

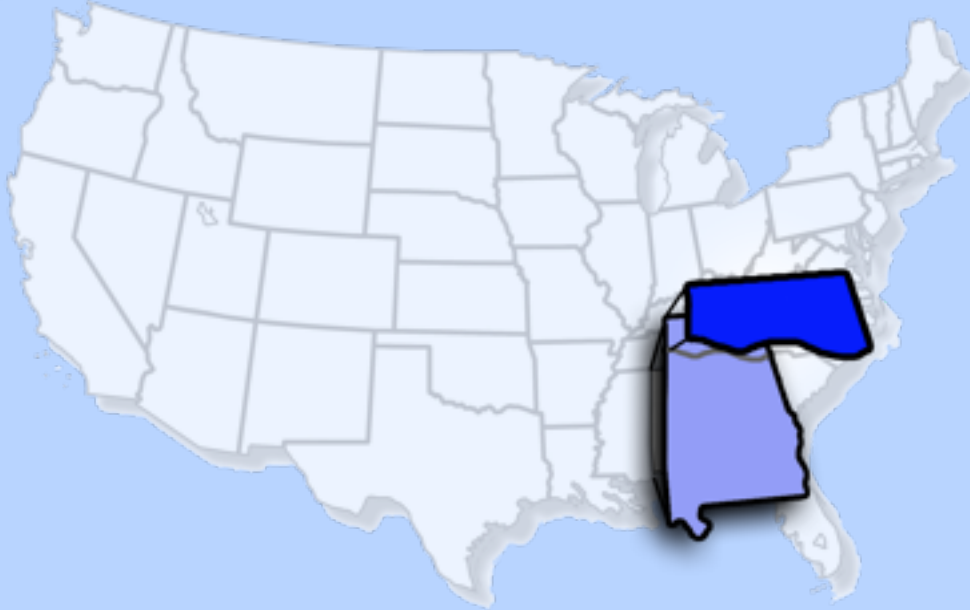
2nd Quarter 2018

TENNESSEE VALLEY FLYER

AFA Chapter 335



BREAKING NEWS



The Tennessee Valley Chapter is not just the “Top of Alabama”, we’ve just been named top of the nation as “AFA Large Chapter of the Year for 2018”and our own Russ Lewey has been selected as AFA Member of the Year!!!

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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.

Chapter 335 Officers

President

Rick Driesbach

Rick.driesbach@gmail.com

Vice President

Guy Broadhurst

Broadhurst.guy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jack Royster

jroyster@knology.net

Secretary

Eric Jackson

eric.jackson1969@gmail.com

Chapter 335 Special VPs

Aerospace Education: Jay Carlson

Community Partners: George Krym

CyberPatriot: Bob Hovde

Membership: John Pennell

Public Relations/Newsletter: Lee Alford

Veteran's Affairs: Zig Jastrebski

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Air Force Association
Tennessee Valley Chapter
"Top of Alabama" AFA Chapter 335

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Chapter 335 is the winner of Five 2017 Air Force Association Awards:
Aerospace Education Achievement Award for chapters with outstanding achievement in aerospace education
Community Partner Gold Award for attaining the highest level of Community Partner status

Warriors at the Academy

By Russ Lewey
AFA South Central Region President

Warrior: a person engaged or experienced in warfare; a person engaged in some struggle or conflict. (Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, 2018).



For nine days in June, I witnessed “warriors” not struggling but demonstrating a resolve and a victory from what tried to hold them back. Their challenges, each different, were numerous, but it is also what brought them to participate in DoD Warrior Games. This year’s games were hosted by the Air Force, at the US Air Force Academy, with some 250 athletes from the US Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines), plus Special Operations Command (SOCOM), along with veterans of the Defense Forces from Australia, Canada, and United Kingdom. They came together to

compete in a number of different “Olympic-style” competitions; which included track and field, shooting (rifle and pistol), archery, swimming, cycling, powerlifting, indoor rowing, seated volleyball, and wheel-chair basketball.



