

# Ode to a C-141

I never fully understood his feelings for her. He loved her and I had to share him with her. She was hard and cold yet he loved her and put his life in her hands every time he boarded her.

She carried him many, many miles...to and from everywhere in the world. At times he would ask her to carry the burden of completing a mission with an engine shut down and she would. Hydraulic fluid could run down her belly, or her landing gear would fail, yet, as he spoke her language she would come through and bring him home.

He knew her needs and would go to her defense when no one else would. It didn't matter... she was a part of him. They knew each other. She never made demands; just answered his call.

This special lady sat proudly as troops ran to her sanctity. She hauled them, dropped them and supplied them. She brought home the wounded and gave comrades their final ride home.

A round she never fired even when her sides were peppered by enemy fire as she sat with engines running to load Marines in Laos, babies in Vietnam, students in Grenada or troops during Desert Storm.

When asked, she would land on Artic ice, desert sand, or sub-standard runways in South America. She would sit and wait for the next mission of mercy, ask no questions, but give it her all.

Her name is *Starlifter*. She takes to the sky like an eagle and dances on clouds like a ballerina. She touches the face of God.

by Lynda J. Case  
Widow of deceased, CMSgt William L. Case III , USAF Ret'd  
C-141 Flight Engineer HQ, MAC 1982-1985



## Retirement DINNER



Wednesday, 15 September 2004  
Enlisted Club  
McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey

# Sequence of Events

Social Hour

Opening Remarks & Introductions

Invocation

Chaplain (Major) David R. Maack  
*Chaplain, 305th Air Mobility Wing*

Dinner

Intermission

Guest Speaker

General John W. Handy  
*Commander, U.S. Transportation Command  
and Air Mobility Command*

Closing Remarks

Colonel JJ Jackson  
*Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing*

Colonel Jimmy Stewart  
*Commander, 514th Air Mobility Wing*

# General John W. Handy



General John W. Handy is Commander, U.S. Transportation Command, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. USTRANSCOM is the single manager for global air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense.

General Handy was commissioned in 1967 and received his pilot wings in 1968. He has commanded the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; the Air Mobility Command's Tanker Airlift Control Center; two airlift wings and a maintenance squadron. He has served as the director of operations and Logistics for USTRANSCOM; the Air Force's

Director of Programs and Evaluations, and Deputy Chief of Staff Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

General Handy is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours, principally in airlift aircraft. He has flown the C-130, C-141, C-17, C-7A, C-9, C-37 and KC-10. As a C-130 pilot, he logged more than 300 combat hours in Southeast Asia. Prior to assuming his current position, the general was Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

His major Awards and Decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Air Medal with oak leaf cluster; Antarctica Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars; Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

## **Education**

1966 Bachelor's degree in history, Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C.  
1972 Squadron Officer School  
1979 Air Command and Staff College  
1979 Master's degree in systems management, University of Southern California  
1982 Air War College  
1984 National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington D.C.  
1993 Program for Senior Executives, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

