



THE SPIRIT

Air Force Association Florida

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Hospitality Tent in Clearwater can use help At Wounded Warrior Games June 21-30

By Bill Yucuis

The 2019 DoD Wounded Warrior Games are coming to Tampa on June 21-30 and are being hosted by the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from MacDill AFB.

The Air Force Association, as part of the Wounded Airman Program (WAP), will be hosting a Hospitality Tent during the swimming events, which are being held at the Long Aquatic Center in Clearwater on Saturday, June 29. The Waterman-Twining Chapter, in conjunction with the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) Chapter from Macdill AFB and other AFA Florida members, are supporting the Hospitality Tent. We are hoping some of you can help us support these outstanding wounded warriors and their families.

Here is what AFA has asked from us for the 2019 Wounded Warrior Games:

- Volunteers to help with manning the booth on that day, set up the day before and possible packing up the day after; and provide snacks and drinks.

We'd also like to offer a mixture of
(See Warrior Games on page 13)



Jesse Graham, an Air Force Wounded Warrior athlete, listens to his coach, Saul Mendoza, on how to increase his speed at the start line during the first day of the Warrior Games training camp at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., April 18, 2015. (Air Force Photo by Samuel King Jr.)

State Convention set in Ocala July 12-13

The 2019 Florida State AFA Convention in Ocala is building into a productive session as the June 14 deadline for registration and hotel reservations approaches. (See page 12 for a registration form.)

The 2019 convention will be hosted by Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 and is set to take place July 12-13 at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

"We've got a great venue, good food, a welcoming hotel staff, and plenty of hospitality," Red Tail Chapter President Howard Burke said.



The hotel is immediately off Interstate 75 at Exit 350, tucked in with a Burger King, Cracker Barrel, Sam's Club and several other hotels.

The tentative agenda of the business meeting is on pages 12-13. Participants and guests can look forward to a roast beef buffet and game of Air Force Jeopardy on Friday, July 12 and choice of whitefish or chicken cordon bleu at the Saturday banquet.

As I complete my tenure as the Florida State AFA President, please allow me to express my appreciation to all of you who give of your time, talent, and treasure to support the Air Force Association at the chapter, state, and national levels. And, congratulations to you all for many successful events plus the impact you have made on the communities in which you live and work!

As you know, we have a new President of the Association and soon will have a new Chairman of the Board. Besides the Chairman's position, there are two at-large Director positions opening up with four candidates competing and the Central Region

Director's tenure is up. Only one person volunteered for that position. (See page 20.)

The strategic planning committee is meeting and they are devising new strategic thrusts. The five thrusts currently are:

- Educate the public and public servants on the value of aerospace power
- Enable a strong technical base through Aerospace Education
- Develop professional, Total Force Airmen, building on a great legacy
- Support our Airmen, past, present, and future, and their families
- Advocate on policy impacting Airmen and for a strong US Air Force

Proposed AFA Vision Statement

"Unrivaled U.S. Air Force, fighting and winning in air, space, and cyberspace."

The committee is fleshing out the strategic thrusts so we can envision what they entail. If you have input, please do so. The leader of the committee is Mark "Buster" Douglas, an area director-at-large.

While on the topic of National issues, please consider coming to the National Convention from 14-15 September at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. This year there will be an

event at the National Cathedral following the meetings on Sunday. Registration is open on afa.org for both the convention and the Air, Space, and Cyber Conference which follows the convention.

We have lived through the inception and implementation of the field portal! Some of you are using your AFA e-mails. It hasn't been perfect, but we managed to learn and are using these tools. We have stayed engaged with the cadets, students, and teachers in our areas through the many education programs offered through AFA, i.e., CyberPatriot, StellarXplorers, and Teacher of the Year, and some of your own programs. Several of our



From the President

A look at achievements and a vision for the future

By Sharon Branch
President, AFA Florida

chapters are deep into supporting our wounded airmen. See the article in this newsletter about an upcoming opportunity. Many are involved with their legislators, community partners, and various organizations that are working to make our communities better.

How do we get more people involved?

In the last Spirit newsletter, I talked about something that still has not been resolved. How do we get more people involved? Other organizations are suffering the same fate. Unfortunately, I don't have the answer. I wish I did. The one thing I do know is that what our organization stands for is worth it; and, we should not give up on it or the ideals it represents. So let us not be discouraged or falter in our resolve. And, it's about relationships. Engage your members so that they can contribute in their own way and see the fruit of their labor.

I will conclude as I began, thank you.

The Spirit is published by Air Force Association (Florida), Sharon Branch, President, 7927 Westminster Abbey Blvd, Orlando, FL 32835, 407-299-2772, branchafa@gmail.com; Ben Langer, editor, Telephone 352-527-2729, BenALanger@aol.com. The AFA is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. Visit AFA at www.AFA.org and AFA Florida at www.afaflorida.org.

State Teacher of the Year Hails from Treadway Elementary

Dr. Caryn Long, an elementary school teacher at Treadway Elementary School in Leesburg, is AFA Florida's Teacher of the Year.

During her 31-year career, Dr. Caryn Long has been deeply engaged in STEM education. Her career

began in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (North Carolina) School district as a science educator for several elementary schools and her talent was recognized nationally through the 2000 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching and the Albert Einstein Distinguished Teacher Fellowship. She served a year at NASA Headquarters as its educator-expert to establish a national STEM program that targeted Title 1 middle school students. NASA then invited her to join its education division. For 13 years she worked as manager of its Digital Learning Network overseeing other educators at the 10 NASA centers. They all developed, implemented and taught students from kindergarten to educator-level STEM programs. All were rooted in NASA missions and research. Her program won multiple national distance learning awards and was recognized widely for inspiring students to lean toward STEM fields.

