An Evening to Honor and Remember
By Russell Lewey

In addition to the Veterans Parade, the Heroes Dinner held at the Von Braun Center is always one of the high points during Veterans Week. At the dinner this year, the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter was fortunate to have three reasons to cheer. First, Wounded Warriors were VIPs for the dinner; and for the first time, Wounded Airmen were among the wounded warriors. Secondly, the Chapter’s own Major (Ret) Joe Viviano was inducted into the Huntsville/Madison County Hall of Heroes. Joe was inducted into the Hall of Heroes as a result of being awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses for heroic actions during the Vietnam War. Lastly, the Chapter was also fortunate to host the Mackay Trophy recipient for 2013. Major Vincent “Brad” Powell, a Huntsville High graduate, returned to the Tennessee Valley and was recognized by the City of Huntsville and our own AFA Chapter for his meritorious flight in 2012. The Mackay Trophy is presented each November for the most meritorious USAF flight.

Chapter to Support Galaxy of Lights at Botanical Gardens Again

Merry Christmas! Once again, AFA is supporting the Galaxy of Lights at the Botanical Gardens this year. It’s a great time for sharing in comradery, meeting new people, and spreading the festive spirit. Last year, a good time was had by all, and this year will be no different.

When: Monday December 29, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Gardens will provide coffee, hot chocolate, and sodas (along with ice, hot cups, etc.) and they ask that we bring something to share like crock pot soups, stews, and other warm goodies. Plus, chips and dip, and desserts are always a hit as well!

Although we have enough people signed up this year, plan on joining us next year!

See Pages 4 and 6 For Chapter Participation in Veterans’ Day Events!
CyberPatriot VII Continues: State Rounds Occur in December! Visit www.uscyberpatriot.org!

Programs News: Brenda Armstrong, Vice President

Chapter Hosts “Aim High” Recruiting Luncheon at RFCU

By Brenda Armstrong

On October 8th, our chapter held its speaker program for the 4th quarter at the Redstone Federal Credit Union. The speakers were primarily from the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, and provided our members an update on the Air Force’s recruiting efforts.

Our headline speaker was Lt Col Richard Mendez, Commander, 332nd Recruiting Squadron. He provided a strategic overview of the Air Force recruiting program. He was followed by our local recruiter, SSgt Sims, who discussed the recruiting program in the local area. SSgt Sims is in her first year of recruiting and along with her new recruiting partner, supports the area high schools as well as maintains an office near Research Park. She requested that we help educate potential recruits and their families on Air Force life, and noted that our experiences go a long way to helping potential recruits understand what the Air Force offers. She emphasized that veterans are a key referral source for the Air Force’s recruiting needs. Following SSgt Sim’s presentation, A1C Kevin Armstrong (son of chapter member Brenda Armstrong) gave a snapshot of his recent experience at Basic Military Training and the Intelligence Technical School.

CMSgt Mark Holling, Superintendent, 332nd RS, wrapped up the luncheon with an update on how the enlisted performance system is changing. The luncheon was attended by approximately 25 members. Next event will be in early 2015, and details will be forthcoming in January.

An Evening . . . Continued from Page 1

the previous year. Last year, Maj Powell and the crew of Pedro 83 was the Mackay Trophy recipient for their rescue of a wounded Afghan Special Forces member. (See page 7.)

It was truly a night where the Air Force was well represented. As a result, the Air Force song was sung just a little louder during the Armed Forces Medley. It was definitely a proud day to have “Air Force Blue” running through your veins.

Have a Blessed and Safe Holiday Season!
Aerospace Education: Jay Carlson, Vice President

Chapter Members Speak to Cadets

Your Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter has a wealth of experience – from fighter jocks and missileers to engineers and acquisition types. Throughout the last few months, chapter members have volunteered their time and expertise to provide insight to our future leaders with the AFJROTC and others. Following are just some of the talks that the Chapter has put together over the past three months:

- Col (ret) Bryan Bennett spoke to Huntsville High AFJROTC cadets on aviation history.
- Jay Staub and Karl Starkloff are providing tutoring to Butler AFJROTC cadets.
- Community Partner FlyQuest taught a 32-hour program to a group of homeschooled students on Aviation Fundamentals.
- Brig Gen (ret) Gary Connor provided leadership insight and motivation for Huntsville AFJROTC cadets.
- Col (ret) Russ Lewey, talking from his four embassy assignments, spoke on cultural awareness as a part of Huntsville AFJROTC cadet curriculum.

