garza awarded door prize by Jim Minge



Troy Sorrell awarded door prize
by TTCU's David Turner



Rutha Van Dusen awarded door prize



*Retirees who also were original members of the LTV Federal Credit Union
(photo taken after the meeting) --
Helen Hopkins, Jim Williams, Paula Hastings, Earl
Hastings, Todd Kimball, Bob Bardo, Ramon
Gutierrez, Rosalba Gutierrez, Jay Johnson, Connie
Caddell Click, Eusebio Herrera, and Lonnie
Morgan*

T-shirt – O3U-3 Corsair I

The blue T-shirts featuring the O3U-3 Corsair I are available for a donation of \$15.

Shipping charges (if mailed, instead of being picked up at the Vought Retiree Club office) are \$7 for one shirt, \$8 for two, or actual shipping cost for over two shirts.

Pick one up at, or order one from, the Retiree Club office (retireeclub@voUGHT.org or 817-478-1885).

If you want to come to pick up T-shirts at the Vought Retiree Club office, please call first to make an appointment and wear a mask when you come in.

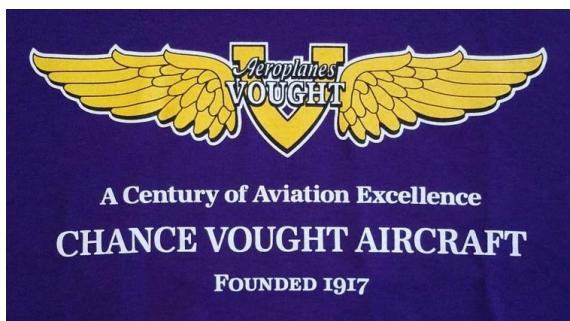
The blue **O3U-3 Corsair I** T-shirt –





The *100th Anniversary of Chance Vought* T-shirt is available for \$12 for the restocked 2XL and 3XL sizes, still \$10 for the other sizes.

The *100th Anniversary of Chance Vought* T-shirt --



The back of the T-shirt is shown here --



The close-up of the graphic on the back of the T-shirt is shown here --



Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month



The **Executive Committee** of the Vought Retiree Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. We meet in alternating months either in the offices of the Vought Heritage Foundation Restoration facility or in the office suite generously provided by **Texas Trust Credit Union** in the Texas Trust Business Park at 5840 W. I-20 in southwest Arlington.

Next meeting: *Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at the Restoration facility offices in Grand Prairie.*

Restoration News

The **Vought Heritage Foundation** Restoration volunteer crew works in a facility rented from the Grand Prairie Independent School District. They currently meet every Tuesday and Thursday -- from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants to help restore the company's old aircraft, come join the Restoration Volunteers ! every Tuesday and Thursday --

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donuts, snacks, coffee, and soft drinks provided. Join the Fun !

Contact vougtheritage@vought.org, with your questions.

(Charles England and Kirk England). As you go south on Carrier from I-20, turn right immediately before the State Farm office. It is suggested that you call 214-702-6406, or email voughtheritage@voUGHT.org, beforehand for exact directions, or to make sure we haven't taken a holiday.



You can support the efforts of our Retiree Volunteers !
Even if you can't work on the aircraft, you can help by
donating to support their restoration work!

(Donations are tax-deductible.)



Vought Heritage Foundation, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) non-profit Corporation
P.O. Box 532794
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2794
Voughtheritage@voUGHT.org

B-21 "Raider" Stealth Bomber – by Northrop Grumman



The B-21 Raider was unveiled to the public at a ceremony December 2, 2022 in Palmdale, Calif. Designed to operate in tomorrow's high-end threat environment, the B-21 will play a critical role in ensuring America's enduring airpower capability.

(U.S. Air Force photo)

The Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider is an American strategic bomber under development for the United States Air Force (USAF) by Northrop Grumman. As part of the Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) program, it is to be a long-range, stealth intercontinental strategic bomber for the USAF, able to deliver conventional and thermonuclear weapons. The Air Force intends the B-21 to replace the Rockwell B-1 Lancer and Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit by 2040, and possibly the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress after that.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Nuclear-capable, penetrating strike stealth bomber

Lead Command: Air Force Global Strike Command

Inventory: Minimum of 100 aircraft

Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC): \$550 million (base year 2010 dollars) / \$639 million (base year 2019 dollars) / \$692 million (base year 2022 dollars)

*APUC is the total costs of all procurement funding to include: aircraft flyaway costs, support equipment, training, spares, and engineering change orders, divided by a minimum of 100 aircraft.

*Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates directed B-21 APUC as a key performance parameter as the best means to control costs.

Munitions: Nuclear and conventional

Operational: Mid-2020s

Restoration Updates from Rusty Branum

No updates to the Activities of the Restoration Group are included this edition of the newsletter, to allow the inclusion of all the photos from the Annual Meeting and BBQ.

The Air Force began planning for the B-21 in 2011, and awarded the major development contract in 2015. The B-21 is expected to make its first flight in 2023, and enter service by 2027.

