JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
THE U.S. AIR FORCE
68TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, 19 September 2015, 7 pm – 9:30 pm
Jackson Center (6001 Moquin Drive)

Heavy hors-d’oeuvre and a Cash Bar
Tickets just $25/person – Limited Availability

Contact Rick Driesbach to reserve your space
Rick.Driesbach@gmail.com or 256-651-7052

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It is not every day a US Air Force 4-Star General visits our Chapter, but one just did. On 25 June 2015, General John Hyten, USAF, Commander of Air Force Space Command, spoke at a breakfast sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Air Force Association at Redstone Federal Credit Union on 220 Wynn Drive in Huntsville. Over 30 Chapter Members and Representatives of the Chapter’s Community Partners were in attendance. Members enjoyed a breakfast of pastries, fruit, yogurt, coffee/tea, juice and water. After an Invocation delivered by Chapter Member Al Kemmet, Chapter President Rick Driesbach provided an official welcome and also lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. After breakfast concluded, Chapter member Burke Hare introduced General Hyten.

General Hyten, a native of Huntsville, focused his remarks on the development of Aerospace Power within the United States Air Force. Of Particular note, General Hyten discussed how Space and Cyber Systems are central to every combat operation conducted by US and Allied Forces in the 21st Century. General Hyten emphasized the United States is very dependent on space assets and without these assets, the US would have to fight as we did over 40 years ago. As a follow-up to this point, the General spent time outlining the need to protect Space and Cyber assets to include emphasis on Space as no longer a sanctuary. Air Force assets must be protected and it is the job of Air Force Space Command to do just that. The General concluded by taking questions from the audience for several minutes.

In thanks to the General for his time and remarks to the Chapter, Chapter member Scott Patton presented General Hyten a check to be used as a donation to the Wounded Airman Program in the General’s name. Chapter member Burke Hare followed up by presenting General Hyten with the official Chapter challenge coin.

At the conclusion of the official activities, General Hyten visited individually with many of the Chapter members and Community Partners. All in all, this was a very successful event for our Chapter.

Special thanks to member Jay Carlson for arranging for Redstone Federal Credit Union and the breakfast logistics. Also thanks to Al Kemmet for securing a USAF 4-Star Flag, Jack Royster for collecting the breakfast money and Russ Lewey for assisting Burke Hare with program development.
TENNESSEE VALLEY HOSTS REGION/STATE AFA CONVENTION
By Russell Lewey

This summer at the Jackson Center (a Community Partner), the Chapter hosted the 2015 AFA South-Central Region and Alabama State AFA Conventions. AFA members from across the state, as well as, from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee attended. AFA National was also present, with David Dietsch, Vice Chairman for Field Operations, Tom Gwaltney, National Director Central Area, and Kari Hahn, Vice President for Membership and Field Relations all there, providing policy and updates on activities across AFA. Breaking away from the traditional chapter reporting, the group addressed some of the challenges facing chapters today. Issues, such as declining membership and the need to instill interest by more members to serve as chapter leaders, were the focus of a lengthy discussion. David Dietsch continued the discussions in his National update, highlighting some of the new initiatives that are being considered at the National level.

Greg Ennis, Alabama AFA State Teacher of the Year and a James Clemens HS teacher, spoke about his recent AFA-sponsored STEM teacher trip to Joint-Base Lewis-McChord and the Seattle area. Forty teachers from all over the southeast and the Seattle area participated in the event. The trip included visits to several aviation museums to honor the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII and to further AFA’s Museum Initiative. The group also visited the Boeing-Everett facility where the KC-46A Pegasus and 787 Dreamliner are being built for future aviation endeavors. Other exciting additions to the trip included flying in a military airlift aircraft, getting a briefing at the Western Air Defense Sector at McChord AFB, touring the Headquarters of Starbucks and Microsoft, flying in a seaplane over Seattle, along with visits to other notable tourist attractions in the area.

