



CHAPTER NEWS

UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON AFA'S ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH, AWARDS, AND ADVOCACY.

By June L. Kim, Associate Editor

Photos by Kristin A. Gourley



COLORADO'S WOUNDED WARRIOR BENEFIT RECEPTION

Left: Denise O'Connor from the Air Force Academy's Wounded Warrior program, talks with Colorado State President Stephen Gourley at the reception. Above: Gen. John Hyten, head of Air Force Space Command, listens to SMSgt. Paul Horton, a wounded airman.

The annual Cyberspace Wounded Warrior Benefit reception in Colorado Springs, Colo., raised funds for AFA's Wounded Airman Program in early February. The event, held in conjunction with the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's cyberspace symposium, drew some 500 persons.

The reception typically raises funds for a specific charity each year, but this time it split the funds between WAP and the Mount Carmel Center of Excellence, a local veterans rehabilitation center, said Stephen K. Gourley, AFA's Colorado state president.

The Mile High Chapter of Denver became involved with WAP through chapter member David Gruber, who served on the event committee. "The committee was impressed with the lack

of administrative overhead applied to the WAP donations," said Gourley.

The event featured a silent auction with a wide variety of items, including a jersey from retired Denver Broncos player Randy Gradishar, who made an appearance for the auction.

Other auctioned items were Sochi Olympic gear, Washington Nationals tickets, artwork painted by veterans, condominium stays, an Air Force Academy football helmet signed by academy coach Troy Calhoun, a guided fishing tour, and a six-pack of craft brew beer. An iPad and United Airlines airfare were also given away through a raffle, said Gourley.

Emilie Boschert, Gourley, and his wife, Kristin, from the Mile High Chapter, Robert and Cathy S. Cooper from

Colorado Springs' Lance P. Sijan Chapter, and Denise O'Connor from the Air Force Academy's Wounded Warrior office volunteered at the event to help make the evening the success it was.

Special guests were Gen. John E. Hyten, head of Air Force Space Command; his wife, Laura; AFSPC Vice Commander Maj. Gen. David J. Buck; and SMSgt. Paul Horton, an Air Force wounded warrior.

A dozen Olympic athletes were also at the event.

Software company CA Technologies was the primary sponsor. Also sponsoring the event were information technology firm Epoch Concepts and services providers Serco and TACG. Gentle Rain, a local group of retired members of the US Air Force Band, provided the music. ■

FLORIDA AIRPOWER ADVOCATES

Air Force advocacy had been low in Sarasota, Fla., so Sandy Schlitt, former AFA Chairman of the Board, decided to do something about it.

He approached former senior Air Force leaders who are also members of the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter in December and asked if they would be interested in being part of a senior advisory group that advocates Air Force issues to local organizations, said Michael E. Richardson, chapter president.

Schlitt gathered a group of 10 members, including retired Brig. Gen.

Charles K. Shugg, the chapter's secretary and a former 24th Air Force vice commander; retired Lt. Gen. William J. Campbell, former Strategic Air Command vice commander; and Michael I. Yarymovych, former Air Force chief scientist.

The group has already met with three local Kiwanis clubs. Kiwanis International is the global volunteer organization dedicated to serving children.

Shugg discussed cybersecurity with the downtown Sarasota Kiwanis Club, and Campbell addressed the Siesta Key

Kiwanis Club, while Yarymovych presented to the Longboat Key Kiwanis Club. The latter spoke about how a focus on technology has driven the Air Force's development over the past six decades and the impact that it has had on the US military and the world, in general.

Schlitt got help from chapter member John David Wide, a former lieutenant governor of the Florida Kiwanis clubs. Wide "played a key role in identifying local clubs for our presentations," said Richardson. ■



Air Force Magazine photo

DONALD J. HARLIN, 1935-2015

By Chuck Martin

Retired Maj. Gen. Donald J. Harlin, an Air Force chief of chaplains and AFA's former national chaplain, died on Feb. 9, 2015, in LaGrange, Ga., following an extended battle with Parkinson's disease and related illnesses. He was 79.

Harlin's 30-year Air Force career culminated as chief of chaplains prior to his retirement in 1995. His mentoring and leadership skills touched a generation of chaplains.