As most of you know, the Chapter has presented one annual scholarship to the most worth senior cadet at each of the three High School AFJROTC detachments in Northern Alabama (Butler HS, Bob Jones HS, and Huntsville HS). For the last several years, we have presented two $500 scholarships, and one $750 scholarship, with the higher one going to what our Evaluation Committee judged to be the best candidate. The Chapter Executive Council voted earlier this year to double all of our scholarships to help these graduating seniors with the rising cost of a college education.

Looking for a Worthy Cause?
Consider Making a Donation to the Chapter

As you also should know, our Chapter charges no local dues. We depend on generating our operating expenses from Quarterly Rebates from National AFA (~$350/quarter) and from our share of Community Partner annual contributions. These sources are not sufficient to support chapter activities and the higher scholarship amounts.

Thus, we need to “beef up” our Aerospace Education account to accommodate these high scholarships and to do other aerospace-education related events, such as STEM-oriented teacher workshops.

With the end of the year approaching, we are making a one-time request for members to contribute to our Aerospace Education account. Our Chapter qualifies as a 501c(3) charitable organization so all contributions are tax deductible. If you are looking for worthy charitable cause, please make a check out to AFA Chapter 335, and mail to our treasurer: Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806. Jack will send you a receipt for your tax records.

As an alternative, if you have made sizable gains in the stock market this year, it would be more beneficial financially for you to donate an investment "in kind" (i.e., stocks) to a 501c(3) organization, rather than selling the stock and then donating the cash to that organization. If you would like more information on this option, please contact Brenda Armstrong at Brenda@armstrongfamily.net for additional details.
The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association sponsored an entry in the Huntsville Veterans Day Parade again this year with four vehicles which included a large AFA banner, patriotic flags and a national USAF honoree. Twelve chapter members dressed in various Air Force uniforms or clothing supported our very spirited chapter. The photo at left shows the Chapter’s large AFA banner on Al Kemmet’s truck and the members who formed at Bob Hovde’s home. They were: Rod Fried, Ken Philippart, Lee Alford, John Phillip, Guy Broadhurst, Don Wojtal, Daryl and Barb Carpenter, Brent Marley, Rick Driesbach, Bob Hovde, Russ Lewey and Brenda Armstrong. Jim Porter, Bryan Bennett along with Major Vincent and Cambria Powell joined the chapter at the parade assembly area.

As the 171 parade entries assembled and lined up in a huge city lot for the parade, our President, Rick Driesbach, made a very important presentation. Jim Porter (pictured at right) was presented a Medal of Merit from our national Air Force Association office in recognition of Jim’s outstanding management of our chapter’s Community Partnership Program. Jim has dedicated many hours to renew and expand memberships in this program. Jim is certainly deserving of this unique national recognition.

Major Vincent Powell and his wife, Cambria, were the honored guests of the chapter. Major Powell recently received the United States Air Force’s Mackay Trophy. See the accompanying newsletter article on Major Powell on page 1. Guy Broadhurst is driving his convertible and Bryan Bennett is also present in the car. There is a unique association with the passengers in the vehicle. When Major Powell was an AFJROTC cadet at Huntsville High School, Col (Ret) Bennett was the Senior AFJROTC Instructor.

Besides our vehicles, Brenda Armstrong, Lee Alford, Jim Porter, Brent Marley and Ken Philippart walked the parade route. The walkers wore their previous active duty uniforms or some distinctive Air Force clothing. These members created a very positive impact as they cheerfully interacted with many parade onlookers, especially other veterans from all services — thanking them for their past service. The respect and appreciation shown to our walkers from the crowd was patriotic, thankful and made the event memorable!

