

By June L. Kim, Associate Editor

# AFA CHAPTER NEWS

## TENNESSEE VALLEY CHAPTER

In Alabama, the **Tennessee Valley Chapter** helped create an "aviation field trip" for 19 students from Boaz Intermediate School, reported South Central Region President Russell V. Lewey. The chapter banded together with a number of other organizations to send them to the Huntsville Airport where students "experienced first-hand the joy that aviation can bring," he said.

2017 Chapter Teacher of the Year Angie Graves and Lynn Kohler, a previous chapter and state teacher of the year, made the arrangements with FlyQuest, a Community Partner, to plan the trip, said Lewey.

**Mike Holmes, a Hurricane Hunter with NOAA, describes the team's mission to students from Boaz Intermediate School during a field trip to Huntsville Arprt., Ala.**



The kids on the trip were part of a Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Connections in Education program.

The chapter gave \$300 to help cover expenses, and five members from the chapter—Daryl Carpenter, Timothy Davis, Lewey, John Phillip, and Lee Pugh—volunteered their time.

Students visited the control tower, planned a flight, and

flew in a simulator, said Lewey. They also got to hear from Hurricane Hunters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The team was in town conducting storm and tornado research [and] the students heard what it is like to fly into a hurricane and then see NOAA's P-3 aircraft," said Lewey.

## ■ SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Three students from AFA's South Central Region had the opportunity to attend Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., this summer, said Region President Russell V. Lewey.



Sarah Israel, Jamie Schultz, and Cooper Browning were recipients of scholarships that were offered to the children of enlisted airmen.

Israel was the winner of the South Central Region scholarship, while the **Maj. Gen. Dan F. Callahan Chapter** and the **Gen. Bruce K. Holloway Chapter** (both in Tennessee) sponsored Schultz, and the **Montgomery Chapter** in Alabama sponsored Browning. The scholarship covers registration and tuition.

This is the second year AFA's South Central Region sent students to Space Camp, said Lewey.

## ■ FAIRBANKS MIDNIGHT SUN CHAPTER

Members of the **Fairbanks Midnight Sun Chapter** (Alaska) recently attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting in downtown Fairbanks where Chapter President Luke Hopkins gave a presentation about AFA. The head of 11th Air Force, Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, was guest speaker and he spoke on updates about his command and the Northern Edge Exercise, which is a large, joint military training exercise that Alaskan Command (ALCOM) hosts annually and concluded in the spring.

More than 30 percent of Alaska's economy comes from the military, so the COC annually invites the commander of ALCOM for a military update, said Steven R. Lundgren,

AFA's National Treasurer and chapter member. The Fairbanks Midnight Sun Chapter also sponsors the annual Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Banquet, he said.

## ■ RICHARD I. BONG CHAPTER

A team of student engineers from the University of Minnesota Duluth raked in \$100,000 for its engineering program by winning a national development contest, said Lt. Col. Bryan L. Graddy, president of the **Richard I. Bong Chapter** in Minnesota.

The Air Force Research Laboratory hosted the contest, and students from the Air Force Academy, West Point, and Johns Hopkins University, as well as University of Minnesota Duluth participated. The purpose of the competition was to develop an unmanned vehicle that would support USAF combat controllers and pararescuemen, according to Graddy.

Graddy is the AFROTC commander at the university and had contact with some of the student engineers. "The student team gave us a briefing and demonstrated their machine," he said.

The chapter hopes to support next year's team with some local AFA sponsorship, he said.

## ■ CHUCK YEAGER CHAPTER

The **Chuck Yeager Chapter** (W.Va.) hosted its annual drill competition at Parkersburg South High School, in Parkersburg, W.Va. The top champions hailed from Knox County Career Center, Mount Vernon, Ohio; Pine-Richland High School, Gibsonia, Pa.; and Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, Pa.

Students from West Virginia came from Parkersburg, South Charleston High School, and Nitro High School.

## ■ LT. COL. B. D. "BUZZ" WAGNER CHAPTER

Two artists paid tribute to famed WWII hero Lt. Col. Boyd D. Wagner in Pennsylvania, bringing it to the attention of *The Tribune-Democrat*. The namesake of the **Lt. Col. B. D. "Buzz" Wagner Chapter** was honored during a June chapter meeting by Thomas Bichko and Marcene Glover.

Bichko created two bronze busts, based on photographs of Wagner, and donated them to the chapter.

Glover, commissioned by AFA member Conway Jones, named her oil painting "Flight of Glory" and depicted Wagner and a P-40 Warhawk. Jones arranged for the painting to be hung in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in the Pentagon.

"How cool is that?" asked chapter member Douglas Lengenfelder, according to the newspaper. "That is quite an honor."

## ■ DONALD L. PETERSON (1944-2017)

Retired Lt. Gen. Donald L. Peterson, head of the Air Force Association from 2002 to 2007, died July 3, at the age of 76, after a long illness.

Peterson concluded his 35-year Air Force career in 2001, as deputy chief of staff for personnel, having previously been the assistant deputy chief for air and space operations, director of NORAD, and commander of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center.

A 1966 graduate of Texas A&M, he received his commission through ROTC and completed pilot training in 1967. His flight experience was highly varied,



Peterson

having logged over 4,000 hours in trainers, tankers, intelligence platforms, fighters, and strike aircraft. He flew the F-4E in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, amassing 597 combat hours.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action in 1972-73 as an F-4E flight lead, and he was an F-15 pilot in West Germany during the height of the Cold War. He commanded a tactical fighter squadron, tactical fighter wing, and flying training wing.

Peterson became executive director of AFA in August 2002; four years later, that position's title was changed to President-CEO. Peterson directed AFA's professional staff and managed the operations of AFA and its then-affiliate, the Aerospace Education Foundation. As AFA President-CEO, he was also publisher of *Air Force Magazine*.

Retired Gen. Larry O. Spencer, current AFA President, said, "To many in AFA, he was both a friend and mentor. He will be sorely missed by the AFA family he served so well." —John A. Tirpak

Photo: John Phillip