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Aerospace Education
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About Us
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.

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Find us on the web at:
WWW.AFA-HUNTSVILLE.ORG
Rosie the Riveter Lives Again

AFA, in coordination with the Spirit of 45 and the Rosie the Riveter organizations, is working to honor the 75th Anniversary of Rosie the Riveter. In tribute to Rosie, the American Rose Society named a rose in honor of the women who stepped in to build the war machines we needed to sustain the war effort during WW II. The Spirit of 45 Organization has a goal of having Rosie Rose bushes planted all across the nation. There are plans to establish Rosie Rose Gardens at a number of veteran memorials. March 21st is “Rosie the Riveter Day,” and plans are underway to establish a rose garden at Birmingham Veterans Memorial Park.

For more information on establishing a Rosie Rose Garden, e-mail: RosieGardens@Spiritof45.org.
Ken Philippart Elected Alabama State President

Ken Philippart, long time AFA member and former Secretary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, was elected Alabama State President on February 21. Ken succeeds Russ Lewey, who had been dual-hatted as South Central Region President and Alabama State President.

Ken served 29 years in the US Air Force as an aerospace engineer with an emphasis in space and missile propulsion. He managed programs ranging from solid and liquid rocket propulsion, scramjet and advanced hypersonic engine technologies to space situational awareness systems. Other assignments included Minuteman III missile combat crew, staff officer, and intelligence analyst. He deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 3 campaign stars and the Iraq Campaign Medal with one campaign star.

Ken has a Bachelor’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, a Master’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State University and a Master’s Degree in Space Studies from the University of North Dakota. He is a graduate of the US Air Force Air War College.

Besides serving as the Tennessee Valley Secretary from 2013 to 2018, Ken was also the Alabama State Secretary from 2016 – 2018. He received the AFA Medal of Merit in 2016.

Ken has also served in leadership roles in other volunteer organizations including the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, of which he is an Associate Fellow and served as the Chair, Vice Chair and Honors & Awards Director of the Greater Huntsville Section. During his tenure as Chair, he led the section to its first Outstanding Section Award in over 25 years, beating out sections more than twice Huntsville’s size. He also led the section to seven other awards in all categories, the first time the Huntsville Section had ever achieved that feat. He was a founding member of the Rocket City Tau Beta Pi Alumni Chapter and served as Treasurer for 4 years. He has made recruiting and mentoring young professionals a focus in both organizations.

Ken stated that he is honored and humbled to follow in Russ Lewey’s footsteps in leading the great State of Alabama AFA and thanks Russ for his outstanding service, achievements and mentorship.
TOY 2017 Presentation

Casey Wigginton won Chapter and State Teacher of the Year in 2017. Due to serious illness, the chapter could not present him his award until January 2018. Chapter President, Rick Driesbach, and Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Jay Carlson, traveled to Casey’s home in Rogersville and presented him with his 2017 Chapter Teacher of the Year award, and his 2017 State Teacher of the Year Award.

Galaxy of Lights

Once again this year, the Chapter supported the Botanic Garden’s Galaxy of Lights annual fundraiser. Twenty-six AFA volunteers worked in the Garden on a warm, rainy Wednesday night in December. The group consisted of members, spouses, and several teenage children. A great time was had by all, and our chapter support to this worthwhile community effort was recognized by 750+ cars entering the Garden that evening.
Spring is around the corner and that means its time again to recognize our Tennessee Valley Chapter’s 2018 Teachers of the Year (TOY). As we have done in previous years, we will select and award the top teachers in the Tennessee Valley at the Elementary and Middle School level (K-8) and High School (9-12). To do this, we rely upon the nominations from the school principals in our area of responsibility. Our program recognizes teachers who have best demonstrated outstanding leadership in their promotion of student achievement and interest in the field of aerospace education and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