(l to r) Sharon Kayira, Christine Brown, and Kari Voliva, did it all in support of AFA efforts with the Warrior Games

As it was hosted by the Air Force, our AFA went above and beyond to show the athletes, their families and friends, and spectators, how we in the Air Force do things “first class.” Led by Kari Voliva and supported through the tireless efforts of Sharon Kayira and Christine Brown, these three ladies were the linchpin that pulled it all together. Starting over 6 months ago, AFA recognized a critical need for funding to support our Wounded Airmen as HQ USAF is prohibited from

providing funds in support of any Airmen that are no longer on active duty. Kari accepted this challenge and through corporate and field donations raised over \$120,000 in support of the Wounded Airman Program to cover the Trials and Warrior Games. These funds enabled AFA to support the participation of 25 veterans (over 80 applied) to compete in the Warrior Game Trials. After the Trials, eight of our veterans were selected to round out the 21 additional Active Duty Airmen to make up Team Air Force. AFA continued to assist our eight as they prepared and trained for the games; we then provided the funding necessary for their travel and participation (along with two caregivers necessary for our Airmen).



Athletes and their families, and spectators took advantage of AFA's Hospitality Tent

The first two days of the Games focused on track and field events. In preparation for sunny days and high temps, AFA set up a hospitality tent, loaded with drinks, snacks, and even ice cream. Friday morning (Day 1) began as a beautiful day. However, before we could get the first event started, Mother Nature forced a cancelation of the competition when gale-force winds made it too dangerous for the athletes and

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(Warrior Games, continued from page 3)



TSgt (Ret) Russell Logan awaits his race

spectators. Once the winds subsided that afternoon, a small group of dedicated “AFAers” regrouped, salvaged most of our “goodies,” and cleaned up the tables to prepare for an extra long Day 2. Come Saturday, I can’t tell you how proud I was to be an Airman and AFA member -- smiles from the athletes and their families, spectators and the staff of the Games were all the payment we needed, and boy did we see a lot of them. As it was, we went through a whole pallet of water, ran out of Gatorade/Powerade, and a freezer full of ice cream.

Three of the athletes were from the South Central Region:

MSgt John Angel, Jr. – an Aerospace Ground Support Equipment technician presently living in Birmingham, AL

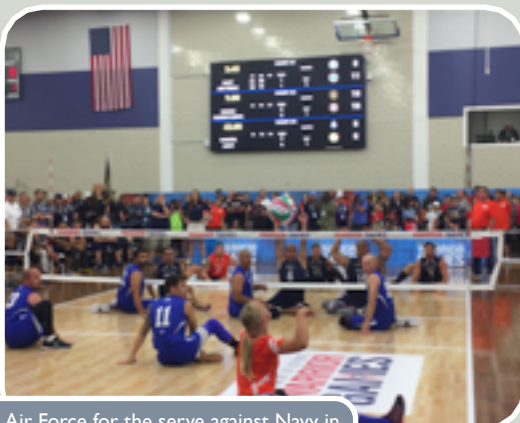
Capt Hunter Barnhill – a former B-52 pilot who now flies as a T-6 instructor at Columbus AFB, MS.

TSgt (Ret) Russell Logan – former Security Policeman, is retired and now lives in Drummond, TN.

All of the athletes (and families) were so appreciative of what AFA is doing in support of our Wounded Airmen. Since my son is stationed at Fort Carson, my wife, Diane, and I took the opportunity to get our grandchildren involved in working in the Hospitality Tent and supporting the Warrior Games. They too, were moved by the dedication and camaraderie they witnessed by these warriors. Having experienced and seen what our Wounded Airman Program means to these Airmen, the dollars we are raising on their behalf is making a huge impact. Not only seen by the Airmen and their families, but soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, in our country and abroad are seeing first-hand how we take care of our own. I like to think that our support played a small part in the success of Team Air Force which won the most medals, winning 165 over the course of these games (64 over the nearest competitor, Navy)! Next year’s games are being hosted by SOCOM at MacDill AFB; I can’t wait and hope to see you there!



(l to r) Diane Lewey, Russell Logan (Wounded Airman living in Drummond, TN area), Russ Lewey, Kristin Morris (Wounded Airman living in Destin, FL)



Team Air Force for the serve against Navy in seated volleyball



<https://dodwarriorgames.com/teams/air-force/>

Rosie the Riveter Day

By Ken Philippart

The Air Force Association (AFA) participated in a ceremony to honor women's contributions to winning World War II on Rosie the Riveter Day in Birmingham on March 21st. Ms. Nell Branum invited AFA to attend on behalf of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA), a national non-profit organization of "Rosies" and descendants, totaling 6,000 members across all 50 states.

