



THE SPIRIT

Air Force Association Florida

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AFA Florida State will host Virtual convention July 25

AFA Florida President Mark Chapman will host a virtual state convention on July 25 via Zoom with credentials to be sent to chapter presidents.

The virtual convention will replace the annual in-person convention meetings and social events that were planned by Falcon Chapter 399 at the Doubletree Hilton in Jacksonville.

Instructions for connecting to Zoom video conferencing will be sent to chapter presidents and state leaders once the state president gets it all lined up. Members of Florida AFA chapters may attend and participate after being granted access by their chapter presidents. Each Florida chapter is entitled to vote on motions during convention meetings.

Among the most important items on the convention agenda will be the election of state AFA officers for the coming year. Open offices will include executive vice president, secretary and treasurer. Candidates at press time include Todd Freece for executive vice president, Sharon Branch for secretary, and Gary Lehmann for treasurer. All three are from Orlando's Martin H. Harris Chapter 303.

The convention agenda will include a review of the 2020 winter meeting minutes, a state treasurer's report and a vote to approve a 2021 budget.

The convention meeting also will address the dates, hosts and locations of state winter meetings and state conventions in 2021 and 2022.

Those attending the virtual convention will receive an update on anticipated events at the national AFA convention, currently scheduled in-person for Sept. 12-13 in National Harbor, Md. During this discussion at the virtual convention, the president will solicit delegates to volunteer to represent AFA Florida at the national convention.

Also during the state convention there will be a report on the status of AFA Florida. This report will include an update on pending chapter closures.

Each chapter represented at the state convention will have an opportunity to report on its activities. State conventions typically close with a "chapter crosstalk" during which members highlight chapter successes and recommend best practices.

National convention Agenda to include Election of officers

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 September 12-13 in National Harbor, Md.

Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations

- Peter Jones
- Jim Simons
- Ross Lampert

National Treasurer

- Chuck Martin
National Director - East Area
- Mac MacAloon
- JR Ruth
- Jackie Trotter

National Director - At Large

- Len Vernamonti
- Steve Gourley
- Bill Harding
- Dwyer Dennis

In addition, the Committee certified that the following incumbent officers are qualified to run for an additional term of office:

- **Chairman** – Gerald Murray
- **Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education** - Jim Hannam
- **National Secretary** - Rick Hartle

Well it has been quite a year with truly unexpected challenges but as you read through the articles in this year's Spirit there were a lot of successes as well this year. I will start with our first ever Winter Meeting held via videoconferencing this past February.

As many already know at last year's state convention no chapter was able to step up and volunteer to host our Winter Meeting normally held in conjunction with the Air Warfare Symposium so we opted to use AFA's Vidyo teleconferencing system that region and state presidents use monthly with our meeting the Mac MacAloon the AFA's Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations.

There were a few glitches when we first started but in the end we were successful in conducting our essential business in roughly 3 hours and with all but one chapter in attendance. Later I asked all those that participated how they liked it and received almost unanimous agreement that the format worked well, and saved all of us travelling and spending one to two nights in a hotel. We will certainly make that a topic for our State Convention the end of July.

And that brings me to the next topic and that is, of course, our plans for this year's State Convention originally planned to be hosted by the Falcon Chapter in

...recent increases in cases of COVID-19... convinced me that holding an in-person convention was not prudent at this moment in time.

Jacksonville. As everyone knows the current COVID-19 pandemic has, to put it mildly, put a crimp I just about everyone's plans this year including how we as a state organization should our obligation to hold a state convention. A lot of important business has to be conducted, not the least of which is election of state officers and approval of our 2020/21 budget.

I surveyed all chapters and expectedly most wanted to press on with an in-person meeting, but recent increases in cases of COVID-19, brought on no doubt by increased testing combined with relaxation of assembly restrictions convinced me that holding an in-person convention was not prudent at this moment in time. So we are back to a

virtual convention much like what we did in February although this time we will most likely use Zoom as it is much more user friendly.

AFA's National Convention is still planned for 12-13 September at National Harbor Maryland to be followed by the Air and Space Conference (ASC). While registration has opened up for both the convention and the ASC, National Headquarters is looking at options should the convention not prove feasible and they will be updating the regions and states every two weeks on the status of the convention and the ASC. And of course, as I receive more info I will be passing that along to the chapters.



From the President

***By Mark Chapman
President
AFA Florida***

Big news this past year is the establishment of the sixth military service, the U.S. Space Force, within the Department of the Air Force. Not since 1947 has this country seen this happen and I'm sure despite many challenges that exciting things are to come. Just wish I could have asked my late father what it was like when he

transitioned from the Army Air Corps to the Air Force. If you have chapter members who were around then, it might be an interesting discussion to have with them.

And finally, as a result the creation of the Space Force, the AFA has updated our mission statement to address our space professionals.

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Space Force Professionals, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage. To accomplish this, we:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security
- **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development
- **SUPPORT** readiness for the Total Air and Space Forces, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

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When the Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter received the Teacher of the Year package from West Shore Junior/Senior High School's principal, Mr. Rick Fleming, there was no doubt the school had an outstanding candidate.

