

AFA National Report

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By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor

Spouse Scholarship Winner

Blame Thomas K. Keller for the pun. The **Gen. Joseph W. Ralston Chapter's** communications director wrote that Christine Stahl received "a lift" from the Ohio chapter: an Air Force Association Mike & Gail Donley Spouse Scholarship. Stahl will use the \$2,500 award—one of 12 granted in 2015—to help fund studies for a master's degree in family nursing.

Chapter President Robert L. Brewster made the presentation in August.

The scholarship is open to Total Force spouses, including Department of the Air Force civilian spouses, to help pay their college education expenses.

"This is an important recognition of the great sacrifices made not only by the men and women in our armed forces, but by their families," said Brewster. He pointed out that Sergeant Stahl has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan with the 123rd Air Control Squadron, part of the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Wing.

AFA named the spouse scholarship in 2014 for the 22nd Secretary of the Air Force and his wife. The association, through what was then its Aerospace Education Foundation, granted its first spouse scholarships in 1995. That year, 500 spouses competed for 10 scholarships.

Vietnam War Medal

The **Long Island Chapter** conducted its latest Vietnam War 50th Anniversary medal ceremony on Aug. 1 at the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, N.Y.

The chapter participates in an ongoing program to support Vietnam veterans, most formally by holding presenta-

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Photo by Thomas K. Keller



Christine Stahl and her spouse, MSgt. Michael Stahl, watch Gen. Joseph W. Ralston Chapter President Bob Brewster examine a Wright Flyer model built by Chapter Communications Director Tom Keller.

tion ceremonies, where former troops receive the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War commemorative medal.

The colors of the medal's ribbons represent the flag of the Republic of Vietnam, Vietnam's jungles, the American flag, and the POW/MIA banner. The medal itself depicts a dragon, the Vietnam Service medal, and on the reverse side, the POW/MIA flag.

The chapter first held a commemorative medal ceremony in April. This time around, some 250 family members and friends observed 30 veterans receiving honors. US Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) and chapter member Col. Thomas J. Owens, commander of the 106th Rescue Wing, presided over the ceremony.

William G. Stratemeier Jr., chapter treasurer, said the museum's hangar, where the ceremony took place, "was filled with emotion and a great sense of patriotism."

Air Force Ball at Air Force Museum

Team Wright-Patterson celebrated the Air Force anniversary with a ball hosted by the **Wright Memorial Chapter** at the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

"There is no better place to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the Air Force than this museum," said Tom Koogler, chapter president.

Janine Rozina (center) attended a meeting of the Colorado chapter named for her brother, Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Lance Sijan. She spoke about a program that helps students learn about his life. Here, she joins Mike Pierson from Air Force Space Command and Chapter VP Linda Aldrich holding a letter from AFSPC Commander Gen. John Hyten. It congratulated the chapter for being named AFA unit of the year.



Photo via Mike Pierson

Both past and present Air Force leaders were among more than 450 guests that evening, with its theme saluting Vietnam War veterans.

The evening began with a social and silent auction that raised more than \$3,300 for the Air Force Aid Society. Col. John M. Devillier, 88th Air Base Wing commander, spoke about the experiences of Vietnam veterans, whose numbers included his father.

AFA awardees recognized at the ball were retired Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, Air Force Materiel Command's former boss, who received the prestigious Heritage Award; Phillip L. Parker,

president and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce; John Griffin of the Dayton Development Coalition; and chapter member Christopher P. Z. Stanley, retired first sergeant and the 74th Medical Operations Squadron and now executive director for the base's Fisher/Nightingale Houses.

The chapter reported that many Star Sponsors—representing corporations backing AFA programs with financial support—hosted attendance at the ball by airmen who have deployed. This garnered the corporate sponsors the additional designation as "True Blue" supporters. ★

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