The event included a ribbon cutting for a Rosie the Riveter Rose Garden containing three rose bushes, commemoratively named -- Rosa Floribunda Rosie the Riveter. The Memorial Rose Garden project is a national campaign to plant a Rosie the Riveter Memorial Rose Garden in each Congressional district in the US by August, 2020, the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The event was held at Brookdale University Park retirement community, the residence of Dr. Fran Carter, founder of the American Rosie the Riveter Association.

AFA Alabama State President Ken Philippart and Tennessee Valley Chapter 335 member Lisa Philippart represented AFA at the event. AFA was warmly welcomed along with representatives from other veteran's organizations.

The program began with the Pledge of Allegiance and greetings from J. J. Bischoff, Chief of Staff for the mayor of Homewood, Alabama, followed by recognition of all veterans in attendance who were given red, white, and blue ribbons to wear.



Dr. Fran Carter (l) with
Lisa Philippart



Rosies Mary Louise Hodges, Mabel Myrick, Jackie Ramsbacher and Dr. Fran Carter (l to r) cut the ribbon while Leanne Messer holds a picture of the namesake rose bush, Rosa Floribunda Rosie the Riveter.

The four Rosies in attendance were then introduced. Mabel Myrick from Kimberly, AL worked in the War Department, has been an ARRA officer for more than 12 years, and is currently the national Corresponding Secretary. Jackie Ramsbacher from Vestavia, AL, worked in a factory in Mississippi sewing underwear for the military and also trained as a B-29 electrician, although the war ended before she could use her training. She is a member of the ARRA Birmingham Chapter. Mary Louise Hodges, also a resident of Brookdale, answered telephones for the Red Cross during the war and is a member of the Birmingham Chapter of American Rosie the Riveter Association. The last Rosie was Dr. Fran Carter, who was a riveter working on B-29 bombers and subsequently founded the ARRA.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Lily of the Cahaba Chapter presented each woman with a rose. The DAR also announced the presentation of six rose bushes to Aldridge Gardens for their new Rosie Garden and announced the placing of ARRA's book of stories, *103 Rosie the Riveter Stories*, in the DAR Library in Washington, DC.

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The ribbon ceremony was held indoors rather than out in the garden due to inclement weather. However, that didn't dampen the enthusiasm as all of the Rosies enthusiastically cut the ribbon to dedicate "their" rose bushes.

The program concluded with a beautiful rendition of God Bless America by Ms. Gloria Parvin followed by refreshments and socializing. It was an honor to hear each Rosie relay her personal experiences from the war and was especially fitting to recognize their unsung but vital contributions to the war effort during Women's History Month.



Ken Philippart with Mary Louise Hodges

The Wall That Heals, Vietnam War Commemoration

by Zig Jastrebski



Save The Date for The Wall That Heals and the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War activities coming 31 October – 4 November 2018 to Huntsville, Alabama.

The Wall That Heals is the traveling 3/4th scale replica of the Vietnam War Remembrance Wall in Washington DC. It will be set up in the new Festival Area of John Hunt Park, near the Veterans Memorial Museum and the Jaycees building. While it's in Huntsville, the Wall will be open on a 24/7 basis.

The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will be setting up displays of Vietnam memorabilia and Vietnam history to support field trips to the Wall for over 400 high school age children. Additionally, a guest speakers program will occur on Saturday, 3 November, highlighted by Joe Galloway, the author of *We Were Soldiers Once*. Joe was the actual reporter on the ground that was in the movie of the same name, starring Mel Gibson. If you have never heard Joe speak, it can be an emotional experience for any veteran, but especially for Vietnam veterans.

Also, the national 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War organization will be sponsoring oral history sessions for Vietnam veterans. These sessions will be conducted while the Wall is open.

Needless to say, with the scope of this operation, there are many needs for volunteers. From tour guides for students to over watch at 0200L, opportunities to volunteer abound. Check the web page www.twth-hsv.com for the latest information and to volunteer.



