

## AMDS Airman saves life through organ donation

By Capt. Wilson Wise

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Melissa Sherman of the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, has been a member of the 445th Airlift Wing since December 2012. A few years ago, she received news that her father was in need of a new kidney and she volunteered to donate one.

After medical testing, it became apparent that she nor her siblings were an appropriate blood match to be able to help her father. Through a program at Banner-University Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, Sherman learned of a “paired kidney donation” program.

The program allows for willing kidney donors to team up with other donors to create a successful

ney was transferred to another woman allowing for a quality of life and health previously unavailable. The recipient was able to transition to a life free of dialysis. Afterwards, Sherman’s father received a kidney from the father of the kidney recipient. “It was ‘father to father’ and ‘daughter to daughter’ donation,” Sherman remembers.

The surgery did not slow Sherman down. Immediately afterward, she worked both July unit training assemblies.

“There was some pain for a day or two after the surgery, but all in all, it wasn’t too bad,” Sherman said. “It is my honor to serve others.”

In her civilian life, Sherman is a proud wife and mother and works as a human resources coordinator for Five Rivers Metroparks in Dayton. Sherman has a new perspective on life since her kidney donation and has a greater understanding of what truly matters. “I have become more laid back since the surgery. I have come to realize that there are many things in life that are more important than trivial problems,” she said.

Lt. Col. Todd Everett, 445th AMDS chief, health services administration, said, “Staff Sergeant Sherman is a wonderful leader in the unit. Her selflessness on and off the job embodies the key Air Force value of ‘Service Before Self.’ We can all learn to sacrifice a little more to help others.”

According to the National Kidney Foundation website, many people who need transplants of organs and tissues cannot get them because of a shortage of donations. Of the 123,000 Americans currently on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant, more than 101,000 need a kidney, but only 17,000 people receive one each year. Every day 12 people die waiting for a kidney. Organ and tissue donation helps others by giving them a second chance at life.

Living donation takes place when a living person donates an organ or part of an organ to someone in need of a transplant. The donor is most often a close family member, such as a parent, child, brother or sister. A donor can also be a more distant family member, spouse, friend or co-worker. Non-directed donors, those who donate anonymously, are also becoming more common. To learn more about living kidney donation visit [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org).



Courtesy photo

**Staff Sgt. Melissa Sherman, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, poses for a photo with her father, Gary Meager an hour after they both underwent kidney transplant surgery at Banner-University Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, July 17, 2019.**

match and increase the chance that the kidney will function better and last longer.

After medical testing and pre-surgery counseling in March 2019, Sherman was notified of a donor match and travelled to Phoenix with her father in July. She was nervous about the surgery but had peace in knowing that with a positive outcome, she could help another family. “It is an honor to be able to help another person live a healthier life,” Sherman said.

Once the surgery was completed, Sherman’s kid-

## 89th AS Airmen prepare meals at House of Bread



(left) Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing's 89th Airlift Squadron, volunteer at the House of Bread in Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 8, 2019. The House of Bread serves nearly 250 people a day. The House of Bread is a non-profit community kitchen serving hot, nutritious, lunchtime meals to anyone in need seven days a week. Over the last 30 years, staff and volunteers have worked together, primarily using donated food, to prepare the meal each day.

(right) Lt. Col. Jerry Quincy, director of operations, 89th Airlift Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, cuts corn off of a cob while volunteering at the House of Bread in Dayton, Dec. 8, 2019.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough

(left) Senior Airman Gordon Sullivan, 89th Airlift Squadron commander's support staff, empties boxes of green beans in the walk-in refrigerator at the House of Bread, Dec. 8, 2019. The House of Bread receives donated food from stores in the local area and disseminates it to local people in need.

(right) Senior Airman Terry Raglin, 89th Airlift Squadron squadron aviation research management (SARM), puts on gloves to prepare food, Dec. 8, 2019. Raglin and nine members of the squadron prepped eggs, potatoes, vegetables and desserts.



# SPOTLIGHT



Senior Airman Amelia Burnett

**Rank/Name:** Staff Sgt. Nicole L. Patterson

**Unit:** 445th Force Support Squadron

**Duty Title:** Wing Training/Education Counselor

**Hometown:** Lynchburg, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Wing Training/ Education Air Reserve Technician

**Education:** I currently have my Community College of the Air Force degree in maintenance management production, an associate degree in science, and working on my bachelor's degree in government acquisition's and contracting.

**Hobbies:** I love spending time with my pup, Luna. She's a shepherd/husky mix and she's too smart for her own good. On my days off I volunteer at the Highland County Dog pound walking the dogs and cleaning their kennels. I enjoy spending time with my nieces and nephews. They are growing up so fast and I enjoy being able to be the fun aunt, creating memories that will hopefully last a lifetime.