Ms. Rebekah Linton, Silver Wings Region V President, was also a guest speaker at this year’s convention. She provided insight into Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings and discussed their recent, highly successful National Conclave that took place in Chicago earlier this year. This year’s Joint Project is “The Spirit of 45” – honoring the 70th

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Anniversary of the end of WWII. Rebekah also talked of Region V’s upcoming Area V Conclave (ARCON), scheduled for 16 – 18 October in Mobile, AL. Orchestrated by the South Alabama Chapter, AFA State Organizations (Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee) will work with Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings to sponsor the Friday night social on board the USS Alabama.

During the afternoon session, Jim Mungenast and Kari Hahn focused on the bigger picture initiatives underway. Kari Hahn discussed some of the personnel changes and reorganizations that have taken place at AFA National. Tom Gwaltney provided the group an update on one of AFA’s newest success stories – The Wounded Airman Program. From the program’s beginnings in 2011, it has continued to evolve to meet the needs of our Airmen (as well as their families and loved ones) who have given so much. In the last three years, the Wounded Airman Program has provided over $175,000 in financial support in addition to supporting the Wounded Warrior Games and other adaptive sports endeavors. Probably the best news is that every dollar that is donated to the Wounded Airman Program goes to supporting wounded airmen. AFA National handles all of the overhead costs associated with carrying on this important mission.

The evening concluded with an excellent buffet and camaraderie in the Jackson Center Pub. Dr. Michael Griffin, former Director of NASA and Chairman and CEO of the Schaffer Corporation, provided an enlightening and inspiring speech, on the need for the United States to once again assume its preeminent role in space.

In the end, the Tennessee Valley members did a great job hosting and supporting this year’s convention. Well over half of all the participants were from the Tennessee Valley chapter. Those visiting were “blown away” by the facilities, the hospitality and vitality of the chapter and the area.
Tennessee Valley AFA members joined other local service organizations such as AUSA, RSASMA, WOA, MOAA and the NA "Screaming Eagles" to throw a delicious southern BBQ at the Floyd E. ‘Tut’ Fann Veteran's home on 6 June. Even our chapter mascot, Nira the therapy dog, enjoyed interacting with the Vets (much more than with the other kind of vet!). The event was enjoyed by all, both the veterans and the many volunteers. We continue to explore other options with the ‘Tut’ Fann State Veterans Home for our chapter to provide support for the 150 veterans at the home. Many boxes of candy bars have been donated as prizes for the home’s weekly bingo events. The AFA is also planning a birthday cake and gathering to celebrate the Air Force birthday at the home with the veterans. The Chapter also continues to research other opportunities to join the VA mission to remember and respect our Veterans.

Join us in celebrating the USAF’s 68th Birthday on Sep 19, 2015. Due to limited seating, RSVPs required by Sep 11—rick.driesbach@gmail.com
August 2015 brought the 18th Annual Space and Missile Defense (SMD) Symposium to Huntsville’s Von Braun Center. The Tennessee Valley Chapter again participated as an Exhibitor for the three-day event. The SMD Symposium provided an opportunity for over 150 businesses and organizations, from Government and industry, of every size, to “show their stuff” to customers and the public.

The Chapter took the opportunity to spread the word on our mission to “Advocate, Educate, and Support” here in North Alabama. We gained several members through new registrations and transfers and made contacts for new community partners.

Thanks to Russ Lewey for talking AFA National into providing pens, stickers and clips as giveaways and to all the Chapter members for unselfishly donating their time to man the booth.

By all accounts we had another successful event, and all those who participated enjoyed meeting new and old AFA friends. We have already booked the same spot for next year for the 19th Annual SMD Symposium, so plan accordingly.
The US Space and Rocket Center, in cooperation with Tennessee Valley Honor Flight, hosted a special day in recognition of the sacrifice and achievement of surviving WWII veterans, their families, and friends on August 10, 2015. Over 450 veterans and their families attended and were treated to a program of period music while enjoying lunch and the opportunity to reunite with other veterans.

