<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galaxy of Lights</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Dinner and Parade</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFA National Convention</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFA Birthday Celebration</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutt Fan Update</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MiG Killer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaching for the Stars</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partner Spotlight</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of Local AF Warrior</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Events</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fellow AFA team,

Our chapter has signed up to assist with the 22 December Galaxy of Lights, a busier night than previous years, and needs your help. We need around 22 volunteers to assist with this event. Some of you have responded already and thank you. However, we still need a few more volunteers—the more the merrier!

Hours ~1630-2130 on 22 December

It is a fun event with Christmas cheer, food/drinks, and camaraderie. They do ask we bring food to share with each other and the staff on site. At the end of the night volunteers get the chance to drive through with no traffic. Please drop me a note at rodney.fried1@gmail.com if you’d like to volunteer.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and assistance!
Chapter President Rick Driesbach, State President Russ Lewey, Chapter VP for Veteran’s Affairs, Zig Jastrebski, and chapter members Gary Connor, Jon Guertin, and Harold Lewey, represented the chapter at the Huntsville – Madison County Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony and Veteran’s Dinner on November 10th at the Von Braun Center. The evening was heavily Army oriented, but the Emcee did recognize our Tennessee Valley Chapter as being designated the Best Large Chapter in the Air Force Association for 2015. At the conclusion of the evening, chapter members and other Air Force veterans in the crowd stood and sang the Air Force song when the band played it during a medley of Service songs. Of the 7 individuals inducted into the Hall of Heroes this year, there were no Air Force veterans among them. To be considered for induction, a service member must have earned a military decoration for Valor (i.e., heroism). If you are an AFA chapter member, and live in Madison County, and have earned a military decoration for Valor, please contact Rick Driesbach at rick.driesbach@gmail.com and he will aid you in applying for this honor.

The Huntsville Ballet Company will present its 47th annual production of The Nutcracker, a holiday classic and a favorite tradition in Huntsville. Make holiday memories with this production set in antebellum Huntsville with a nod to local legends and traditions set to the delightful and familiar score by Tchaikovsky performed by the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

The annual military night will be December 10th at 6PM. Complimentary Tickets are available at MWR and Huntsville Ballet, 800 Regal Drive, with proper Identification. There is no charge for this performance, but you MUST have a ticket to enter. Other performances in the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall are as follows:

- December 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 12 at 2 p.m.
- December 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 13 at 1:00 p.m.

This year, Huntsville Ballet is partnering with Toys for Tots and will have boxes at the door for contributions of new, unwrapped toys.
On the next day, November 11th, for the sixth year running, the chapter participated in the Huntsville Veteran’s Day Parade. We deployed our “heavy package” of 3 pick-up trucks accompanied by a contingent of walkers in various uniforms and USAF garb. Trucks were provided / driven by Al Kemmet (with wife April), Daryl Carpenter (and wife Barb), and Rob Robertson. Our trucks were adorned with large AFA door magnets and the lead truck had two 4 ft x 8 ft side-facing USAF/AFA banners in the bed and a sound system blaring the Air Force song in an endless loop. Scott Patton once again provided the chapter mascot, Nira the certified therapy dog, and Nira’s handler (Scott’s daughter Sara). Members Matt Wilmes walked with his 2 sons, and USAF Captain JD Melton walked with his wife and daughter. Other chapter members participating included: Brenda Armstrong, Jack Royster, John Phillip, John Pennell, Ken Philippart, Don Wojtal and his wife Jan, Joe Viviano, Russ Lewey and his father Harold Lewey (retired USAF E-8), and Rick Driesbach. The weather was perfect, the large crowd was patriotic, and USAF camaraderie was superb!
How many of you have been in the Air Force Association, read the Air Force Magazine or the Daily Report, and never given a second thought on how the AFA operates? Like any large organization, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, but attending an AFA National Convention is a great way to get a peek. The convention runs the weekend before the AF Birthday and typically starts Friday evening with an informal social at the Air Force Memorial with a concert by the Air Force Band. Sitting under the stars, with the towering spires of the Memorial reaching to the sky, is a great way to start.

Saturday morning is reserved for committees to get together and discuss presentations scheduled to occur to the convention at large. The Regional and Area Presidents hold a short closed-door session, but then an open meeting is conducted to allow delegates in attendance to hear and discuss issues that are pressing in the field.