Many aspects of the B-21 program are highly classified; the program is designated as a Special Access Program. The Congressional Research Service noted in 2021 that the B-21's technical details and specifications, such as speed, enabling systems, "size, required stealth, structure, number and type of engines, projected weapons, and onboard sensors remain classified" although some information about various other aspects of the program have been made public since 2015. The first photos of the aircraft were released on December 2, 2022, taken during a rollout ceremony at Northrop Grumman's production facilities in Palmdale, California.

The B-21 can achieve higher altitudes than the B-2 Spirit, which works at altitudes of up to 50,000 feet (15,000 meters). However, the B-21 figures aren't yet known.

The classified Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) program began in 2011, and the Air Force issued a request for proposal to develop a LRS-B aircraft in July 2014. A development contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman in October 2015. Boeing and Lockheed Martin, who submitted losing bids for the project, filed bid protests; in October 2016, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) rejected the challenges and sustained the USAF's decision to award the LRS-B contract to Northrop Grumman. The GAO report revealed that cost was the deciding factor in selecting Northrop Grumman over the Boeing-Lockheed Martin team.

Management and acquisition of the B-21 program is being overseen by the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, rather than through the traditional military-procurement process. However, the B-21 program remains subject to the Nunn-McCurdy reporting requirements to Congress.

A 2015 media report said the Air Force wanted the bomber to also function as an intelligence collection platform, battle manager, and interceptor aircraft. In 2016, then-Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said that the B-21 would be a "fifth-generation global precision attack platform" with networked sensor-shoot capability. Northrop Grumman describes the B-21 as "the world's first sixth-generation aircraft."

At the 2016 Air Warfare Symposium, Air Force officials announced that the LRS-B would be formally designated "B-21" because the aircraft would be the 21st century's first bomber. In September 2016, Air Force officials announced that the B-21 would be named "Raider" in honor of the Doolittle Raiders. Retired Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, then the last living member of the Doolittle Raiders, was present at the naming ceremony at the Air Force Association conference.

In March 2016, the USAF announced seven tier-one suppliers for the program: Pratt & Whitney, BAE Systems, Spirit AeroSystems, Orbital ATK, Rockwell Collins, GKN Aerospace, and Janicki Industries.

In 2016, the F-35 program manager Chris Bogdan said the B-21's engines would be similar enough to the F-35's Pratt & Whitney F135 engine to reduce its cost.

The program completed its Critical Design Review (CDR) in December 2018.

In January 2020, Air Force officials released new B-21 renderings and Northrop Grumman, showing the distinctive flush and blended inlets and the two-wheel main landing gear design. The drawing appeared to show a smaller, lighter aircraft than the B-2.

In September 2022, the USAF announced that the B-21 was to be unveiled in early December 2022 at Northrop Grumman's production facilities in Palmdale, California. The ceremony took place on December 2, 2022. At the unveiling, Northrop CEO Kathy Warden said that the B-21 is designed with a modular open systems architecture to allow easy upgrades, and potentially, the ability to export components to foreign buyers. Warden said that the B-21's internal operations were "extremely advanced compared to the B-2" and that the B-21 was slightly smaller than the B-2, with a longer range.

At a congressional hearing in June 2021, Darlene Costello, the acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Acquisition, Technology & Logistics, confirmed that the first two B-21s were under construction at Plant 42 in Palmdale, California.

By February 2022, six B-21s were under construction. The first B-21 was moved to a calibration facility the following month. About 8,000 Northrop Grumman employees had worked

on the program with greater than 400 suppliers from at least 40 different states.



The cockpit windows of the B-21 are unique to the aircraft, and designed to eliminate joints and seams to minimize its radar cross section.

In July 2016, the USAF said it would not release the estimated cost of Northrop's B-21 contract, asserting that the number would reveal too much information about the classified project to potential adversaries. The Senate Armed Services Committee also voted to not publicly release the program's cost, restricting the information to congressional defense committees over the objections of a bipartisan group of legislators led by the committee's chairman, Senator John McCain.

In December 2022, the cost of a B-21 aircraft was estimated to be \$700 million; at the time, Air Force officials estimated that they would spend at least \$203 billion over 30 years to develop, purchase, and operate a fleet of 100 B-21s.

Maintenance and sustainment of the B-21 will be coordinated by Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, while Edwards Air Force Base, California, will lead testing and evaluation.

The B-21 is expected to operate from bases that currently host heavy bombers, such as Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota; and Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. In March 2019, Ellsworth was selected as the base to host the first operational B-21 unit and the first training unit.

The B-21 is slated by 2040 to replace the U.S. Air Force's 45 B-1 strategic bombers, which date from the 1980s, and 20 B-2 strategic bombers, which date from the 1990s. The B-21 may also eventually replace the B-52, which is slated to remain in service for many decades.

The USAF is also planning to acquire a new long-range fighter from its Next Generation Air Dominance program, known as the F-X or "Penetrating Counter-Air", to escort the B-21 deep into enemy territory and help it survive enemy air defenses and intercepting fighters.

