



**Captain Eugene L. Waxman
Headquarters Squadron
21st Air Base Group
Chambley Air Base France
November 1954 to November 1957**

In 1920 the Boston Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for a sum of \$125,000 and a loan of more than \$300,000; The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago, Illinois; Actors Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford got married; In Rome, Pope Benedict XV canonizes Joan of Arc as a saint and the funeral of Empress Eugenie of France was held in St. Michael's Abbey near Farnborough, England.

They say for every death there is also a birth in this world and on June 16th 1920 in Brooklyn, New York Eugene L. Waxman was born. Twenty two years after his birth Gene was drafted and entered the Army



in 1942. He started his military career as a Buck Private Rear Rank. After basic training he applied for and was accepted into the Officers Candidate Service (OCS) and was shipped to training at the Quartermaster School Camp Lee, Virginia. On April 30th 1943 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corp and assigned to Barksdale AFB



Louisiana.

Gene spent the rest of World War Two at Barksdale and in March of 1946 left the service and accepted a commission in the inactive reserves.

In February 1951 Jim received a letter from the United States Air Force asking him to meet with them at McGuire AFB in New Jersey. Gene reported to McGuire and received interviews and physicals for the next ten days. After completing these requirements he was given 10, 20 or 40 days to report for active duty. Gene elected to take the forty days so that he could break the news to his boss who of course knew nothing about this change of status.

In May of 1951 First Lieutenant Eugene L. Waxman reported for active duty to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland as the base purchasing and contracting officer. Gene had been recalled for 18 months but at the end of the period he decided he did not want to go back to his old job so he signed up for indefinite service.



Gene stayed at Andrews for 2 years and in February of 1953 he received orders shipping him to Wheelus Air Base Tripoli, Libya. Wheelus Air Base is located about seven miles due east of Tripoli, the capital of Libya on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa, Wheelus Air Base (AB) was originally built by the Italian Air Force as Mellaha AB in 1923. Captured by the British 8th Army in January 1943 during its battles with Erwin Rommel's Wehrmacht Afrika Korps, Mellaha was then used by the US Army Air Force (USAAF) as a base for B-17 and B-24 bomb missions to Italy and southern Germany. Wheelus AB was reassigned the US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) on 01 January 1953, under USAFE's 7272nd Air Base Wing (later designated a Fighter Training Wing or FTW).

While serving at Wheelus Gene started to experienced severe back aches while and the doctor diagnosed him with Polio. He spent one month in the hospital and then was transferred to Wiesbaden Germany. He spent

another month in the hospital there and then was air evacuated back to states and assigned to Sampson Air Force Base, New York. He stayed in the hospital there for an additional five months. In February, 1954 he was given a Medical Evaluation Board which deemed him fit for active duty. After seven months of Physical Therapy it was determined that Gene needed to complete his overseas assignment. Therefore he was assigned to George Air Force Base, Victorville California to the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing who was scheduled for unit deployment to France.

After arriving at George Air Force Base Gene was assigned to the base supply and left with the advance party of the 21st to Chambley AB, France. When arriving there he was assigned to work with Captain George N. Stokes who was the base supply officer. Captain Stokes left Chambley in February or March of 1955 and then Captain Eugene L. Waxman was his replacement and became the base supply officer.



During Gene's tenure as the base supply office he was sent on a temporary duty assignment to Toul-Rosières Air Base, France for three months to temporarily replace their supply officer. The base was preparing to acquire the F-100 Fighter Jets to replace the F-86's as well as Gene was needed to set up a new computerized supply system. Of course Chambley still needed an accountable officer for base supply so Gene turned his account over to Captain William O. Graffunder.



Capt William O. Graffunder

After his return from Toul-Rosières Gene was reassigned to Headquarters Squadron 21st Airbase Group, with additional duties as the coordinator for the closure of Chambley Air Base, France.

During Gene's assignment to France he met and fell in love with a USAF Nurse assigned to the base hospital. Her name was First Lieutenant Betty McLaughlin. Although he hated to leave his new found love Gene rotated back to CONU (Continent of the United States) in November 1957. He was assigned to the Dewline Project (Chain of 55 Radar Sites across the Artic Circle operated by Federal Electric Corporation a subsidiary of ITT) at the headquarters in Primus, New Jersey.



