

# Tennessee Valley Flyer

## 1st Qtr 2015 (Jan - Mar)



TENN VALLEY FLYER

### Chapter Announces "Tiered Community Partner" Program

By George Krym, VP Community Partners

This year brings about some exciting changes to the chapter's Community Partner program. As many of you know, our Chapter's top priority continues to be investing in the future of young men and women interested in the aerospace and cyber security defense of our nation. During the past few years, the Chapter has annually awarded \$1,750 in scholarships to three area high school Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) students. The top cadet from Bob Jones High School in Madison, Huntsville High School, and Butler High School were each awarded a \$500 scholarship with an additional \$250 awarded to the overall top cadet from among the three.

Following last year's awards in the spring of 2014, the Chapter Vice President for Aero-

space Education made a motion that the Chapter consider increasing the amount it awards to the three schools to meet the rising costs of college education. This was a great idea and the Chapter's Executive Council unanimously passed the motion to double the annual scholarship commitment from \$1,750 to \$3,500. The top cadet at each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the overall top cadet will receive an additional \$500.

Continued on Page 3

### Francis Gary Powers, Jr. to Speak at April Luncheon

Fifty-five years after Gary Powers was shot down flying a U-2 through Soviet airspace, the chapter will host a luncheon on Mon, 27 April, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Redstone Federal Credit Union (220 Wynn Dr)



and will feature Francis Gary Powers, Jr., son of the late Gary Powers. Cost is just \$25 and you can reserve your place to hear this fascinating discussion by contacting Russ Lewey at [LeweyRV@Yahoo.com](mailto:LeweyRV@Yahoo.com) or by phone 256-425-8791. Additional information about the luncheon will be sent out via email. Find out more about Mr. Powers Jr. on the web at [GaryPowers.org](http://GaryPowers.org).

### "Wings Over Vietnam" Luncheon, March 31st

The Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter will host a luncheon at the Redstone Federal Credit Union (220 Wynn Dr) on Tuesday, March 31, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Guest speaker Gary Baker will talk about his experiences flying AC-47s with the Vietnamese Air Force. Cost of the luncheon is only \$15, which includes Chicken Cordon Blue, salad, vegetable, bread, dessert, and a drink. This luncheon is in concert with the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event scheduled for April 4 (see related story on page 3).

Payment will be collected at the door, however, reservations are required NLT 24 March. To make reservations, contact Russ Lewey (via email at [LeweyRV@Yahoo.com](mailto:LeweyRV@Yahoo.com) or by phone at 256-425-8791). Hope to see you there!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Major Howard Christiansen Memorial Scholarship: Page 2
- CyberPatriot: Page 2
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day: Page 3
- Community Partners
  - Intuitive: Page 4
  - Aerotek: Page 5
- "Tut" Fann Support: Page 5
- Farewell to Col (Ret) Lurie: Page 5
- On the Radar: Page 6
- All Community Partners: Page 6

**Come Out and Support Your AFA Chapter During the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sat, 14 March, Downtown, Huntsville!**

### New Chapter Website: [www.afa-huntsville.org](http://www.afa-huntsville.org)!

The Tennessee Valley Chapter has an exciting new website up and running at [www.afa-huntsville.org](http://www.afa-huntsville.org). It's a great way to make our presence known to our members and the community at large and to help us fulfill our mission of Educate, Advocate, and Support. Our volunteer webmaster, Col (Ret) Eric Silkowski, will continue to add new content to help get the word out on our upcoming activities, the great work our chapter does in supporting the aerospace community, and to recognize our outstanding Community Partners. If you have any photos you've taken of chapter activities that you'd like to share in support of our mission, please send them to [webmaster@afa-huntsville.org](mailto:webmaster@afa-huntsville.org). Everyone is highly encouraged to visit the new website and add it to your favorites list!

## First Award of the Major Howard Christiansen Memorial Scholarship

By John Phillip

With the end of the current school term coming soon, our chapter is making plans for awarding the first memorial scholarship in honor of Major Howard "Chris" Christiansen, a longtime and active chapter member who died in April 2014.

Our chapter has traditionally supported a scholarship to the three AFJROTC units. This newly designated scholarship will be awarded to the top AFJROTC cadet from the three local high schools in northern Alabama. Also, our chapter has doubled the amounts of our scholarships to \$1,000.00 for two of the AFJROTC schools. The memorial scholarship will be for \$1,500.00 and will be

given to the "Best of the Best" cadet among the three schools.