Their intuition was "spot on" because Jill Whitacre was selected as the Chapter Elementary Teacher of the Year and since then also has been selected as Florida AFA Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Whitacre has been inspiring young people for 20 years. This past school year, she taught 7th and 8th graders in math and robotics.

It was twelve years ago when she started West Shore's first Lego League Team for 4th through 6th grades. In 2014, she initiated a robotics program, which is going strong to date. It is particularly noteworthy that 40 to 60 percent of those in the robotics program are girls.

Continuing evidence of her work to inspire young women to pursue STEM studies was her recent trip to the Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC). There she had 8th and 9th grade young ladies take part in the Women in Science and Engineering Symposium (WiSE) for a STEM Pioneer Hands on Day.

Her students have even traveled to Europe to compete in the Monaco Mousetrap Grand Prix Finals, placing second as they were up against teams from France, Italy, and Monaco.

Ms. Whitacre is a superior classroom teacher, whose dedication is unmatched. Her principal commented that her car was typically the first in the parking lot, as she works with her Lego team, 90 minutes before school begins. In addition to inspiring and directly contributing to STEM studies, she ensures young ladies know the challenges that women before them have met and overcome. Her "Whirly-Girls," an all-female drone team, took their name from the first all-female helicopter pilots who flew during the Vietnam War. This team traveled to Tallahassee to meet with state legislators in furthering the promotion of STEM education.

Ms. Whitacre is the epitome of a dedicated, passionate teacher committed to helping prepare the future STEM workforce of Florida, and the Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter is very proud of our association with her!



West Shore Junior High's "Whirly Girls" Team runs their drones through the course.

State TOY Award Goes to Teacher From Space Coast

By Russ Lewey, Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter 309 VP for Aerospace Education



Jill Whitacre (right) provides instruction in robotics to two of her students. (Photo courtesy of Spectrum)

Miami-Homestead Chapter Grieves Loss of Chapter Founder

MIAMI-HOMESTEAD CHAPTER 317—We regret to inform members of the passing of one of our most dearly beloved chapter members and past president, Stan Bodner. Stan passed away on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, after a recent struggle with cancer.

The chapter published a special edition of its newsletter to honor and say farewell to a great person and airman. He will always be remembered and will remain in our hearts. Let us celebrate for he lived his life to the fullest. Let us celebrate for he was able to make a difference in many people's lives.

Stan will be missed, but we know that he will be present in our hearts and our memories. Rest in peace, our friend.

Stan was a chapter founder and first president. He left an impressive 30-year history of service to the U.S. Air Force, Reserve and active duty Air Force, to members at Homestead ARB and U.S. Southern Command, and to many other programs supporting youth education, military families and the University of Miami's AFROTC Detachment 155 (which is composed of students attending all south Florida colleges and universities).

Stan was a maverick in South Florida, a doer and a mover. We honor him in no better way than to let him speak about his accomplishments. The article below was taken from an article he published in our January-March, 2018 Newsletter.

By Stan Bodner, Chapter 317 Founder and First President.

I count myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to both, create and lead this relatively new Florida Chapter during its first 20 years of existence. We started by re-chartering a previous Miami Chapter that formed and operated from 1948 through 1963. Why it failed is pure speculation, but I believe it failed due to poor leadership, focus and planning. As a result, it ran out of steam, members lost interest, and the leaders threw in the towel.

Starting from scratch, and with the help, encouragement and sustenance of the Florida AFA region, we began a membership drive, appointed a roster of chapter leaders and submitted a charter application to AFA National headquarters in Arlington VA. After securing the new chapter charter, we instituted regular monthly chapter meetings, planned a series of special events, and built the new chapter into a fine-tuned and highly respected veterans' organization in Miami-Dade County.

It wasn't long before the Chapter gained a reputation for excellence among all of the (then), 23 active chapters in the Florida AFA region. By 2001, the Chapter had been recipient of 5 outstanding chapter awards in the Florida region, and was selected to receive the best chapter award (large chapter category), at the National AFA Convention (2000).



Donate an AFA Brick

Over 70 years ago, Jimmy Doolittle built the foundation for AFA brick by brick. Continue his legacy and honor a family member, friend, or your service to our great

nation, by making a donation for your own personalized brick to be installed at AFA Headquarters.

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

Dosev to receive Brereton Award

Worked to rename bridge to Pensacola

Cristov “Cris” Dosev, an entrepreneur from the Florida panhandle, will receive the Gen. Lewis H. Brereton Award primarily for his work in getting a bridge there named after the late Air Force General Chappie James.

Dosev was nominated by Hurlburt Chapter 398.

In May 2018, Dosev read a local news article relating that the new Three-Mile Bridge connecting Gulf Breeze and Pensacola would be named after Phillip D. Beall Sr. like the old bridge. This renaming was consistent with Florida policy to keep the original name when structures were replaced.