STEM Volunteer Opportunity Fair

By Ken Philippart

The Tennessee Valley Chapter participated in a unique event to publicize the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities of Huntsville-area volunteer organizations. The first-of-its-kind STEM Volunteer Opportunity Fair was organized by the Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and was held at STEAMWORKS at Lowe Mill on April 5th. AIAA invited the chapter to participate and explain AFA's comprehensive STEM activities.

Eleven volunteer organization participated in the fair and set up displays to publicize their STEM activities. Chapter members Ken and Lisa Philippart staffed AFA's table during the event. Alabama State Vice President for Aerospace Education (AE) Susan Mallett sent books, pamphlets and folders outlining the state's AE resources and programs. South Central Region President Russ Lewey provided brochures on AFA's signature AE events, CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers, along with pens and other handouts to publicize AFA's programs. Fair attendees were very interested in what STEM resources AFA could provide and snapped up the materials.

During the fair, each organization was given 10 minutes to speak about its STEM programs. Russ Lewey gave an enthusiastic and comprehensive presentation on the spectrum of



AFA's AE programs that generated great interest. Many attendees were unfamiliar with AFA and our AE programs, but Russ changed that immediately with his lively talk.

AIAA provided pizza and soft drinks during the event and allowed plenty of time for organizations to network and talk about ways to collaborate and pool their resources. The fair was an effective way to spread AFA's aerospace education message to the Huntsville volunteer community.



Alabama State AFA President Ken Philippart staffs the AFA booth.

Recognizing the 76th Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid and Remembering a Personal Encounter with General Doolittle

By John Phillip

The Japanese attack on Hawaii on December 7, 1941 brought the United States into World War II. On December 21, 1941, President Roosevelt tasked the US military to design and execute an attack on the Japanese mainland at the earliest possible date.

On April 18, 1942, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, 16 B-25B "Mitchell" bombers took off from the USS *Hornet* 750 miles from the coast of Japan. The mission was led by Lt Col Jimmy Doolittle and flown by 79 volunteer airmen. The raid inflicted little damage on the Japanese mainland; however, it boosted US morale and caused the Japanese to revise their military strategy and their placement of naval and land assets.

In an effort to remember the selfless young men whose courage and sacrifice helped shape the course of World War II, eight of our AFA chapter members gathered at the "Hidden Backroom" of Straight to Ale on April 18th to recognize and toast the memory of the famous Doolittle Raid. This unique mission continues to inspire an appreciation for the innovative thinking, collaboration, and strategic action that must continue to keep Air Power in the forefront of our national capabilities.



Raising a toast to the Doolittle Raiders are AFA chapter members: (l to r) Bob Hovde, John Pennell, Ken Philippart, Scott Patton, Rick Driesbach, Daryl Carpenter, Russ Lewey and John Phillip.

Remembering a Personal Encounter with General Doolittle

While assigned to the Headquarters SAC staff, I was tasked to develop a briefing for Lt Gen William Pitts, the 15th Air Force Commander, in the spring of 1974. The briefing dealt with the survivability upgrades being made to the Minuteman Launch Facilities, along with the deployment of Minuteman III missiles. The briefing was part of a symposium in conjunction with the SAC Missile Competition, Olympic Arena 74, at Vandenberg AFB, CA. I used 35 mm "video" as part of the briefing and had to run the projector during portions of the briefing.

A Minuteman III launch was also scheduled to take place at Vandenberg, among the many other events of this important gathering. To better view the missile launch, personnel were driven from the Vandenberg AFB support area to a high point in the missile complex closer to the launch site.

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Although there was special transportation for the many dignitaries, most observers were transported by a standard AF blue bus.

As my bus prepared to leave, General Doolittle got onto the bus and sat in the seat in front of me. He evidently did not want any special transportation. During the ride, he turned to me, asked for my name, where I was assigned, and what my duties were. I remember that we had a pleasant conversation during the ten-mile trip; however, I was primarily answering his questions.

