

# BLUE RIDGE LEDGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

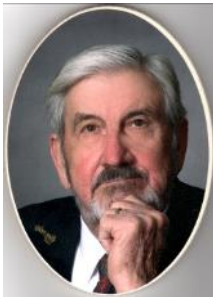


SPECIAL EDITION 2

GLEND A. M. ANGUS, EDITOR

Nov 2014

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Eileen and Family,

Gail and I were saddened to learn of Hank's passing and our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Folks it's happening much too often, losing members by death. COL Hank Haden is the forth member we have lost this year.

Hank was a very close personal friend of mine and will be greatly missed by both Gail and me. Hank was a one of a kind. When I think of what made Hank one of a kind I think of integrity, bravery, intelligence, kindness, humbleness, a good sense of humor, commitment to his country and good common sense. Wow what a combination.

When Hank told you something you could always count on it as being 100% true. He was a very brave individual and committed to serve his country for 28 years reaching the rank of COL Hank loved his country and was willing to give what it takes to serve. Hank demonstrated his bravery and received commendations for that

bravery in the service. He put others above himself. His service contributed greatly to the freedom we enjoy today. He reached the rank of COL which in itself indicates so much about Hank. Once he got involved in something he gave it his all. WOW what a guy. And in all of it he was a true Gentleman and extremely humble.

Hank, I sure hated to see you go however I know that is a bit Selfish of me. You are now in a better place where there is no Pain or suffering. Rest in peace.

Stay strong and God Bless You.

*Glenn & Gail Camp*



## SPECIAL POINTS

### OF INTEREST

*A wonderful father, husband, and friend*

*Good sense of humor*

*Generous and Caring*

*Committed to his country*

*A leader among men*

## OFFICERS

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HANK HADEN

**WAGON MASTER**  
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**HISTORIAN**  
GLEND A. ANGUS

**MEMBERSHIP**  
PAUL HART

To all of our Blue Ridge Discoverys family

## FAREWELL

By [Hank Haden](#) — 2 hours ago

Post by Brent Haden:

Early this morning, Dad passed away. He had given his all to the fight and, more importantly, continued to live his life on his terms for as long as he possibly could. As I write this, I can hardly believe that basically one month ago he was at the Greenbrier on an RV trip.

The love and support that Dad, Mom and our family have received during this time has been truly humbling. Dad greatly appreciated the assistance, calls, messages, e-mails, texts and visits. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all.

A funeral service will be held at St. Albans Episcopal Church in Littleton, N.C. this Saturday, November 22. Immediately following the service, the family will receive relatives and friends at the Lions Club meeting hall. Full details, including times and addresses, will follow in a later post.

(Caring Bridge, 17 Nov 2014)





## Obituary for COL Robert Henry Haden, USAF (Retired)

July 14, 1945 - November 17, 2014

“LAKE GASTON, North Carolina -- Colonel Robert Henry Haden, USAF (Ret.) (“Hank”) passed away on November 17, 2014 after a yearlong battle with lung cancer at the age of 69.

Born June 14, 1945 in Huntington, WVA, Hank is the son of the late Arthur Edgar and Betty E. (Heineman) Haden. Hank graduated from Huntington High School in 1963 and from West Virginia Wesleyan in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science, Management. He obtained an MBA from Texas Tech University in 1971.

Hank proudly served his country as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force for nearly 28 years, seeing action in both the Vietnam conflict as a Prairie Fire FAC(A) and in Desert Shield/Desert Storm (where he was the Director of Operations for the 354th Fighter Wing at King Fahd, Saudi Arabia, the largest air operations facility in the first Gulf War). He spent most of his flying career as a pilot of the A-10 Thunderbolt II (affectionately known as the “Warthog”) and was a Command Pilot with over 3,300 hours in the T-37, T-38, O2-A, OV-10, T-39 and the A-10. Hank retired as a decorated Air Force officer and pilot having been awarded, among other honors, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters (one for heroism), the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver leaf cluster and one oak leaf cluster. After retiring from the Air Force, Hank had successful careers with Fireside Hearth & Home, finishing as the Regional Field Operations Manager, and as a real estate broker and developer in Raleigh and Lake Gaston.

Hank, always active in his community, was a member of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Littleton, NC, serving on the vestry and served as President of the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce.