Following the lunch, a program of inspirational and patriotic music mixed with shared memories, veterans passing the torch of freedom, and planting the flag at Iwo Jima. Senior leaders of each military service delivered speeches of thanks to the veterans.

Our Chapter provided several volunteers to assist the veterans and their families, and it was special to see a member of our Chapter among the honored veterans. Our own Otha “SKEET” Vaughan was among them.

As a final impressive tribute, a fly-by of F-16 Falcons from the Montgomery ANG Unit served as the grand finale and was coordinated with the veterans exiting Davidson Hall to return to their homes. It was the perfect ending to a perfect day where veterans shared their experiences with family and friends.

The 500 volunteers were blessed with the honor of assisting veterans in registration and serving their needs throughout the day. The volunteers were especially rewarded with some great stories, sincere thanks, and being reminded that these people are truly “The Greatest Generation”.

Chapter members who served as volunteers were Bryan Bennett, Dave Gilles, John Phillips, and Guy Broadhurst.

Otha “SKEET” Vaughan pictured below (lower right)
Tennessee Valley Chapter Recognizes Two Outstanding Teachers

By Jay Carlson, Kim Triesler, Susan Mallett, & Russell Lewey

Our Tennessee Valley Chapter has long recognized that our youth are our future and for that reason we have a very active aerospace education program. A key component of this program is recognizing Teachers of the Year. In its selection, the Chapter reaches out across the Tennessee Valley to find teachers who inspire young people in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). It is not surprising that in a town known as the Rocket City, which neighbors with another city where rockets are built, STEM is a major focus in our community.

At the elementary level, Ms. Kim VanHooser from Central School in Huntsville is this year’s Teacher of the Year. A gifted education teacher, Kim teaches 5th grade, specializing in math, science, and engineering. One way she inspires her students is with a yearly field trip to Dauphin Island. While there, the students participate in the Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s nationally recognized programs concerning marine environments. During the three-day trip, the students are immersed in STEM activities, such as trawling in Mobile Bay and seining in the salt marshes to gain insight and a better understanding about coastal and ocean issues.

The Teacher of the Year at the secondary level is Mr. Greg Ennis from James Clemens High School in Madison. Greg built the Engineering Academy at James Clemens from the ground up. The Engineering Academy is an area where students begin to practice the skills it takes to be an engineer. As an example, this year Greg secured a wind tunnel to use in aerospace engineering studies. As a result of his efforts, his students have the opportunity to work along side mentors at local engineering and aerospace companies, learning first hand what it takes to be an engineer. He also was responsible for creating a program to attract more females into the engineering discipline. This effort involves having female students participating in the Engineering Academy to visit local middle school to mentor STEM students in hands-on classroom activities.

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Known for its aerospace industry and engineering, it is not surprising that for the fifth year in a row (six out of seven years), the Alabama State Teacher of the Year comes from the Tennessee Valley. This year’s State winner is Mr. Greg Ennis. In addition to a $250 check for being selected at the chapter level, Greg received a $500 check for winning State honors. In addition, the Alabama AFA State organization funded Greg’s trip to the Seattle area for a for a six-day summer event in June to learn more about how to inspire youth through STEM education. Reference the Seattle trip, Greg commented, “As an engineer turned educator, this trip solidified my professional philosophy of providing rigor and relevance to the classroom. With my students’ engineering and robotics courses, I can give them some exciting possibilities for the future after visiting the Boeing production facility.”

Our Tennessee Valley Chapter salutes these two outstanding teachers and teachers everywhere who are preparing our young people today for the challenges of tomorrow.

Thanks to funding and support from the AFA National, the Civil Air Patrol, Alabama AFA, and AFA Chapter 102 in Montgomery, 40 educators participated in a week-long STEM Exploration Trip to Seattle.