We have enjoyed great success here in the Tennessee Valley. In 2016, Mr. Greg Ennis from James Clemens HS in Madison, the 2015 AFA Alabama Teacher of the Year, was selected as the AFA National Teacher of the Year. Also in 2016, Mr. Michael May of Athens HS, and Ms. Abbi Griffin of Julian Newman Elementary School in Athens were selected as our Chapter’s Teachers of the Year. Mr. May went on to win honors as the AFA Alabama Teacher of the Year. In 2017, Mr. Casey Wigginton, Limestone County Career Tech HS in Athens, and Ms. Angela Graves, Boaz Intermediate School in Boaz, were selected as Chapter Teachers of the Year. Mr Wigginton went on to become the AFA Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Thanks to the help of one of our extraordinary chapter members, Mary Scott Hunter, who is also an Alabama State School Board Member, we were able to expand the reach this year to all the northern county school district superintendents. Nomination packages are due 9 March 2018. Should you have any questions regarding our Teacher of the Year Program, please contact our Vice-President for Aerospace Education, Jay Carlson at jay.carlson81@gmail.com.
Veterans Day 2018

Veterans Day 2018 is a long way off, but it is a very special Veteran's Day. It is the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day (end of WW I). World War I was deemed by many to be the “war to end all wars”. Thus, 11 November 1918, originally called Armistice Day, was the forerunner of what we now know as Veterans Day. The chapter will most assuredly participate once again in the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Day parade. The last several parades, we have featured 1/10 scale models of F-35 and F-22 fighter aircraft on loan to us by Lockheed Martin in Ft Worth. This November we are looking for any new ideas on how to make our entry related to the air war over Europe in World War I. If you have any thoughts on this or ideas, please contact Rick Driesbach at rick.Driesbach@gmail.com.

The Wall That Heals, Vietnam War Commemoration

Huntsville has been selected to be a 2018 stop for The Wall That Heals or as it is popularly known The Traveling Vietnam Wall. This replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC will be on display in Huntsville 1 thru 3 November 2018. This is the week before our annual Hero’s Week which culminates with the Veterans Day Parade.

The Wall will be on display in a new park area adjacent to the Veterans Museum in John Hunt Park. The City of Huntsville has committed to developing this new park area in time for the wall’s visit. Also, the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War displays and talks will take place simultaneously with the Wall and be located in the Jaycees’ building.

This exciting event over three days in November leading into Hero’s Week will provide an exceptional learning experience for school age children and quiet time of reflection and remembrance for our Vietnam War veterans. Huntsville’s ability to simultaneously have three venues, The Wall That Heals, the Veterans Museum, and the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will ensure many visitors.

Stay tuned as the schedule is refined for these exciting three days in November.
Our chapter will once again participate in the Huntsville St Patrick’s Day Parade this year. The parade to occur on Saturday, the 17th of March. It is typically a large parade with well over 100 entries, and with a roughly 2-mile parade route through Huntsville. If the weather is decent, the crowds will be large. This will be the 6th straight year our chapter has participated! Our formation will once again be led by Bob Hovde’s Green Miata and have a Green Jeep Wrangler in trail. We are looking for two pick-up trucks (preferably green) to be in the middle of our 4-ship formation. One will carry our standard side-facing USAF/AFA banners and our sound system, and the other will carry flag-waving chapter members. We use our sound system to play the Air Force Song (which the Huntsville crowd absolutely loves) and an Irish Jig in continuous loop! There is plenty of room for riders and walkers – all you have to do is show up wearing something Air Force and something Green! Spouses and teenage children are welcome. If interested in participating, please contact Rick at: rick.driesbach@gmail.com NLT 9 March.
On a rainy Monday in January the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter showed its thanks to those who support us day-in and day-out, hosting the first-ever AFA Spouse and Friends of AFA Luncheon. Once again, the staff at The Atrium, the meeting center at Redstone Federal Credit Union, laid out a great lunch. Attendees were treated to an incredible Cheese Broccoli Soup (just what was needed on a cold and rainy day), Chicken Caesar Kale Salad, and a decadent Carrot Cake.