Dosev formed a board with like-minded individuals who made the case that General James is most deserving of the honor. He was a Pensacola native who served with the Tuskegee Airman and rose to become first African-American four-star general in the U.S. Armed Forces. General James served during three wars and fought in two. He flew 180 combat missions and became the commander of the North American Air Defense Command.

The first step after forming a team was to enlist the help of the local media including the Pensacola News Journal. Its articles established local support but final approval resided with the state government, a “path full of politics and bureaucrats,” according to the Hurlburt Chapter.

The team’s first task was to get city council support from the two communities on either end of the new structure, Gulf Breeze and Pensacola. Visits, briefings and encouragement led to both voting to support a resolution and to form a committee with both Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties.

Dosev took the lead advocating the name change and started working through the procedure required by Florida. He managed to enlist many Florida senior advocates and veteran organizations in this effort. The veteran community rallied and through his efforts the committee, made up of 9 members, unanimously voted in support of the initiative. This prepared the way for bill sponsorship by



Florida District 1 Senator Doug Broxson for the Spring 2020 session in Tallahassee.

At this point, had been incorporated in the final transportation bill and was ready for signature by Governor Ron DeSantis. On February 8 and 9, briefings, celebrations and a gala were held across northwest Florida honoring General James and announcing the upcoming renaming and bridge opening in 2021.

“Cris Dosev’s dream of honoring an Air Force hero and Pensacola native has become a reality,” the nomination stated. “He made this happen and we were proud to nominate him for this award.”

Dosev was born on Oct. 27, 1961 in Chicago and was raised in Illinois. He attended high school in Chicago and then went to the University of Florida in Gainesville. He graduated with honors with a bachelor’s degree in land surveying the College of Civil Engineering. At the University of Florida, he was the Navy ROTC unit battalion commander and was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps in April 1984.

After his release from the Marines in October 1994, Dosev formed Mardoc Management, LLC. As a small business owner and sole proprietor for the past 20 years, he

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Brereton Award

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financed over \$25 million dollars worth of investment projects. He acquired over 575 single family units, consisting of a combination of rental properties for rehabilitation, and the development of condominiums.

On June 8, 2005, Cris co-founded the non-profit Wounded Heroes Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that assists returning wounded veterans of the war on terror. The foundation raised \$1.5 million and distributed grants, housing and vehicles to hundreds of returning veterans in need. The Wounded Heroes Foundation now partners with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in providing a summer camp that allows wounded

veterans to participate in paralympic sports.

In addition to his association with the Wounded Heroes Foundation, Dosev is a past grand knight of two Knights of Columbus councils, a national advisory board member of the Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland, a board member of the Panhandle Tiger Bay Club, chaplain of Shangri-La Flight 21 of the Order of Daedalians, a volunteer with the Marine Corps League and member of the Pensacola Five Flags Rotary.

Dosev and his wife of 30 years, Lisa have three sons: Nikolai, 28; U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Vincent, 25; and Cristov, 23; and five daughters: Anna, 20; Gabrielle, 17; Carmen, 15, Maria, 13; and Sophia, 10. They are members of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Pensacola.

AFA Florida State Officers

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Todd Freece

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Dennis Foley

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Leadership Development

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AFA National Directors

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Orlando, Fla.

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Sanford Schlitt
Bonnie Callahan
Tim Brock

The General Brereton Award

is for a civilian Florida resident who made an outstanding contribution to airpower during the past year or over a multi-year period. It is named after Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, an aviator in both WWI and WWII. He served from 1911 until 1948.

He was twice assigned as Commander, Third Air Force, at MacDill AFB: first, just before WWI in July 1941 and then again in July 1945 after the capitulation of Germany.

General Brereton was a 1911 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He began his military career as an army officer in the Coast Artillery Corps before World War I. Then after qualifying as a military aviator in 1913, spent the remainder of his service as a career aviator.

During World War I, he carried out extensive operations in both the Toul and Luneville sectors and took part in the attack at Vaux in July 1918. He subsequently went on to command and staff positions associated with aviation.

General Brereton was one of the few senior U.S. commanders in World War II who served in combat theaters continuously from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the German surrender, and he saw action in more theaters than any other senior officer. He began World War II as a major general commanding the Far East Air Force in the Philippines and concluded it as a lieutenant general in command of the First Allied Airborne Army in Germany. Brereton commanded forces in four historic events of the war: the destruction on the ground of much of the United States Army Air Forces in the Philippines, Operation Tidal Wave; Operation Cobra; and Operation Market Garden.

In July 1947, he was assigned to the Military Liaison Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission. In June 1948 he became secretary general of the Air Board.

General Brereton retired Sept. 1, 1948 and died Aug. 1, 1967.



At the AFA National Convention in September 2019, Bill Yucuis invited newly elected AFA Chairman of the Board (CoB), Gerald Murray, to visit MacDill AFB. Bill had recently become the Waterman-Twining Chapter President and wanted to increase the AFA visibility with the airmen at MacDill. As the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) from 2002-2006, a visit by the AFA CoB would be a way to meet that goal.