Caryn returned to teaching last year at Treadway Elementary School as it was beginning to implement a revolutionary new STEM lab; she played an integral part in being trained as a lead instructor. She utilized time during the summer to work with Early Learning Coalition (ELC) summer students to engage them in a variety of STEM activities from robotics to electrical



AFA Florida Teacher of the Year Dr. Caryn Long

engineering. These activities excited students' minds during a time when vacation lag generally draws students away from academics. The 20 third to fifth grade students were involved for 1.5 hours twice a week in hands-on activities where they had to solve

problems and then process their learning through writing and reading materials. She started the school year with her four fifth grade science classes in a distance learning session with NASA atmospheric scientists who taught the students about cloud identification and how man-made clouds called contrails impact the environment. Because of this involvement, her classes represent Treadway as one of four schools in the world to conduct systematic observational research on contrail formations. Students go outside four times a day and watch for planes to fly overhead and observe for contrail formation. They then use the Flightradar24 app on their tablets to identify the make of the aircraft flying overhead, its altitude and its directional coordinates to submit as ground truth to NASA scientists at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. This real science experience has affected students in many positive ways. These include a deeper understanding of cloud identification, proper scientific research methods and a richer engagement of man's impact on climate. In the Spring, these atmospheric scientists reconnected with the students to discuss their observations and how they have affected research done in atmospheric labs at NASA. She was awarded a Duke Energy grant that allowed her to augment *(Continued on page 6)*

“I sing of arms and the man....”

Hurlburt Chapter Honors Unsung Heros

**By Max Friedauer,
Chapter 398 Vice President
for Unsung Hero Programs**

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring “Unsung Heroes” for the past 21 years, and in the fall of every year it honors the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its units with a luncheon.

This year the chapter recognized 15 "Unsung Heroes" (young airmen E1-E3) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and honored them at the Hurlburt Soundside Club for lunch on Nov. 29.

The Hurlburt Honor Guard presented the colors. SrA Morgan Mclin from the 801 Special Operations Maintenance Squadron sang the national anthem, and Chaplain Gary Coburn gave the invocation. The Master of Ceremonies for the Luncheon was TSgt Jason Newbold from the 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron.

The guest speaker for the lunch was the 1st Special Operations Wing Vice Commander, Col Michael D. Curry. He spoke about Hurlburt Field’s amazing airmen and said how impressed he was with their Air Commando spirit. He emphasized that “The Airmen in the 1st Special Operations Wing are the ones that are quick learners, volunteer when needed, and are totally focused on mission accomplishment.” He emphasized how all the incredible things these brilliant airmen execute on a daily basis are not done by officers and senior NCOs; they are done by Airmen First Class and Senior Airmen. “...the impact these Airmen have made is

remarkable,” he said. He talked about their extraordinary effort during Hurricane Michael and



the devastation caused at Tyndall AFB. These disciplined professionals responded within hours and provided all the support requested and more. To date, these unsung heroes have never been recognized for their contributions to the 1 SOW mission; this event changed that. He also thanked AFA and its Community Partners for the great support to Hurlburt Field.

Col Curry, assisted by 1 SOW Command Chief Fry, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Framed Certificate and a book (donated by Chief Fry). TSgt Jason Newbold read a few of each Airman’s accomplishments as they came forward. The luncheon was sponsored with a grant from the

(See Unsung Heros page 20)



West Coast Chapter Salutes Middle School Math Teacher

Allison Cohen, a math teacher at Booker Middle School in Sarasota, was recognized as the West Coast Chapter 429's 2018 STEM Teacher of the Year in her classroom on Aug. 29.

Ms. Cohen has taught for 21 years and currently teaches 6th grade mathematics at Booker Middle School. She previously was recognized during the 2017–2018 school year by the Sarasota Country School District as its 2018 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

As the chapter's winner, Ms. Cohen received a check for \$250, an AFA Certificate of Excellence, an AFA Padfolio, a Chapter Teacher of the Year Pin and complimentary Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Membership sponsored by the Civil Air Patrol.

West Coast Chapter President Mike Richardson expressed his thanks to the Education Foundation of Sarasota County for its role in helping identify and recognize Ms. Cohen.



Chapter 429 President Mike Richardson joins Teacher of the Year Allison Cohen and the Director of Programs for the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, Kati Burns, after the award.

Red Tail Chapter Member to Begin Kitty Hawk Air Society Chapter

The AFJROTC unit at Belleview High School in Marion County will establish a chapter of the Kitty Hawk Air Society (KHAS) for the 2019-2020 school year, according to Michael Cook, the senior aerospace science instructor there and member of Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136.



Mike Cook

grades on their report cards, he said.

The Belleview Kitty Hawk Air Society intends to

name itself the Red Tail Memorial Chapter in honor of the men who fought in World War II as the 332nd Fighter Group and 477th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps, and in recognition of the Red Tail Memorial AFA Chapter 136 which supports high schools across Central Florida.

The Kitty Hawk Air Society is the academic honor society of AFJROTC. Its purpose is to promote high academic standards and achievement, school and community service, self confidence and initiative. KHAS also develops leadership abilities, recognizes academic excellence and furthers members' knowledge of the Air Force role in aerospace.

Cook retired from the U.S. Air Force in July 2018 as a lieutenant colonel after 24 years of active

duty service, primarily in nuclear operations. His last three assignments were in Europe, working alongside NATO partners. School year 2018-19 was his first year teaching AFJROTC to high school students.