The scholarship specifically recognizes the dedication and patriotism of Chris as a World War II B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombardier in the Mediterranean Theater of 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Chris flew 51 missions in the Allied air campaign against German manufacturing and logistics capabilities. Five of those heroic missions were against the heavily defended oil refineries of Ploesti, Romania. By honoring one of our past members, the memorial scholarship is intended to be the beginning of another wonderful and strong aerospace education tradition for our chapter.



**Chris as a 1st Lieutenant in his World War II uniform.**



### **Alabama Council for Technology in Education NW Regional Technology Fair Needs Judges!**

No Experience Necessary

**10 Apr 2015 at Calhoun Community College**

Can sign up for morning, afternoon or evening

<http://actefair.com/judging/>

## CyberPatriot VII Update

### **Open Division—Platinum Level**

1. *Grissom CyberSloths (1st in Southeast Regionals and off to the Finals in Washington DC)*
2. New Century CyberCenturians (2nd Southeast Region)
3. Grissom Buffer (Advanced to Regional)

### **Open Division—Gold Level**

1. New Century—Cheeki Breeki (1st Place Gold Certificate)

### **All Services Division**

1. *New Century Tech Alpha-Army JROTC (2nd All Army JROTC and off to the Finals in Washington DC)*
2. Grissom Tigers-Army AJROTC
3. Bessemer Composite-CAP

### **Open Division—Gold Level**

1. New Century JROTC (1st Place Gold Level Certificate)

### **Middle Schools**

1. *Challenger Boys Five*
2. Challenger Girls Can
3. Challengers Boys Six

### CHAPTER 335 OFFICERS

#### **President**

Rick Driesbach

Rick.driesbach@gmail.com

#### **Vice President**

Guy Broadhurst

Broadhurst.guy@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer**

Jack Royster

jroyster@knology

#### **Secretary**

Ken Philippart

kdp520@hotmail.com

### Chapter 335 Special Vice Presidents

Aerospace Education: Jay Carlson

Community Partners: George Krym

CyberPatriot: Bob Hovde

Membership: John Pennell

Programs: Brenda Armstrong

Public Relations/Newsletter: Cathy Scott

Veterans Affairs: Zig Jastrebski

### **“Tiered Program,” from Page 1**

Under the old program, the Chapter received approximately \$1,650 annually from 37 Community Partners, which was slightly less than the scholarship commitment and left nothing to support other Aerospace Education efforts. The Chapter met the challenge of increasing Aerospace Education funding by requesting donations from Chapter membership in December 2014, and to promote a sustained funding effort, by revising its Community Partner Program. Beginning in 2015, the Chapter established a 3-tiered structure to recognize increased differing commitment of our Community Partners to the Chapters Aerospace Education Program. The “Basic” level is \$90 per year; the second tier is “Wingman” at \$250 per year; and the top tier is “Ace” with a \$500 annual commitment. Similar to the previous Community Partner Program, funds received by the Chapter from our Community Partner’s are dedicated to supporting Aerospace Education in the Tennessee Valley.

In addition to increasing our AFJROTC scholarships, Community Partner contributions help support the Chapter’s other Aerospace Education programs and initiatives, including:

- Awards/recognition to the Tennessee Valley Elementary and Secondary School Teachers of the Year
- Teacher workshops, aerospace education materials, and lesson plans for elementary and secondary school levels
- CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Education Program and its annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition
- Mentoring students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

We’re excited about the new Program and whenever possible will continue to promote all of our Community Partners at Chapter events including the Space and Missile Center (SMDC) Symposium in August. Your Chapter, along with solid financial support from our Community Partners, will continue to do great things to support Aerospace Education efforts in and for the Tennessee Valley. Be sure to check out our Community Partner Spotlight Section, and full list of our Community Partners, in each Quarterly Newsletter. And, be sure to support our Community Partners! (See page 4 for Gold Award information.)