Mrs. Susan Mallett, former principal, VP for Alabama AFA Aerospace Education, and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Youth Development Program Coordinator, drove up from Montgomery to discuss various aerospace education activities available to teachers. She provided insight into CyberPatriot, StellarXplorers, and the benefits of becoming a CAP Aerospace Education Member (AEM). Teachers, homeschool coordinators, and other youth leaders can become an AEM for a mere $35. With that membership, they receive over 30 free national, academic standards-based aerospace education materials to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects and careers. Plus, with their membership, they are eligible for an assortment of other programs and grants. Perhaps most exciting is the CAP STEM Kits they can request (e.g., telescope, rocketry, drones, simulators, weather stations) which are all free! For more information on becoming an AEM, go to:


Russ Lewey, AFA South Central Region and Alabama AFA State President, opened the program. In attendance, was Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Alabama School Board District 8 Representative and AFA member, who expressed her appreciation for the information and the work that AFA and CAP is doing to help stimulate STEM learning with our youth. In appreciation for Susan Mallett coming up to speak, Rick Driesbach presented her with a check for $75 to go towards an area school participating in the Aerospace Connection in Education (ACE) program. Everyone agreed that this was an excellent opportunity for spouses and friends to get together and look forward to a future event.
“Educate” is a core value that the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter finds at the forefront of many of its activities. In fact, every dollar of its Community Partner Program goes into providing for aerospace education. AFJROTC Scholarships and the Teacher of the Year Program are just two examples where aerospace education dollars are directed.

Sometimes our aerospace education support relies less on dollars and is more “hands on,” relaying our experiences as Airmen. Such is the case where the Chapter is partnered with FlyQuest (a Community Partner) with a 10-week program, providing an Aviation Fundamentals Class for students at Mae Jemison High School. This semester is the second part of a year-long effort where students are offered an opportunity to gain insight into aviation activities, allowing them to assess if they have an interests and aptitude for a career as a pilot, aircraft maintainer, air traffic controller, or airport operations specialist. The students are provided training in subjects such as aerodynamics, aircraft design, weather, radar, and communications. The class culminates in an all-day field trip to Huntsville International Airport, where the students observe airport operations, air traffic control, and even get to fly in a 6-degrees of freedom, full motion, visual simulator.

The Chapter can also provide its expertise with younger students. In mid-March, we will work with 32 students from Boaz Intermediate School to allow them to gain an appreciation for all of the activities involved in airport operations. This visit is a “graduation trip” for the students as they complete a year-long “Aerospace Connection in Education” program.

The Chapter is always looking for members interested in sharing experiences with young people across the Tennessee Valley. If you have the desire and time, reach out to Russ Lewey, who helps coordinate some of the in-school programs. There is no doubt we can use your expertise in helping inspire tomorrow’s Airmen. He can be contacted by email – LeweyRV@Yahoo.com or by phone – 256-425-8791.

Mission

The Air Force Association mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
Our guest speaker next quarter was commissioned from ROTC at the University of California, Berkeley in 1965. He served as a Transportation Officer for 21 years including tours as a Traffic Management Officer, Aerial Port Detachment Commander (Vietnam), Air Freight Officer, RAF Exchange Officer, Aerial Port Detachment Commander (Thailand), Transportation Squadron Commander in Germany and staff assignments at Hq, 1st Aerial Port Gp, Hq SAC, and HQ TAC as well as a joint assignment as the Deputy Test Director of the Joint Logistics Over the Shore operational test program. He attended the Air Command & Staff College, and retired from active duty in 1986.

During his ‘second’ career, he worked for Apple Computer, Boeing, and subsequently as a contractor for NASA and the US Army Cargo Helicopter Project Office. He retired from the civilian sector in 2014.

Not being content to sit at home, he volunteered initially as NASA Docent Emeritus at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and in 2015 helped organize the Military Docent Emeritus program. He also served as researcher and photographer in support of the restoration program for the A-12 Blackbird and currently is the coordinator of the Aviation Challenge Tour program as well as training docents and providing presentations on the A-12.
“Klaxon, Klaxon, Klaxon” – for a SAC-trained crewmember, these words probably still cause the pulse to quicken and recall the days when with those three words, you would spring into action. For those of us who served in Lemay’s legacy, we all have stories of jumping out of the bed half-dressed or racing across the base with lights flashing trying to ensure that we got to our aircraft, wondering if this was the real one.