For more information on Air Force efforts in STEM outreach, visit the following page:
http://afsoco.afciviliancareers.com/public/
Two teams from Huntsville made it into the Finals in Washington, D.C. In the Open Division, the Grissom High “CybrerSloths” won first place. In the All Service Division, New Century HS also had a team in the finals. Christine Sutton, the coach from Grissom HS, won the Coach of the Year Award, which will be presented at the AFA National Convention in September. As a side note, two members of the Grissom team and one from the NCHS team, just entered the Air Force Academy’s Class of 2019.

This summer, the Huntsville City School system sponsored a Cyber Camp developed by the AFA to help train new CyberPatriot teams. The camp lasted all week and included classroom training, hands-on training and mock competitions. There were also presentations/seminars led by local computer security experts. The STEM contact for the Huntsville City School system said it was a very successful week and that feedback indicated that the students thought it was very worthwhile.

This summer, members of our Chapter actively supported the formation of the United States Space and Rocket Center’s (USSRC) Military Emeritus Program by conducting tours of the Aviation Challenge facility. Aviation Challenge has not been generally open to the public, and these new tours have opened the facility and the displayed military aircraft for all to see. Heritage aircraft displays include: an A-12 (the CIA version of the SR-71 Blackbird); an F-4C Phantom that killed a MIG-17 during Operation Bolo during the Vietnam War; an FB-111 “Aardvark” prototype; an F-16B Fighting Falcon dedicated to the Tuskegee Airman of World War II; a MIG-17 “Fresco”; and other Army and Navy aircraft.

The tours also included visits to the aircraft simulators, centrifuge, and barracks. Chapter members who flew some of these aircraft conducted the tours for the Military Emeritus Program and provided insight (there I was war stories!) into the training and life of Air Force pilots and aircrews. The program has been a great success and the USSRC intends to expand public access to Aviation Challenge next year.

Next year’s goals for Chapter support to the Military Emeritus Program include: cleaning the F-4C and FB-111; painting the F-4C in Vietnam era camouflage paint; more interaction with Aviation Challenge students and trainees; and expanded tours and public interaction with Aviation Challenge.
Fellow AFA Members:

Since 1946, AFA has advocated to the U.S. Congress, the media and the American public on behalf of our Airmen and their families. Additionally, AFA educates the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure our national security. Efforts to realize these objectives include CyberPatriot, veteran transition assistance programs, and the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies.

We want to share a new and exciting goal for the Air Force Association—building our membership to 150,000 or more within the next five years. Membership growth is critical for our continuing advocacy of aerospace power and STEM education as well as veteran support. Please share with your friends, family, and co-workers what it means to be an AFA member. New members can join our great Association online by visiting www.afa.org/join or by calling our Membership Department at 1-800-727-3337.

Mark
Mark A. Barrett
Executive Vice President
Air Force Association

In concert with the Military Retirees Council and the Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club, the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America presents our

4th Annual “Scholarship” Golf Tournament
“Retiree Appreciation Days” - Friday 25 September 2015

0800 Shotgun Start
Registration begins at 0630
4-person Scramble Format

Interested in being a Tournament Sponsor or Donating directly to the Scholarship Program? Please Contact: Bruce Robinson (Huntsville Chapter MOAA President) 256-450-3191 or brobinson@mitre.org

Individual Golfer - $75
Or
4 Person Team - $300
Includes range balls, cart, golf, lunch & door prizes ticket
Prizes for: Top Three Teams, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hole in One
Silent Auction with lots of great items!
Mulligan / Power Drive packages for sale!

Early Bird Special:
Register by September 11th at the reduced rate of $65 per player / $260 per 4 Person Team!
Don’t Wait – Sign Up Now!

100% of net proceeds returned as merit awards for the Huntsville Chapter MOAA Student Scholarship Program

To Sign Up Contact:
Rick West 256-776-6901 or John Inman 256-425-8022

Mall this form and your check made out to HCMOAA to:
Rick West 151 Tipton Rd
Gurley, AL 35748

PLAYER 1: ___________________ PLAYER 2: ___________________
PHONE: ___________________ PHONE: ___________________
E-MAIL: ___________________ E-MAIL: ___________________

Sponsorship does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Army nor the Department of Defense.
Our Chapter, in partnership with the Huntsville chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA), was pleased to present Madison Mayor Troy Trulock as the featured presenter at a joint August luncheon. Mayor Trulock was elected mayor of Madison in 2012 and is a retired Army officer.