Hank is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 44 years, Eileen Mary Piat Haden. Hank and Eileen traveled the world with the Air Force, establishing a home in twenty-one different residences and living in such diverse places as England, Hawaii and South Korea as well as all across the continental U.S. They finally settled down at Lake Gaston, NC, and have called Lake Gaston home for the last 20 years. Hank is also survived by his two sons, Brent, a corporate attorney with Pender & Coward in the Hampton Roads Region of Virginia, along with his wife Kimberly and their two sons, Reuther and Bauer Haden and his younger son, Ryan, a Lt. Col. in the USAF currently serving as squadron commander of the 74th fighter squadron (The World Famous Flying Tigers) at Moody AFB in Georgia, and his wife Gwenn and their two daughters Kendall and Loughren Haden. Hank leaves behind his sister, Betty Sue Kinzer, of Huntington, WV, and brother, David Haden, of Charleston, WV and many other beloved family and friends.

A funeral service will be held at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Littleton (300 Mosby Avenue, Littleton, NC 27850) on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Immediately following the service, the family will receive relatives and friends at the Lake Gaston Lions Club.

A second funeral service and burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC at a date to be determined.

Gifts/Flowers and Cards-

In lieu of gifts or flowers, the family requests that you make a commemorative gift in honor of Hank Haden to either the American Cancer Society or St. Albans’ Episcopal Church in Littleton, North Carolina.

American Cancer Society: The web site address for this gift is <https://donate.cancer.org/index?campaign=search&gclid=CPL5gvLk38ECFWkV7AodOCAAiQ>

St. Alban’s Church in Littleton, NC - Make checks payable to St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 300 Mosby Avenue, Littleton, NC 27850. 252-586-4700.

Notes to the family may be sent to Mrs. Eileen Haden, 431 Waterside Drive, Henrico, NC, 27842.



# In Memory



Being new to the RV family, Ellen and I were made to feel like we had always been a part of the group, especially by Hank and Eileen.....the time we spent with them and "Patch" was if we had known them for all our lives.... Being XAirForce myself, the conversations and good times were enhanced knowing we shared a common background ...he certainly will be missed by all... a great friend to all of us...everyone wanted to be positioned close to Eileen and Hank at Rally's.....so sorry for the loss...

Dick and Ellen Reynolds



In 2007 Margaret & I bought a fiberglass box, aka Fleetwood Discovery. We were at LazyDays during a DOIA rally and attended. Met a wild ( drunk) group in yellow shirts and decided they were our people. BRD here we came. After 15 rallies we made a lot of friends, Hank and Eileen most special because of the Air Force Connection.

We treasure the time spent at their lovely home on the lake, the time at

our house while having floors put in their coach, ( which he traded in a month) My main Man Patch cleaning pine cones from our back yard etc. Sadly, the Viet Cong couldn't kill him. Nor , the Iraqis', the Afghans but a dreaded T-Cell called cancer.

We can't put a question mark where God puts a period. If you believe ( which we do ) Col. Hank is in a better place, free of pain.

Go in peace old friend and we will see you when we get to that last PCS on the other side.



Love, Bruce, Margaret & Heidi Ellen



# In Memory

Hank and I both retired from the military as O-6's and that gave us an additional bond beyond that of our Discovery RVing lifestyle. It was always easy to feel that deep sense of patriotism and



comradery that Hank so exuberantly displayed when military vets get together, and anyone quickly knew that Hank was an exceptionally fine leader who was able to naturally command respect while still being comfortable with anyone regardless of position or rank. He loved his Country and his military. He was the same way with all the Discovery motorhome owners and always offered his assistance to anyone. Hank's love and pride in his family was also very obvious to all who knew him. He will

be sorely missed by both the Blue Ridge and Mason Dixon members of DOAI as Hank and Eileen were members of both chapters and Eileen and family will always be welcome at any of our activities.  
Dick Tracy

I am really going to miss Hanks friendship . The friendly sparring between us over the fact he was a retired AF COL and I was a retired NG Army COL always provided entertainment to the close knit group of military retirees and veterans. He was an exceptional leader in his years of active duty and was a true friend to all of the Blue Ridge Discovery and Mason Dixon members. Anyone with a problem could always count on him to assist in the resolution of that problem or point them in the right direction. His love for Eileen, family and Patch was endless. The escapades that the group of us who went to Canada will always be a part of the fond

memories we had with Hank, Eileen and Patch. My prayers go up to Eileen and her family. May he rest in peace now without pain. Until we meet again!