Wanted
Air Force Junior ROTC Instructors
See page 10

Red Tail Chapter Applauds Ocala Algebra Teacher

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 named Emily Cook, an algebra and credit recovery teacher at Forest High School in Ocala as its Chapter Teacher of the Year.

The award was presented to the 20-year classroom veteran by Cindy Katz and Terry Dickensheet, Chapter 136's co-vice presidents for aerospace education.

"The most noticeable aspect of Emily as an educator is her complete devoted persistence with her stu-



Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Aerospace Education Co-VP Cindy Katz (left) stands with Teacher of the Year Emily Cook of Forest High School after presenting her the AFA Award.

dents," said Elizabeth Brown, Forest High School principal. "She simply will not give up on a student and will use any method necessary to ensure a student's success.... In 28 years of being an educator, I have never seen a teacher that is as willing to implement new and fresh learning strategies in a lesson plan. I never know what materials Emily will ask for next in an effort to promote learning with her students. I will always say "yes" to her requests because I know without a doubt that whatever Emily has planned for her students, they will learn every single day."

Ms. Cook's previous teaching experience included serving as an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing students. As a result, Emily often uses sign language with her students as she is teaching and is well equipped to teach the deaf and hard of hearing students assigned to her.

AFA Florida Teacher of the Year

(Continued from page 3)

this program and buy new tablets with a Wi-Fi hotspot to make more detailed observations with her students; she recently discovered that Treadway has contributed more contrail observations than any other school in the program. This earned her class a virtual connection with one of the NASA atmospheric scientists to speak with her students about their data and how it is being used for their studies.

As the coach for fourth and fifth grade STEM teams, Dr. Long has worked with these students

during her own time after school several times a week for two years to prepare them for their district competitions. Caryn frequently engages her students in the launches that take place on Florida's space coast. She planned a large fifth grade field trip to Kennedy Space Center for all fifth graders and has won grants to expand her cloud research program with her students. The students are actively engaged in learning science they have been experiencing this year because Dr. Long's lessons integrate a variety of science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts.

West Coast Chapter Honors Venice CAP Cadet

By Cadet 1st Lt Julie Anne McDonald

Anya Kratz, a freshman at Venice High School, received the Air Force Association Award at a recent meeting of the Venice Cadet Squadron.

The award was presented by AFA West Coast Chapter 429 President Mike Richardson.

He said that the AFA is proud to support the accomplishments of outstanding cadets at the squadron level with an award package that includes a silver medal accompanied by a sky-blue ribbon and a certificate.

Kratz has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol's Venice Cadet Squadron since March 2016 and currently holds the rank of 2nd lieutenant. She has been actively involved with many CAP activities and has served as cadet staff at the last two encampments. She has most notably earned GTM1 (Ground Team Member 1) during last year's summer National Emergency Services Academy.

Richardson, a retired Air Force colonel, expressed what a pleasure it was for him to "honor one of [Venice Cadet Squadron's] cadets and present the CAP Cadet of the Year Award" to a "well-deserving cadet."

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force. In this role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 aircraft, performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. CAP's 61,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. In addition, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and its members serve as mentors to over 26,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs. Visit www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com or www.CAP.news for more information.



Mike Richardson, president of West Coast Chapter 429, presents the prestigious AFA Cadet of the Year Award to Civil Air Patrol Cadet 2nd Lt Anya Kratz at Venice City Hall on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Richardson expressed what a pleasure it was for him to "honor one of [Venice Cadet Squadron's] cadets and present the CAP Cadet of the Year Award" to a "well-deserving cadet." (Photo by Cadet 1st Lt Julie Anne McDonald)

Donate an AFA Brick

More than 70 years ago, the founders of AFA laid the foundation for AFA brick by brick. You can continue their heritage by making a tax-deductible donation to AFA for your very own personalized brick.

Honor your service in the Air Force or to AFA with a lasting legacy with a personalized brick at AFA's Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

Order your customized brick online, by printing an order form and mailing a check, or by calling the AFA at (703) 247-5800.

Gold Coast Members Greet Visitors at Bomber Event



AFA National members were happily surprised to see Gold Coast Chapter 351 members meeting and greeting visitors at the Collings Foundation World War II bombers event on Jan. 19, 2019 at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport. Standing in the Banyan Pilot Shop's entrance to see the iconic planes are John Smith, (l-r) AFA National Comptroller for 35 years; Gold Coast Chapter president, Virginia S. Montalvo; Carlton Harrison, FXE assistant manager; and Bill Cox, AFA national assistant comptroller. "It was a great turnout," Virginia said.



And previously on Aviation Career Day...

On October 20, 2018 Gold Coast members participated in Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport's Banyan's Aviation Career Day. Pictured at left are Gold Coast's Aerospace Education Officer Virginia Knudsen and Loretta Young, the chapter's vice president for Veterans Affairs. Both ladies spoke about the many aviation opportunities in the U.S. Air Force.

Bud West Chapter Chief Inducted into Florida Hall of Fame

Retired Chief Master Sergeant John E. Schmidt Jr. was among the Class of 2018 inductees into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Chief Schmidt gave many years of service to the Tallahassee community. He began the first JROTC in the area and served as an instructor. He worked to open many other JROTC units in Leon County. The high school where he taught named their program after him when he retired after 15 years.

