



TENN VALLEY FLYER

# Tennessee Valley Flyer 4th Qtr 2012 (Oct-Dec)

## Kersjes Warms Hearts at State Convention Dinner

Michael Kersjes, author of “A Smile as Big as the Moon,” made the book come alive for an audience of around 50 people at the 4 Aug 12 AFA State Convention dinner. He began with a quote by Albert Einstein: “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

He stressed how he helped his class of special education students work as a team and paved the way for other special needs kids to attend Space Camp.

Kersjes’ talk was amusing, endearing, and motivating as he recounted how his kids progressed as they prepared for camp. His first obstacle was to convince the kids that they were not stupid as they believed the “label” given to them by other kids.

— *“The crime is not to avoid failure; the crime is to not give triumph a chance.” H. Weldon*

He also fostered their imagination by telling them that he had been to one of the other planets in the solar system.

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Michael Kersjes, author of “A Smile as Big as the Moon,” speaks at the 4 Aug AFA State Convention dinner.

## Donations Needed for USAF Flag at Veterans Memorial

By Rick Driesbach, President, AFA Chapter 335

In early 2011, the Huntsville-Madison County Veteran’s Memorial Foundation approached our Chapter to contribute to the memorial site being developed in downtown Huntsville. The Foundation asked our Chapter of the Air Force Association to consider “dedicating” the United States Air Force flag which now proudly flies with the other Service flags as a lasting tribute to all airmen who sacrificed and served their country. The dedication cost for each Service flag was \$15,000.

Our Chapter Executive Council discussed the multi-year commitment necessary to sponsor the flag – the \$15,000 represented almost four times our annual Chapter budget. We ultimately decided to proceed with the mantra “if not us, who?” We raised \$6,000 in tax deductible donations from Chapter members and other USAF retirees in the Tennessee Valley and made an initial payment to the Foundation at the Air Force birthday celebration in September 2011.

We are again collecting donations now and plan to make a second installment payment to the Foundation on Veteran’s Day 2012. If you would like to contribute, please mail your tax-deductible check (made out to AFA Chapter 335) to our Chapter Treasurer, Jack Royster, at 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806.

*Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!*

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## 2013 Chapter Officers Elected

After the incumbents agreed to serve another year if elected, votes were cast in early October to elect the coming year’s Chapter Officers. The following officers were elected:

**President:**  
Rick Driesbach  
**Vice President:**  
Guy Broadhurst  
**Treasurer:**  
Jack Royster  
**Secretary:**  
Russ Lewey

**Thank you for your service to the Chapter!**

## Congratulations JROTC Winners!

### 2012 AFJROTC Scholarship

#### Winners:

- Huntsville High School and top Tennessee Valley recipient: Cadet Col Faye Barry, attending Berea College in Kentucky.

- Bob Jones High School: Cadet Staff Sergeant Nichole Rhodes, attending Auburn University

- Butler High School: Cadet Shavonte Langford, attending University of North Alabama.

### AFA 2011-2012 JROTC Medal Recipients:

- Col Mike Parsons, S.R. Butler HS, Huntsville,

- Lt Col Randy Herd, Bob Jones HS, Madison

- Lt Col Bagley Hollis, Huntsville HS

## Teacher of the Year Attends Aerospace Education Workshop



**By Dr. Sylvia Dean, Chapter/State Teacher of the Year, Jones Valley Elementary School**

The Aerospace Education Workshop sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter of the Air Force Association in June was both inspiring and unforgettable. We flew on a 908<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing C-130 from Maxwell AFB to Edwards AFB for a 6-day aerospace career immersion event. There were 45 participants on this trip and I made some lifelong friends and have since teamed with some of them to work on aerospace education projects. Major Lynn Toney of the Civil Air Patrol and I worked together through virtual means to create a presentation for the Alabama AFA Conference that was held in Huntsville last August.

