

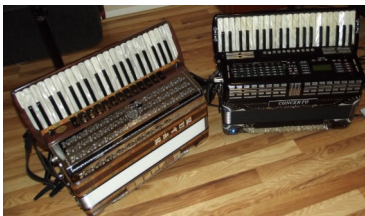
# A Solera Story

**This is the first** in our *STORIES* series.



**Thanks to David Lang**, aka Accordion Dave, for sharing some of the details that make up a life. We'll certainly not get to everything but we hope to present a picture of an interesting life.

Is it true that all accordion players are born on Saint Patrick's Day? Could be.



Dave was born on St. Patrick's day in 1942 in Sacramento, CA. A Solera resident for the last four years, Dave is well traveled, having spent time in Oceania, Asia, Europe and South America. Maybe Antarctica next?

**Retiring from the Air Force** Reserves in 1997 after thirty six years has left Dave with some vibrant memories. Having worked at everything from aircraft maintenance and flight engineering to First Sergeant, he spent time after retirement as Federal Managers Association President for Western Washington among other things.

One remarkable fact is that, while Dave traveled in service of his country, he was stationed in one place, McChord AFB, Tacoma, WA, for thirty-six years.

**One of his scariest memories**, Dave recounts that while on a C-124 as a crew member, he was

asked to evaluate a problem with engine no. 3 from the inspection hole. Never being fun, crawling through the wing should not have been a **big** problem. Even though the inspection hole was located over the landing gear, it would have been routine had the pilot not forgotten he was out in the wing. Lowering the landing gear caused Dave a **little** anxiety, messing up his hair and causing him to hold on for dear life in the 100 mph+ wind conditions. Not soon forgotten.

**Other, less than happy**, memories include ferrying steel caskets home to the US from Viet Nam.

**Carrying out other assignments**, his crew performed med evac, as well as humanitarian relief and evacuations from several countries after earthquakes, & other natural disasters.



**Later in his career**, Dave flew on C-141s and C-5s. Anyone who wants to engage Dave in conversation should talk aircraft.

**Since moving to Solera in 2020**, Dave has been active entertaining residents with his accordion and playing at the Boulder Home for veterans. He's also busy volunteering on the Property and Grounds Committee. Dave's passionate about helping the community, willing to commit his time and efforts to keeping Solera up to snuff.

He's known for his jovial and convivial spirit and demeanor.

Dave's only want is that more Solera residents would get more involved. He views complaints without involvement or suggested resolutions as non productive.

**Dave remains an advocate for veterans** affairs and proper treatment of those that served and find themselves in difficult straits.