In 1958 1LT Betty McLaughlin rotated back to the states with orders assigning her to Shepherd Air Force Base, Texas. Gene met her at the airport when she landed at McGuire Air Force Base, New York and took her to meet his folks in Newburg, New York. After Betty met Gene's family they decided that they wanted to get married. They went to Washington DC to see the United States Air Force's Chief Nurse in order to apply for a compassionate reassignment. Gene Called Colonel Robert N. Baker who had been the commander of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing at Chambley Air, Base France. Colonel Baker was assigned to the Pentagon as the Legislative Liaison. The three of them had lunch together and Colonel Baker said to let him see what he can do especially since he had the experience because many times Congressmen have him do the same thing for their constituents. After making contact with the Chief Nurse Colonel Baker said that we can get you the compassionate reassignment but you have to get married first.

Gene and Betty immediately went to see the chaplain and got a marriage license. They were required to wait a couple of days in the state of Maryland. COL Baker gave Betty away. One of the nurses who had been stationed with Betty was now stationed at Andrews Air Force Base and was the Betty's Maid of Honor. A young man that was a boy scout

with Gene back in Brooklyn was working at the Pentagon as a civilian was Genes Best Man. In October of 1958 Betty McLaughlin became Mrs. Gene Waxman.

Gene was part of the United States Air Force's contract administration team until about August of 1961. At that time he applied for AFTMD (AF Masters Degree Program). It was approved and Gene was reassigned to Michigan State where he received a Masters Degree in Business Administration in 1962.

His next assignment was to DSA (Defense Supply Agency) and DGSC (Defense General Supply Sector) located in Fort Lee, Virginia. He was stationed there for 3 years.



He was then reassigned to JUSMAG (Joint US Military Assistance Group) and the Joint US Military Advisory Group in Thailand for 2 years working their US Embassy.



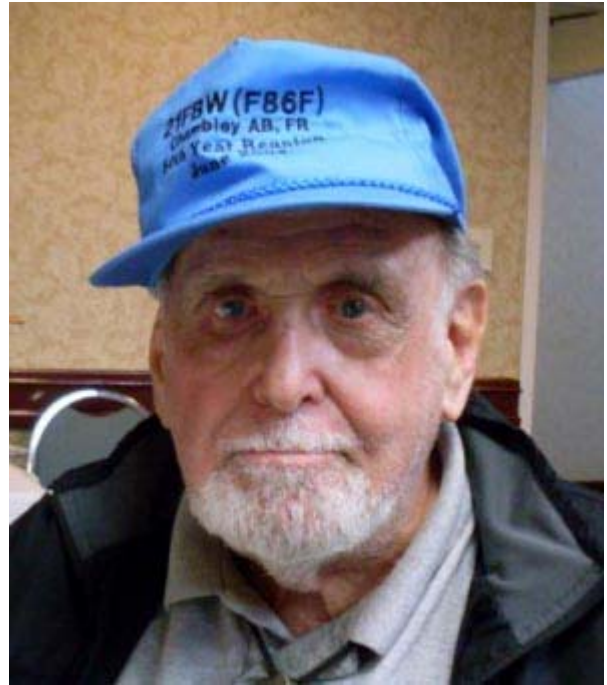
In 1965 Gene was assigned to Hamilton Air Force Base California, located in the San Francisco Bay area, to Headquarters 4th AF as the Director of Management Analysis. In 1969 Gene realized he was now 49 years of age with 2 children ages 1 ½ & 5 ½ and everyone said that you couldn't get a worthwhile job after 50. So Gene decided it was time for a civilian career. He retired in 1969 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He went to work for Raytheon, located in Massachusetts, in the Procurement Department as a Senior Sub-Contractor Administrator. Gene stayed there for 19 years and retired for the second time December of 1988.

Gene has two wonderful children, Amy who was born in 1964 and Roger who was born 1968. They have blessed Gene with three grandchildren.

Gene's wife Betty passed away in 1997 after 39 glorious years of marriage.

As of September 2008 Gene resides in Acton Massachusetts with his daughter Amy and her two children.



Gene Waxman at the
September 2008 Reunion in
Dayton Ohio