The Convention officially opens Saturday afternoon, and the work begins. It is here that we get to hear from our leadership – this year, our new President, Gen Larry Spencer, was introduced and challenged each and everyone us to help build AFA’s membership. He reinforced that AFA is the “professional organization” of the Air Force. Did you know, according to Gen Spencer, that AFA has more total members than our sister organization, Association of the US Army (AUSA)? Other new ideas and proposals are presented to the delegates, who are encouraged to offer their thoughts and comments. Candidates for National AFA offices are introduced and then available later to answer questions, before the delegates vote on Sunday.

The Field Awards Dinner on Saturday evening is exciting, where one sees those who are doing great things for our organization. This year was especially rewarding, as our own chapter was recognized as the Best Large Chapter for all of AFA. It is also the first time we get an opportunity to see the 12 Outstanding Airmen – you can’t help but feel proud hearing the exploits of these true professionals.

Sunday comes early as we meet the bus to head out to the AF Memorial for a Memorial Service and Wreath Laying. Once again entertained by some in the AF Band, this ceremony is very moving as we hear the names of those who have departed the past year, and we look out across the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, and see many who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

(Continued on page 6)
Sunday’s elections resulted in the following individuals being elected:
- Chairman of the Board, Scott Van Cleef
- Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations, David Dietsch
- Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education, Dick Bundy
- Secretary, Tim Brock
- Treasurer, Nora Ruebrook
- Several National Directors, one of whom was Tom Gwaltney for the Central Area

This year we heard of several new initiatives, some of which are:
- eMember Life Membership for $400
- Senior (70 years plus) Life Membership for $300
- StellarXplorers, a new program modeled along the lines of the highly successful CyberPatriot program [see StellarXplorers article on page 10]

Another highlight of the Convention takes place after the convention is over. For a number of years, Lockheed Martin has hosted a Delegate Education Session. This event provides delegates an opportunity to see first-hand the latest of Lockheed Martin’s technology. What’s not to like – a chance to fly the F-35 and F-22 simulator with first-class food and drink – all free!

So there you have it – a brief glimpse behind the curtain of AFA. I encourage you to consider attending sometime. Then, stay on in the week of the Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition, where you can see hundreds of technologies on display and hear national-level leaders speak on our nation and this great Air Force.

Did you know:
AFA Chap 335 has a web page where you can find out about upcoming events and recent activities.

It’s here:  WWW.AFA-HUNTSVILLE.ORG
On 19 September 2015, our chapter once again celebrated the Air Force birthday (18 September 1947)! Over 40 members attended a social at the Jackson Center, including Brig Gen William Cooley, the new senior USAF officer in our AOR. Zig Jastrebski provided a self-created complete video history of aviation during WW II along with time-appropriate music. Guy Broadhurst once again donated the cake, and Scott Patton organized a cake-cutting ceremony honoring the oldest and youngest airmen present (Skeet Vaughn and Lee Alford respectively). The group also sang a rousing version of the Air Force song accompanied by Bryan Bennett on the trumpet. One member who had never attended a chapter-organized birthday event before, said in a post-event note… “the birthday celebration was superb! I personally enjoyed the camaraderie in an informal, intimate setting. I thought it was well done and very tasteful. It seemed everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves; plus, the food was more than plentiful and quite tasty.”
On 9 November the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association supported the third year of the eleven year commemorative of the Vietnam War at the Jackson Center. This event featured local Vietnam Veterans, memorabilia, displays, re-enactors, and speaker: LTG (R) Dan Petrosky USA. More than 300 veterans and guests participated in this event. Members of our AFA chapter manned a booth with AFA information on programs and events, provided an Air Warriors of Vietnam display honoring aircrews during the Vietnam War, and provided a video/audio collage of scenes/music from the Vietnam era that ran before and after the speaker.

Huntsville AFA Members Celebrate the Air Force’s 68th Birthday at the Local State Veteran’s Home