## **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Slated for April 4th**

On Saturday, April 4th, the Leo Thorsness (Huntsville) Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” event. The ceremony will take place at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial with the formal ceremony starting at 11:00 a.m. The informal “meet and greet” will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., and will include booths and equipment for viewing. Courtesy of Woody Anderson Ford, there will be free hot dogs immediately after the formal ceremony. Brigadier General (USA, Ret) Joseph F. Stringham will be this year’s guest speaker. General Stringham is a West Point Graduate (Class of 1961) and served three combat tours in Vietnam where he organized and deployed the original MIKE FORCE battalion featured in the John Wayne movie, “The Green Berets.” Once again, the Butler AFJROTC will provide the Honor Guard and assist throughout the ceremony.

The public, young and old, are encouraged to come out and honor our Vietnam Veterans. As there will be limited seating visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.



**Photo from the 2014 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony**

**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.**



**YOUR TENNESSEE VALLEY AFA CHAPTER IS  
ON FACEBOOK!  
LIKE US AT AFA TVC 335**



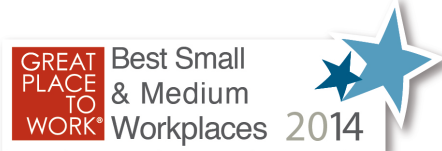
## Spotlight — Community Partners



Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation (*INTUITIVE*) is an aerospace engineering and analysis firm headquartered here in Huntsville, Alabama that provides production support, systems engineering, programmatic support, product development, rapid prototyping, and technology management to the Department of Defense, government agencies, and commercial companies. *INTUITIVE*'s approach couples the latest technology with engineering expertise, analytical proficiency, and keen managerial oversight. From design through production to sustainment, they proudly provide management and technical solutions throughout all phases of the systems lifecycle.

*INTUITIVE* was co-founded by A.R. "Rey" Almodóvar and Harold R. Brewer in June 1999 with the vision of building a performance driven engineering services and support organization based on extensive experience and team collaboration. The company was built on a foundation of ethical principles and values that still radiate throughout the company today.

In fact, their unique company culture has been recognized at the national level. In September of 2014, *INTUITIVE* was ranked #1 on the 11th Annual [Great Place to Work](#)® Rankings: 2014 Best Small & Medium Workplaces, presented by FORTUNE Magazine. This marks *INTUITIVE*'s fifth consecutive year as a national



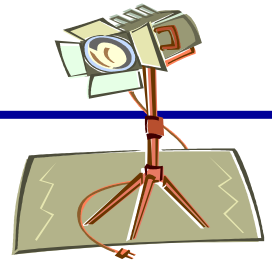
**FORTUNE**

top ten Great Place to Work®, coming in at #2 the past three years. Divided into two categories, Small (50-250 employees) and Medium (251-999 employees), the list has recognized companies with exceptional workplace cultures for the past eleven years.

*INTUITIVE* participated in a thorough selection process that included an employee survey and a detailed questionnaire about benefit programs and company practices. Great Place to Work® carefully evaluated each application using its distinctive process based on five dimensions: credibility, respect, fairness, pride, and camaraderie. After considering hundreds of companies across the country, *INTUITIVE* was announced the Best Workplace in the nation in the Medium Workplaces category.

*INTUITIVE* has set itself apart as a great workplace by consistently focusing on employee needs ranging from corporate benefits to personal recognition. Employees are encouraged to grow both professionally and personally through education and training, as well as inspired to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle. By recruiting the best and brightest, and motivating seasoned employees towards excellence, the company is a strong team that works together, providing support to customers and to each other.

To learn more about *INTUITIVE*, visit [www.irtc-hq.com](http://www.irtc-hq.com),



Burke Hare (L) presents a renewal medal to Mr. Tim Hall, Media Director for the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.



(Continued from Page 3)

**The Tennessee Valley Chapter 2014-2014  
Community Partner Gold Award.**

## Spotlight — Community Partners



**Air Force veteran David Gillies of Farmers Insurance proudly displays his plaque.**



**Christina "Chrissy" Holmes, Associate Director of the Professional Development Division of Professional and Continuing Studies at UAH, shows off her Community Partner plaque.**



Aerotek® Inc. is a leading provider of technical, professional and industrial recruiting and staffing services with the mission of bringing great people and great organizations together. Aerotek operates an international network of more than 200 non-franchised offices and 2,000 recruiters to identify, screen and select top talent, believing that we can deliver the perfect fit employee. Aerotek is the number one U.S. provider of engineering, office/clerical and clinical/scientific staffing. At Aerotek, we continually provide the recruiting and staffing expertise our contract employees and our customers agree is integral to a successful partnership.