Mayor Trulock presented the AFCEA chapter, AFA, and the attendees with an update on the future of Madison, a city adjacent to Huntsville with a reputation for strong schools and persistent academic success. Mayor Trulock discussed a Madison tech startup company with an exciting new technology. RadioBro, a company started by 26 year old twin brothers Mark and Eric Becnel, produces a standard payload interface for small unmanned spacecraft. The RadioBro “mini Satcom” is half the price of competitor offerings and takes an average of 6 months to 2 years off the normal satellite development cycle. Mayor Trulock also discussed the Terabit network backbone that will travel through Madison in the near future, delivering 100 Gigabit network connectivity to Madison businesses.

Mr. Ben McGee, North Alabama ISSA President, also presented and discussed STEM activities in the Madison school system. ISSA and Huntsville AFCEA partnered to donate several Raspberry Pi computers to the Madison City School 8th grade Cyber program at Discovery Middle. The Raspberry Pi is a single printed circuit board computer the size of a credit card. As a result of the donation, 8th graders were able to install an operating system, configure network connectivity, and finally secure the device. Mr. McGee stressed the importance of hands on learning for today’s kids.

At the conclusion of the August Luncheon Jeremy A. Pohly and Breanna M. Crane were presented with AFCEA Huntsville scholarship checks of $2500 each.
GATR ‘rejoins’ at Wingman Level

GATR Technologies (incorporated in 2004) is the only company in the world that produces inflatable SATCOM antennas. GATR designed, developed, and has fabricated over 300 terminals, which are deployed worldwide. GATR’s patented, unique design enables deployment of large aperture satellite antennas in airline checkable cases, making it ideal for first-in deployments, remote applications, and contingency scenarios where transportation and space are limited.

GATR’s unique attribute is its inflatable radome, with a flexible, internal, parabolic reflector mounted at the equator. This design results in an extremely portable packaged antenna that, when inflated with normal air, produces a large-aperture dish, enabling high-bandwidth satellite communications.

GATR’s current products are inflatable 1.2m, 1.8m, and 2.4m aperture SATCOM terminals. Deploying in two cases, each weighing less than 100 lbs., GATR antennas provide up to an 85% reduction in weight and volume, while delivering the same performance as similar aperture rigid antennas. Also, the round radome shape makes GATRs more stable in high winds compared to rigid dishes. Finally, the GATR system is easy to set-up (on satellite in 30 minutes), and enables high-bandwidth comms in areas where operation of legacy systems are not feasible.

The GATR has been used all over the globe by US Special Operations Forces, USMC Expeditionary Units, select US Army units, Intelligence agencies, elements of the Departments of State and Homeland Security, disaster relief organizations, and foreign allied militaries. GATR SATCOM antennas operate at Ku-, C-, X- and Ka-bands, and transmit all types of data, voice, and video. The ability to hand carry a 2.4m SATCOM terminal changes the way in which humanitarian and relief workers operate in areas like Africa, Haiti, and Afghanistan. Whereas legacy SATCOM antennas required a crane to install them on a rooftop, the GATR can be hand carried via stairs or passenger elevators to the top of the tallest building, and set-up for contingency comms.
Since being founded in August 2012, Linc Research Inc. is an RDT&E company that has made progress in the optical and vibration damping technologies; fluid and structural dynamics; IT Services; and data/program management fields. The application of these technologies could ensure safer structures, vibration controlled flight and launch vehicles, provide battlefield solutions, and perform 360° inspections. One of two of Linc Research’s visions is to be problem solvers and innovators of solutions; i.e., the issues that keep you awake at night.