by Scott Patton

The Tennessee Valley Air Force Association (AFA) joined with 30 Air Force and other service Veterans at the Floyd E. “Tut” Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville on Saturday, 19 September 2015. A great time was had by all, especially when it came time to identify the “oldest” Veteran to help cut the cake as tradition warrants. Some of the Vets like Bobbie Graham and Narsh Benson joined the service in the very early fifties, shortly after the Department of the Air Force was created when President Harry S Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947. Over 20 AFA members and family joined in the festivities (including Nira, an unofficial AFA mascot and therapy dog). A1C Kevin Armstrong, the son of AFA member Brenda Armstrong, returned home to visit and stepped up to the role of the youngest Airman for the cake-cutting. Russ Lewey, Alabama State AFA President, held the sword between the oldest and youngest Airmen to cut the birthday cake. A great touch was added by chapter members Brenda Armstrong, Jay Carlson, Al Kemmet, and Lee Alford wearing their USAF uniforms. Bryan Bennett made the event come to life with his trumpet accompaniment during the traditional singing of the Air Force song.
F-4C tail number 640-838 has resided in the Aviation Challenge area of the US Space and Rocket Center for more than 20 years. This aircraft is a MIG killer from Operation Bolo over North Vietnam in 1967. Our local Tennessee Valley chapter, in partnership with US Space and Rocket Center, is doing initial planning to restore and preserve this distinguished fighter aircraft. A volunteer group of veteran F-4 Phantom maintainers and aircrew have met to review the needs of this restoration effort. The intent is to restore the aircraft to its original Vietnam paint scheme and configure it for an air-to-air mission. We developed an initial list of missing equipment and are now coordinating the way forward with US Space and Rocket Center management. Our intent is to begin sanding and bending metal this coming spring. At that time, volunteers will be needed, and our lead crew chief has assured us that he can tell us what to do and where to go.

**F-4C #838 in Vietnam**

**Current paint scheme of 838 at Aviation Challenge**
Reaching for the Stars
by Russ Lewey

Many of us remember our early childhoods and wanting to be like those early astronaut legends: Alan Shepard, Gordon Cooper, and Neil Armstrong! With cuts in the program at NASA, today’s youth have lost that dream. Last year, drawing upon the successes of CyberPatriot, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force turned to the AFA to see how we can help stimulate an interest in space. In less than a year, AFA with help from the US Air Force Academy and US Space Command, have created “StellarXplorers”. The program was beta tested last year with five teams from Colorado. The concept was solid, and this year AFA National gave a “green light” for the competition to expand to 40 teams – 2 of which will be from the Tennessee Valley.

Officially, the vision of the StellarXplorers program is to inspire and motivate pre-college age students and their educators to pursue studies and careers in STEM through a challenging, space system design competition. StellarXplorers will provide a self-contained academic/education component as a curriculum supplement. Competition will employ computer simulations for orbit determination and propagation, computer-aided system design, system performance assessment, and budgetary constraints.

The program focuses on the following areas:

- Stimulating in students an understanding of the criticality of a healthy and enduring U.S. economy based on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics expertise.
- Educating students on fundamental aspects of space system engineering, assembly, integration, test, and operations.
- Exposing students to university education and space industry career possibilities.
- Facilitating space industry internship and scholarship opportunities to program participants.
- Increasing the awareness of the American public on our dependence on space and its impact on our modern life.

Local area teams are already registered and beginning practice rounds with the official competition beginning in January. Watch for next quarter’s newsletter to see how our area teams are doing in the competition. We are always looking for individuals and companies to help mentor or sponsor this competition – Contact Russ Lewey (LeweyRV@Yahoo.com) if you are interested in finding out more about or helping with StellarXplorers.

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GALAXY OF LIGHTS 2015

We need your help!

Please drop me a note at rodney.fried1@gmail.com if you’d like to volunteer.

*(see page 2 for more details)*
Community Partners

Qualis Corporation (Qualis) is a Woman-Owned Small Business headquartered in Huntsville, with more than 300 employees – 87 of whom are veterans, representing all branches of Service – in 15 states. In the past, Qualis employees have provided support in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. Qualis core competencies include systems engineering, test and evaluation, acquisition and program management, and executive level strategic planning, supporting customers such as the US Air Force, Army, MDA, NASA, Navy, and Joint DoD organizations, among others. Founded in 1993, Qualis has proven performance on over 100 contracts across the United States, focusing on helping each customer achieve mission success. The Vision Statement, part of the Qualis employee culture, is to “be the partner of choice for superior services and solutions,” and this drives how Qualis interacts not only with customers, but also with employees, teammates, partners, vendors, and subcontractors. Recognition received includes the NASA MSFC Contractor Excellence Award (Small Business category), SBA Administrator’s Award for Excellence, Regional Small Business of the Year Award, and the Better Business Bureau finalist for Torch Award. Qualis was also included for three years in a row on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing privately held companies in the country. Qualis is committed to customer satisfaction, dedicated to excellence, focused on safety, and involved in the community. They embrace and truly “live” out the values of the company: *We value integrity and ethics, excellence, the unique character and ability of our people, safe practices, and customer and community service.*

**Qualis Cares.** As part of its core values, Qualis participates in, encourages, and recognizes its employees for volunteerism and community involvement. Employees “give back” to the community through company outreach efforts such as food pantry/clothing/shoe collections, involvement in walks against diabetes and heart disease, volunteering to serve lunch to Veterans this past June, and dedication, by both Huntsville and Florida Qualis employees, to the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. These are but a few examples of how Qualis “lives” out its goal of caring for communities we call home. Individuals have also given back through efforts such as hurricane/tornado relief, coaching, mentoring, and teaching children and young adults in various settings, supporting the recent March of Dimes March for Babies, judging youth competitions in science, engineering, entrepreneurship, and even international mission trips.