As a member of the AFA, he helped his chapter recognize many outstanding science, technology, engineering, and math teachers through the Teacher of the Year Program. An award was named after him at Florida State senior ROTC Detachment 145, the John E. Schmidt Community Service Award, in recognition of his continued involvement with cadets and cadre at the school as a mentor. He is a patriot and an expert on the U.S. flag.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame; it focuses on post-military contributions to Florida.

He is shown on the right being congratulated by former Florida Governor Rick Scott after the induction ceremony and with his family.



This picture of MSgt. John E. Schmidt Jr. and a Vietnamese family he knew was taken in Saigon in 1968. He was assigned at the time to the 1131st Special Activity Squadron. Retired Chief Master Sergeant Schmidt was president of AFA's Colonel Bud West Chapter in Tallahassee from 2015 to 2018.



AFJROTC Needs Instructors

AFJROTC needs more instructors. Encourage those eligible to apply for positions within the instructor cadre. The web site for more information is <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/holm-center/AFJROTC/>.

If units do not have instructors, they cannot remain open to shape the hearts and minds of young people. Although a majority of students do not go on to join the military, they receive invaluable training on discipline and character.

The motto of AFJROTC is to “develop citizens of character, dedicated to serving their nation and community.”

There are several openings in Florida. Gold Coast Chapter President Virginia Montavo sent a message stating, “Dillard High School needs a non-commissioned officer and Northeast High School needs both commissioned and non-commissioned officers.”

State Drill Meet Trophy Winners and Sponsors

Name	Sponsor/School	Cadet
Individual Drill 3 rd	Hurlburt/Mainland	Cadet Woods
Individual Drill 2 nd	Hurlburt/Space Coast	Cadet Nesby
Individual Drill 1 st	Bud West/Sandalwood	Cadet Arce
Color Guard Inspection 3 rd	Waterman/Twining West Orange	Cadet Hewett
Color Guard Inspection 2 nd	Waterman/Twining Space Coast	Cadet Skipper
Color Guard Inspection 1 st	Waterman/Twining Deland	Cadet Artis
Drill Team Inspection 3 rd	Gold Coast/Space Coast	Cadet Smith
Drill Team Inspection 2 nd	Gold Coast/Osceola	Cadet Dwyer
Drill Team Inspection 1 st	Gold Coast/Deland	Cadet Wolff
Color Guard AFM 36-2203 3 rd	Miami-Homestead Coral Springs	Cadet Sanchez
Color Guard AFM 36-2203 2 nd	Miami-Homestead Deland	Cadet Artis
Color Guard AFM 36-2203 1 st	Miami-Homestead Space Coast	Cadet Skipper
Regulation Drill 3 rd	Falcon/Sandalwood	Cadet Orbich
Regulation Drill 2 nd	Falcon/Osceola	Cadet Dwyer
Regulation Drill 1 st	Falcon/Deland	Cadet Wolff
Color Guard Army 3-21.5 3 rd	Central Florida/Sandalwood	Cadet Green
Color Guard Army 3-21.5 2 nd	Cape Canaveral/Celebration	Cadet Espinoza
Color Guard Army 3-21.5 1 st	Cape Canaveral/Deland	Cadet Habon
Exhibition Drill 3 rd	Central Florida/Osceola	Cadet Patino
Exhibition Drill 2 nd	Central Florida/Deland	Cadet Negron
Exhibition Drill 1 st	Central Florida/Sandalwood	Cadet Orbich
Color Guard Commander 3 rd	Red Tail/Celebration	Cadet Angulo
Color Guard Commander 2 nd	Red Tail/Space Coast	Cadet Skipper
Color Guard Commander 1 st	Red Tail/Deland	Cadet Artis
Drill Team Commander 3 rd	Hurlburt/Deland	Cadet Wolff
Drill Team Commander 2 nd	Hurlburt/Osceola	Cadet Dwyer
Drill Team Commander 1 st	Hurlburt/Space Coast	Cadet Smith
Excellence in Color Guard	Richard Ortega/Deland	Cadet Artis
Drill Team Excellence	Cape Canaveral/Deland	Cadet Wolff
Overall Excellence	West Coast/Deland	Cadet Spellacy
Best in Meet	Deland	Cadet Mendoza

Airman for Life

Whether a Total Force Airman, civilian, cadet, or family member, we all believe in a dominant Air Force.

Deland HS Team Earns Top Trophies At State Drill Meet

Twelve AF Junior ROTC teams competed in exhibition and regulation drill and color guard events during the Florida State Drill Meet at University of Central Florida on March 30.

Deland High School was the overall drill meet winner. It won the drill team excellence, color guard excellence and best of meet trophies.

The UCF AFROTC led by Cadet 2nd Lt Max Seberger planned, organized, and executed the drill meet. They were under the guidance of retired SMSgt. Jeff Lewis.

The team that traveled the farthest was from Lowndes, Ga. Coral Springs came from the south and Sandalwood traveled from Jacksonville.

The AFROTC cadets inspected the teams and also judged them in the various categories.

All Florida chapters supported the drill meet by purchasing the award trophies, and many chapters sent representatives who attended to present their chapter trophies. They were Larry Belge, Falcon Chapter 399; Todd Freece, Martin H. Harris Chapter 303; Raymond and Gigi Bush, Miami Homestead Chapter 317; and Steve Spires, Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136.



AFA Florida President Sharon Branch presented the top trophies to cadet leaders of the overall drill meet winning team, Deland High School.



The presenters included Larry Belge, Chapter 399; Todd Freece, Chapter 303; AFA Florida President Sharon Branch, Steve Spires, Chapter 136 and Raymond and Gigi Bush, Chapter 317. Below is the UCF ROTC Support Team.