Today, at least at the time of this writing, B-52 aircrews are no longer sitting alert, although USAF ICBM crews maintain round-the-clock readiness in silos across this nation. A key component of an aircrew’s life was the week they pulled alert in an alert facility. Back in my day, we’d complete a daily check of the aircraft, review our target folders, and accomplish some training. However, living in a facility with all the crew-members and crew chiefs, there was plenty of time for pool, cards, video games, and countless hours in the TV lounge.

We’ve seen many SAC bases close and their alert facilities torn down or left in a state of disrepair. Alert facilities on active bases are off limits to the public. One community is working to keep this part of our heritage alive, allowing old “crew dogs” to relive the past and give future generations a chance to view what it was like in the height of the Cold War. Head north on I-55 just one hour north of Memphis, and you will find the town of Blytheville, Arkansas. This was the home of Blytheville AFB, also known as Eaker AFB, and “Hooterville.” The base closed in 1992, but today the alert facility and the weapon storage area stand ready, like it was yesterday. The town of Blytheville and a group of dedicated personnel have worked hard to ensure this legacy remains an important symbol of the dedicated Airmen who kept our nation safe. Early in February, Blytheville’s alert facility and the weapons storage area were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A study is now underway on turning the alert facility into a cold war museum.

Hulk 46 Memorial

On 3 February 1991, following a combat sortie over Iraq, the only B-52 lost during Desert Storm crashed into the Indian Ocean. Three of HULK 46 crew ejected and survived, but three Airmen died that night. The aircrew was from (then) Eaker AFB, Ark; and a year later, Eaker AFB closed. A memorial was never erected to honor these heroes. Today a memorial is being built to remember them and to compliment the Linebacker II memorial, located in front of the former base hospital on the flag plaza.

The memorial will cost $53,000 and the City of Blytheville has donated $10,000 towards that effort. Please take a moment and consider donating to this fund raising drive. Thank you in advance for your support; we can never forget these brave warriors from Eaker AFB. You can do it online at https://www.gofundme.com/hulk46memorial

Or by writing and sending a check to:
Blytheville Airport Authority
(In care of HULK 46 Memorial)
4701 Memorial Drive
Blytheville, AR 72315
Local Student Garners USAFA Appointment

AnnMarie Dunford is currently a senior at Huntsville High School in Huntsville, Alabama. She has grown up in Huntsville and was raised by her mother (Jennifer Goodwin), step father (Tracy Goodwin), and her father (Russell Dunford) and step mother (Joan-Marie Sullivan).

Throughout high school, Annie has challenged herself in both academics and athletics. Annie has maintained above a 4.0 GPA throughout high school, and currently has a 4.34 GPA. She also successfully passed the AP Language, AP U.S. History, and AP Chemistry exams during her Junior year. She is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and has been on the “A” Honor Roll all four years of high school.

Annie fell in love with volleyball at the age of 10 and has been playing competitively ever since. She has started on the Varsity Volleyball Team at Huntsville High every year since she was a freshman, and has successfully won two Regional Championships, and has made it to semi-finals in the state volleyball tournament twice. During her Junior year, Annie won the “Panther Award”, an award voted on by her teammates and given to the player who demonstrates outstanding leadership, sportsmanship, and attitude. She made the Alabama All-Star Team during the summer of 2017, as one of 24 players selected in the state. During her senior high school season, Annie was voted as MVP for her team, made All-Area, and All-State. She has played for NASA Volleyball Club for 8 years now, and has been chosen as team captain each year.

Annie has had many leadership roles as well, serving as the Sophomore class Vice-president, Junior class Treasurer, and Senior class vice-president. She is also the Mu Alpha Theta Vice-President.

Annie takes great pride in giving back to her community. She has volunteered for the Special Olympics, Night to Shine, has been a volleyball camp coach each summer, and has spent time volunteering at A New Leash on Life animal shelter. During her Junior year, Annie and her fellow class leaders, developed and implemented a tutoring program at Sonnie Hereford Elementary School. She recruited 90+ peer volunteers and gained over 600 community service hours class-wide.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the AFA congratulates Annie and wishes her the best as she begins her journey in the Class of 2022 later this summer!
“Rain, rain, go away, come again another day.” We’ve all heard that nursery rhyme and after this past February, have even said it a couple of times. But as your mother may have said, “be careful what you wish for.” No doubt, come this summer, you will be looking for rain showers to provide some green to your lawn.