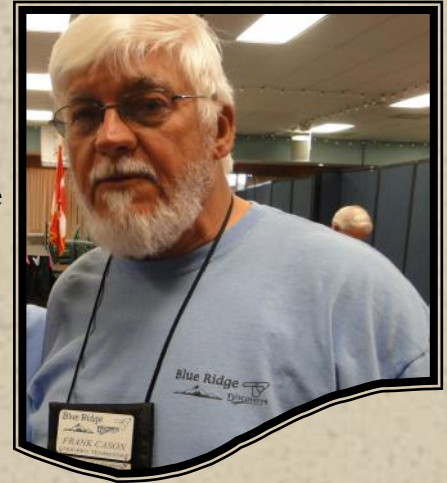
(Bob & Glenda Angus)





# Cherished Memories

I meet Hank in February 2007 at the DOAI Southeast Rally in Seffner, Florida. Hank and Eileen were one of the founding couples of the Blue Ridge Discoverys. For some unknown reason we hit it off (Hank, Eileen, Isabel and I) and have maintained a lasting friendship ever since. It was always a joy to be around Hank, there was never a dull moment. We could jab one another about our different branches of service, but every evening it was always the same. As we departed for the night he would say, "Take care my friend and have a good night". Hank was a gentleman and a scholar. He will be truly missed by all. (Frank Cason)



## The Fairfax's Memories of Hank



Jim and I met Hank and Eileen upon joining the RV Club. We found him to be comical. During one of our outings at dinner, after a drink or two, music was being played, and Eileen immediately got on the floor to dance. I watched Hank wait a few minutes, and then he joined his bride for the dance. One could just feel the love this couple had for each other. Reading the journals he posted keeping us abreast of his treatment erases doubt, if one had such, that Hank was a fighter and continued to fight until the end! His post were so comical. Hank was a strong man, and fought until the end. He traveled a road we must all travel ... the fact remains the Lord

called His angel home at a time He saw fit. Hank has left a void in many lives, but we will reflect on his smile and the good times!" So ...

**H** - Always willing to share a **HELPING HAND**.

**A** - Possessed that **AUTHORITATIVE** nature ... possibly due to the career in the military?

**N** - One of the **NICEST** men one could have ever met, and travel in the motorhome like a **NOMAD**. :-)

**K** - His **KINDNESS** will never be forgotten ... opened his home to the RV Club on an outing when all stayed at Carolina Crossroads.

Blessings

(Jim & Brenda Fairfax)

# Cherished Memories

We were all so upbeat when we read Hank's caring bridge journal all this past year. He approached his battle with cancer as was typical of how he approached life. He made us all feel that he could beat it. He involved us all in his treatment and fight. Such was the man. So it was with great sadness that I read the note from Brent on Monday morning. Our Blue Ridge Discovery's have lost two founding members this year and I guess it makes us all aware of our own fragile lives. We send our condolences to Eileen and the family, and hope that the wonderful memories will give them strength in this time of grief.

Bill and Anne Humphrey



## MEMORIES OF HANK HADEN

Elaine and I will remember our RV trips with Hank and Eileen. If you had a problem Hank would be there to help. He was a good listener so if you needed a shoulder to lean on his was available. Since he and I were in the military I will remember talking about our experiences. You are always a good friend.