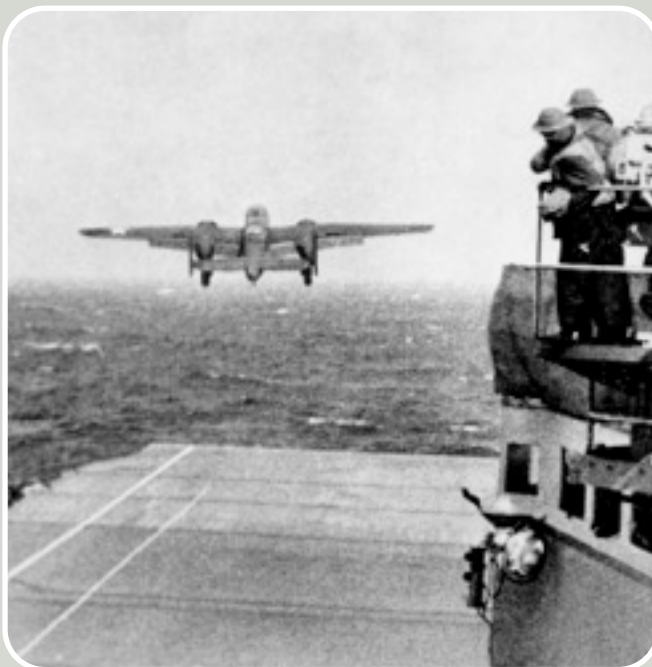
Fortunately, I had my camera with me and asked General Doolittle if I could get a photo of the two of us. He was very obliging. I then remember that he moved on to strike up a conversation with other junior officers in the waiting audience. Eventually, he did make his way to the area where other general officers were located.

I will always remember the outward pleasantness, unassuming humility, and inquisitive mind of this WWII hero. He clearly wanted to be with junior officers and learn about the Air Force issues and matters they were working. He gave no sense of a desire for special recognition for what he accomplished during WWII and later as a leader in the formation of the US Air Force and as the first president of the Air Force Association.

For a junior officer of 5 years, this chance meeting with General Doolittle had an important impact on my understanding of being an Air Force officer. This was the first time I had a “personal” conversation with a general officer. I clearly saw and learned that your rank should have nothing to do with how you treat your fellow airmen and that the formality of rank should always be respected, but it is not an absolute in relating to others.



Captain John Phillip and General Jimmy Doolittle pose for a photograph while waiting to observe a Minuteman missile launch at Vandenberg AFB, CA in May 1974.



USSRC Military Docent Update

By Lee Smith

As many of you are aware, our AFA Chapter has been a strong supporter of the US Space and Rocket Center's (USSRC) Military Docent program. Our support was initially led by Nick Van Valkenburgh, one of our Chapter members. Under Nick's leadership and close coordination with the USSRC leadership, the Military Docent program steadily grew to its current status with over forty participants (but less than half were ever in the Air Force). Tragically, Nick died this year of a stroke during a family Easter holiday. We continue our Docent activities in his honor and memory.

The major activity our Docents support is the weekend tours of the Aviation Challenge facility. These tours occur each Friday and Saturday at 1400. Each tour requires at least two people to recruit customers for the tour and one to lead the hour-long tour. We always need additional support for these tours so if YOU are available to support this rewarding activity, please contact Lee Smith, leemad@knology.net.

Another way YOU can assist the Military Docents is to sign up to introduce USSRC visitors



Lockheed A-12 on display at the USSRC.

to our Awesome A-12. (No it is not an SR-71!) It is a very rewarding activity and can be accomplished on any day at anytime. The next training session at the USSRC is on 27 June at 1500. Again, contact Lee Smith at leemad@knology.net for more information and sign up procedures.

Nick and our AFA Chapter were part of the initial cadre of the Military Docent program. Please help us to continue this valuable community service program.

IN MEMORIAM

NICK VAN VALKENBURGH, LT COL USAF (RET)



Commissioned via AFROTC at University of California, Berkeley in 1965. Served as Transportation Officer for 21 years including tours as Traffic Management Officer, Aerial Port Det Commander (Vietnam), Air Freight Officer, RAF Exchange Officer, Aerial Port Det Commander (Thailand), Transportation Squadron Commander in Germany, and staff assignments at Hq, 1st Aerial Port Gp, Hq SAC, and HQ TAC, as well as joint assignment as Deputy Test Director of Joint Logistics Over the Shore operational test program. Attended Air Command & Staff College. Retired from active duty in 1986.