Murray was flying into Tampa on the morning of Tuesday, November 19 and agreed to visit the base that afternoon. Bill met earlier with CMSgt Anthony Green, the 6th ARW Command Chief, to help coordinate a productive visit. With the assistance of Wing Protocol, we scheduled a whirlwind 3-hour tour to talk with all levels of MacDill enlisted airmen.

Besides Bill, MSgt Ashley Cohnes, one of our active duty Waterman-Twining Chapter members, was present for the tour. In 2006, then A1C Ashley Cohnes was named the PACAF Services Airman of the Year. That year, her AFSC was selected as AFA Team of the Year and she was selected to receive the award as the PACAF representative. AFA flew Ashley, and her Dad, to Washington DC to attend the Symposium and receive the award. One night, then CMSAF Gerald Murray hosted the award winners for dinner at their house. Ashley has been an AFA member ever since and is a valuable Waterman-Twining Chapter member today.

Our visit started in the Wing Conference Room with a short overview of MacDill AFB operations. All the Command Chiefs for the Wing units, plus the ranking AF Chiefs from CENTCOM and SOCOM, who are located on MacDill, attended this briefing. Then Senior NCOs from MacDill, including First Sergeants, Superintendents, and SNCOs from the COCOMs, entered the conference room for a Round Table discussion.

We then left for the Wing "schoolhouse". Murray first visited the First Term Airman Course (FTAC) where he talked with the newest young airmen assigned to MacDill. FTAC is a 1-week course given to new airmen within their first month of arrival. The Waterman-Twining Chapter presents a Professional Airman Award at their monthly graduation. The CMSAF talked about how MacDill was his first Air Force assignment and how much the base had changed since arriving in 1977 and he saw 96 F-4s on the ramp.

He then went to talk with the Development Special Duty (DSD) base selectees, the Airman Leadership School (ALS)

instructors, and finally the ALS students. For each group, Murray shared his insights about how the Air Force enlisted force was significantly better than when he first entered service. He also answered questions.

Our last stop was at the Surf's Edge All Ranks Club, where Col. Stephen Snelson, the 6 ARW Commander, hosted an Enlisted All Call. Murray talked about how the Air Force completely changed after 911, including the tremendous increase in deployments, which continues today. Once again, he answered their questions. After this meeting, we went to an adjoining room where a few other senior NCOs were waiting. Col. Snelson and Chief Green

Chairman of the Board Tours MacDill AFB At 316's Prompting

were able to announce that four of these NCOs were on the newest chief master sergeant promotion list. What a wonderful way to conclude this quick visit to MacDill AFB.

At every stop, Gerald promoted the AFA Vision and talked about how the Waterman-Twining Chapter was here to support that vision. I thanked Chairman Murray, as both AFA CoB and outstanding CMSAF, for taking the time to help our Chapter improve our stature at the base.

—Bill Yucuis, President, Waterman-Twining Chapter #316



Hurlburt Chapter 398 held its Annual Awards Banquet on 1 October at Two Trees Restaurant in Fort Walton Beach. We use this opportunity to recognize our Teachers of the Year, Community Partner of the Year and our State and National Award winners. This year's event was sponsored by Lockheed Martin, one of our Community Partners.

Chapter President Jim Connors served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Choctaw's AFJROTC Honor Guard presented the Colors, and Chapter Member Bud Sauvageau gave the Invocation. Following a brief introduction of Honored Guests, Chapter Members and guests enjoyed a Buffet Dinner prepared by the Two Trees Staff.

Our first Honored Guest (and invited speaker) was Cadet Colonel Sydney Cloutier of Pensacola High School's AFJROTC unit FL-12. Cadet Cloutier was recently selected as the winner of the AFJROTC and Air Force Association's Leadership Award. She recently attended the AFA National Convention to receive her award and accepted Mr. Connors' invitation to come and speak to us about her experiences in AFJROTC. She is currently serving as the Cadet Commander of PHS' AFJROTC unit. All attendees were impressed with her poise and speaking ability. (Imagine yourself at 17 or 18 years of age doing this!) We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Our next Honored Guest and Award Winner was Ms. Marsha Harp of West Navarre Primary School, our Chapter



Teacher of the Year for 2019. She was introduced by our Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Rick Soria. He cited her many achievements and then presented her with her Award and Certificates.

Ms. Harp then shared some of her efforts and experiences in the classroom as she worked to introduce her students to Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation and Mathematics (STEAM). Ms. Harp's principal was also on hand to recognize her and to praise her efforts as a dedicated educator.

The Okaloosa County Superintendent, Mr. Marcus Chambers, also attended our Award Ceremony and addressed the gathering briefly to thank Hurlburt AFA for our efforts to recognize and support teachers in the area. As most of you know, our Chapter solicits nominations for Teacher of the Year from Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties, and

teachers from all those counties have participated in our Teacher Workshops and other events. We appreciate the support we have received from all the local school districts and they are grateful to us for our Chapter's support through events such as the Teacher of the Year program, teacher workshops, JROTC scholarships, funding for teachers to attend Space Camp at Huntsville and participation in the annual Science Fair where our members act judges and the Chapter provides monetary awards to winners.

