



Biographies of Street Names on Travis AFB, California

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This document is a compilation of brief biographies of people who have streets named after them at Travis AFB. Some of these people were heroes in the various units assigned at Travis AFB in the past or they were individuals who made major contributions in the field of military aviation, or were strong advocates of airpower.. Other streets have self explanatory names like states while still others identify the area Travis AFB resides.

It is the distinct pleasure of Travis AFB to help others learn more about the people, places, aircraft and systems that have made our Air Force, Wings and Units represented at Travis, the strong organization it is today.

The following is a compilation of significant street names and their brief biography. For further information on these people, access reference books such as Webster's American Military biographies, The Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography or search the Internet.

AIR BASE BOULEVARD

Primary Mission at Travis Air Force Base since it's inception in 1942.

AIRLIFT DRIVE

Primary Mission at Travis Air Force Base since it's inception in 1942.

ARNOLD COURT

General of the Air Force Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold commanded the Army Air Forces during World War II. A West Point graduate, he received his initial flight training from the Wright brothers. He is known as one of the US pioneer military aviators -- a man of ability, vision, determination, and a talented administrator and strategist who helped bring about the creation of an independent Air Force. He was the only Air Force general to hold a five star rank.

BAKER STREET

Reverence given in the identify of a Baker. 4 Bakers were the first on scene of the B-29 crash that occurred here at Travis 5 Aug 1950. They were on duty the night of the accident and raced to the crash site where they rescued 8 members from the cockpit of the aircraft. One of their own Sgt Paul Ramoneda was killed when the plane exploded approximately 15 minutes after the crash.

BENDER STREET

Pvt Emil G. Bender Jr. a base firefighter from New York died several days after he was attempting to save the lives of victims in a B-29 crash on base August 5, 1950. He and 4 other fire fighters were cutting into the fuselage when the plane exploded. He is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York.

BOYLES STREET

Pvt John Hastings Boyles, a volunteer during a crash was, from Savannah GA. He worked to save the lives of 20 crew members, victims of a B-29 crash at Fairfield Suisun Army Air Base on August 5, 1950. Boyles was an Army private scheduled to leave on Aug 6 to join an infantry outfit on the battlefield's of Korea. He was helping base firefighters rescue victims of the crash when the plane exploded. He is buried in Greenwich Cemetery, Savannah Georgia.

BURGAN BOULEVARD

Lt Col Curtis Ames Burgan born in Hoisington Kansas. He attended Brooks Air Field Texas for training, was a part of the bombing campaign over Germany and held a career in the AF Top Secret Special weapons program. He retired at Travis AFB spending his retirement years active in military and community affairs in the local Travis AFB community. He co-founded the Travis Aviation Museum and served as President for several years.

COLLINS DRIVE

MSgt Rufus P. Collins was born 20 Feb 1922. He was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland. His final resting place is Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Jesup, Georgia.

CORDELIA AVENUE

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms. Cordelia takes its name from Robert H. Waterman, his wife's name was Cordelia .

DIXON AVENUE

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms. The city of Dixon took its name from Thomas Dickson who donated 10 acres of his land for railroad depot construction. The first Rail shipment of merchandise was mistakenly addressed to "Dixon." The Name has been used ever since.

DOOLITTLE COURT

General James "Jimmy" H. Doolittle, one of the giants in aviation history, achieved many first's during a remarkable career. He was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for leading the famed April 1942 bombing attack against the Japanese home islands. He also received the Mackay Trophy along with many other major awards and decorations. He served as the first President of the Air Force Association. General Doolittle retired from Air Force in 1959 and passed away in 1993.

ELLIS DRIVE

SSgt Robert H. Ellis was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

FAIRCHILD DRIVE

General Muir S. Fairchild began his Air Force career as a private during World War II. Although he never completed a college degree, General Fairchild's belief in the importance of education for Air Force officers was the driving force behind a central institution in the Air Force today--the Air University. He was instrumental in developing the future of Air University as a place that taught "sound and true doctrine and basic concepts to guide the development of the air forces of the future." General Fairchild died on 17 March 1950.

FAIRFIELD AVENUE/COURT

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms. Fairfield takes its name from Robert H. Waterman who began to lay the foundation for the town site of Fairfield. He named it after his hometown in Connecticut.