**Career Goal:** I have met my first goal in my career already which was to promote to staff sergeant and complete my first six-year enlistment. My next career goal would be to complete my next six years, and hopefully promote to master sergeant in that time frame. Long term I would like to make chief and hopefully serve up until the Air Force will no

longer have me.

**What you like about working at the 445th?:**

Since I have worked at the 445th, I have met some of the best people in my life. I have gained friends, mentors, and family from this wing. As reservists, we are often a second thought to active duty. But I know firsthand the work that the 445th does is unmatched. Prior to working for the FSS specifically, I never knew the amount of work that is truly done. Servicing almost 3,000 members is no small task, but the work gets done day after day. I am proud of the work that we do, and I am proud to be a member of the 445th FSS and Airlif Wing.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** I had always wanted to be in the military. When I first went to college, I had every intention of joining the ROTC program at Wright State (University). I ended up going a different route which led me to getting my associate degree instead. I knew I wasn't where I wanted to be in life and I just didn't know "what I wanted to be when I grew up." I spoke with a great mentor in my life, retired Col. Howard Willis, and he told me to look into the reserve. Shortly after, I reached out to the reserve recruiting office and decided to join the Air Force Reserve to give me some much needed direction in life. In hindsight it's one of the best decisions I have ever made. This is the job/career field that I wanted to be in.

## Buckeye Flyer

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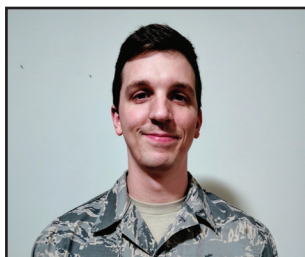
# Wing announces 4th quarter CY19 award winners

## Amn



**Senior Airman Randal Tomina**, 445th Force Support Squadron knowledge operations manager, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Tomina built the United States Central Command's dashboard; a one-stop shop for 21,000 personnel and eight Air Expeditionary Wings. This effort enabled a critical combined force air component commander decision cycle. Tomina streamlined the Air Operations Center airpower asset requirements and built the joint combined effects form for the combat plans division; decreasing processing time by 55 percent. He led the knowledge management SharePoint training, educating eight deployed content managers resulting in a successful U.S. Air Forces Central Command transition to SharePoint 2016. Tomina supported Sumter United Ministries where he prepared holiday meals for five families. He attended Airman Leadership School in-residence, running projects and gaining leadership and supervisory knowledge.

## NCO



**Staff Sgt. Christopher Funke**, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aerospace medicine technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Funke served as the recall program manager and unit deployment manager where he fixed the At Hoc system. He is the unit's medical readiness scheduler and the medical readiness decision support system subject matter expert. Funke completed both the commanding officer representatives and automated readiness information system integrated scheduling courses. He tracked training for 140 Airmen, ensuring deployment readiness. Funke drove a new deployment folder process, instructing members to process and convert more than 120 records to electronic deployment folders. He stepped up as the unit's historian, capturing and cataloging more than 200 events. During his off-duty time, Funke received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and is working on his master's degree in business administration.

## SNCO



**Master Sgt. Ashley McIlhargie**, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron unit training manager, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. McIlhargie managed her squadron's staff assistance visit where more than 70 training records were inspected. She supervised more than 34 Airmen in upgrade training; in just 24 months, more than 17 Airmen that had zero months of training were upgraded. McIlhargie in-processed 22 new and enthusiastic AES enlisted Airmen, conducted nine career field education and training/master training plans publication checks, 37 career development courses and 33 end of course with a 100 percent success rate. She created a commander-directed incentive program for those who score 90 percent and above on their CDCs end of course test; six members have been recognized so far. McIlhargie is the vice president of the 445th Airlift Wing's Top Three. She represents 50 AES Airmen and helps to promote welfare and recognition.

## CGO



**Capt. Phillip Sobers**, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron director of operations, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Sobers built a reserve deployment readiness cell SharePoint page. The site was replicated through Air Force Reserve Command and won the 2019 AFRC General Lew Allen Jr., award. He fixed a geographically separated unit's deployment issue involving 59 career fields while providing 40 hours of training. Capt. Sobers' accomplishments earned him the Reserve Officer's Association Officer Junior Officer of the Year. He led vehicle operations for the U.S. Air Force Marathon where he and his team worked 600 hours; moving 96 pallets, supporting 13,000 runners. Capt. Sobers created a training opportunity with Habitat for Humanity with LRS working closely together with the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron to build a home for a local family. The captain attended the Reserve School Selection Board's course, Leadership Today and Tomorrow.