On our trip we toured aerospace related areas on and off Edwards AFB including the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle test ground and the NASA/Dryden Flight Research

Center with its SOFIA airplane and F-18 simulators. We went to the Mojave Air and Space Port where we were given a private viewing of Spaceship 2 at Virgin Galactic. We also spent a day at the Tehachapi Wind Turbine Farm and the Terra-Gyn Power Center and learned about wind energy and how wind turbines are built and maintained. We spent another day touring the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory with a private tour of the "Mars Yard" and a clone of the Curiosity Rover. We followed up this tour with a trip to the Yanks Aviation Museum where we saw aircraft from every decade and even participated in a simulation of the parachute jump on D-day. Our finale was a visit to the Southern California Soaring Academy where I was the first to get to fly a sailplane over the San Gabriel mountain range. The flight was breathtaking and phenomenal.

Upon my return home, I received patches from two Air Force airmen. Susan Mallett sent me a flight suit which I proudly wore on the first day of school with the patches that had been presented to me. I got to speak to the entire third and fifth grade in their classrooms about my trip. All of the students were delighted by the details from the trip and several students wanted to know how they could get to do all these exciting things. I hung photos from my trip outside my class-

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## CyberPatriot V Info

### Important Dates

\* Students Registration Ended: Oct 26

\* Team Registration Fees Due: Oct 31

#### Practice Rounds: Combined

October 1-12

#### All Service Division:

Round 1: Nov 2-3

Round 2: Nov 30-Dec 1

#### Open Division:

Round 1: Nov 16-17

Round 2: Dec 7-8

#### Semi Finals: Both Divisions

Jan 11-12, 2013

Alternate/Backup Jan 18-19, 2013

#### Round 3.5, Consolation Round:

Both Divisions—Feb 1-2, 2013

#### National Finals Competition:

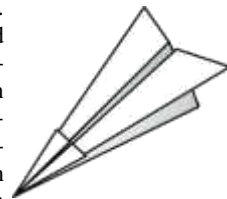
March 14-15, 2-13, National Harbor, MD

More CyberPatriot information at  
[www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org)

## ACEs in the Tennessee Valley

The Chapter is looking to create some ACEs here in the Tennessee Valley. In concert with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and the Civil Air Patrol, your FA Chapter is hosting an Aerospace Education Teacher Workshop for gifted K - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers. The workshop will take place on Saturday, 2 Feb 2013, from 8:30 am - 1:15 pm at the US Space and Rocket Center. It will feature the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aerospace Connection in Education (ACE) Program.

ACE provides engaging and meaningful



cross-curricular aerospace lessons that support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) initiatives and enrich the school curricula. Additionally, these lessons also promote good character and physical fitness. Suitable for any classroom, this program helps foster good-natured and healthy citizens who will develop an interest in, and appreciation for, aerospace.

Teachers who participate will receive:

- A book of aerospace-themed lessons

- specifically for their grade-level
- A classroom set of aerospace items that relate to one of the lessons for their grade level
- A classroom set of aerospace education excellence award (AEX) student certificates
- An AEX teacher plaque.

There are a limited number of seats for this exciting program. Teachers interested must register no later than **1 November 2012**. For more information and to register, please contact Ms. Jennifer Kennedy at: [Jennifer.Kennedy@acs-k12.org](mailto:Jennifer.Kennedy@acs-k12.org).

## Our Newest Community Partner:



T&W Operations is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned (SDVO) Small Business founded in 2004 by AFA members, Wayne Gardner and Tom Jarrell. Blending their Information Technology and Logistics expertise they supported acquisition and life-cycle management of DoD weapon systems and Government owned commercial off-the-shelf equipment programs. In 2007, T&W expanded extending IT support to local small businesses who otherwise would not have access to high-end comprehensive IT services. In 2008 T&W Operations received the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award for excellence in business services. Since its inception, T&W has grown from 2 local employees to 48 in 6 States and Afghanistan. They presently support several government agencies including the Missile Defense Agency, Program Manager Force Projection, Navy EOD Technical Division, Air Force Research Laboratories, and Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RSJPO) under PEO Ground Combat

Systems.  
Their services include:

### - Automated Logistic Systems

-- **COLTS** – secure, web-based supply chain management system named Catalog Order Logistic Tracking System, manages flow of systems and parts from manufacture throughout their entire life-cycle.