Tentative Agenda as of 5/3/19

AFA State Convention Agenda

Friday, July 12

- 1500 Registration begins in Gulfstream Room (hotel check in time is 1600)
 1600-2300 Hospitality Suite Open
 1800 Dinner (pot roast) available in Gulfstream Room

Saturday, July 13

- 0630-0730 Breakfast available in Gulfstream Room
 State Convention: Gulfstream Room
(Meeting Dress: Open collar shirt/polo with slacks)
- 0800 Call to Order, Pledge, Invocation by Chaplain Pugsley, Introductions (*Sharon Branch*)
- 0815 Roll Call Minutes of 2019 Winter Meeting (*Ben Langer*)
 0925 Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget (*Gary Lehmann*)
 0945 State Winter Meeting/Convention Plans (*Sharon Branch*)
 2020 Winter Meeting: 28-29 Feb 20 in Orlando (*TBD*)
 2020 State Convention: 24-25 Jul 20 (*Falcon Chapter, Jacksonville*)
 2021 Winter Meeting: (*TBD*)
 2021 State Convention, (*TBD*)
- 1000 National Convention (*Sharon Branch*)
 1015 Field Operations Update
 1130 Break for lunch
 1200 Lunch (*Invocation by Chaplain Pugsley*)
 1245 Lunch Honorees:
 CyberPatriot: Top Florida teams
 StellarXplorers: Top Florida Team
 State Individual Awards
 Chapter Members of the Year
 Exceptional Service Awards
 Sustained Service Awards
 Presidential Citations
 State Teacher of Year
 Region President Award
- 1345 Reconvene Meeting
 1410 Election of Officers (*Bill Yucuis*)
 1430 Aerospace Education
 2020 Drill Meet and trophies
 StellarXplorers
 CyberPatriot
 Fellowships
 ARCONs/NATCON
 Scholarships

AFA Florida State Officers

President

Sharon Branch

Executive Vice President

Mark D. Chapman

Secretary

Ben Langer

Treasurer

Gary Lehmann

Immediate Past President

William (Bill) Yucuis

Appointed Vice Presidents

Communication (Webmaster)

Mark D. Chapman

Newsletter

Ben Langer

Government Relations

Bruce Fouraker

Leadership Development

William (Bill) Yucuis

AFA National Directors

Mike Liquori

Orlando, Fla.

Kathleen M. McCool

Eglin AFB, Fla.

(Emeritus)

Sanford Schlitt

Bonnie Callahan

Tim Brock

*Drill Meet Photos
 Courtesy of
 Larry Belge*

(Continued on the next page)

2019 AFAFL Convention Agenda

Saturday, July 13 (*continued from previous page*) (as of May 3)

- 1500 Break
- 1515 Government Relations
Legislator/Staff Member of the Year
- 1530 Florida AFA State of Health/Chapter Closures/Chapter Cross Talk
- 1630 Approval of State Budget for 2019
- 1645 Final Remarks
- 1700 Adjourn (Hospitality Room open til 1800)
- 1800 Dinner (*Dress: Open collar shirt with Sport Coat*)
Invocation by Chaplain Pugsley
- 1845 Awards
State Member of the Year
Jerry Waterman Award
General Lewis H. Brereton Award
State Unit Awards
Exceptional Service Awards (Aerospace Education, Best Single Program, Veterans Affairs)
Exceptional Service Awards (Community Relations, Communications, Overall Programming)
Outstanding Chapter of the Year (Extra Large Category)
- 1915 Guest speaker:
- 2100-2300 Hospitality Room Open

Note: Hotel check out time is 1200 p.m.

Warrior Games *continued from page 1*

drinks and packaged snacks (protein bars, nuts, etc.)
Feedback from last year showed that we needed more healthy options for the athletes; fruit would be perfect.

- Provide “fun” items for kids. Last year, we had a few fun items for the kids like bubbles and patriotic tattoos.

How can you help?

- Volunteer to help man the tent on June 29.
- Volunteer to help set up on June 28 or break down on June 30.

The Support the Troops organization is donating the following: water, a variety Lance snacks, peanuts, sunflower seeds, Girl Scout cookies. Contact Bill Yucuis if you have any contacts who would like to donate these types of items or the following.

- Fruit, such as oranges, bananas, apples
- Other drinks, such as Gatorade (or similar drinks), Packaged snacks, such as protein bars; kids snacks (candy?); items to give kids

If you are willing to help, contact Bill Yucuis at Yucuisb1@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your support.

AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2019 NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

The Air, Space & Cyber Conference is the nation's largest annual Air Force gathering, bringing together the entire top leadership of the Air Force as well as industry experts and government officials to discuss challenges facing the Air Force and aerospace community today and in the future. To learn more or to register go to <https://www.afa.org/events> or contact AFA Florida President Sharon Branch, branchafa@gmail.com.

Please mail this completed form and check to reach us by June 13, 2019. After that, call 352-527-2729



Air Force Association State Convention July 12-13

Marriott Courtyard, 3713 SW 38th Ave., Ocala FL 34474
352-237-8000



	Number			Total
Marriott Courtyard Ocala	_____	x	\$89.00	= _____ See Note 1
	# of nights			

	July 12	July 13	July 14	Other
One King Bed?	_____			
Two Double Beds?	_____			

Registration	___	x	\$25.00	=	_____
Friday Pot Roast Buffet	___	x	\$25.00	=	_____
Saturday Continental Breakfast	___	x	\$15.00	=	_____
Saturday Lunch	___	x	\$25.00	=	_____
Saturday Banquet	___	x	\$32.00	=	_____
			Total		_____

Saturday Banquet Menu choices:

Lemon Pepper Whitefish _____
 Chicken Cordon Bleu _____

Note 1: Hotel rooms are \$89 per night, single or double; tax free if paid to AFA Chapter 136 by June 13.