# News Briefs

## Newcomers

Capt Melissa Cordero, 64 IS  
 Capt Trisha Degilormo, ASTS  
 1st Lt Kyle Baughman, AES  
 SSgt Jack Davis, 655 ISRG  
 SSgt Jonathon Mallets, 87 APS  
 SSgt Kyle Murphy, 71 IS  
 SSgt Johnathan Rogers, SFS  
 SSgt Ian Weidner, MXS  
 A1C Tyler Bowling, ASTS  
 SrA Bhishma Desai, ASTS  
 SrA Ethan Mitchell, FSS  
 SrA Zachary Shonk, LRS  
 SrA Daniel Ullery-Oatney, AMDS  
 A1C Mariah Blankenship, 87 APS

A1C Ryan Faris, ASTS  
 A1C Matthew Morehead, 445 MXS  
 A1C Jennifer Seeley, 87 APS  
 A1C Viktoriya Vasilizhenko, AMDS  
 Amn Niajai Manson, LRS  
 AB Meagan Dawson, ASTS  
 AB Caleb McWilliams, MXS

## Promotions

**Senior Airman**  
 Ryan Faris, ASTS  
 Dan Iwamoto, 87 APS  
 Jonathan Strunk, LRS

**Staff Sergeant**  
 Erin Cooper, 512 IS  
 Mariah Magtoto, FSS  
 Mark Mucci, 49 IS  
 Terry Ocasio, AMXS  
 Christopher Smitm, 820

IS  
 Alex Wells, 71 IS

## Technical Sergeant

Erik Adkins, AMXS  
 Jeremy Ballard, ASTS  
 Jennifer Barnhart, CES  
 Michael Biastock, 820 IS  
 Jachob Bohnenkamp, 820 IS  
 Ethan Bolton, LRS  
 Martin Crawford, CES  
 Kamika Davis, CES  
 Joshua Esquibel, 28 IS  
 Brian Follin, 49 IS  
 Talley Martin, 49 IS  
 Ashley Portillo, 49 IS  
 Arisack Souphanthavong, 42 IS  
 Alexander Stefan Cherry, 718 IS  
 Christian Terrill, AMDS

## Master Sergeant

La Sal Austin, 87 APS  
 Aaron Fisher, 87 APS  
 Eric Henry, 87 APS

Eric Hollopeter, 87 APS  
 Clinton Kinchen, 820 IS  
 Brandy Krobatsch, 50 IS  
 Zachary Loechler, 87 APS  
 James Mellenkamp, 87 APS  
 Michael Young, 87 APS

## Senior Master Sergeant

Patience Spence, 28 IS

## Awards

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Edward Taillon, 89 AS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Cameron Lipps, 445 AW  
 TSgt Drew Ramsay, 445 MSG

## 445th Annual Awards Banquet date announced

### Nominations sought for spouse, youth, civilian, FGO of the year

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be held March 7, 2020 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

A medallion ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. to formally recognize all nominees. Details will be emailed to nominees.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, recruiter, honor guard member, civilian, spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category will be announced during the banquet.

Reservations can be made at: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=494164&k=066846087D53> with a credit or debit card. Reservations made using cash and check payments must be made in person in the public affairs office, building 4010, room 171.

The cost is \$40 for adults; \$20 for children 6 to 10;

and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by Feb. 14, 2020.

To ease the check-in process, all attendees will have assigned tables. Unit tables will be designated. If you'd like to sit with someone who is not registered as your guest, please let us know via email at 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil no later than Feb. 23 (Sunday of the Gray unit training assembly).

The dress for the evening is semi-formal or mess dress for enlisted Airmen; mess dress for officers; and formal evening attire for civilians.

### Nominations needed

Any Airmen or civilian can nominate someone for spouse, youth, field grade officer or civilian of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil and include a photograph. If a photograph is needed, please contact the public affairs office at 937-257-5784. Submissions are due no later than close of business Jan. 26, 2020.



# 445th Airlift Wing Year In Review

## Looking back on accomplishments of 2019

### 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Airlift Wing wrapped up another successful year in 2019.

The 445th flew 217 missions consisting of 1,468 sorties for a total of 4,980 flying hours. The unit transported more than 30,000 tons of cargo and nearly 11,000 passengers to various locations around the globe.

The wing hosted 2,000 people for tours, static displays and demonstrations, including visits from the members of the Grand Ole Opry, IndyCar driver Conor Daly and country music artist Brantley Gilbert.

Highlights for the year began in January, when approximately 150 members returned from deployments. A total of 253 members returned from deployments in 10 countries during 2019.

In March, the wing recognized the best of the best as Airmen and family members were honored at the annual awards banquet. The 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the 445th Security Forces Squadron walked away with bragging rights as both received Squadron of the Year honors.

In May, more than 15 tornadoes touched down throughout the Greater Dayton area affecting thousands of Miami Valley residents. Airmen of the 445th volunteered to support wing and community members by cutting down trees, removing debris and providing aide and assistance.

The wing conducted its inaugural Honorary Commander's program in September when 18 community leaders were paired with wing, group and squadron

commanders.