The New York native had overseas assignments in Japan, South Korea, and South Vietnam. He later served as commandant of the Air Force Chaplain School in Montgomery, Ala., and then as command chaplain at Air Training Command, Air University, and Tactical Air Command before moving to Washington, D.C., to become deputy chief, and then chief, of chaplains.

On retiring and soon after becoming visually impaired, Harlin took on civic and social obligations with the Disabled American Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, and LaGrange Symphony.

But his real focus centered on AFA, serving as its national chaplain from 1998 to September 2010. He participated in association events and at national gatherings, including the dedication of the Air Force Memorial in October 2006.

Using no notes and with his faithful working dog, Goldie (shown in the photo), at his side, Harlin gave profound and inspirational invocations at AFA memorial ceremonies, banquets, and board meetings.

In 2009, he was named an AFA Gold Life Member, an honor that stands out in his long résumé of military and civilian awards that also includes the Distinguished Service Medal.

AFA members of all ranks and ages welcomed Harlin's warm personality and engaging smile. He is missed by family and colleagues. ■

Chuck Martin is a member of AFA's national-level Finance Committee and a member of the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter in Northern Virginia.



HISTORY BITS

SEPTEMBER 1964
AFA renames field units: Wings become state entities, squadrons become chapters.

OCTOBER 1969

Air Force Magazine's cover story, "The Forgotten Americans of the Vietnam War," ignites national POW/MIA concern.



Photo via Joe Bisognano

Minuteman Chapter Treasurer Joe Bisognano (l) and Chapter President Yvonne Thurston (r) presented Andy McCawley with a \$1,000 donation. McCawley is president of the New England Center for Homeless Veterans.

MINUTEMAN CHAPTER DONATES TO VETERANS CENTER

During the winter, leaders of the Minuteman Chapter in Massachusetts visited the New England Center for Homeless Veterans in Boston. Chapter President Yvonne Thurston and Treasurer Joe Bisognano brought with them a \$1,000 donation.

The shelter, which is located in the heart of the city, falls within the chapter's area of responsibility. Over the years, however, the Paul Revere Chapter in Bedford, Mass., has supported it. (See "Paul Revere Chapter Leads Clothing Drive," *Wingman Magazine*, September 2014, p. 15.)

"Since we are trying to gain traction in Minuteman, we formally assumed responsibility for the shelter and plan to organize fund-raisers in the future to provide recurring support," said Bisognano. So "it made sense to find out more about the operation and donate some money at the same time."

Shelter President Andy McCawley offered Thurston and Bisognano a tour of the facility. The chapter will even begin holding meetings there, said Bisognano.

The chapter gathered donations primarily through its annual golf tournament in summer 2014. Chapter leaders plan to hold other fund-raising events, such as "a new tournament within the city of Boston as well as a road race with proceeds earmarked for the shelter," he said. ■



Left: Sarasota-Manatee Chapter President Mike Richardson presents Hannah Arduini with an AFA medal at a science fair.



Right: Colton Lewis receives his medal, one of many awards he garnered for his project on an electromagnetic rail launch system.

SARASOTA-MANATEE HONORS FLORIDA STUDENTS

Two Florida students received recognition from the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter for their science projects in the Lockheed Martin Manatee Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Chapter President Michael E. Richardson awarded Colton Lewis, a ninth-grader at Bradenton Christian School in Bradenton, and Hannah Arduini, an eighth-grader at Bradenton's Carlos E. Haile Middle School, the chapter's Doctor Y Certificate of Aerospace Achievement at a ceremony in late January. The certificate is named after former Air Force Chief Scientist Michael I. Yarymovych.

Richardson also presented the two students with an AFA Achievement Medal, National Geographic's Space Atlas, and an AFA calendar.

For the science fair, Lewis conducted research on an electromagnetic rail launch system and evaluated the viability of an aircraft launch system powered by an electromagnet, said Richardson. Arduini conducted research on a rocket fin design.

"Her research explored the impact of fin design on the operating capabilities of a rocket" and led her to conclude that the swept fin design held higher trajectories and more stable launches than rectangular and delta fin designs, said Richardson.

On top of the AFA award, Lewis won first place in the senior high school engineering category, a Best of Show Award, the Ricoh Sustainable Development Award, the United States Air Force Award, and the United States Office of Naval Research Achievement Award.