Name _____
 AFA Position _____
 Organization _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Make checks payable to **AFA Chapter 136** and with this form mail to:

Ben Langer
 4005 N Hatchet Cir
 Beverly Hills FL 34465
 Telephone: 352-527-2729
 Cell or Text: 571-344-5100

The Spirit Congratulates AFA Florida 2019 Award Winners

Outstanding Chapter (Extra Large) Eglin Chapter 365

Outstanding Chapter (Medium) Tyndall Chapter 355

Exceptional Service Awards

Aerospace Education	Martin H. Harris Chapter 303
Best Single Program	Hurlburt Chapter 398
Communications	Martin H. Harris Chapter 303
Community Relations	Martin H. Harris Chapter 303
Overall Programming	Tyndall Chapter 355
Veterans Affairs	Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

General Lewis H. Bereton	Jerry B. Williams (Hurlburt Chapter 398)
Jerry Waterman	Col. Brian S. Laidlaw (Eglin Chapter 365)
Member of the Year	Dennis Krebs (Eglin Chapter 365)
Teacher of the Year	Dr. Karyn Smith Long (Martin H. Harris Chapter 303)
Sustained Service Citation	Bruce Fouraker (Falcon Chapter 399) Todd Freece (Martin H. Harris Chapter 303) Ransom (Ran) Mariam (Falcon Chapter 399) Marian McBryde (Eglin Chapter 365)
Exceptional Service Citation	John DeNys (Falcon Chapter 399) Shirley Pigott (Eglin Chapter 365) Ryan Price (Eglin Chapter 365) Ernest Webster (Falcon Chapter 399)
Chapter Member of the Year	Edwin Barbosa-Perez (Red Tail Chapter 136) Mike Liquori (Martin H. Harris Chapter 303) Chris Bailey (Cape Canaveral Chapter 309) Dennis Foley (Waterman-Twining Chapter 316) Benny Benitez (Miami-Homestead Chapter 317) Patricia Lovarco (Gold Coast Chapter 351) Ed Averion (Tyndall Chapter 355) Shirley Pigott (Eglin Chapter 365) Leslie (Les) Matheson (Hurlburt Chapter 398) Carla Chin (Falcon Chapter 399) Loreen Kollar (Bud West Chapter 419) Chester Harriman (Florida West Coast Chapter 429)



Retired Lt Col Stephen P. Pedone was named after his uncle who was killed in a B- 24. He followed in his uncle's footsteps by serving a 25-year career in the U.S. Air Force.

The D-Day Pilot and Flight Nurse

*By Stephen P. Pedone
West Coast Chapter 429*

(Stephen Pedone and his wife, Ximena, from Naples, Fla, will be attending 75th Anniversary of D-Day ceremonies and special events this June in England and Normandy. The anniversary has special importance to Steve, since his dad was the co-pilot of the lead Pathfinder Troop Carrier C-47, dropping the first 101st AB Pathfinder Paratroopers into Drop Zone "A", and his mother was a flight nurse, who flew soon afterward into Normandy on the same C-47s to evacuate the wounded. The full article provides an historical perspective and is on the D-Day Squadron's web site at this link: <http://ddaysquadron.org/the-d-day-pilot-and-flight-nurse/>. The following is edited for space.)

Late on the evening of June 5, 1944, two young Americans among many were poised for the greatest challenge and risk of their lives. D-Day, "Operation Overlord," had arrived in Europe, and airborne invasion forces would be the "point of the spear" to cross the English Channel and go in first, to defeat Nazi tyranny and free Europe. They would have significant roles, one as the 9th Air Force co-pilot of the lead Pathfinder Troop Carrier C-47, carrying the first 101st Airborne Pathfinder Paratroopers

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Army Air Forces Lieutenants Vito and Jerry Pedone in 1943 are a love story that began in England, saw combat during and after the D-Day invasion, and left a legacy of service and sacrifice.



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into Normandy Drop Zone "A", to lead the Airborne Invasion, and the other as a 9th Air Force Flight Nurse, prepared to soon fly in the same C-47s into the Normandy front combat lines, to evacuate the wounded soldiers back to England, to awaiting hospitals for care.



He was Capt Vito Pedone, and she was 1st Lt Geraldine (Jerry) Curtis, both in the U.S. Army Air Force. Their story is one of duty, bravery, and determination in the face of danger, to execute the planned Normandy D-Day Invasion. They were very successful! Amid all the war-time preparation and danger, theirs is also a "love story," and their story begins in 1943 while both were stationed in England preparing for D-Day.

Vito and Jerry came from very different parts of the United States, and likely would have never met, if not for World War II. Vito Pedone, then 23 years old, was a first generation Italian-American, from Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Vito and his younger brother, Flight Officer Stephen Pedone, were studying aeronautical engineering at North Carolina State College when the U.S. entered the War. Vito and later Stephen would volunteer for U.S. Army Aviation Cadet training. Their younger sister, 2nd Lt Anne Pedone, graduated from nursing school, and volunteered for service as a U.S. Army nurse. Stephen was killed in a B-24 crash in September 1944.

