

**From:** Wayne Laessig [qadvocate@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Tues, Oct 15, 2013 1:10 PM **To:** 'Larry Fletcher' **Subj:** Final Flight Policies

Fletch, For all who pass, we post it on Facebook and Web Mail, then add their name to our Final Flight listing on the web (lists are by Squadron).

Timely web postings can be a challenge, and making sure folks send me the info can be a challenge. Bill is good at passing the info to me, and he won't post it on the web until I confirm it.

Sometimes the FB guys post it before I can engage the family, and it might be good to establish a policy on that so we don't splat inaccurate info on donations or funerals.

Whenever I have, or can find contact info, I send an email as the Final Flight/Next-Of-Kin POC expressing our support and condolences.

In addition, if they were an Association Member when they pass, we do a donation using info either from my NoK contact for their desired charity/church/hospice/etc, or per the Obituary guidance on donations. Either way, the family receives notification we did that. Doug does the actual donation after we find the appropriate agency to donate to.

If the deceased was an Association Life Member (Regular OR Associate), I try to contact the NoK after things settle down a bit to personally express our support/condolences, and tell them the Life Membership passes to them (this only goes to the spouse, no further), it's free, they'll get Newsletters and Association emails, etc unless they tell me they'd prefer not to. We don't sell or push it, we let them decide. Over ½ do want to stay in touch (often for their kids).

We decided not to do donations for non-members a few years back, but it's only a policy, to help us stay consistent.

Might be good to send to Gus & Doug to see what else I might have forgot. Thanks! Wayne

**From:** Larry Fletcher [fletch12@charter.net] **Sent:** Tues, Oct 15, 2013 10:46 AM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** Brothers Who Pass

Wayne, Does the Association do anything for brothers who pass-on? Fletch

**From:** Ron Julian [takitus@email.com] **Sent:** Tues, March 19, 2013 5:15 PM **To:** Wayne Laessig **Subj:** Final Flight list Discussion

Hi Wayne I wanted to work some Final Flight dialog off-line with you first as it may be a sensitive issue. You can broach the topic with the board as you see fit. The subject is how to deal with the names on the Final Flight List. BLUF #1: We have surviving family members on the Final Flight List in some but not all cases. BLUF #2: We need to establish a policy for who is on the Final Flight list.

1. Surviving members (still living) on Final Flight list:
  - o I may be rewriting history but I thought the decision to move the survivors over was the result of board discussions from several years ago. I also recall discussions about leaving survivors in the main list with the linkage to the deceased while leaving them with the same POC as the deceased. At one time I think Jim Terry was maintaining contact with the survivors of the Brothers lost in SEA. I just don't recall all the details and circumstances of how it began.
  - o As we move forward with the database, we need to develop and implement a set of guidelines which establishes some known consistency for doing what we do. I offer the following thoughts for your consideration: (A) Move all survivors back to the Main List. (B) Code the survivors of the Brothers lost in SEA with a new code (00FF). (C) Revise/maintain all other survivors based on the POC code of the deceased. These survivors would be receive newsletter notices, etc from the same respective POCs as their deceased. BUT, it's not that simple when we now consider how to handle a deceased spouse, child, etc. Please read on.
2. Who should be on the Final Flight list? Potential answers: (1) only Gunshippers (Aircrew, Maintainers, Support Function, Other SEA folks) (2) any deceased individual (Gunshippers, family, friends, etc) on the MCL and/or Membership lists (3) Something else. If Option 1 is chosen, we would need to create a separate list (don't know what I'd call it) of the deceased non-Gunshippers. Regardless of the option chosen, I would still advocate that the Final Flight list on the website include only Gunshippers.

I've been thinking about this issue for quite some time but couldn't articulate it until I reviewed the Final Flight list today as I was revising the data base documents. (BTW, I'm leaning toward Option 1 with the establishment of a separate deceased list for family, friends, etc.)

Your thoughts? Cheers Ron

PS. Some folks may object to my defining "Gunshippers" as those directly related to the gunship program and action/service in SEA. That's OK. I believe we need to make a distinction of some type and am open to suggestions.