Mr. Nelson Arroyo, our VP for Community Partners took the podium after Mr. Chambers and recognized our Community Partner of the Year, Boeing Global Services, FWB, for their support to Hurlburt Chapter 398 over the past year. Several members of the company were



present at the dinner and Mr. Hank Sanders accepted the award on behalf of the company. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2006, BOEING has been a strong supporter of

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Hurlburt Chapter Honors Many At Awards Event



Red Tail Chapter Selects Sixth Grade Teacher for TOY

AFA Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136's Christy Katz presents a Teacher of the Year Award to Horizon Academy's Joe Landrum, a sixth grade science teacher, STREAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) coordinator, and active member of the Civil Air Patrol. Because schools were inaccessible during the coronavirus lockdown, Christy and Terry Dickensheet, Red Tail Memorial's TOY team, were invited to Mr. Landrum's home to make the presentation. Horizon Academy is a STEAM magnet school in Marion Oaks near Ocala.



Hurlburt Awards *Continued from page 8)*

AFA Chapter 398 and in our efforts to support the Air Force family, teachers, students, cadets, Wounded Warriors, and particularly our Unsung Heroes, who perform the Air Force mission with pride and excellence day-in and day-out. We truly appreciate Boeing Global Services' unwavering support.

Chapter President Jim Connors continued the Awards portion of the event by presenting the Brereton Award to Mr. Jerry Williams, CEO of Eglin Federal Credit Union (EFCU). This award was initially made at the State Convention in June, but we took this opportunity to thank Mr. Williams once again and give other Chapter members the opportunity to view the Award and hear from Mr. Williams. As you can see, there are actually two awards, one a personal keepsake, and the

other a travelling award that is kept in the office or building for a year before moving on to the next winner. The GENERAL LEWIS H. BRERETON AWARD is for the civilian Florida resident who has made the most outstanding contribution to airpower during the past year or over a multiyear period. The EFCU has long been an active support of the Hurlburt Chapter and Mr. Williams' participation and support to the USAF, Air Force Association, Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB, and a multitude of programs and events championing military members, dependents and veterans over the past years justified his award. Thank you!



Our next Award winner was Mr. Les Matheson, who received the Chapter Member of the Year Award. Les is constantly on the go and can be seen at almost any military ceremony or other event, usually in a kilt and with a set of bagpipes. But that is only a small portion of his service and involvement. He is a member of multiple veterans' organizations and associations and is an avid supporter of each of them. He is a veteran, patriot and a volunteer working for our veterans and members. Thank you for your Service, Les!

There was one other special recognition during the evening and that was to Mr. Clay McCutchan. Clay was selected as the Chapter Member of the Year last year but was unable to attend our ceremony. Jim took this opportunity to publicly thank Clay for his past and continued support of the Chapter's Aerospace Education program by hosting Teacher Workshops and tours at his private airfield between Milton and Holt. Clay has been an active member of the Chapter for years and has provided outstanding support to several of our events. Visiting his airfield is always a treat!



West Coast Chapter Singles Out Two for STEM Awards

Two students from the Sarasota area were recently singled out for recognition by the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA). The awards were presented at the 2020 awards ceremony for the Sarasota Regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair.

Sarah Belli, a junior at Sarasota High School, was honored for her project, "Finding the Optimal Exposure Time to Ultraviolet Radiation Needed to Degrade High-Density Polyethylene." For her project, she lined a box with 52 High Density Polyethylene square samples

and exposed them over an extended period to ultraviolet light. To determine the degradation of the plastic, she removed samples at controlled intervals to measure the reduction in mass and tensile strength. Sarah's project also won second place in the High School Earth and Environmental Sciences category.

The middle school award was presented to Colton Perz, an eighth grader at Laurel Nokomis School.

For his project – "Which Baseball Bat Had the Most "Pop?" - , Colton placed each tested bat – there were five – into a "...precisely constructed wooden jig..." and baseballs were dropped on to the bat from the height of 2 meters. The rebound of the ball as measured against a metric measuring tape attached to the jig was considered indicative of the bats "Pop" factor. Each test was videotaped and reviewed in slow motion to determine the rebound of the ball.

A special award sponsored by the United States Air Force was presented to Mya Perez, student at Sarasota High School, for her project "3D Printing a Transradial Prosthetic Limb Using Recycled PETE/PET



Colton Perz (second left), an eighth grader at Laurel Nokomis School, receives the Florida West Coast Chapter 429 STEM Award and Dr Y Certificate from Chapter President Mike Richardson (second left). With them in the photo are Steve Cantees, Executive Director of Sarasota Secondary Schools and Chris Renouf, Executive Director of Elementary Schools.

Plastic". It was also recognized by the Office of Naval Research and won first place in the High School Engineering category.

Chapter President Mike Richardson presented Belli and Perz with the chapter's "Dr. Y STEM Achievement Award", an AFA Achievement Medal, a 2020 Air Force Association calendar and a \$50.00 cash award. They also received a book -- "The Air Force" -- published by the Air Force Historical Foundation.

