

Update: Veterans Services & more

Capt. Klinker: Would've Been 65 Today



Today, Capt. Mary T. Klinker would have been 65 years old.

Mary T. Klinker was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Klinker from Lafayette. Capt. Klinker lived in Lafayette most of her life and was a member of St. Lawrence Church. She graduated from Central Catholic High School and the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. Mary Klinker served in the Air Force as a flight nurse, instructor and flight examiner from 1969 until her death in 1975.

In 1974, the Vietnam War was ending and in an act of pure humanity, President Gerald Ford announced a mission that would be known as "Operation Babylift." This mission's purpose was to evacuate more than 2000 orphaned children from Saigon. Capt. Mary T. Klinker was enlisted as a flight nurse responsible for caring for the children during their transport to the Philippines.

Unfortunately, on April 4, 1975, the inaugural Operation Babylift flight ended in tragedy crashing within minutes of takeoff killing 138 of the 314 on board. One hundred and thirty-eight infants, flight crew and caregivers died in the Operation Babylift plane crash including Capt. Mary T. Klinker.

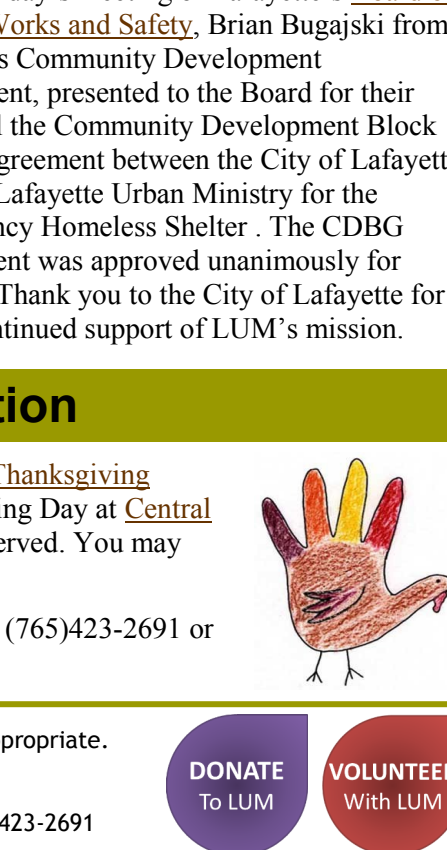
Capt. Klinker was 27-years-old when she died and was the last nurse and the only member of the US Air Force Nurse Corps to be killed in Vietnam. Capt. Mary T. Klinker was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal and is listed on [Panel O1W Row 122](#) of The [Vietnam Veteran's Memorial](#) in Washington DC.

LUM provides Space to Veterans Resource Center

The Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center is located in the LUM offices. The Lafayette Urban Ministry is pleased to provide free office space to the Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center and to work in close partnership with the organization to find more permanent housing solutions for veterans who are guests in the LUM Emergency Shelter for the Homeless. For more information or to make an appointment, please call or email Jim Logsdon, president of the Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center – (765) 423-2691; redbird560@wildblue.net.

Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center

The Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center, which is a chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, is located at LUM (420 N. 4th Street, Lafayette). The Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center, led by President Jim Logsdon (a wounded combat veteran) and Vice-President Tom Bratcher (a disabled veteran), offers free services to homeless and at-risk veterans and their families including providing resources, peer to peer counseling and financial assistance.



DAV Service Officers offer counseling on VA compensation, health care, pension, employment rights, education and more. Founded in 1920, the DAV is totally funded by dues and contributions, receiving no federal funding. Jim Logsdon also serves as the National Homeless Veteran Coordinator. For more information or to make an appointment, please call or email Jim Logsdon, president of the Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center – (765) 423-2691; redbird560@wildblue.net.

Follow the Mary T. Klinker Veterans Resource Center on [Facebook](#):

Support from the City of Lafayette



The Flag of the City of Lafayette

At yesterday's meeting of Lafayette's [Board of Public Works and Safety](#), Brian Bugajski from the city's Community Development department, presented to the Board for their approval the Community Development Block Grant Agreement between the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Urban Ministry for the Emergency Homeless Shelter. The CDBG Agreement was approved unanimously for \$5,560. Thank you to the City of Lafayette for their continued support of LUM's mission.

LUM Thanksgiving Celebration

The Lafayette Urban Ministry's Annual Community [Thanksgiving Celebration](#) will be held again this year on Thanksgiving Day at [Central Presbyterian Church](#). More than 800 people will be served. You may volunteer or contribute food by clicking [HERE](#).



Call or email Heather Hansen for more information at (765)423-2691 or hhansen@lafayetteurbanministry.org

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Questions or comments?
E-mail us at lum@lafayetteurbanministry.org or call (765) 423-2691



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