



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Happy New Year! I hope 2015 will be a safe, rewarding, and fulfilling year for everyone.

First, I'd like to thank my predecessor, George K. Muellner, whom I replaced in October, for his dedication and service during his two years as AFA's Chairman of the Board. I'd also like to thank Craig R. McKinley, departing AFA president, for all he did over the past two-and-a-half years.

We are a better organization as a result of the outstanding leadership of these two individuals. All of us at AFA wish them and their families the best. Muellner provided a farewell message that follows.

January's issue of *Wingman Magazine* features the usual breadth of coverage you've come to expect, but with a focus on youth and the future.

Leading the issue is the article by Richard Tolley, vice chairman of the San Antonio Airpower Heritage Foundation, on the International Aerospace Education Center planned in San Antonio. The center is the brainchild of O. R. "Ollie" Crawford, a former AFA Chairman of the Board and AFA National President.

AFA sees great promise in having an onsite presence at the center, when it opens later this decade, as a means of recruiting the newly minted airmen who visit there from nearby Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland after graduating from basic military training.

Paula Roy, AFA's director of Airmen and Family Programs reached out in our previous issue to ask you all to submit questions for the Air Force leader spouses. She collected your questions and passed them on to the spouses, who provide their responses in "Side by Side."

In another must-read, CMSgt. Kathleen M. McCool, an AFA national director, describes in "E for Enlisted" the initiative our Alamo Chapter is testing down in San Antonio to expose more young, enlisted airmen to the work of our association and the professional benefits of membership.

TSgt. Timothy J. Tichawa is a member of AFA's Aerospace Education Council and an alumnus of our Emerging Leader Program. He writes in "Dare Mighty Things" about the talk he gave to inspire the sixth-grade students of Kaci Heins, AFA's 2014 National Aerospace Teacher of the Year, in Flagstaff, Ariz., to pursue

careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Kristine Robbins, AFA's director of government relations, describes in "Mobilized and Motivated" the Fly-In initiative we've launched to boost our ability to promote Air Force issues on Capitol Hill. As Robbins writes, advocacy has always been in AFA's DNA, so we invited a group of members from across the country to accompany AFA National staff on meetings with members of Congress last July.

James R. Lauducci, a former AFA vice chairman of the board for field operations, writes the issue's featured heritage piece. It's a fitting tribute to his 94-year-old uncle, Robert A. Lauducci, who served as an enlisted pilot during World War II. If the younger Lauducci's article doesn't wet your thirst, he recommends Lee Arbon's book, *They Also Flew: The Enlisted Pilot Legacy 1912-1942* (Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, 1998).

There's much more in the issue. I hope you will take it all in.

Thank you for your continued support. See you again in May! ✪

Scott P. Van Cleef is AFA's Chairman of the Board.