Vought Employees Virtual Cemetery

Vought Retiree Club Newsletter Editor, Bob Bardo, has entered (so far) a total of about 900 former Chance Vought and LTV Aerospace and Vought Aircraft employees into a virtual cemetery on the website [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/952963) -- <https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/952963>.

This is a “work in progress” and more of our deceased fellow employees will continue to be added.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying a virtual cemetery on the Find a Grave website. The title bar shows the URL https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/952963. The page header includes the Find a Grave logo and navigation links for MEMORIALS, CEMETERIES, FAMOUS, and CONTRIBUTE. Below the header, it says "A VIRTUAL CEMETERY CREATED BY BOB BARDO" and "Vought employees". A sub-header notes "Former employees of Chance Vought Aircraft, Vought-Sikorsky, LTV Aerospace & Defense, Loral Vought Systems, Vought Aircraft, Triumph-Vought, and Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control". There are 884 memorials listed. Each memorial entry includes a small portrait, the name of the employee, their birth and death dates, the cemetery name, location, and plot information. For example, Grady Franklin Aaron (27 Nov 1918 – 29 Dec 2009) is buried in Chinns Chapel Cemetery, Copper Canyon, Denton County, Texas, USA. Clayton Neal "Buddy" Adams (4 Mar 1943 – 11 Oct 2013) is buried in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, USA, in Plot info: Section 89, Site 878. Margaret Mary "Marge" Spezia Adams (7 Dec 1941 – 9 Feb 2022) is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Mansfield, Tarrant County, Texas, USA.

FRED & CAROL'S TRAVELTIME

Presents

BRANSON CHRISTMAS SHOWS TOUR

DECEMBER 5 – 8, 2023

\$899 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Final Payment October 21, 2023. All Payments by Personal Check Only



\$50 Early Booking Bonus when \$200 per person Deposit is received at our agency from June 1 – to Friday Aug 11, 2020 – a 75 day window of opportunity.

No Luggage Handling – smaller type suitcase recommended.

\$200 Deposit is fully refundable up to 45 days prior to travel date or Oct. 21, 2023

No refunds after this date except by covered insurance claim. Final Payment Oct. 21, 2023.

Optional Group Travel Protection is available, \$57 per person. If desired, send separate insurance check with your deposit check. **Make checks payable to: Fred & Carol's**

Traveltime. Round trip Charter Bus from First Methodist Church Midlothian, TX, 800 S. 9th St. 7:00 a.m. departure; FREE PARKING; 3 nights lodging Branson Towers double occupancy, 6 shows, 3 breakfasts, 2 buffet lunches, 1 dinner show, 1 pizza buffet dinner, pretty much all-inclusive. Guaranteed departure with 30 adults; maximum 46. Driver Gratuity included.

Send you Checks today to: Fred & Carol's Traveltime, 811 Sherwood Ct., Midlothian, TX 76065 / 972 723-2814 / carol.smi@att.net / frederickmsmith77@gmail.com / www.traveltimetx.travel



Events Calendar 2023

Vought Retiree Club



APRIL

*TBD – Mission Arlington Volunteer Opportunity
(Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

JUNE

14 – 2023 Annual Meeting / BBQ
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 South Carrier Pkwy.
Grand Prairie, TX
(Wednesday)

AUGUST

*TBD – Artisan Theatre in Hurst

SEPTEMBER

*TBD – Theatre Arlington

SEPTEMBER

*TBD – Volunteer for North Texas Food Bank at the State Fair of Texas
(September 29 through October 22, 2023)

OCTOBER

*TBD – Volunteer for North Texas Food Bank at the State Fair of Texas
(September 29 through October 22, 2023)

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

5-8 – Branson Christmas Shows Tour

All Dates subject to change, Events without date are TO BE DETERMINED

*Information about specific times and costs will follow in flyers in future Newsletters

December 15, 2022 -- Vought Heritage Foundation Restoration Volunteers





**Vought Retiree Club
5840 W I-20, Suite #280
Arlington, TX 76017-1098**

First Class
US Postage Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 295

Officers:

President – Larry Skinner
1st Vice President – Karen Sauls
2nd Vice President – Gaye Kortegast
Treasurer – Madie Vernon
Secretary – Vynita Hutson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Wat Watkins

Call the Club at (817) 478-1885

Email: retireeclub@vought.org
membershiprc@vought.org

Directors:

Activities – Pat Patterson
Annual Meeting – Karen Sauls
Support Assistant – Sue Nutt
Mailing – Bob Snegon
Newsletter and Publicity – Bob Bardo
Newsletter Editor Emeritus – Connie Singleton
Veterans’ Advocate – Gene Cates
Volunteer Programs – Johnnie Johnson
Technical Support and Website* – Roger Stites
V.P. - Membership Assistant – Ann Christmas
President, Vought Heritage Foundation – Cathie Barrington

*Vought Heritage Website: www.vought.org

For questions on retiree benefits:

Triumph/Vought Retirees, call the “Benefits Center” toll free 844-368-1917
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control Retirees call 866-562-2363, M-F, 8 am-8 pm ET

Printing services provided by Texas Trust Credit Union.