Qualis employees volunteer to serve lunch to Veterans in June at the Tut Fann Veterans Home, Huntsville, AL.

Qualis employees build and “man” a float in the Veterans Day Parade.
At Redstone Federal Credit Union®, we believe in the credit union motto of “People Helping People”. Since 1951, Redstone has served our community and become a trusted advisor to over 380,000 members. Redstone is proud to serve the Tennessee Valley and believes in providing trusted advice, choices, opportunities, and solutions to our members while continually developing new products and services to support their needs.

As a member of Redstone Federal Credit Union, you become part of our family. Redstone strives to help our members reach their financial dreams by becoming a trusted advisor in an array of financial areas. Whether choosing a checking account or credit card, looking for information about retirement and savings, opening or expanding a business, buying a new home or searching for insurance, Redstone has the knowledge and opportunities to provide you the best service and solutions.

Dedication to members and drive to provide outstanding service has been fundamental in growing from 11 members to over 380,000. Becoming a member at Redstone gives you the peace of mind of finding financial solutions throughout your lifetime. Because Redstone is member owned and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, decisions are made to benefit our members, with any profits being returned to our members in the form of lower fees and better rates.

Redstone is proud to support and partner with multiple groups, businesses, organizations, and events throughout the Tennessee Valley. Connecting our members with these opportunities helps enrich and grow our community. Find out more about our sponsored events, free classes, and community activities by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Our members, their families and our community are our number one priority. Redstone is here to be your trusted advisor for any and all life events that come your way. With a mix of exceptional service, cutting edge technology, and a member first mind set, Redstone is here to help make your financial dreams a reality.

For more information on Redstone Federal Credit Union, call us at 256-837-6110 or 800-234-1234 (toll free) or visit us online at www.redfcu.org.

Recipients of the many scholarships RFCU provided in 2015.
COMMUNITY PARTNER
MEDALLION PRESENTATIONS

PeopleTec

L-R: George Krym (Chap 335 Member); Terry Jennings (Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board, CEO); Doug Scalf (Co-Founder, President)

Bevilacqua Research Corp.

Andy Bevilacqua
(Chief Executive Officer)

Aerotek

Brittany Godsey
(Contracts Manager for Aerospace & Defense)

ManTech Int’l Corp.

L-R: Jim Moore (ManTech General Manager) and Rick Driesbach (Chapter 335 President)
COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

AFA Chapter 335 thanks the following companies for recently taking their support to the ‘Wingman’ level:

Davis Strategic Innovations, Inc.

L-R: Al Kemmet (Chap 335 Member); Dr. Jim Davis, (President); Mr. Neal Petree (Director, Army Programs).

Fortune Magazine's Best Medium Size Company to work for in America, for the second year in a row!

Linda Morgan
Rise Real Estate
Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 is proud of its Community Partners:

**Aero Thermo Technology**
www.aerothermo.com

**Aerotek**
www.aerotek.com

**Aleta Technologies**
www.aletatechnologies.com

**Bevilacqua Research Corp**
www.brc2.com

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

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

**Delta Research, Inc.**
www.dr-inc.com

**Ducommun-Miltec**
www.ducommun.com/miltec/

**Edward-Jones (Brenda Armstrong)**

**Farmers Insurance (David Gillies)**

**FlyQuest, Inc.**
www.FlyQuest.net

**GATR Technologies**
(WINGMAN)
www.gatr.com

**Intuitive Research and Technology**
(WINGMAN)
www.irtc-hq.com/

**Irrigation Maintenance Services, Inc.; 256-755-1524**

**Jackson Center**
www.jacksoncenter.net/

**Lamar Advertising**
www.lamar.com

**Landers McLarty Nissan**
www.rljmclartylanders.com/

**Linc Research Inc.**
www.lincresearchinc.com

**Linda Morgan - Rise Real Estate**
(WINGMAN)
http://linda-morgan3.homesandland.com/

**Mary’s Grocery:**
(WINGMAN)
Hwy 431 South, Brownsboro, AL

**ManTech International**
www.mantech.com

**Northington Consulting**
www.northconllc.com

**Parsons—SPARTA**
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.radiantech.com/

**Redstone Federal Credit Union**
www.redfcu.org

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

**Woody Anderson Ford**
www.woodyanderson.com

Here is a picture of our Chapter President showing an NFL game football used during the Cleveland Browns versus the Cincinnati Bengals game as part of Military Affairs Week. Rick's brother, Chuck Driesbach, a linebacker coach for the Cleveland Browns, dedicated and signed the ball thanking Rick for his service to our country.
Major General Chris T. Anzalone, USAF (Ret), 60, of Huntsville passed away at his home on Sunday, September 27, 2015, following a short battle with cancer. General Anzalone served over 32 years in the United States Air Force.

He received his commission through the Air Force ROTC Program at the Florida Technological University, Orlando, where he was a fellow cadet with our own Russ Lewey. He was a distinguished graduate of Undergraduate Navigator Training. He served as an F-111F weapon systems officer as well as test and tactics development chief for the EF-111A tactical jamming system. His commands included a flying squadron, mission support group, and an air base wing. He conducted joint war planning for contingency operations supporting the Global War on Terrorism while serving on the Joint Staff. The general also served as Vice Commander of the Air Armament Center at Eglin AFB, FL and Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Robins AFB, GA. For his final assignment, he served as the Deputy for Test, Integration, and Fielding for the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville. After he retired from the Air Force in 2009, he served as President of L-3/Coleman Aerospace and later as Chief Operating Officer of MEI Technologies.

General Anzalone was known as a true patriot and stood as an example of integrity, selflessness and practical competency. It is worth noting some of the personal tributes that were made by fellow Air Force members:

“He took a special interest in helping me learn and succeed on the Air Staff.” “He had a way of aligning differing expectations that would resonate with all involved for a favorable outcome.” “The world lost a very superb guy who loved his family and served his country very admirably.” “I learned a lot from him. His inspirational leadership was amazing.” “I will never forget his smile, his enthusiasm, and his friendliness.”

Major General Chris Anzalone not only excelled in a vast array of Air Force assignments, but he made our service a better organization with his unique dedication, commitment, and perseverance. Most importantly, General Anzalone was not just a good officer, he was a wonderful person and a respected model for all who served with him.
Special Benefit for AFA Members

One of the first, Redstone Federal Credit Union has been a Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter Community Partner since 2009. As such, the Chapter is a Service Group member of Redstone Credit Union team. Just being a member of the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter makes you eligible to belong to the Credit Union. This holiday season the Credit Union is offering an additional benefit to our members – you can purchase a new first-year AAA Plus membership for $70, saving up to $56.

AAA Alabama will waive the $20 enrollment fee, and as a bonus, you can receive a first-year membership for an eligible family member for free (saving up to $36 value). Plus, receive two extra months free and save an additional $10 by enrolling in Automatic Renewal.

As a AAA Plus member you get the following services and discounts:

- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 100 driving miles per service call
- Discount and upgrades on car rental
- Emergency fuel delivery
- Shopping, dining, and entertainment discounts
- Free maps and TripTik Travel Planners
- Free Identity Theft monitoring
- Full-service Leisure Travel agency

Visit [www.AAA.com/RFCUServiceGroupBenefit](http://www.AAA.com/RFCUServiceGroupBenefit) or call 1-800-521-8124 x4448858 to join today!

VETERANS OF NORTH ALABAMA SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INC. (VON-ASAP) was organized by a group of concerned citizens who recognized a need for veteran assistance. Specifically, VON-ASAP solicits tangible contributions such as household items and furniture, as well as monetary contributions. They are a nonprofit organization since 2012, and opened their office on Jordan Lane in 2014. They have 5 volunteer staff members, two of which are trained DAV members who write claims for disabled veterans. They also have volunteers to assist with movement of furniture and household goods helping veterans turn houses into homes. Since their staff and workers are all volunteers, all funding is spent on veterans and their families except the expense of maintaining an office and for vehicles used to transport veterans. Any donation would be greatly appreciated!

For additional information, please contact:

Jane Dow, President
Phone: 256-508-0042
Email: von.asap@yahoo.com
web site: [www.veterans-on-ASAP-Huntsville.com](http://www.veterans-on-ASAP-Huntsville.com)
Upcoming Events

Dec 10th—Military Night: Nutcracker presented by the Huntsville Ballet (page 3)
Dec 22nd—Galaxy of Lights (page 2)

See ya next year....