Worked for Apple Computer and Boeing and subsequently as contractor for NASA and US Army Cargo Helicopter Project Office. Retired in 2014

Volunteered initially as NASA Docent Emeritus at U.S. Space & Rocket Center and in 2015 helped organize Military Docent Emeritus program. Served as researcher and photographer in support of A-12 restoration program and coordinator of Aviation Challenge Tour program as well as training docents and providing presentations on the A-12.

AirPower History Tour

By Ken Phillipart

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) AirPower History Tour visited Huntsville Executive Airport (MDQ) from May 24 – 27, 2018. The tour brings World War II-era and later warbirds to locations around the country. Visitors can tour the aircraft on the ground and buy tickets for orientation flights. Aircraft participating in the Huntsville tour were the B-29 Superfortress, *Fifi*, one of only two flying B-29s in the world, the P-51 Mustang Gunfighter, the C-45 Expeditor Bucket of Bolts, a T-6 Texan, a PT-13 Stearman, and a T-34 Mentor.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter helped spread the word about the tour, and several chapter members also ventured to MDQ to see the



North American P-51 "Mustang"

While waiting for my flight, Lisa and I took pictures of all the aircraft and watched excited passengers embark on other flights.

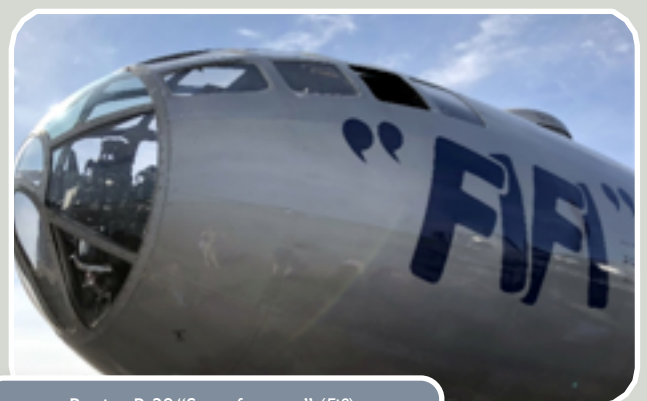
Fifi was clearly the star of the tour though. My initial impression upon seeing the B-29 was how much bigger and more modern the aircraft appeared compared to a B-17. Unlike *Doc*, the other flying B-29, *Fifi* is not polished to a gleaming finish. She is dull silver gray, sleek and slightly sinister in appearance.

At the appointed hour, the CAF rounded up the ten lucky ticket holders for our flight. We were given a safety briefing including discussion of the emergency exits, hand signals, what not to touch, and the whys and wherefores of the aircraft being registered in the experimental category before being led to the aircraft to meet



Beechcraft T-34 "Mentor"

aircraft. I was one of those members but then took it a step farther. With the blessing of my wife and fellow Tennessee Valley Chapter member, Lisa, I purchased a ride on *Fifi*. I reasoned that the chances of a B-29 coming through Huntsville again any time soon were slim, so I had better take advantage of the opportunity while I could. Or at least that's how I rationalized spending that kind of money. And after having been bitten by the warbird bug two years ago when I rode in the B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* (see Tennessee Valley Flyer, 4th Quarter 2016), it didn't take much to convince me that I must fly on *Fifi*.



Boeing B-29 "Superfortress" (*Fifi*)

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Fifi over Huntsville

the crew. The pilot introduced the rest of the crew, outlined the flight profile, and reinforced the safety procedures. He then asked how many of the group were veterans. Six of us raised our hands. Four were Air Force veterans with a combined total of 90 years of service.

We then boarded the aircraft. I had purchased a gunner's seat, a weak nod to economizing since the cost was half of the ticket price to sit in the cockpit or nose area. We five "gunners" were led to the rear hatch where we climbed a short step ladder to enter the aircraft. We moved forward and took our places on two banks of canvas jump seats arrayed on both sides of the aircraft. The seats were equipped with automotive-style vice military seatbelts which sometimes baffle the uninitiated. We were offered earplugs, and the crew reminded us of the hand signals since communication would be difficult when the engines were running.