The wing underwent a Day of Tactical Pause in November as units conducted briefings and other activities with Airmen to ensure Wingmen are cared for and needs are met as the number suicides in the Air Force increases.

In early December, the wing said farewell to Col. Adam B. Willis as he left Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for a new assignment as commander of the 315th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

In addition, wing units and members received numerous Air Force Reserve Command awards and other recognition in 2019.

### Unit awards

-The 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron won 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Medical Award, Outstanding Reserve Medical Unit without a Physical Exam Package category.

-The 87th Aerial Port Squadron captured the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Logistics Readiness Unit Award, Air Reserve Component Air Transportation Activity of the Year award.

-The 445th Security Forces Squadron won the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Annual Outstanding Unit Award, Outstanding Security Forces Tenant Unit of the Year Award category.

### Individual awards/recognition

-Maj. Andrew Pierce, flight commander and C-17 instructor pilot,

89th Airlift Squadron, was inducted into The Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

-Capt. Cletus Schafrath, 87th Aerial Port Squadron readiness flight commander, won the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Logistics Readiness Individual Award, Outstanding Logistics Readiness Traditional Reservist Company Grade Officer of the Year category.

-Capt. Phillip Sobers, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron, deputy director of operations, has been nominated by Air Force Reserve Command for the 2019 Reserve Officers Association Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year.

-First Lt. Jonathan Charles, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical readiness officer, won the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Medical Award, Administrative Excellence Award category.

-Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Gambill, 87th Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, was selected as the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant of the Year.

-Master Sgt. Sean Sullivan, assistant fire chief of operations, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, was named world champion in the chief's division at the FireFit World Championship.

-Staff Sgt. Marissa Ayres, 445th SFS fire team member was selected as the 2018 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Individual Award Air Reserve Component Airman of the Year.





1

Courtesy photo



2

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



3

Airman 1st Class Erin Zimpher



4

Airman 1st Class Erin Zimpher

1) Master Sgt. Anthony Phillips, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, is welcomed home by his family when he arrives at the Dayton International Airport, Jan. 20, 2019.

2) The 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron poses for a photo at the wing's annual awards banquet March 9, 2019.

3) Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Nickert, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron specialist section chief, removes fallen trees, May 30, 2019 after 15 tornadoes hit Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and surrounding communities May 27, 2019.

4) Col. Shawn Werchan, 445th Airlift Wing vice commander, passes the 445th Maintenance Squadron guidon to Suzanne Sumner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, Partner, during the wing's honorary commanders induction ceremony, Sept. 6, 2019.

5) Col. Adam Willis, 445th Airlift Wing commander (center) shakes hands with members of the 445th AW after taking his last flight as the commander Dec. 3, 2019.



5

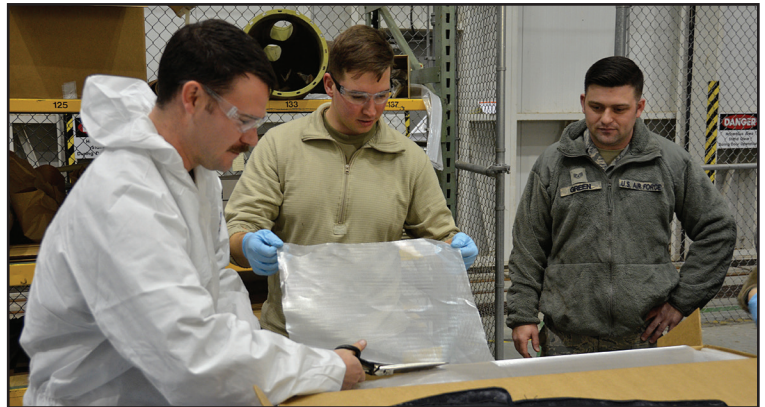
Ms. Stacy Vaughn



# Around the wing ...



Senior Airman Amelia Burnett



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

(left) Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Gambill, 87th Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, dances with a veteran at the Dayton Veteran Affairs Medical Center holiday party, Dec. 7, 2019. Members of the 445th Airlift Wing sang, ate lunch and brought holiday cheer to veterans.

(right) Senior Airman Larry Depasquale and Staff Sgts. Jarred Steel and Bradley Green, aircraft structural technicians with the 445th Maintenance Squadron's fabrication section, repair mesh layers of a C-17 Globemaster III tail component, Dec. 8, 2019.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



Ms. Stacy Vaughn

(left) Col. Shawn Werchan (far left), 445th Airlift Wing vice commander, serves holiday lunch with Chief Master Sgt. Paul Stewart, 445th AW command chief, Dec. 8, 2019 at the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility.

(right) Members of the 445th Airlift Wing fill their bowls with chili during the wing's chili cook-off Dec. 2, 2019. The event featured 13 pots of chili and was held to support this year's Toys for Tots campaign.

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