The next best thing to “Mother Nature” is Irrigation Maintenance Services. If you are looking to repair your irrigation system or install a new one, you can do no better than to call on veteran-owned and your Community Partner, Irrigation Maintenance Services. They are an expert in residential and commercial sprinkler systems that can meet all your irrigation needs from design and installation, to maintenance and repair. No matter the system (Rain Bird, Hunter, etc.) or how long ago it was installed, they are your solution for irrigation problems. Although the name is Irrigation Maintenance, they bring the total package in addressing all of your needs outside a home or business -- from solving a drainage problem, to the total package of landscape design and installation. Trust your lighting needs to Irrigation Maintenance’s expertise, providing added security, safety, and beauty to your home or landscape. Born and raised in the Tennessee Valley, Lee Pugh, owner and operator, knows the area, the people, and irrigation. Call Lee and Irrigation Maintenance Services at 256-755-1524 the next time you need an irrigation professional.

AFA members get 10% off for any residential work.
Lamar Advertising of Huntsville proudly serves as the largest out-of-home advertising provider in Northern Alabama. Lamar Huntsville provides inventory in the Huntsville/Madison area along with the surrounding cities of Arab, Guntersville, Scottsboro, Ft. Payne, Rainsville, and Fayetteville, TN. We offer a digital network of 23 billboards, including the largest digital billboard in Madison County along with an extensive inventory of static billboards.

At Lamar Advertising Company, we are committed to giving back. We live by the Golden Rule and operate with honesty and integrity in every aspect of our business. We have been providing advertising to the Air Force Association for close to ten years. We appreciate the opportunity to support this particular branch of service and look forward to a long partnership.

With so many opportunities to showcase your message, Huntsville provides a fantastic backdrop to introduce new products and services, initiate a call-to-action, or highlight the success of a well-established brand, and with an average commute time of 40 minutes or more, residents are a captive out-of-home audience.

We are ready to help you grow your business. Call one of our outdoor advertising experts today at 256.533.6117, visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LamarHuntsvilleAL or visit our website at http://www.lamar.com/huntsville.
Community Partner Renewals

Mr. Curtis Taylor (r), President Linc Research, accepts the renewal medallion from George Krym, Chapter VP, Community Partners.

Northington Consulting: Major General (retired) Larry Northington, President.
Community Partner Renewals

Redstone Federal Credit Union: Ms. Mary Grace Evans, AVP Community Relations.

Shear Faith: Ms. Emily Krym with her Community Partner plaque and first medallion.
Community Partner Renewals

Chapter member Bryan Bennett (l) presents the renewal medallion to Lamar Advertising-Huntsville General Manager Jeff Handley and Office Manager Theresa Tello.

Mr. Jay Kurowsky (l), President of Aleta Technologies, accepts the renewal medallion from Rick Driesbach, Chapter President.
Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335
Community Partners

ACE Level

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General Atomics
www.ga.com/ems

MTSI
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Radiance Technologies
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Basic Level

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Southeastern Skin Cancer and Dermatology
https://www.southeasternskin.com
The Lodge at Johns Road
www.thelodgeatjohnsroad.com
U.S. Space & Rocket Center
www.rocketcenter.com

Annual Giving Levels: Ace: $500, Wingman: $250, Basic: $90

Want to become a Community Partner at the Ace, Wingman, or Basic level?
Contact George Krym at george.krym@yahoo.com.
Upcoming Events

- 9 Mar: Teacher of the Year Packages Due
- 14 Mar: Boaz 5th Grade ACE Program at HSV Airport
- 15 Mar: Executive Council Meeting
- 17 Mar: St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 21 Mar: “Rosie the Riveter” Day
- 17 Apr: Quarterly Luncheon: A-12 “Oxcart”
- 19 Apr: Executive Council Meeting
- 17 May: Executive Council Meeting