GARRET ROAD

SSgt Roy Garrett was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

GOINS STREET

Pvt Edward Goins was a base firefighter from Alabama. He died August 17, 1950 of his injuries at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco, CA following a B-29 crash on base he was attempting to save lives. He and 4 other fire fighters were cutting into the fuselage when the plane exploded. He is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York.

HAGIN STREET

Capt Calvin M. Hagins was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

HANDSTEAD STREET

Cpl Doyle Dennis Hansted a base firefighter from Nebraska. Died August 5, 1950 due to a B-29 crash on base he was attempting to save lives. He and 4 other fire fighters were cutting into the fuselage when the plane exploded. He is buried in Highland Home Cemetery, Jamestown, North Dakota.

KUTER DRIVE

General Laurence S. Kuter's 35 years of active service left its mark on the development of airlift. As a senior planner during World War II, he advocated military airlift and commanded the Atlantic Division of the Air Transport Command. In 1948, General Kuter headed up the effort to consolidate the Air Force and Navy airlift assets into a single operating command, which resulted in the activation of the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) June 1948, which later evolved into the Military Airlift Command and later Air Mobility Command. General Kuter died on 30 November 1979.

LANE STREET

A1C Joseph B. Lane was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

MCCULLEN AVENUE

SSgt John Eden McCollum , a base firefighter from Missouri died August 5, 1950 due to a B-29 crash on base he was attempting to save lives. He and 4 other fire fighters were cutting into the fuselage when the plane exploded. He is buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, CA.

MULHERON STREET

Maj John Mulheron was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

NAPA STREET

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms. Napa was derived from the name given to a southern Nappan village whose

native people shared the area with elk, deer grizzlies, and cougars.

PRALOW STREET

1st Lt Lawrence M. Prallow was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war and on 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland.

RAGSDALE STREET

Capt William P. Ragsdale was one of the first ATC pilots to be killed in active duty during WW II. He was a Co-pilot on a B-24 A Liberator that left Broome airfield in Western Australia. The plane took off just before a Japanese attack, The plane was shot down just minutes after taking off from the base. Capt Ragsdale perished in the crash.

SCANDIA ROAD

A local community term used. Scandia is an area of Solano County CA that means "little Norway" and refers to the Scandinavian pioneers who settled the area southeast of the present day Fairfield, CA.

SKYMASTER DRIVE

Name given to the C-54 Douglas Aircraft assigned at Travis AFB from 1943-1954. This was a four engine transport plane with a maximum load capacity of 28,000 pounds of cargo or 49 passengers. It's maximum range of transport was 3, 000 miles and was the predominant transport plane and workhorse of the air transport fleet during WW II.

SUISUN AVENUE

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms. Suisun is derived from the Suisunnes people who once lived in the area. The term means "westwind."

SUTTER ROAD

A local community term used. At the development of the base the local community heavily supported the base and its buildup. Relationships between the local community and the military generated the use of the community terms.

TRAVIS AVENUE

Travis was the name official name given to the base in honor of General Travis on 20 October of 1950. Fairfield Suisun Army Air Base became Travis AFB. General Travis was an inspiring leader who motivated others, was held in high esteem and popular among military, base and community leaders. At the time of his death he was commanding two bombardment wings here at Travis AFB.

VETTER AVENUE

Pfc William Vetter was the Son of Mrs. Edward (Violent L.) Valibile of Manitowoc, WI. He was born Oct 24, 1931. He was a member of the Fairfield Suisun Army Air Base Fire department, on scene just after a B-29 crashed on base near a trailer park. He and 4 other members of the fire department were working quickly to extract 10 passengers from the aft portion of the plan when it exploded. His final resting place is in WI. at Evergreen Cemetery, Manitowoc.

YOEMAN STREET

SSgt Robert E. Yoeman was from Berrien County Michigan. He was a member of the 72 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean war. On 5 August 1953 the RB-36 aircraft he was a crew member enroute from Travis AFB to Lakenheath England when the plane crashed in the North Sea about 500 miles west of Scotland. No survivors were found.

Watch for More Street Names added each month.