Charlie & Elaine Harvell

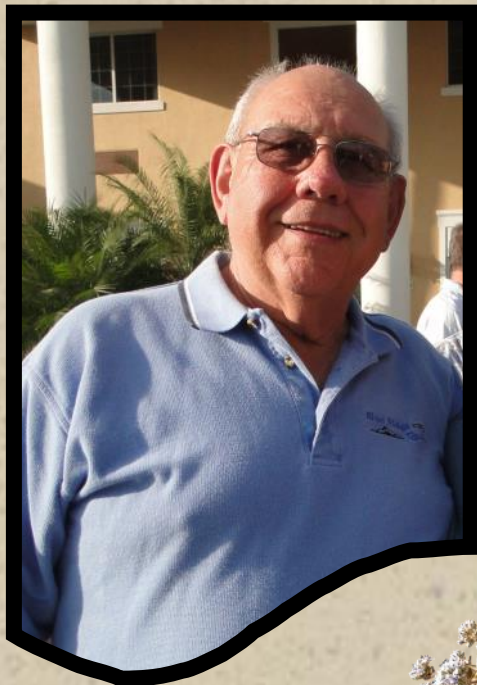




# Cherished Memories

As I sit here tonight thinking back about my time with Hank, I keep coming back to Dewar's scotch and water and George Dickel and water. Marie with a bloody mary and some weird drink for Eileen that I could never make. That was a happening at one of our coaches every day that we were together. The crazy trips to some restaurant we heard about for lunch, no matter what the distance, and usually it was not that good. I mostly remember the way they looked at each other and you knew how much they meant to each other. How much they talked about their boys and their family and how proud they were of them. The times that Eileen and Marie would go shopping and Hank and I would just sit there with friends and watch a ball game or solve the world's problems or we thought we did after about the third drink. Usually Eileen would come back with a smile and Marie with numerous pairs of shoes. We had so many trips together that it is hard to just pick out one. I know that somewhere in the back of my mind, over the next years, I will remember things that I should have written here. He was such a great friend to me and we just seem to hit it off the first time we met. I never did hold it against him that he came from West Virginia.

Richard Money





# *Hank- friend and mentor*

**Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day,  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and very dear**

**Those we love remain with us  
For love itself lives on,  
And cherished memories never fade  
Because a loved one's gone.  
Those we love can never be  
More than a thought apart,  
For as long as there is memory,  
They'll live on in the heart.**

**Death leaves a heartache  
No one can heal;  
Love leaves a memory  
No one can steal**









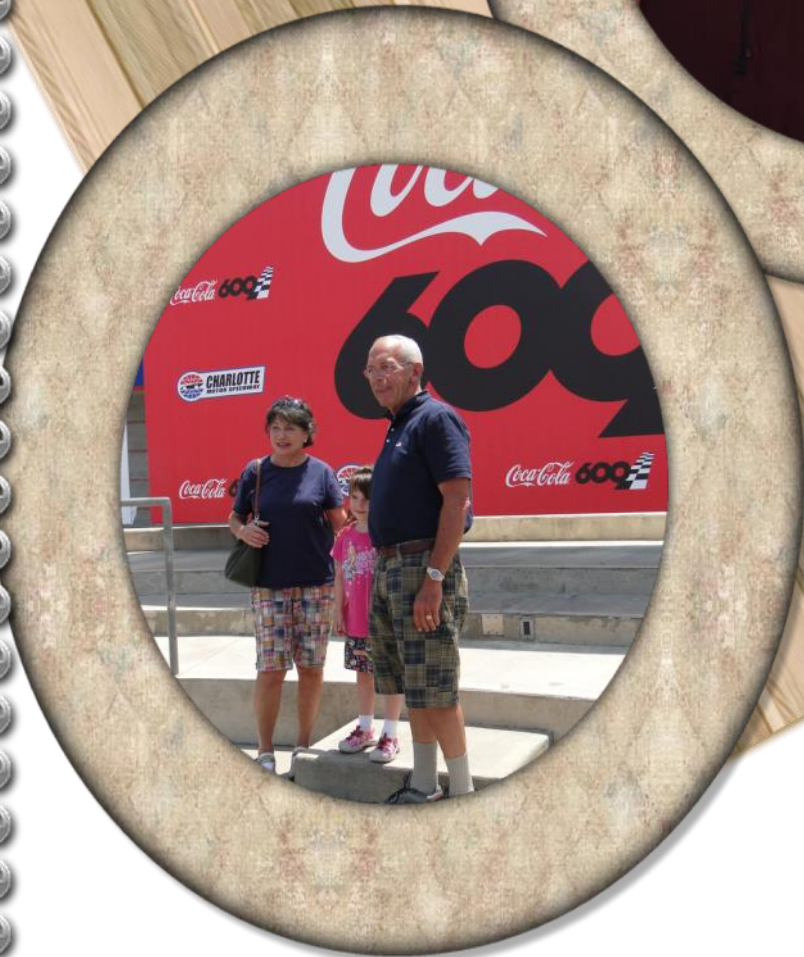


*Bar Harbor*





# Myrtle Beach, SC 2012





# The Hadens





# Mr Cool ! Handsome

# Dude





# Always a Winner



2013





A TRUE FRIEND TO ALL  
OUR BLUE RIDGE AND  
MASON DIXON  
MEMBERS. HE WILL BE  
MISSED





2014



HANK & FRANK



WEST VIRGINIA





*Eileen & Hank Haden*  
*September 28, 2014*