The Dr. Y Award is named in honor of Dr. Michael Yarymovich, an Osprey resident and a member of the Florida West Coast Chapter. Dr. Yarymovich served as the Chief Scientist of the Air Force from 1973 to 1975.

The Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) is the newest Chapter in the state of Florida – having been awarded its charter in October 2011. It comprises approximately 250 members living in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

For the 36th consecutive year, the Martin H. Harris Chapter honored members of the Air Force at the Air Warfare Symposium. The chapter presented two awards in concert with the Air Warfare Symposium theme of Multi-Domain Operations. Awards were presented to representatives of the Air Mobility Operations Squadron Enterprise and the Intelligence Flight of the 437th Operations Support Squadron by Chapter President Sharon Branch, the Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force General David Goldfein, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright.

The 321st and 621st air mobility operations squadrons are Air Mobility Command's premier "911" force of operational command and control experts. Together, they are 114 airmen covering 26 different AFSCs who are ready to deploy to any air operations center in the world within twelve hours. In 2019, the enterprise supported six different combatant commands covering the full spectrum of military operations. In United States Central Command, these airmen were integral to planning the Syrian retrograde. In United States Indo-Pacific Command, they supported multiple Joint Chiefs of Staff level training events alongside our South Korean allies. Their efforts in support of exercise Mobility Guardian enabled a joint forcible entry operation with the 82d airborne and provided high-end training for 26 nations, 86 wings and 1.5 thousand joint and coalition forces.

Over the past year the 437th Operations Support Squadron intelligence team pioneered the utilization of near real-time ISR tools creating "Rapid Intelligence Flow" – or "RIF", fusing multiple data sources, secure communication methods, and emerging intelligence analysis methods. Furthering the advancement of multi-domain operations, the 437th Intel team led a working group at the mobility air force weapons and tactics conference to develop the proof of concept for near real-time threat reporting. Members then tested "RIF" during AMC's flag-level exercise and incorporated the lessons learned into

the intelligence formal training unit, setting the new standard across the entirety of MAF. This resulted in increased command and control situational awareness by 67% for mobility platforms. Currently, this process is utilized to pass near real-time intelligence threats, provide crisis updates, and to report kinetic events. Recently, the "RIF" model was used during heightened tensions with the country of Iran to rapidly connect AMC intelligence personnel, crews, and aircraft at three central command locations.

For outstanding achievements moving multi-domain operations from a vision to reality, the Martin H. Harris chapter was pleased to recognize both the Air Mobility Operations Squadron Enterprise and the 437th Operations Support Squadron Intelligence Flight and honor these organizations with fellowship in the Air Force Association.

Martin Harris Chapter 303 Honors Air Force Members At Air Warfare Symposium



Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett presented a Martin H. Harris Outstanding Achievement Award to 1Lt Riddle and SSgt Arnold from 437 OSS/IN. Also pictured are Chapter 303 President Sharon Branch, Chief of Staff of the Air Force General David Goldfein, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright.



Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett presented a Martin H. Harris Outstanding Achievement Award to SSgt Traore (center) representing the Air Mobility Operations. Also pictured are Chapter 303 President Sharon Branch, Chief of Staff of the Air Force General David Goldfein, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright.



Dr. Todd Brown

West Coast Chapter Names Dr. Brown Teacher of the Year

Dr. Todd Brown was recognized recently by the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) as their 2019 Sarasota County STEM Teacher of the Year. The award was presented on October 2 at the Sarasota Military Academy's (SMA) Preparatory Middle School in East Sarasota. Dr. Brown serves as a teacher and Outreach Director at the Academy.

Dr. Brown's award was centered on "The Inspire Project" – a multifaceted approach to learning through three student leadership-based initiatives -- Project Earth, Project Equality, and Project Health. Each initiative is scalable from individual participation to a multiple school involvement.

Specific to the Project Health initiative, he created Operation Outbreak (O2), a simulation program that puts students at the forefront of containing an infectious disease outbreak. It was created in association with the Sabeti Lab at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

This platform integrates a classroom academic unit covering the

relevant science and humanities subjects with a culminating "outbreak simulation" learning activity. This activity replicates a real-world outbreak scenario and can guide hundreds of students on how to respond through a coordinated effort and the use of technology -- teaching them biology and public health in the process.

SMA Col. Thomas Vara, head of the Middle School campus, said in his nominating letter, "Dr. Todd Brown is truly inspirational not only to our cadets but our entire staff, the SMA community and those like-minded individuals around the globe that seek ways to use education as a powerful tool to inspire young people to make

connections and have a positive impact on the world around them. He believes in service before self as he continually states, 'My job is to have every single student want to walk through my door and never want to leave'".

The O2 project began in 2016 when he created a module teaching middle school students the mechanisms for outbreak response and containment. Working with Dr. Andres Colubri and Dr. Pardis Sabeti, he has developed the first application of its kind. Currently he is working on making O2 accessible to anyone around the world and the O2 app is freely available on the Apple and Google app stores. Because of this novel approach, the team has caught the attention of the Smithsonian Institute, Harvard Medical School, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, and WIRED magazine.

