



**we are
family**

tops in blue priors' newsletter

Vol. 10 No. 3

October 2003

WWTC SET FOR FEB 22-MAR 1

The 2004 Worldwide Talent Contest will be held at Lackland, Feb 22 – Mar 1. Air Force Entertainment needs our help in locating talent and technicians and encouraging and assisting those who desire to participate. Performers will need to submit a 4-minute videotape of their act and technicians will need to submit a resume. Application forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting Air Force Entertainment by telephone at 210-652-6566, via e-mail at web.TIB@agency.afsv.af.mil, or by mail at 10100 Reunion Place, Suite 403 San Antonio, TX 78216. AF Entertainment also needs priors who can assist as support and technical staff in a variety of areas. If you can do so, please contact Jeri White at the phone number above or via e-mail at Jeri.White@agency.afsv.af.mil



Poster by Jane Overy, TIB '57-58

THE SPIRIT OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUES

The spirit of the 50th Anniversary of Tops In Blue continues. The celebration began in February with the 2003 Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland AFB. Next was the May premiere and subsequent tour of Tops In Blue 2003's show "Soaring with Eagles," a musical tribute to 50 years of Air Force Entertainment and the Centennial of Flight. Then came the big 50th Anniversary Reunion in San Antonio, July 7-12, a truly incredible event. Five decades of priors from around

the world gathered to commemorate 50 years of Tops In Blue heritage. The week was filled with a variety of activities including a Comedy/Karaoke Night, a Cosmic Bowling Sock Hop, the re-dedication of the Production Center, performances by Tops in Blue 2003, TIB Olympics, a trip to Sea World, and an exceptional final night banquet, which was highlighted by a dazzling Reunion Show featuring priors from every decade. The celebration continued in mid-August at the Air Force Academy with a special dinner and ceremony for Tops In Blue originator, Colonel Al Reilly, who created the program back in 1953. Colonel Reilly, who lives in Colorado Springs, was unable to attend the July reunion, so this special ceremony was held at the Academy in tribute to him. Several TIB priors from the 1950's not only attended but also performed in his honor. Tops In Blue 2003 also performed and Colonel Reilly was presented with a commemorative TIB goblet and a special Tops In Blue ring, featuring four diamonds. This 50th Anniversary has brought together hundreds of TIB priors from tours gone by and the spirit of family that has been generated since the celebration began is truly amazing and it continues to grow. Here's to the next 50 years and the continuing of that spirit.

TOPS IN BLUE 2003 STILL "SOARING WITH EAGLES" AS WORLD TOUR CONTINUES



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Tops In Blue and the Centennial of Flight, TIB 2003 continues its world tour with its sensational show, "Soaring with Eagles." Featuring five decades of popular music, the show has received outstanding reviews. The Air Force's Expeditionary Entertainers will travel to 22 countries and perform over 150 shows. At press time they were concluding their tour of Europe and were bound for front line locations. Our prayers and thoughts go with them. Their remainder of their tour is as follows:

Date	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location
08-Nov-03	Ft Walton Bch, FL	09-Dec-03	Elmendorf AFB AK	15-Jan-04	Davis Monthan AFB AZ
09-Nov-03	Maxwell AFB AL	10-Dec-03	Elmendorf AFB AK	17-Jan-04	Luke AFB AZ
11-Nov-03	Keesler AFB MS	13-Dec-03	Hickam AFB HI	20-Jan-04	Mtn. Home AFB ID
13-Nov-03	Tyndall AFB FL	14-Dec-03	Honolulu HI	21-Jan-04	Hill AFB UT
14-Nov-03	Moody AFB GA	19-Dec-03	Korean AF HQ	24-Jan-04	Minot ND
15-Nov-03	Dobbins AFB GA	20-Dec-03	Osan AB KO	25-Jan-04	Ellsworth AFB SD
16-Nov-03	Robins AFB GA	21-Dec-03	Osan AB KO	27-Jan-04	Fe Warren AFB WY
18-Nov-03	Charleston AFB SC	25-Dec-03	Kunsan AB KO	30-Jan-04	Sno-Fest Col. Springs CO
20-Nov-03	Shaw AFB SC	27-Dec-03	Yokota AB JA	31-Jan-04	Sno-Fest Col. Springs CO
22-Nov-03	Seymour Johnson AFB NC	28-Dec-03	Yokota AB JA	03-Feb-04	Kirtland AFB NM
23-Nov-03	Langley AFB VA	31-Dec-03	Misawa AB JA	06-Feb-04	Sheppard AFB TX
25-Nov-03	State College PA	03-Jan-04	Singapore**	08-Feb-04	McConnell AFB KS
26-Nov-03	McGuire AFB NJ	05-Jan-04	Diego Garcia	11-Feb-04	Offutt AFB NE
30-Nov-03	Hanscom AFB MA	06-Jan-04	Diego Garcia	12-Feb-04	Whiteman AFB MO
02-Dec-03	Dover AFB DE	09-Jan-04	Kadena AB JA	14-Feb-04	Vance AFB OK
05-Dec-03	Clear AFB AK	10-Jan-04	Kadena AB JA	16-Feb-04	Dyess AFB TX
06-Dec-03	Eielson AFB AK	12-Jan-04	Andersen AFB GU	17-Feb-04	Goodfellow AFB TX
07-Dec-03	Eielson AFB AK	13-Jan-04	Andersen AFB GU	18-Feb-04	Laughlin AFB TX

RICH NIEMET AND BOB MORROW HONORED WITH GOLDEN ROGERS



Rich Niemet and Bob Morrow - both soft-spoken, well respected, self-effacing, hard working, with a tremendous dedication to Tops In Blue. Now they have something else in common; they are both Golden Roger recipients. In a moving tribute at this year's Reunion, Tom Edwards presented the 35th Golden Roger to Rich Niemet, marking the first time the award was given posthumously. Rich, who passed away a few short years ago toured with TIB in 1981 and again in 1983, as the lovable game show contestant, "Ebner Fubble."