Your AFA chapter is a 501-3C organization, and is always receptive of donations to further chapter Aerospace Education objectives. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please mail a check (made out to AFA Chapter 335) to Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806.
As a kid, I can remember one of my favorite TV shows was “Twelve O’clock High.” I was always fascinated by the B -17 and how the crew worked together to get through a mission. Each airman had a specific function, but everyone worked to scan the skies looking for potential “bogeys.” Today, our mission (vision) is to make AFA the “premier professional military and aerospace education organization in the nation.”

Back in September, along with several of your colleagues, I attended AFA’s National Convention. At the Region and State Presidents Meeting in October, we discussed the future of AFA and began to plan how to get there. I can tell you, the AFA leadership and our National staff are doing their part. We’re seeing AFA truly move into the 21st Century. The “Air Force Magazine” is now available in a mobile format, which was critical to getting the eMembership program off the ground. Today, many new members are taking advantage of the savings and availability of having the magazine that everyone loves, right at their fingertips. Today (and tomorrow) our biggest threat is in the realm of cyber. AFA recognized that to attack tomorrow’s threat you must educate today’s youth. In just seven years, we’ve seen CyberPatriot expand into the National Youth Cyber Education Program, growing to over 2,200 teams around the world this this year. In addition to serving our future leaders, AFA is also taking care of those who have gone before. The Wounded Airman Program is doing just what, then Vice Chief of Staff, Gen Phillip Breedlove, asked AFA to do – “Airmen helping Airmen.” From sponsoring adaptive sports programs to helping a young airman “make ends meet,” this program is working to fulfill a mantra – “care beyond duty.” Perhaps the one thing that I’m most proud of with our Wounded Airman Program is that every dollar goes to support Wounded Airmen. We are extremely fortunate that AFA’s Wounded Airman Program Committee Chair is Alabama’s own CMSgt (ret) Tom Gwaltney. With Tom in the lead, I see even greater things for this worthy program, on the horizon.

These are great targets that we are hitting today but, just like in the TV show, there are bogeys out there that will keep us from completing our mission; perhaps none more critical than that of membership. AFA’s membership is down to approximately 95,000 – down from almost 230,000 in the late 1980s. If we wish to continue to be relevant in the “beltway of DC” and at USAF bases, we all need to step out to recruit new members and work to retain the ones we have. When you consider the difference AFA is making with our youth in its aerospace education efforts and how we are helping our veterans in the Wounded Airman Program, at $45/year ($30 for eMembership), an AFA membership is a great value. In addition, there is AFA’s Transition Program, which is helping Airmen, who make the USAF the greatest air power in the world transition into civilian life. Last, but certainly not least, AFA membership enables our organization to continue to educate and promote the needs of our Nation, and to remain the world’s preeminent aerospace power.

So, I am counting on you – this is one mission where targets of opportunity are not only authorized but encouraged. That neighbor, teacher, business colleague, and even student, if they understand all that AFA’s doing, I have no doubt that many would gladly forgo the cost of one dinner out in order to help our U.S. Air Force control space, the skies, and cyber — here and abroad.

In the meantime, thanks for all that you are doing; from the Gulf Coast to the Tennessee Valley, we are serving our Air Force well. Stay alert…we have some important targets to hit this year – I don’t plan on any bandits stopping Alabama.

Russ Lewey
Recent Chapter Events

Chapter Celebrates Air Force’ 67th with a Splash at Jackson Center

In spite of monsoon-rain, AFA members and guests got together at the Jackson Center to celebrate the Air Force’s 67th birthday. Rick Driesbach, Chapter President, was the emcee for the evening. The Jackson Center did the chapter right – with great food and our own bartender to keep the libations flowing. The highlight of the evening was when the Chapter’s own, Zyg Jastrebski, put George Lucas to shame with a self-created video presenting a tribute to the history of aviation.

This and That in the News . . .

• Chapter Election Results:  The chapter is pleased to announce that all incumbent elected members agreed to serve another year, and were affirmed by the Executive Council. Your new / old officers are: President - Rick Driesbach, Vice President - Guy Broadhurst, Treasurer - Jack Royster, and Secretary - Ken Philippart.