It was a warm morning and even though the rear door and an upper hatch were open, it was hot in the old bomber and our sweat began to trickle. Looking around took my mind off of the heat. I was surprised that despite the B-29 being a more modern aircraft than the B-17, it too had exposed control cables that we were cautioned not to touch. On each side of the fuselage was a blister window for the port and starboard gunners which allowed a clear view of the wings and flaps. Looking aft, we could see the crawl way to the tail gunner's position but no one was allowed to sit there for takeoff. The scene forward revealed the top gunner's chair with a

sighting blister above it and the port and starboard gunners' seats on the flanks. In front of that was the entrance to the tunnel that allowed the crew to crawl above the bomb bays and traverse the full length of the aircraft. We were told that we would not be allowed to go into the tunnel and were restricted to the aft of the aircraft. Given our average age and physical condition, no one was anxious to try that passage anyway.

Two crewmembers--the scanners--occupied the port and starboard gunner chairs. Their job was to scan for obstructions on the ground, visually confirm flap settings and keep the passengers from getting into trouble.



View from the rear gunner position.

With passengers buckled up and earplugs in, the Wright R-3350 engines were started with the characteristic billowing of blue smoke, or so I was told since we couldn't see it. The noise level was not intolerable and seemed comparable to that of the B-17. With engines running, some much-welcomed air flowed through the open door and upper hatch. The B-29 is a pressurized aircraft but for rides, is flown unpressurized with the hatches open for ventilation. The pressure bulkhead hatches were nonetheless closed for takeoff.

While taxiing to Runway 36, the flaps were lowered to 25 degrees, as evident by the yellow degree markings. The scanners confirmed the settings with each other and the pilots via headset.

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(Airpower History Tour, continued from page 12)

The crew maneuvered the venerable warhorse onto the runway, advanced the throttles, and we were on our way. Acceleration was brisk, faster than the B-17 with comparable noise levels. We were soon airborne and departed the pattern.



View from the "upper blister"

Once at cruising altitude of 2,500 feet, the scanners motioned it was safe to unbuckle and move around. I headed aft and crawled to the rear gunner position as nimbly and gracefully as I could despite the aircraft's and my advanced ages. When I finally arrived and popped my head up inside the Plexiglass canopy, I was rewarded with a spectacular view of the retreating landscape. After snapping several pictures, I inched forward on my hands and knees to let the next person take the seat. I next slid into the top gunner seat and poked my head into the upper blister for additional pictures. The seat rotated, giving me a 360-degree view of the upper half of the aircraft. The scratches on the Plexiglass produced unusual reflections of sunlight.

I looked into the crew tunnel and the thought of climbing in must have shown on my face since a crewmember looked at me and shook his head to remind me that was no entry.

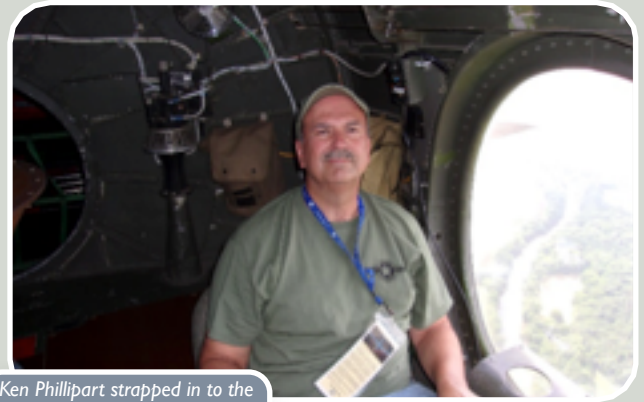
Finally, I settled into the starboard gunner seat for the obligatory in-flight self-portrait and to enjoy the scenery passing below. Despite the heat, the aircraft rode comfortably and easily weathered the occasional turbulence.

All too soon, the crew signaled for us to return to our seats. I watched out the port side

blister as the flaps were lowered to 45 degrees for landing, much greater than I expected.

The pilots greased *Fifi* onto the runway and we taxied back. The engines were shut down and the exit ladder was positioned. Suddenly quiet, we asked the crew questions we couldn't ask in flight due to the noise. Not wanting to leave, we chatted for about 10 minutes before the ground crew gently prodded us to make way for the next flight. The CAF presented each passenger a gift bag and certificate, fitting mementos of our flight.