A beloved performer, he was also an incredibly talented and tireless artist. He designed and painted the sets for TIB 81, 82, and 83. But one of his biggest contributions was designing the creative presentation that wowed the NFL and helped Tops In Blue secure the Superbowl XIX Halftime Show. His amazing miniature scale model of the show, complete with football field, props, performers, and stages is enshrined at the Tops In Blue Production Center.

In addition, Rich was also an inspiration to others. At the reunion, Lori Burch, the only Army troop to ever tour with Tops In Blue, credited Rich with getting her involved with the program and providing encouragement and support. For those whose lives he touched, Rich is gone, but will never be forgotten.

Following Rich's recognition at the reunion, Mr. Edwards presented the 36th Golden Roger to Bob Morrow; fitting because Bob's efforts have helped bring the TIB family closer together than ever. He is also the first tech to receive the award. Bob, who was a technical theater major in college, saw his first TIB show in 1986 as a basic trainee (and hasn't missed one since). Once he saw the show, he says he knew he had to be a part of the group. He got his chance, touring as stage manager on TIB '88. He went on to work as a tech at Worldwide in '88, '89, '90, and '93. Bob left the Air Force in 1994, but continued to stay in touch with and support the program. In 1993, he was one of the original 13 priors to subscribe to the newsletter and join in the quest to bring the TIB family back together. In 1995 he took it upon himself to take this quest to the next level by creating the TIB Priors' Website and the rest is history. Thanks largely to his efforts, over 500 TIB priors have found their way back to the program and are now back in touch with other family members. His development of the bulletin board and other enhancements have made the site one of the primary sources of communication and information for TIB priors around the world. Bob's selfless efforts and dedication to the TIB family make him a truly deserving recipient. And to think, he did it all without anyone's permission! As Bob says, "I am probably the only person to be rewarded - to get a Golden Roger no less - for doing something without Chief's approval." No doubt.

OUTGROWN YOUR ORIGINAL TIB T-SHIRT? GET A NEW ONE! (AND LOTS MORE!)



As a spin-off from the 50th Reunion, for a limited time, priors have a chance to purchase a variety of TIB logo merchandise. Items include official TIB T-shirts and sweatshirts, replacement Rogers, rings, and goblets; AF Entertainment portfolios and attaché cases; and 50th Anniversary mementos such as shirts, hats, tote bags, watches, champagne flutes and more. All items feature official logos. Certain items may be ordered only for "priors," but there are other items you may use as gifts. Be sure to order quickly, because once these items are gone they will not be reordered. Every effort will be made to get orders in before Christmas but in the case of Rogers and rings the lead-time is substantial and orders must be placed early. All proceeds will go to the

Ambassadors In Blue official private organization, which helps fund special events like the reunion. For a complete list of available items and order forms go to the prior's website at www.tibpriors.org. If you cannot access the site, or need additional info, contact Carol Sudy via e-mail at Sudyc@aol.com or by phone at 210-652-6566.

BLUE NOTES: Priors making it big, newborns making their debuts, and more...

Bill Hennessey ('83) just finished his contribution to a demo disc for "Cover up" a local Dayton, OH band. Bill says the CD is available free to any interested party; all that's required is an address. **Kahlil Walton's** ('94, '95) one man show, "Father's Day" will open in Los Angeles this winter, with stops in New York, Toronto, Montreal; and performances at the 2004 HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen and the 2003 Las Vegas International Comedy Festival. **Stanley Swann** ('81) is the drummer for the Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" at the Huntington Theatre, Boston, MA - (www.bu.edu/edu/huntington/) thru Oct 19. He's also on a new release with jazz pianist Philippe LeJeune, (www.boogiewoogie.com/TEST/ARTIST/LEJEUNE/plmaster.html). **Beverly & William Heath** ('84) just finished working on her first gospel CD entitled "The Word," which includes nine original tracks and a hymn. William recorded, engineered and produced it! Take a listen or purchase a copy at www.cdbaby.com/cd/beverlyheath. **Eric Smith** ('83) got his first ever royalty check from ASCAP. Check out his latest tracks and give him your feedback at www.soundclick.com/smidibeats. We can keep voting for **Spencer Masslieno-Allen** ('01) for the reality show *The Revengers* until Dec. You can only vote from the same computer once a day. He needs a 2.5 to stay in the running. The address for Spencer's character "Walter" is www.the-revengers.com/v2/?id=15791. **Kenny** ('98) and **Evelyn** ('98/'02) **Bruce** welcomed a new baby girl, **Jocelyn Simone**, on Sept 3. She weighed 6 lbs 7.9 oz and was 18" long. **Tamara Moler** ('99) also welcomed a new baby, **Gabriel Franklin Hensley**, born on July 14, weighing 7 lbs, and 20½" long. **Walt Campbell** ('01) has become a regular at the Rivercenter Comedy Club in San Antonio and is currently on a comedy tour in Germany. Thanks to **Al Passer**, ('78/'82), a multitude of reunion photos are available online at www.cheetahsoft.com/tib/. Safe travel wishes go out to **Luther Reddick** ('78, '79, '81) who is in Moscow, Russia for two weeks performing auditing services. He will also be visiting Vogograd and Chelyabinsk and says that Tops in Blue is everywhere. Finally, yours truly, **T.A. Burrows** was nominated for an Arizona theater award ("Best Actor in a Musical") for "Simply Sammy" and has been cast in three more productions - "Guys & Dolls," "Impromptu," and "Vaudeville Tonight." *Ciao!*