• Vietnam Commemoration:  On 3 November at the Jackson Center, Lt Gen (Ret) Frank Libutti, USMC spoke to several hundred attendees about his experiences as a young 2nd Lt serving in Vietnam. This was the second annual event in a series of nationally-sponsored 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War commemorations. Locally, the event was sponsored by 28 Government, patriotic, and corporate organizations such as: Army Materiel Command, Boeing, Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation, Association of the US Army, Marine Corps League, North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, Semper Fi Community Task Force, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1067, American Legion Post 229, the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association, and many others. Chapter members manned an information booth, as well as helped with VIP seating and handled Q&A at the end of General Libutti’s talk. Those assisting included Daryl Carpenter, Jack Royster, Rod Fried, George Krym, Ted Henrich, and Guy Broadhurst.

• Veteran’s Day Dinner, 10 Nov, VBC:  Chapter attendees and special guests included Major and Mrs. Vincent Powell, Bryan Bennett, Guy Broadhurst, Gary Conner, Rick Driesbach, Russ Lewey, and Lee Pugh.

• Veteran’s Day Breakfast, 11 Nov, VBC:  Chapter representatives were Gary Connor and Bryan Bennett.

Thanks for all your support!

We appreciate you!

This photo (above), taken by Zig Jastrebski at Tyndall AFB last month, is one of the last F-4 Phantom II fighters in the inventory. All of the F-4s will be gone (shot down as targets or retired) in spring of 2015; to be replaced by F-16As.
Professionals today face the challenge of staying current in their field and competitive in the workplace. Rapidly changing technological advances make it imperative that you continually update your expertise, both for yourself and for the performance of your organization. The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Division of Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS) provides a variety of management, information technology and engineering certificate programs and short courses, taught by industry leaders and field experts. Courses offered through UAH PCS are non-credit but lead to a professional certificate and continuing education units (CEUs).

Courses are presented in the PCS Executive Training Center, designed for the adult learner, including state-of-the-art computer labs. Many IT courses offered are now available with personalized virtual desktops, allowing participants to practice newly attained knowledge, with practice exercise and course software, at their own pace from home or work. If learners are unable to attend class on campus, they can take advantage of UAH PCS’s unique distance learning experience. Most courses are offered online, on-demand and can be completed at the participant’s convenience from home or work.

Another unique program provided through PCS is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UAH. OLLI is a membership-led lifelong learning organization for adults 50 and over, whether working, retired, or semi-retired. Offering over 50 courses each term, the program stimulates minds and forges friendships. Participants enjoy classes, discussions, social and cultural events, and travel. OLLI members come for the classes, and stay for the people.

You can access the upcoming UAH PCS 2015 catalog to see if there is a course for you; just go to www.PCS.uah.edu/catalog. For more information visit www.PCS.uah.edu or contact UAH PCS by phone at 256.824.4430.

Area/Region V Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Aim High

Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi make up Area/Region V of Arnold Air Society (AAS) and Silver Wings (SW) – one of 11 regions in the United States. Area/Region V is comprised of 10 AAS Squadrons and five SW chapters, all of which aim to reach new heights of dedication, involvement and service. While they are separate organizations, they have a strong partnership centered on a similar set of missions. Arnold Air Society aims to build strong USAF officers, advocate support of aerospace power, and actively contribute community service. Similarly, Silver Wings strives to create proactive and knowledgeable civic leaders through professional development, community service, and education about national defense. The two go hand-in-hand, with passionate members dedicated to serving both the community and the world’s greatest Air Force.

Every fall semester, each region hosts an Area Conclave (ARCON), where AAS and SW members gather in the hosting university’s city to attend business sessions, a social, and a banquet over one weekend. The entire conclave is planned and organized by the ARCON staff, consisting of all college students who manage the budget, hotel costs, banquet meal, social, event website, meeting rooms, and all of the major and minor details. The staff members also take on the role of maintaining communication between the Area/Region and national staffs, the guest speakers and attendees, and all other affiliates.