Arduini took home first place in the middle school engineering category. Like Lewis, she also received the Air Force award and ONR achievement award. ■

1970

AFA limits to 12 the number of Outstanding Airmen of the Year selected annually.

AUG. 4, 1984

AFA's national headquarters moves into a new building in Arlington, Va.

SCOOTIN THUNDER IN UTAH

Members of the Ute-Rocky Mountain Chapter in Layton, Utah, welcomed Oscar Fitzhenry as guest speaker at their January chapter meeting. Fitzhenry, a retired lieutenant colonel, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at a local restaurant on his wartime memories as a B-24 Liberator pilot during World War II, said chapter President Kirk T. Schmierer.

Fitzhenry spoke of the Guadalcanal campaign based on his diaries, said Schmierer. The World War II veteran flew 64 combat missions in the South Pacific, mostly with the 72nd Bomb Squadron. He retired in 1962.

“It was an honor to have met him,” said Schmierer.

Before the chapter meeting, Schmierer had the opportunity to join Fitzhenry on the slopes at Snowbasin Ski Resort in Huntsville, Utah. An avid skier, Fitzhenry had donated a sitski to the resort’s adaptive ski program to help wounded veterans and handicapped skiers.

Officials of the ski program dedicated the sitski to Fitzhenry and his B-24 crew that week. Chapter member Don Hickman, who is chairman of the program, arranged to have the nose art of *Scootin Thunder*, the B-24 Fitzhenry flew during the war, emblazoned on the back of the seat.

Hickman asked Amy Meighan to place the emblem onto the sitski. Meighan is the daughter of the late Nathan Mazer, an AFA national director emeritus and retired colonel who was with the 384th Bomb Group in the European Theater during the war.



Photos via Kirk Schmierer

Above: Ute-Rocky Mountain Chapter President Kirk Schmierer, Don Hickman, Dustin Anderson (adaptive ski instructor), Oscar Fitzhenry, and Steven Hickman (l-r) at Snowbasin in Utah on Jan. 8, 2015. Fitzhenry is trying out the sitski—christened “Scootin Thunder”—that he donated to the ski resort.

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Here’s the original *Scootin Thunder*, with its crew in the South Pacific in 1943. Fitzhenry stands in the back row, far right.

JAN. 17-18, 1985

AFA’s first (then-Tactical) Air Warfare Symposium is held in Orlando, Fla.

JANUARY 1991

AFA joins with *USA Today* in the Visions of Exploration program to promote STEM education.

HOW TO TAKE GREAT PHOTOS FOR **WINGMAN MAGAZINE**

Today she is an Air Force civilian intern. But in college, Rachel C. Samples of Virginia's Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter minored in art, focusing on photography and graphic design.

So Steele Chapter Secretary Christof P. Cordes thought of her when he needed a volunteer photographer to cover a reception the chapter holds periodically for veterans transitioning to the civilian job world.

The specific challenge for Samples was to take the kind of photos *Wingman Magazine* prefers:

- **Unposed.**
- **Candid.**
- **Action shots, with people interacting with each other, rather than smiling for the photographer.**

How did Samples approach this task?

- "Get there ahead of time" was her first suggestion. For her first try—in October 2014—at photographing this reception, Samples went to the restaurant venue a week in advance, to make sure she could find the place. She picked the same day and time that the reception would be held, to check out the room's lighting conditions and to get an idea of how crowded it could be.
- "Bring extra batteries" for your digital camera, Samples advised, because you need to take many, many photos to ensure one good shot.

Here is how Samples, an experienced amateur photographer using a camera borrowed from Cordes, covered a chapter reception in February.

—Frances McKenney



Photos by Rachel C. Samples

The Steele Chapter, Nation's Capital Chapter, and American Corporate Partners host receptions for soon-to-be veterans, to help them transition to the civilian business world. Here, MSgt. Jason Logan listens to pointers from Carl Bayles and Alex Cole (l-r). Logan is five years from military retirement.



This transition effort uses the mentor-protégé approach, with civilian business people volunteering as mentors. Here, Steele Chapter Aerospace Education VP John Robinson, President Kevin Lewis, and Secretary Chris Cordes (l-r) chat before scattering to network with guests. These networking receptions take place every quarter.

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