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Banquet Program



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Cocktails

Call to Seats

Posting of the Colors

Introductions

**POW-MIA Ceremony
&
Toast**

Invocation

Meal

Break

**Introduction of Our
Guest Speaker**

**Robert B. Patterson
Major General USAF (Retired)**

Announcements

Promiscuous Pachyderms Drawing

Raffle Drawings

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To each of these positions, he brought to bear leadership skills honed through years of hands on field experience in aircraft operations and maintenance. He has earned the Military Parachutist Badge and is a Command Pilot with over 13,000 flying hours in 53 types and models of aircraft.

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medals and Air Medals.

He has received the Order of the Sword from the Air Force Enlisted Corps. The Military Airlift Command presented General Patterson with the Order of the Bayonet in January 1988 for his significant contributions to security and ground defense of air bases.

He is a past Chairman of the Airlift/Tanker Association and a Life Member of the **Spectre Association.**

ROBERT B. PATTERSON
Major General, USAF (Retired)

General Patterson retired from the United States Air Force after thirty-three years of distinguished service, during which he served in many important operational and managerial positions.

General Patterson was born in Mebane, North Carolina. He attended public schools in Chapel Hill North Carolina and graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1956. The General received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Webster College and is a graduate of Columbia University's Executive Program in Business Administration. He completed Armed Forces Staff College in 1971 and Air War College in 1976.

He entered the Air Force in August 1956 and received his pilot wings at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma in October 1957. His first operational assignment was to the 31st Air Rescue Squadron at Clark Air Base, Philippines. In 1960 he transferred to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, as aide-de-camp to the Military Training Center Commander. From 1963-1965 he served as special

assistant to the air deputy of Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo, Norway.

Returning to the United States, General Patterson joined the 39th Tactical Airlift Squadron of the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing, Lockbourne (now Rickenbacker) Air Force Base, Ohio. He departed Lockbourne in March 1970 to serve at **Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, as an AC-130 pilot in the 16th Special Operations Squadron of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing.**

From March 1979 to March 1980 General Patterson served as commander of the 463rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. He was then named commander of the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina. In March 1981 he became assistant chief of staff for plans at Headquarters Military Airlift Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. In March 1982 he became vice commander of Military Airlift Command's 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, and in 1984 was named commander.

From October 1984 to September 1985 he served as commander of the 322^d Airlift Division at Ramstein Air Base, West Germany, and deputy chief of staff airlift forces, U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He assumed command of 23^d Air Force in September 1985.

In April of 1987 the General assumed command of the newly established Air Force Special Operations Component Command of the U.S. Air Force under the Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He initiated the move of 23rd Air Force to Hurlburt Field and brought AFSOC to its first and current home at Hurlburt Field, Florida. For the first time, continental United States-based special operations forces of the Army, Navy, and Air Force were united under one joint commander

General Patterson's command positions have included two Numbered Air Forces (21ST and 23RD), Air Force Component of two Unified Commands (USSOCOM and USAFE); Airlift Division Commander (834TH); two Tactical Airlift Wings (463RD and 317TH); and Tactical Airlift Squadron Commander (50TH TAS).

He was the senior Air Force officer in Grenada during the American student rescue operation, URGENT FURY. General Patterson headed the Air Force Special Operations planning for JUST CAUSE, the removal of President Noriega from Panama.