Regarding ingenuity and community, Linc Research has one eye in the future and one in the present. The other vision is to participate in restoration of underutilized communities. Linc Research serves Historically Underutilized Business Zones, also known as HUBZones. Linc Research helps restore these circumstantially disadvantaged communities by focusing on careers and bringing healthy business partners to struggling areas. Linc Research believes that these communities have much to offer.

Why is the HUBZone designation about a target group of people and area? From the SBA website's HUBZone section: "SBA's HUBZone program is in line with the efforts of both the Administration and Congress to promote economic development and employment growth in distressed areas by providing access to more federal contracting opportunities." At Linc we took that statement, which we firmly believe in, one step further; our stated goal at Linc is not just to provide employment (i.e. jobs) but to provide careers; it’s not just economics it’s empowerment. We do that in a tactical sense and a strategic sense. We not only want to provide careers to currently eligible employees now but also to provide career visioning to the entire HUBZone community including schools down to the elementary level. The other aspect to our career emphasis is that we feel we should be representative of the large high-tech workforce in the Huntsville area. The principals of the company all have a NASA/DOD/commercial high-tech resume (Subject Matter Experts) and want to work and mentor in those areas. We seek a footprint that is much larger and much longer lived than the company itself. Linc is a pioneer company that cultivates local communities while creating much needed technologies.
Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company, provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 14,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients.

Within Alabama, Edward Jones has over 135 branches. The firm is growing, adding branches and seeking new financial advisors who are interested in operating an entrepreneurial office with the support and benefits of one of the oldest and largest firms in the industry. For five consecutive years, Edward Jones has ranked in the top two Best Companies to Work for in Alabama.

The firm also has a long history of hiring and providing mentorship services to help transition service-men and women to the financial advisor position. Currently, Edward Jones has 1,500 financial advisors with prior military experience running branches across the country. Edward Jones was named a 2014 Most Valuable Employer (MVE) for Military® by CivilianJobs.com, recognizing the firm's deep commitment to recruiting, training and retaining military veterans as financial advisors. In addition to this award, G.I. Jobs has recognized Edward Jones and its specialized military transition training program on its 2014 "Military Friendly Employer" list, and Military Times EDGE ranked the firm on its 2013 "Best for Vets" ranking.

Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 is proud of its Community Partners:

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www.aerothermo.com

Aerotek  
www.aerotek.com

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www.aletatechnologies.com

Bevilacqua Research Corp  
www.brc2.com

Dr. Rebecca Howell (Dentist)  
www.rebeccahowellmd.com

Davis Strategic Innovations, Inc. (WINGMAN)  
www.davidsdi.com

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www.FlyQuest.net

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www.gatr.com

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www.irtc-hq.com/

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Jackson Center  
www.jacksoncenter.net/

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Linc Research Inc.  
www.lincresearchinc.com

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

ManTech International  
www.mantech.com

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www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx

PeopleTec  
www.people-tec.com

Qualis  
www.qualis-corp.com

Quantech Services  
www.quantechserv.com

Radiance Technologies (ACE)  
www.radiantec.com/

Redstone Federal Credit Union  
www.redfcu.org

Richard Alexander NY Life Agent  
www.newyorklife.com/agent/rcalexander

UAH Professional & Continuing Studies  
www.uah.edu/pcs

U.S. Space & Rocket Center  
www.spacecamp.com/museum

Woody Anderson Ford  
www.woodyanderson.com

Dr. Rebecca Howell proudly displays her Community Partner plaque – She is accepting new patients – Support this Community Partner!
Upcoming Events

Sep 12-13 — AFA National Convention (Washington DC)

**Sep 19th — AFA Chapter 335 USAF Birthday Celebration (see page 1)**

Sep 25th — Huntsville MOAA Golf Tournament

Nov 11th — Huntsville Veterans’ Day Parade

Here’s a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,
To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly.

We drink to those who gave their all of old
Then down we roar to score the rainbow’s pot of gold.

A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force!