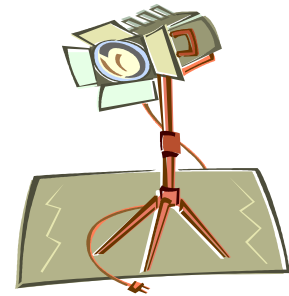
-- **PTMS** – secure, web-based management application, Project Time Management System (PTMS) allows managers to track the progress of projects, providing visibility to cost, labor, materials, and schedule.

### - IT and IA Support and Consulting

-- **Information Technology** – Gold Competency Microsoft Partner, provides IT solutions to commercial and U.S. Government clients.

-- **Information Assurance** – working with contractor product teams, develops and maintains products associated with DIACAP certification and accreditation.

-- **Biometric Security** – one of the Na-



## Spotlight - Community Partners

tion's first authorized distributors of the Fujitsu Palm Scanning System, National Security Resources Facial Recognition Software and other biometric security systems.

-- **Project Management and Management Support** – providing project management and management support from global transportation to missile defense systems and from facilities maintenance to community projects.

## Happy Birthday, USAF! A Good Time Was Had By All...

At Amendment XXI, Huntsville, AL, 20 Sep 2012



## Aerospace Education Workshop Continued from page 2

room to further inspire their dreams and I hope to find a couple of teachers this year to lead students through activities in the Civil Air Patrol's ACE program. I also hope to plan a trip for other teachers to visit Huntsville to see some of the aerospace wonders that we have in our community. Major Lynn Toney, Susan Mallett, and I plan on collaborating to organize this event and will need funding and support from our Huntsville AFA.

**Pictured at right:  
Dr. Dean's Mars Yard group**



**CYBER HUNTSVILLE**  
A TENNESSEE VALLEY INITIATIVE

**NDIA**  
National Defense Industrial Association

The Huntsville Chapters of the  
Air Force Association, AFCEA, NDIA, and Cyber Huntsville  
are pleased to invite you to a

# Luncheon Meeting

## 13 November 2012, 11:00-13:00 hours

### Boeing Facility Research Park

### 950 Explorer Blvd

**John Lambert** — Microsoft, Senior Director for Trustworthy Computing

**John Manferdelli** — Intel, Center for Secure Computing

**George Stathakopoulos** — Amazon, Director Information Security

**John Simon** — formerly Global Strategist, Microsoft Government

**Speaking on:**

# Cyber Threats in the Marketplace

**Check-in Opens at 11:00; Cost TBD**

**Register online at <http://www.rocketcityafcea.org>**

## Kersjes, Continued from page 1

He told how he overcame obstacles by never taking the word “no,” and how he got a company to sponsor the kids. He told numerous stories about how the kids began working together, which was new to them since many of them had learned to lash out as their first reaction to any kind of confrontation. He taught them the often-heard Proverb that “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link” by taking them to the trophy hallway in their school.

Lastly, he talked about how one of his kids took up for another one when someone said that boy couldn’t win the top award because he was mongoloid. Kersjes’ kid said, “No he’s not! He’s American!” But most touching was how that boy with Down’s Syndrome, after winning the top award in the whole camp, cut his award into 22 pieces and gave each person on his team a piece of it...because they had earned it. What a valuable lesson in how to be a winner. — Cathy Scott



The dinner concluded with the AFA presenting a \$400 check from all of the Alabama AFA chapters on behalf of Mr. Kersjes to the Space and Rocket Center to help a special child go to camp. From left are: Rick Driesbach, president Tennessee Valley Chapter; Skip Dotherow, Alabama State President; Mr. Michael Kersjes; Chapter 335 member Lt Col Burke Hare; and, Ms. Marcia Lindstrom of the Space and Rocket Center.



Attendees at the AFA State Convention listen attentively during the business meeting.

