

AFA CHAPTER NEWS



From left: Cape Fear Chapter President John Lasley; special guests from Laney High School retired Col. T. Harrison Smith, cadet Arthur Sawyer and cadet Jonathan White; and AFA President Larry Spencer.

Photo via John Lasley

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER

The **Cape Fear Chapter** in North Carolina welcomed AFA's president, retired Gen. Larry Spencer, to its quarterly meeting in early September.

He delivered inspiring remarks to a full house—over 50 guests—including cadets from AFJROTC Unit NC-802, E. A. Laney High School, of Wilmington, N.C.

Spencer described how AFA members are on the front lines for building a strong Air Force. He mentioned personally contacting thousands of former AFA members to learn why they did not continue their membership and what is needed to bring them back.

He encouraged chapter members to reach out to the

community and share the AFA story. Spencer reminded the chapter that this story includes The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies and the AFA STEM programs CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers. Communities are hungry for programs on these subjects, Spencer said, because they excite our youth in K-12 grades about cybersecurity, spacecraft and payload development and operation, and STEM subject areas.

Spencer closed his remarks by telling the audience about two key lessons: His grandfather taught him, "It is OK to fail, but it is not OK to have never tried."

Second, he faced challenges in his Air Force career but was steadfast in believing that his success was up to him.

—John Lasley



Maxine Rauch, author Dan Hampton, and Susan Loricchio (l-r).

Photo via Susan Loricchio

IRON GATE CHAPTER

Northeast Region President Maxine Rauch, Susan Loricchio, and Carol Nelson represented the **Iron Gate Chapter**

of New York at a recent book signing.

The Cradle of Aviation Museum on Long Island hosted author—and retired USAF lieutenant colonel—Dan Hampton for a signing of his latest book, *The Flight: Charles Lindbergh's Daring and Immortal 1927 Transatlantic Crossing*.

Hampton was an F-16 pilot before retiring in 2006 and wrote about the Wild Weasel role in Desert Storm in *Air Force Magazine's* July 1991 edition.

—Susan Loricchio

UTAH AFA

Jointly sponsored by **Utah AFA/Aerospace Education Foundation** and the Air Force Sustainment Center, the 37th annual Utah Focus on

Defense took place in Ogden, Utah, this summer.

The theme, "Sustaining the Nuclear Triad," brought nearly 400 military, contractor, and civic leaders to the forum to discuss where and how the military should pursue upgrading the nuclear enterprise.

VIP guests included USAF Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson; Air Force Global Strike Command's Gen. Robin Rand; Vice Adm. Charles Richard, deputy commander of US Strategic Command; and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert. Representatives from Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman provided the defense industry perspective.

—Robert George