This year, the Area/Region V ARCON was hosted by Auburn University and Tuskegee University. Friday consisted of traveling and the attending the social, which was held at Moton Field in Tuskegee, home of the honorable Tuskegee Airmen. Saturday consisted of business sessions led by the AAS and SW Area/Region staffs and the AAS and SW national staffs, where they discussed their separate and joint national projects, ways to work with their local AFA Chapters, recruitment and retention, the National Conclave in Chicago in April 2015, and held an election for next year’s ARCON location and Area/Region staffs.

With another successful ARCON V on the books, Area/Region V is already looking forward to next year’s ARCON in Mobile, Alabama, hosted by the University of South Alabama. The staff already has hopes of holding the social at the USS Alabama Battleship on the bay.
Delta Research, Inc. (DRI) is a diversified multi-disciplined small business focused on advanced technology, research, development and engineering. DRI has provided Systems Engineering and Advanced Technology Research and Development services since 1978 to the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), USAF BMO, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy.

Additionally, Delta Research Digital Productions (DRDP) functions as a highly enabled video production studio capable of achieving the highest quality productions. DRDP has developed domain expertise in the military industry allowing it to emerge as one of the top animation groups used by government entities and defense contractors. With more than 40 years embedded expertise in engineering, physics, animation, modeling and video production. DRDP offers a unique understanding of the science and engineering behind its customers' programs.

Delta Research is located in Research Park at 996 Explorer Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35806. Web address is dr-inc.com.

George Krym Welcomes Newest Community Partners

Photo at left: George presents Brenda Armstrong of Edward-Jones their plaque.

Photo above: Richard Alexander of New York Life Insurance proudly displays his Community Partner Member plaque.

Thoughts from Dwight D. Eisenhower

Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him. What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog. There is no victory at bargain basement prices.
Farmers Insurance would like you to meet your next insurance agent, David Gillies.

DAVID GILLIES has lived in Madison County for over forty years. An Air Force veteran, he worked in the banking industry for the past ten years, helping people achieve their financial goals. Now he is helping people protect their assets.

STRENGTH. DEPENDABILITY. SERVICE. These are all words that you should be able to use when describing your insurance company and agent. Did you know that this year alone the average family will spend over six times more on insurance than they will with their doctor, attorney and accountant combined? With that in mind, isn’t it wise to place your trust in an agent and a company deserving of that trust? Take just a moment and ask yourself these questions: “When is the last time I spoke with my agent? What has he or she done recently to earn my business and, more importantly, my trust? How financially strong and diverse is my current company? Will they be willing and able to pay for a claim should I have one?”

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP is the 3rd largest Auto and Home insurer in the country, insuring over 15 million families just like yours. Doing business in 41 states, Farmers is much larger and stronger than any state or regionally operated company. Farmers is also ranked in the top financial tiers by AM Best, Moody’s, and Standard & Poor. What does this mean to you? Financial strength and stability should be a critical aspect of your decision when choosing an insurance company.

WHAT ABOUT CLAIMS SERVICE? You spend your hard-earned dollars for insurance to protect yourself and your family from loss. If that loss occurs, are you confident in your current company’s claims service? Will they be there when you need them, day or night? David Gillies will. It’s time to do business with a company that is strong and dependable. The David Gillies Agency with Farmers Insurance is committed to providing personalized service for all of your insurance needs.

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dgillies@farmersagent.com
“ON THE RADAR”
MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!! COME OUT AND JOIN AIR FORCE FRIENDS IN WORTHY PROJECTS!

- December 18: Executive Council
- December 29: Galaxy of Lights Support at Botanical Gardens

NEXT YEAR:
- 15 January: Executive Council
- Recognition of Maj Jeff Ausborn in Gadsden
- Chapter Aerospace Education Fundraising and Scholarships
- Aviation Support Challenge
- Teachers of the Year and CyberPatriot
- AFJROTC Scholarships and Awards Presentations

George Krym: VP for Community Partners (George.Krym@yahoo.com)

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