Upon receiving his commission and pilot wings, Vito completed advanced flight training in the twin

engine A-20 light bomber/ground attack aircraft, which was flown by a single pilot and had a rear gunner. In 1943, he was assigned to the 17th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 8th Air Force, in England, and would fly 25 A-20 combat missions across the English Channel into Nazi-held countries, making low-level ground attacks on Nazi airfields and other targets.

Vito requested transfer to the newly formed 9th Air Force Troop Carrier Command to fly C-47 Troop Carrier aircraft and prepare for D-Day. As a Captain and experienced A-20 combat pilot, Vito was assigned to the newly established "Pathfinder" C-47 Troop Carrier unit, based at North Witham Air Field, near Grantham, England.

The key lesson learned from recent airborne assaults, like in Sicily, was that specially trained Pathfinder troop transport aircraft crews and paratroopers were essential to lead the way to finding and marking the correct drop zones, to ensure successful deployment of all the paratroopers.

Vito was the operations officer of the 9th Air Force Troop Carrier Command Pathfinder unit. Vito would conduct the unit's Pathfinder School to train and prepare the selected Pathfinder C-47 pilots and



flight crews for the Pathfinder mission. His commander and Vito would be the pilot and co-pilot of the lead Pathfinder C-47 aircraft, Tail #293098, taking off first to lead the U.S. Airborne Invasion Force into Normandy, called "Operation Neptune."

Jerry, 24 years old, was from Oklahoma City, Okla. She had graduated from nursing school in Oklahoma and trained as a surgical *(Continued next page)*

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nurse. She soon volunteered for training to become one of the first U.S Army Air Force flight nurses. She would train and fly in an unmarked combat C-47 that could accommodate 14 stacked stretchers hanging from straps along both sides of the aircraft.

In 1943, Jerry was assigned to the newly



The lead crew with Vito Pedone on the left.

established 9th Air Force, 806th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron (MAES), based at Welford Park, England, to provide medical services for the large build-up of American forces staging, and to prepare for D-Day. Shortly after D-day, Jerry would fly into the Normandy combat zone, in the same C-47s as the D-Day paratroopers, to care for and evacuate the wounded back to England.

WWII brought Vito and Jerry to England in 1943 to prepare for D-Day. The many months to build up American forces and prepare for D-day provided the

opportunity for them to meet and fall in love. They were stationed at different air bases, so Vito would pilot various aircraft to visit Jerry at her base. They were married in England in 1943.

The airborne invasion force was generally delivered into Normandy well before the sea invasion force landed on the beachheads. The 9th Air Force Pathfinder Troop Carrier C-47s would lead the airborne invasion forces into Normandy to start D-Day. A small team of British commando forces were delivered into Normandy first, late at night on June 5, by two towed gliders to insure complete surprise of the Germans in order to seize and hold the key and heavily defended Pegasus Bridge, near Caen.

The mission of the Pathfinder C-47 Pilots and specially trained aircrews was to fly the Pathfinder Paratroopers from England over the English Channel to Normandy, and accurately drop them into seven selected drop zones interior to the Normandy invasion beaches. The specially equipped Pathfinder C-47's participating in D-Day took-off from North Witham Air Field, England, late in the evening on June 5, 1944. Onboard each of the 20 Pathfinder C47 aircraft was a team of specially trained Pathfinder Paratroopers (called a "Stick") from the 101st or the 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Once on the ground, the mission of the Pathfinder Paratroopers was to mark the seven drop zones for the follow-on main body of 821 C-47 Troop Carrier aircraft which were approximately 30 minutes behind the Pathfinders. Special radar electronic equipment, called "Rebecca and Eureka," was used to mark and find the drop zones.

The Pathfinder paratroopers jumped carrying the ground-based "Eureka" portable transponder beacon, which they would set-up on each of the drop zones to transmit a specific electronic signal for each drop zone. The airborne-based "Rebecca" system, installed in the cockpit of the follow-on main body C-47s, had a directional antenna which could receive a specific Eureka transponder signal and indicate the approximate location of the Eureka beacon, to guide the lead aircraft of each flight to the general area of their drop zone.

Since it was late at night, dark and cloudy, the Pathfinders also marked the drop zone with special holophane marking lights, laid *(Continued next page)*

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out on the ground, and luminous panels laid on the ground in the shape of a "T".

Vito's C-47 would lead the tight formation of Pathfinder aircraft across the English Channel in total darkness, with only small navigation lights on each plane to aid the pilots in keeping a tight formation. They flew at 500 feet over the Channel to avoid German radar. The unarmed C-47s had fighter cover protection. It was a clear night crossing the channel, but as the Pathfinders approached the Normandy coast over the Cotentin Peninsula, a thick bank of clouds obscured the sky and view of the ground, which made formation flying very dangerous. They proceeded inland on the designated navigation heading to the drop zones, hoping to be



able to see the ground and the drop zones.

The Germans hearing the sound of the C-47 engines began to fire into the night's sky. The clouds parted just long enough for Vito to visually confirm the Drop Zone A location, and the green light was turned-on to signal the paratroopers to jump. It was 0015 hours, 6 June 1944. "Geronimo" was sounded as the 101st Airborne Pathfinders hit the silk. The first D-Day American forces were on the ground!

Jerry's Medical Air Evacuation C-47 missions would begin four days after D-Day, on June 10, 1944, when combat conditions were secure enough for the first C-47 aircraft with an 806th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron flight nurse on-board to land on flat dirt fields near the Normandy combat area. The aircraft brought in a cargo of urgently needed supplies, which was quickly unloaded so that 18 wounded soldiers on stretchers could be quickly loaded, stacked three-high on side-mounted racks. The aircraft were the actual C-47s used during the D-

Day air assault and were not marked with red crosses.

