



## Headlines

- KAOC Dinner & Dance a Grand Celebration
- Dan Graves and Walt Portune to be Missed
- Get Those Award Nominations Submitted

### KAOC Dinner & Dance a Grand Celebration

The Kittyhawk AOC hosted the annual Christmas Dinner & Dance last month! It was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances, enjoy a delicious meal (and dessert – yum!), and dance the night away like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. If you missed out, don't worry – the KAOC is planning a Spring Fling in the April timeframe. Hope to see you there!



Pictured above are Erma and Larry Ericson enjoying the Christmas Dinner & Dance.

### Dan Graves and Walt Portune to be Missed

KAOC members mourn the loss of two true pioneers in the Association of Old Crows and the electronic warfare community at large. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Dan Graves, known to many as Operator 750, died at the Alzheimer's Center in Dayton. Then, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Walt Portune died at Hospice of Dayton.

Dan is best known for his many appearances as Master of Ceremonies at well over a thousand events including the very first AOC Convention in Washington DC. Those who knew him can attest to his way with words. He was an avid story teller and if he didn't know you, one of the first things you heard was "are you a Crow?"

### ***AOC Luncheon***

*When: January 12, 2011; 11:30AM – 1:00PM  
Location: The Tower Club – 3500 Pentagon Blvd  
Price: \$15 (\$20 after reservation deadline)*

*Speaker: Mr. John Augustine, Chief Investment Strategist, Fifth Third Bank  
Topic: "Defense Economic Impact in the Miami Valley"*

For many of us, the first thing we would read in the JED was his column, "Operator 750" where 750 happened to be his membership number.

Walt Portune was a founding member of the AOC, member number 232. Walt was the chief of the EW division at the Avionics Laboratory when he retired. Many years ago, when he was in the antenna R&D business, he came up with the idea of establishing an annual antenna conference at the University of Illinois. The antenna conference has evolved, and continues today. He frequently attended the monthly luncheons of the Air Force laboratory EW alumni including the December luncheon.

### Get Those Award Nominations Submitted

Don't hesitate to submit your nominations for the AOC awards. Each year the KAOC recognizes a few of the numerous members for excellent performance and contributions to our nation and the specialty of Electronic Combat. The deadline is the end of February. For more information, click on Awards at the KAOC website. Hurry!

### Upcoming Events

Feb 28	KAOC Scholarship Fund Drive Deadline
Feb 28	KAOC Award Nominations Deadline
Mar 30	KAOC Board Nominations Deadline
Apr 6	Scholarship Luncheon
Apr TBD	Spring Fling



## Daniel M. Graves, Jr



For more than 40 years there was no one more recognizable in the Association of Old Crows than Dan Graves. Wearing his signature black cowboy hat and string tie, he officiated' as the Master of Ceremonies for over 1100 functions in 41 states. Senator Barry Goldwater and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew were two of the hundreds of dignitaries, Generals and Colonels who were introduced, humorously retired, and/or entertained by Dan Graves.

However, Dan was more than a showman. He began his career as a junior electrician at the Fairfield Air Depot, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH having studied electrical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. From 1944 to 1946, he was a Navy radar technician and then returned to Wright-Patterson working in the Aircraft Radiation Laboratory. Later, he moved to the Electronic Warfare Division of the Avionics Laboratory and eventually to Wright Aeronautical Laboratories as a senior staff member.

The *Avionics Laboratory* was the organization pioneering development of low observable (stealth) technology; research into revolutionary active phased array radars; airborne lasers; electronic warfare jammers; terminally guided laser weapons; airborne forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology; and anti-jam radio communications, among many others. Dan made many contributions to the Avionics Laboratory

making nearly monthly trips to Washington, D.C. to orally report the status of Defense Contracts to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is remembered most for his ability to capture the attention of an audience and convey a message.



Dan was a multiple winner of Toastmaster International's "Humorous Speech Contests" in the state of Ohio in the 1960's and 1970's, receiving national recognition. A lifelong HAM operator, he not only ruled the

airwaves, but was the featured speaker at the "Hamvention" (Dayton's largest convention) for many years before retiring.

A founding member of the AOC, Dan contributed the "Operator 750" column to the OLD CROWS, Journal of Electronic Defense magazine. After retiring from WPAFB in 1984, he continued to write "Operator 750" and promoted the Kittyhawk Chapter's annual scholarship fund.

Dan was the recipient of the National AOC Life Achievement Award, the National AOC Silver Medal for service to the AOC, El Cuervo Viejo IV (The Old Crow IV), and has the Kittyhawk Chapter AOC Scholarship Fund at Wright State University named in his honor. On November 17, 1992, Congressman Clarence "Bud" Brown, led the Dan Graves Celebrity Roast with more than 360 people in attendance. In March of 2000, the Kittyhawk Chapter held a special birthday party to celebrate Dan's 80<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 people attended.

Dan was born in Dill City, Oklahoma on March 22, 1920. He was raised in Norman, Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma, studying Electrical Engineering and playing trombone in OU's marching band. There he met Froma Louise Pierson, his future wife. They were married May 12, 1942, making Dayton, Ohio their permanent home, following the war. Dan was married to Froma Louise for 47 years. Froma Louise passed away in 1990. Dan is survived by their three children, Mona Royer, Daniel M. Graves III and Douglas Graves, as well as six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Dan spent his last years at the Alzheimer's Center in Dayton.

Daniel M. Graves, Jr.  
March 22nd, 1920 - December 6th, 2010



## Walter J. Portune



Walt was 90 years old when he passed away Saturday, January 1, 2011 at Hospice of Dayton. He is known for a long and distinguished career in Air Force radar and electronic warfare research. He attended the University of Cincinnati and captained the varsity baseball team. He served in WW II as an Army Air Force officer in early radar development and attended MIT and Harvard. His career continued at WPAFB as a division head in radar and electronic counter-measures research. He worked in the Antenna Barn. In building 620, the laboratory exploratory and advanced development programs he directed made significant advancements in EW technologies. Programs he promoted included receiver detection and warning in the RF and IR spectrums. In electronic attack, he directed programs in RF jammers and IR flares. He was an early contributor to signature reduction research and an advocate for simulation and analysis. Many operational EW capabilities can directly trace their origins to research Walt led. He was a founding member of the Association of Old Crows and involved in early stealth technology.

Walt was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen Portune on October 6, 2010 and his brothers: Bob and wife Alice of Cincinnati, Lee and wife Carolyn of CA. and Jack ( killed in WW II ). He is survived by his children: Dr. Richard Portune and wife Phyllis of Beavercreek, Buzz Portune and wife Marilyn of Kettering, Mary Kay Noble and husband David of Mentor and Leslie Fisher and husband Robert of FL. Eleven grandchildren also survive him: Lisa Portune, Matthew ( Bridget ) Portune, Emily ( Brian ) O'Hara, Laura ( Ben ) Cordell, Kevin Portune, Sean Noble, Katie ( Todd ) Dooley, Ryan Noble, Kristina Fisher, Eric Fisher, Scott Fisher and great- granddaughter Lillian O'Hara. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church and the Free Spirits.

October 26, 1920 - January 1, 2011