The "Inspire Project" was recently accepted into the CDC Science Ambassador Fellowship Program. Dr. Brown was one of only thirty international teachers to be invited. Additionally, his project has resulted

in his designation as: U.S. Congressional Teacher of the Year; United Nations Sustainability Ambassador; Teacher of the Year Awards from multiple organizations; nominee for the CNN Heroes award by Harvard University; winner of the Education Foundation of Sarasota's "Ignite Innovation" award; member of Advisory Board to Faulu Academy in Kenya, Africa; and winner of the United States Henry Ford Innovator Award

In July, Dr. Brown spoke at the Global International Baccalaureate (IB) conference held in New Orleans where he led a breakout session for schools from around the world aimed at their participation in The Inspire Project as well as the "Operation Outbreak" exercise. He was also invited to speak at the International Conference on Learning at Queen's University in Belfast, UK. In September he conducted a workshop and gave a keynote address at the Sustainable Development Goals conference in Shekou, China. Additional speaking engagements include invitations to Cairo, Egypt and Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia to participate in the Advanced Global Conferences in November 2019.

He has secured grants from L'Oréal, Voya, Florida League of IB, Toshiba, and the Education Foundation of Sarasota. Brown is currently collaborating with Harvard, MIT, Discovery and The Travel Channel as well as multiple worldwide contacts including individuals in Canada, Israel, France, Uruguay, and Iran. Dr. Brown said, "I enjoy instilling a love of learning in my students through interactive and experiential lessons."

The chapter thanks Tracy Spalsbury, Director of Marketing & Communications at the Education Foundation of Sarasota County for her assistance in preparing and presenting this award.

AFA Florida once again Sponsors state drill meet

Top trophy went to Sandalwood

By Past President Sharon Branch

In February the AFA Florida once again sponsored the Florida State AFA Drill Meet for Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Retired Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Lewis coordinated the drill meet as he has over the last several years. Without his leadership and involvement, we could not continue to sponsor the drill meet.

This year cadets from Detachment 158 Air Force ROTC at University of South Florida, Tampa, superbly planned, led, and executed the event. The cadet in charge, Cadet Kendall Reed, did an outstanding job along with the other cadets from Det 158 who supported her. The school and detachment cadre and cadets ensured the event was professionally conducted and a great learning opportunity for the senior and junior ROTC cadets.

Florida AFA Executive Vice President Todd Freece represented both the state and the Martin H. Harris Chapter. James Carroll represented the newly revitalized Cape Canaveral Chapter; Eddie Arroyo represented Hurlburt Chapter and read the script; Barry Taylor represented the Waterman-Twinning Chapter; and Steve Spires represented the Red Tail Memorial Chapter.

The majority of the chapters in the state purchased the trophies for the various competition categories. Each chapter recognized someone they believe has been important to their chapter, the Air Force, or the Air Force Association.

The cadets who received trophies also received framed biographies of the those being recognized.

Thank you to all the chapter representatives and to the chapters that sponsored trophies!

At right is a list of the winners for the 2020 drill meet. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who participated!



AFA Florida Executive Vice President Todd Freece presents the "Best of Meet" Trophy to Sandalwood AFJROTC.

Category	School	Sponsor
Armed Exhibition 3 rd	Osceola	Eglin
Armed Exhibition 2 nd	Coral Springs	Eglin
Armed Exhibition 1 st	Gulf Breeze	Eglin
Color Guard Inspection 3 rd	Coral Springs 2	Waterman-Twinning
Color Guard Inspection 2 nd	West Orange 1	Waterman-Twinning
Color Guard Inspection 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Waterman-Twinning
Drill Team Inspection 3 rd	Lake Worth 1	State
Drill Team Inspection 2 nd	Deland 1	Gold Coast
Drill Team Inspection 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Gold Coast
AFM 36-2203 Color Guard 3 rd	Miami Southridge 1	Miami-Homestead
AFM 36-2203 Color Guard 2 nd	Osceola 1	Miami-Homestead
AFM 36-2203 Color Guard 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Miami-Homestead
Regulation Drill 3 rd	Deland 1	Falcon
Regulation Drill 2 nd	West Orange 1	Falcon
Regulation Drill 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Falcon
TC 3-21.5 Color Guard 3 rd	Sandalwood 1	Martin H. Harris
TC 3-21.5 Color Guard 2 nd	Gulf Breeze 2	Cape Canaveral
TC 3-21.5 Color Guard 1 st	Deland 1	Cape Canaveral
Exhibition Drill 3 rd	Sandalwood 1	Martin H. Harris
Exhibition Drill 2 nd	Lake Worth 1	Martin H. Harris
Exhibition Drill 1 st	Osceola 1	Martin H. Harris
Color Guard Commander 3 rd	Osceola 1	Red Tail
Color Guard Commander 2 nd	West Orange 1	Red Tail
Color Guard Commander 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Red Tail
Drill Team Commander 3 rd	Lake Worth 1	Hurlburt
Drill Team Commander 2 nd	Osceola 1	Hurlburt
Drill Team Commander 1 st	Sandalwood 1	Hurlburt
Color Guard Commander	Sandalwood	Richard Ortega
Drill Team Commander	Sandalwood	Cape Canaveral
Overall Best of Meet	Sandalwood	West Coast



Cadets from the University of Central Florida pose for a picture in their AFA Wounded Airman t-shirts.

eling the AFA Wounded Airman Program t-shirts while working the event.