### State Convention Business Meeting Tidbits

- CyberPatriot V enrollment is looking good!
- People Program for Chapters—Susie Schwartz; Top Two Issues: Spouse Employment and Children’s Education

## Other Recent Activities of Our Members



Chapter members Russ Lewey (Left) and Jack Royster manned the chapter booth at the recent Space and Missile Defense Conference in the Von Braun Center.

Others who worked the booth include: Al Kemmet, John Pennell, Don Kaderbek, Daryl Carpenter, Ted Henrich, Rob Kuehn, Don Phillip, Guy Broadhurst, Skeet Vaughn, Rick Driesbach, and Jim Porter. John Pennell coordinated manning for the Chapter’s booth. Thanks to all for an excellent first time booth showing!

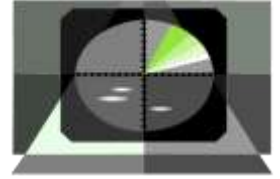


Member Jim Porter and his wife Lee Ann recently attended the Air Force / Michigan game in Ann Arbor. Although their son is a student at Michigan, Jim stayed true to his Air Force blue! According to Jim, “the Falcons played their hearts out, and although Michigan was favored by 21, they only beat us by 6, with a final score of 31 to 25.”



## Future Events

### "ON THE RADAR"



Above: At last year's Veteran's Day Parade, Daryl and Barbara Carpenter (foreground), and John Phillip (right rear) and George Krym get pre-mission briefs before the three silver Avalons began their formation flight down the parade route.

- **1 Nov:** Deadline to register for Aerospace Education Teacher Workshop on 2 Feb 2013 at the US Space & Rocket Center (Lunch and Snacks Provided)
- **12 Nov:** Huntsville Veterans Day Parade
- **15 Nov:** Qtrly Membership Meeting, Guest Speakers are Chapter Members:
  - \* Dave Hall, Cyber Protection (~10 Minutes)
  - \* Syg Jastrebski, "Air War over Vietnam" (Flew over 100 F-4 Missions)
 Location: 6703 Odyssey Drive, Suite 101  
Quantech Services  
Time: 1730—1900 hours
- **30 Nov & 7 Dec:** Volunteering Support at the Botanical Gardens' Galaxy of Lights II

*Come out and have some fun with us!*

### Support our Community Partners!

Beason & Nalley, Inc.

[www.beasonnalley.com](http://www.beasonnalley.com)

Bevilacqua Research Corp

[www.brc2.com](http://www.brc2.com)

Bill Penney Toyota

[www.billpenneytoyota.com](http://www.billpenneytoyota.com)

The Boeing Company

[www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com)

Davis Strategic  
Innovations, Inc.

[www.davidsi.com](http://www.davidsi.com)

DMD, LLC

[www.dmdgroupinc.com](http://www.dmdgroupinc.com)

Ducommun-Miltec

[www.ducommun/miltec](http://www.ducommun/miltec)

GATR Technologies

[www.gatr.com](http://www.gatr.com)

L3 Communications

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Lamar Advertising

[www.lamar.com](http://www.lamar.com)

Lockheed Martin

[www.lockheedmartin.com](http://www.lockheedmartin.com)

ManTech International

[www.mantech.com](http://www.mantech.com)

Qualis

[www.qualis-corp.com](http://www.qualis-corp.com)

Quantech Services

[www.quantechserv.com](http://www.quantechserv.com)

Redstone Federal Credit  
Union

[www.redfcu.org](http://www.redfcu.org)

RLJ McLarty Landers  
Automotive

[www.rljmclartylanders.com/](http://www.rljmclartylanders.com/)

SPARTA, Inc., a Parsons  
Company

[www.parsons.com/markets/pa-  
ges/sparta.aspx](http://www.parsons.com/markets/pa-ges/sparta.aspx)

T & W Operations, Inc.

[www.tnwops.com/](http://www.tnwops.com/)

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

[www.spacecamp.com/muse-  
um](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum)

Woody Anderson Ford

[www.woodyanderson.com](http://www.woodyanderson.com)

Want to Become a  
Community Partner?

**Contact**

**Russ Lewey**

**at**

**256-425-8791**

**or by email at**

**LeweyRV@yahoo.com**