**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JESSICA SELLERS (TERESEA BROXSON)**

Hello everyone and welcome to today’s retirement..... **WAIT. A. MINUTE.**... We have **ANOTHER** retirement? I have to give **ANOTHER** speech?? Didn’t I send a memo around that **ALL OF YOU** were going to be here **FOR-EVVVVVVER**??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Is this some kind of joke? Some payback? Is it because you all **KNOW** I can’t stand to say good-bye??? (**Wait for the laugh**).... okay... got **THAT** off my chest... let’s start again.... Hello everyone and thank you for joining us as we celebrate the career and commemorate the retirement of TSgt Teresea Broxson. TSgt Broxson is retiring after twenty productive, dedicated years of service.... you would think that in twenty years of knowing someone, I would be prepared for a lengthy, wordy, send off, but, **NOOOOOOOOO** ... who would want to leave **ME**?? **US**??? And **ALL of this FUN**??? (**Wait for the laugh**). Well... apparently Teresea (**Do you only refer to her as TSgt Broxson or can we vary this**) has plans.... and we couldn’t be happier for her to enter and thrive in her next adventures.

In preparing for this moment, I thought I would find out a little bit about a Teresea...Where did she come from? What was it like?? Well, TSgt Broxson hails from a place called Paris, Texas.... and although it’s pretty far away from the one in **FRANCE**, this Paris has its charms... first of all, I discovered that Paris Texas is the home of the **SECOND LARGEST** Eiffel Tower in the world... and while the original one in France may sparkle at night with twinkling lights, this one is unique in its own right... in a picture I saw online, it is topped with a **GIANT** cowboy hat... I went on to learn that although it was first settled in 1820, it was the Wright family, and in particular George Wright, who, in 1839 established the territory as a town which led to the area being incorporated as a city in 1845. I suppose it’s safe to say that while Paris France is known as the “**City of Lights**,” Paris Texas, might be known as .... the “**City of Wright’s**!!” The city is also known for the “Tour de Paris,” a bicycle tour of the city that I would imagine has been inspired by the famous “Tour de France” bicycle race. The tour will celebrate its 34th year this July and with courses varying in length, riders of varying degrees of stamina can participate. Over 1700 people are expected this year!! It all sounds like fun, and this is the place from where today’s retiree hailed as a child.

Teresea Broxson, originally from Paris Texas, was inspired to join the military by the stories she heard from her father. As a self-proclaimed “Daddy’s girl,” Teresea was fascinated in learning about her father’s experiences during his six years of military service. There were many stories and they left a lasting impression. She loved hearing about the camaraderie and closeness among the enlisted, and those memories stayed with her. We are very pleased to have Teresea’s father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, here with us today... welcome! Also with us today is Logan, Teresea’s nine year old son.... I just bet he’s now getting **TWO** generations worth of military stories... from both his grandfather and his mom!!! Welcome, Logan!! Enjoy the legacy!!

Throughout the years, as Teresea grew up, she found her passions and interests, and among them, two that stand out are her love of Disney and her enthusiasm for rollercoasters. It’s notable to point out that while these two interests may seem appealing in their childlike innocence, when we look a little deeper, and as we learn more about the events and issues that TSgt Broxson has faced and overcome throughout her life, we can understand that Tiana is Teresea’s favorite princess... you see, Teresea has fought long and hard for each accomplishment she has achieved in her military career, and each stripe was earned with hard work and great diligence. And the roller coaster??? That’s easy... we all face challenges in life... we feel the burn on the uphill climb and the exhilaration as we get to the top....**WHAT A VIEW**!!! ... only to pick up speed on the downward slope, waiting and working toward the point when life, and the roller coaster adjust course.... and let’s not forget, at least on a roller coaster, even though it is a metaphor for life itself, when we’re experiencing the “death defying” highs and lows, we can scream our heads off in a primal release of sheer fun and Adrenalin!!!

To prove that life **REALLY** is like a roller coaster, last year, after enduring a recent separation and divorce, things were on the upswing as TSgt Broxson was swept off her feet by her new husband, Shannon... as if the roller coasters didn’t make her sufficiently dizzy, Shannon proved that besides her love of Disney and theme parks, there really **ARE** “**Plenty of fish!**” ... and all it takes is the right one to come along. Shannon supports her decisions... he’s there for her as a strong and devoted spouse should be, and I guess you can say, she was **SCHOOLED** and fell for him...**HOOK, LINE AND SINKER**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

When asked how she would characterize her career in the Air Force Reserves, TSgt Broxson was able to whittle it down to four words.... “**Clean up and fix**.” Throughout her tenure in the reserves, Teresea garnered a reputation as the “go to” person to place systems back on their tracks. Whether it was cleaning and fixing the pharmacy in the earlier years of her career or tackling records, her sense of commitment to completion and her diligence in finding and maintains order helped her to support others.

TSgt Broxson enlisted in active duty and served for five years as a pharmacy tech. She gave birth to her first child and then, because life **REALLY** is like a roller coaster, she separated from her husband. Throughout her history in the Air Force Reserves, TSgt Broxson maintained her purpose and focus on her job... even when that seemed like it would be impossible.

She then joined the reserves because a sense of completion is what was needed in order to move on at that challenging time of her life. She also loved computers and “War Games” and re committed to the reserves to work in communications. TSgt Broxson’s first assignment was startling, to say the least. She was out at the 301st at Carswell and remained there until the space shuttle Columbia “ blew up all over Texas.” Seven people literally vanished into thin air that fateful day....there are no words for a tragedy like that.

Through the next several years, TSgt Broxson deployed three times... she found herself in Diego Garcia, Germany, and Turkey. Her life and career seemed to come full circle when she reached Turkey. As she stepped off the plane, she realized, it was three years **TO THE DAY** that her father had been there, and what she experienced was exactly like the stories he told her. Its stories like that in which we can find the humanity even in the most challenging circumstances that mean so much.

Throughout the balance of her military career, TSgt Broxson has received recognition.... in \_\_\_\_ (**please fill in the date**), she was awarded the joint service achievement medal for meritorious performance as a facilitation team administrator whose job it was to procure equipment to support a “Quality of Life”conference.

Assignments placed her at Carswell and eventually Barksdale where she was assigned to the Medical Squadron. From there she was deployed to Diego Garcia as an Information Assistance Technician.Needing time with her children, she took a break of four years and returned in 2013. She served in the former 307 MXG Group CC. Her assistance, under the auspices of Colonel Kenneth Rose led to an outstanding rating during their LCAP inspection on records management, demonstrating again, that TSgt Teresea Broxson is the **GO TO** when keeping systems in order.

The past few years have seen TSgt Broxson become an ART in 2014 in education and training and then finally she came to the Force Support Squadron where she was also an ART and now a TR. When reviewing her body of work in the military, it’s quite impressive to see that she has managed and scrubbed over 200 file plans, processed dozens of FOIA requests and created and drafted over 50 policies.

This ceremony marks the completion of this phase of Teresea’s varied and dedicated career. Upon retirement she is looking forward to mud running, outdoor camping, fishing and everything else she was unable to do with her family on Drill weekends.

TSgt Teresea Broxson, as you walk through these doors with your husband and family, rest assured that you have made a difference in the lives of your colleagues and in the functioning of the areas of the Air Force that you coaxed, corrected and protected with enthusiasm. ... **WAIT A MINUTE**... did I just say **REST** assured??? I have a feeling that’s the **LAST** thing you’ll be doing!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Savor every ounce of Adrenalin you find on your adventures and remember to enjoy all that life has to offer. You deserve it!! Congratulations!! Thank you!!