Aerotek was founded in 1983 to service the recruiting and staffing needs for the aerospace and defense industry. Due to Aerotek's rapid growth and success, we've continued to expand our services to provide recruiting and staffing to many industries focusing on technical, professional and industrial staffing. Aerotek is an operating company of Allegis Group® Inc., the largest staffing company in the U.S. Allegis Group is comprised of a group of specialty service companies that provide niche staffing services throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. To learn more about partnering with Aerotek, visit [Aerotek.com](http://Aerotek.com) or call your local office at 1-888-AEROTEK.

## Other Chapter News

### Chapter to Support "Tut" Fann

By Scott Patton

AFA is working with the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville to explore options for our chapter to provide the veterans support at the home. Approximately 21 Air Force veterans plus another 7 Army Air Corps are among the 150 veterans supported by the home. The VA Home Director of Activities is coordinating with the staff where our AFA chapter might have the most impact. Some suggestions include conducting group visits and/or support for outings, providing an Air Force birthday cake, off-site tours, and bringing therapy dog visits to the home. AFA is continuing to explore other opportunities to join the VA mission to remember and respect our Veterans.

### Farewell to Chapter Member Col (Ret) Phillip J. Lurie

Chapter member, Col (Ret) Phillip J. Lurie, age 82, died at Floyd E. Tut Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville AL on December 27, 2014. He was 82, and had suffered a long battle with dementia. Born on June 3, 1932, in Athens, GA, he served in the USAF for over 38 years. Colonel Lurie was a decorated airman with over 20 medals and ribbons including the Bronze Star Medal. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



## ***“ON THE RADAR”***

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!! COME OUT AND JOIN AIR FORCE FRIENDS IN WORTHY PROJECTS!

- CyberPatriot Finals: 11-15 March
- St. Patrick's Day Parade: 14 March
- Executive Council Meeting: 19 March
- Quarterly Membership Meeting / “Wings Over Vietnam” Luncheon: 31 March
- ACTE Technology Fair: 10 April
- Gary Powers, Jr. Luncheon: 27 April
- CyberPatriot Team Recognition: TBD
- AFJROTC Scholarship Nomination / Award Presentations: TBD
- CAP Nomination / Award Presentation: TBD
- AFA State and Regional Meeting Planning: TBD

### **George Krym: VP for Community Partners ([George.Krym@yahoo.com](mailto:George.Krym@yahoo.com))**

#### **Aero Thermo Technology**

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

#### **Aerotek**

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

#### **Aleta Technologies**

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

#### **Bevilacqua Research Corp**

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

#### **Bill Penney Toyota**

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

#### **Dr. Rebecca Howell (Dentist)**

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

#### **Davis Strategic**

Innovations, Inc.

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

#### **Delta Research, Inc.**

[www.dr-inc.com](http://www.dr-inc.com)

#### **Edward-Jones (Brenda Armstrong)**

#### **Farmers Insurance (David Gillies)**

#### **FlyQuest, Inc.**

[www.FlyQuest.net](http://www.FlyQuest.net)

#### **GATR Technologies**

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

#### **Intuitive Research and Technology**

[www.irtc-hq.com/](http://www.irtc-hq.com/)

#### **Irrigation Maintenance**

Services, Inc.; 256-755-1524

#### **Jackson Center**

[www.jacksoncenter.net/](http://www.jacksoncenter.net/)

#### **Lamar Advertising**

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

#### **Landers McLarty Automotive**

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

#### **Linc Research Inc.**

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

#### **Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co.**

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

#### **Mary's Grocery: Hwy 431 South, Brownsboro, AL**

#### **ManTech International**

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

#### **Miltec Ducommun**

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

#### **Northington Consulting**

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

#### **Parsons—SPARTA**

[www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx](http://www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx)

#### **PeopleTec**

[www.people-tec.com](http://www.people-tec.com)

#### **Qualis**

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

#### **Quantech Services**

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

#### **Radiance Technologies**

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

#### **Redstone Federal Credit Union**

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

#### **Richard Alexander NY Life Agent**

[www.newyorklife.com/agent/rcalexander](http://www.newyorklife.com/agent/rcalexander)

#### **UAH Professional & Continuing Studies**

[www.uah.edu/pcs](http://www.uah.edu/pcs)

#### **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**

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

#### **Woody Anderson Ford**

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

**Support our  
Community  
Partners!**