Over 100 players joined us on the course. While the weather was touch and go leading up to the event, the skies parted in the morning and remained clear for most of the day, which allowed the shotgun start to go off as scheduled. By the time the rains came in the afternoon, the hardcore golfers hunkered down and decided to wait out the storm. Several groups were able to finish the entire course, while others took the opportunity to socialize in dryer conditions inside the hotel. The chapter also raffled a brand new Odyssey Putter to one lucky winner. Low team scores on the course competed for TGW.com gift cards for 1st – 4th place.

The competition was tough, and it looked like everyone had a great time.

In addition to the Wounded Airman Program donation previously mentioned, this year's event also allows the chapter to continue its local grass roots support of Central Florida AFROTC, AFJROTC and CAP units, as well as provide continued support to the Orlando VAMC. A hearty

thanks to all that made this possible.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the chapter members who assisted these efforts over the past year. A special thanks goes out to Bob Ceruti, Gary Lehman, Tim Brock, Sharon Branch, Todd Freece and Christina English and the cadre and cadets from Air Force ROTC Detachment 159 at the University of Central Florida. See you on the course next year!!!

Wounded Airman Program Nets \$3,500 from golf At Air Warfare Symposium

By Mike Liquori

The 2020 Martin H. Harris Chapter golf event once again provided an outstanding introduction for this year's Air Warfare Symposium. Our industry partners continued raising the bar for support by providing tremendous generosity to support this year's event.

A special thanks goes out to all of this year's sponsors:

- Presenting Sponsor** – Top Aces Corporation
- Platinum Sponsors** – Collins Aerospace & GE Aviation
- Gold Sponsors** – AT&T, Leidos & Lockheed Martin
- Silver Sponsor** – Cole Engineering Services
- Community Partner Hole Sponsors** – Bonnie Callahan & Gentry Land Company

As a direct result of the efforts of the chapter members and sponsors, we were able to present a check for \$3,500 to the AFA Wounded Airman Program. The check was presented on stage to AFA President Orville Wright by Top Aces Corporation VP for Business Development, Kevin Fesler and the Martin Harris Chapter President, Sharon Branch. With this year's donation, the total donated by the Chapter to the Wounded Airman Program from the last four AWS golf events is \$17,000.

The cadets from AFROTC Detachment 159 once again played an integral role in welcoming everyone to the course, helping with registration and manning the snack stations on the course. They also looked pretty good mod-



The Martin Harris Chapter presents \$3,500 to AFA's Wounded Airman Program. On stage for the presentation were Martin Harris Chapter President Sharon Branch (l-r), Top Aces Corporation VP for Business Development Kevin Fesler and AFA President Orville Wright.

2020 AFA Florida State Awards

Individual Awards

State Member of the Year: Todd Freece, Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Exceptional Service Citations:

Ken Kelly, Martin H. Harris, Chapter 303

Carl Roberts, Eglin Chapter 365

John DeNys, Falcon Chapter 399

Ernie Webster, Falcon Chapter 399

Sustained Service Citations:

Mike Liquori, Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Colleen Smith, Eglin Chapter 365

Ransom Mariam, Falcon Chapter 399

Carla Chin, Falcon Chapter 399

Presidential Citation: Gary Lehmann, Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Brereton Award: Cristov Dosev

State Teacher of the Year: Jill Whitacre, West Shore Jr/Sr High School, Melbourne

Chapter Member of the Year

Arnaldo Rodriguez, Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136

Barbara Walters-Phillips, Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Ahna Arcturus, Cape Canaveral Chapter 309

Barry Taylor, Waterman-Twining Chapter 316

Kenneth Penman, Miami-Homestead Chapter 317

Robert Morris, Gold Coast Chapter 351

Colleen Smith, Eglin Chapter 365

Ricardo (Rick) Soria, Hurlburt Chapter 398

Suzette Gagnon, Falcon Chapter 399

David Downer, Florida West Coast Chapter 429

Unit Awards

Exceptional Service Awards

Aerospace Education (AE): Eglin Chapter 365

Community Relations (CR): Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Best Single Program (BSP): Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Communications (Comm): Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Veterans Affairs (VA): Eglin Chapter 365

Overall Programming (OP): Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Chapter of the Year (Extra-Large): Martin H. Harris Chapter 303

Special Citation: Hsu Education Foundation, Fort Walton Beach



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Navarre, FL 32566

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Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong national defense; to honor and support our airmen, Space Force professionals, and their families; and to remember and respect our enduring heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security

ADVOCATE for aerospace power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development

SUPPORT readiness for the Total Air and Space Forces, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families and members of the Civil Air Patrol. Go to www.afa.org.