The C-47s were unarmed but were protected by fighter aircraft during their Channel crossings and Normandy ground time. The new WWII concept of air medical evacuation of wounded soldiers from the front-line combat zone, cared for by trained flight nurses, proved to be a great success.

Vito would rise to colonel during his 30-year career in the Air Force. Jerry separated from military service to have their only son. She worked as a surgical nurse in Alexandria, Va. Vito and Jerry's story ends at a very special place in our nation, Arlington National Cemetery, where they lie together for eternity. Jerry is honored at the National Women in the Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington. Vito is remembered at the 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper Museum in Fayetteville, N.C.

Jerry and another flight nurse in cold weather gear.

(On the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, Steve and his wife, Ximena, will participate in the special D-Day commemorative ceremonies at Duxford Airfield in Cambridge, England, and the ceremonies at Caen Carpiquet Airfield, Normandy, France, along with an extensive tour in Normandy of the key air and sea D-Day sites and D-Day dedicated museums. They will be present for the arrival of the many restored WWII C-47 aircraft of the D-Day Squadron flying from the U.S. to England to join other restored WWII C-47 from around the world. Then they fly to France to participate in the "Daks Over Normandy" D-Day reenactment parachute drop of hundreds of parachutists in WWII uniforms, jumping into Normandy from the restored C-47s with WWII style round white parachutes. Steve will remember and represent his mom and dad who served our nation in time of war and greatly contributed to the success of D-Day, 75 years ago, on June 6, 1944. For copies of the Pedone family biographies, contact Steve Pedone at thepedones@msn.com.)

2019 Slate of Nominees for Election at the Convention

The AFA Nominating Committee provided the following slate of nominees for candidates for elective office and open positions on the AFA Board of Directors. Elections will take place during the national convention Sept. 14-15 in National Harbor, Md.

Chairman of the Board	Gerald R. Murray, Current AFA National Director, North Carolina
Vice Chairman, Field Operations	Gavin "Mac" MacAloon, incumbent, New Hampshire
Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education	Jim Hannam, Incumbent, Virginia
Secretary	Rick Hartle , Incumbent, Utah
Treasurer	Steve Lundgren, Incumbent, Alaska
National Director, Central Area	Jim Simons, North Dakota, Former chapter/state/region president
National Director, At Large	Joe Burke, Virginia, Past Gabriel Chapter president, Field Council and other national committees
National Director, At Large	Cristina Lussier, Virginia, Steele Chapter president, ELP grad, Strat Planning committee
National Director, At Large	Jamie Navarro, Vermont, Chapter VP CyberPatriot, Wounded Airman Program Committee, ELP
National Director, At Large	Molly Mae Potter, Texas, Austin Chapter President, ELP grad, AFA Finance committee

Unsung Heros *(continued from page 4)*

Boeing Corporation represented by retired Colonels Mark Transue and Hank Sanders. The Boeing Company is one of 36 Community Partners that support the many programs in which the chapter is involved. Other AFA Community Partners present were Jimmy Tucker, FNBT Bank; Dominic Damiano, Mama Clemenza's Uptown; Wendy Valdez, Home2 Suites by Hilton; Jerry Williams, Eglin Federal Credit Union; and Ashley Smith, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

This event continues to be popular. It was followed by the Hurlburt Tenant Units Unsung Hero event in the Spring (Mar-Apr) of 2019.

Also present were AFA Chapter President, Jim Connors; Executive VP Fred Gross; Secretary Susan Ault-Davis; Max Friedauer VP for Unsung Heroes; and member Les Matheson. Anthony "Tony" Siragusa, nicknamed "Goose," a former National Football

League defensive tackle, who spent 12 seasons with the Indianapolis Colts and the Baltimore Ravens, was a special guest of the 1 SOW.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Chapter President Jim Connors presented Colonel Curry with a "brick" that was purchased in his name and will be placed at the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village. Mr. Connors also thanked the supervisors for nominating the airmen for this award and for teaching and mentoring them so they could succeed and be successful.

MSgt Jonathan J. Nevel, 4 SOS/DOF, MSgt Jayme L. Cartwright, 11 SOIS and TSgt Jason Newbold, 11 SOIS, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put the event together, taking reservations, creating the e-Invitations, organizing and printing the program brochures, preparing award certificates, and coordinating the event with the Soundside Club.

Air Force Association Mission

The Air Force Association mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this the Air Force Association strives to:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
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- SUPPORT the total Air Force Family and promote aerospace education. Go to www.afa.org.



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Chapter 303's Stan Goldstein Earns Local Veteran Award



Retired Brig. Gen. Basil Pflumm presents Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Local Veteran Award to Chapter 303's Stan Goldstein in behalf of Dr. P. Barry Butler, president of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on April 15 named retired USAF Lt Col Stan Goldstein, a member of Martin H. Harris Chapter 303, a recipient of its Local Veteran Award.

The award was in conjunction with the university's celebration of Veterans Appreciation Day.

Stan was recognized in part for presenting Air Warrior Courage Foundation Lorentzen Educational Grants to each of the Embry-Riddle and University of Central Florida ROTC detachments.

Stan could not attend the ceremony because of a serious medical issue so retired Brig. Gen. Basil Pflumm accepted on his behalf. The award was presented by the President of Embry-Riddle, P. Barry Butler.

Stan spoke to members attending the AFA Florida winter meeting in early March. He described his experience in Vietnam with the Wild Weasels. An award-winning documentary on Amazon called *Thud Pilots* is free to Amazon Prime members.