I rejoined Lisa who was waiting patiently outside the cordon. She commented that I had the same goofy grin on my face that I had after my B-17 flight. When she saw me eyeing the



Ken Phillipart strapped in to the starboard gunner seat.

passengers getting ready to embark on a flight in the C-45 Expeditor, she gently led me out the gate before I could do more damage to our credit card. The warbird bug bites hard and is hard to resist. I just learned that there is an Avro Lancaster in Ontario that sells rides...



Saving Vintage USAF War Birds

By Rick Driesbach

One key focus of the chapter for the next couple of years will be working with the US Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) to restore two vintage USAF aircraft in bad condition at USSRC's Aviation Challenge facility in Huntsville.

Our chapter's Executive Council has been considering this project for several years now, but in late 2017, decided to seriously address restoration of the F-4D and F-111A fighters on display at Aviation Challenge. As background, the F-4 actually got a Mig Kill during Operation Bolo during the Vietnam war (Google it if you are not familiar with this deception operation). The F-111 was a special test aircraft to test the longer wing used on the F-111F and FB-111A models.



McDonnell Douglas F-4 "Phantom II"

Since November 2017, a group of members from our chapter have been focused on this project. Several meetings of this group have been held to date, including two with USSRC officials. The basic goal is to restore both aircraft in the Vietnam-era camouflage paint scheme, and to get them protected from further deterioration. Additionally, we are working with the USSRC to have professional restoration

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General Dynamics F-111 "Aardvark"

(War Birds, continued from page 14)

companies bid for, and subsequently perform, the work. This summer we will invite several restoration companies to visit Aviation Challenge so they can better understand what is needed and better estimate their costs.

We will be working to secure educational and other types of grants to fund this work, but the chapter is always open to dedicated donations in support of this effort. Our Treasurer, Jack Royster, will be establishing a special account to ensure all donated funds in support of this project remain committed to this project. Should you want to donate at any point, please send a check to Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806. Make check out to AFA Chapter 335 and indicate Aircraft Restoration on the notation line.

Should you want to be personally involved in this effort, please contact Rick Driesbach at rick.driesbach@gmail.com.

Space and Missile Defense Symposium 2018

By JP Pennell

Each year, the Space and Missile Defense industry beats a path to its “hometown” in Huntsville, Alabama. Governmental agencies, commercial industries big and small, and support organizations bring their collective products and services together in a week devoted to introducing new and exciting innovations and improvements to existing space and missile defense programs.

This year, the Space and Missile Defense Symposium (SMDS) will be held August 7-9, 2018 in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center in Downtown Huntsville. This year, as we have over the past several years, the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association will participate as an exhibitor for this event. Because this symposium is attended by Space and Missile Defense organizations and experts from all over the country, it provides a unique opportunity to spread the word about how your AFA supports a major part of Space and Missile community in the local area.

Not only do many of the Chapter’s members work in the organizations and businesses represented, it allows us to have an opportunity to promote our membership and to highlight our advocacy of the US Air Force’s vital role in the Space and Missile Defense mission. It’s also a great opportunity to see new products from a diverse group of industry partners, to network with people who support our great nation in a number of different ways, and even a chance to renew past friendships or make new ones.

The Chapter will man the booth from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9:00am to Noon, Thursday. Admission to the Exhibit Hall is free of charge, and we invite all chapter members and friends of the Air Force to visit us at Booth Number 342. For more information, contact John Pennell at johnpennelljr@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



Lt Gen Samuel Greaves (I), Director of the Missile Defense Agency speaks with Tennessee Valley Chapter members (l to r) Mr. Jack Royster, Mr. Eric Silkowski, and Ms. Bailey Erickson at the 2017 SMDS.

Teachers of the Year - 2018



(l to r) Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Jay Carlson, MaryScott Hunter, member Alabama State Board of Education, and Chapter President, Rick Driesbach, present Ms. Lori Nelson with her Chapter and State Teacher of the Year certificates at Chaffee Elementary School.



Rick Driesbach (l) and Jay Carlson (r) present Ms. Jessye Gaines (l) with her Chapter Teacher of the Year certificate at Bob Jones High School, alongside principal, Ms. Sylvia Lambert (r).

The Major Howard Christiansen Memorial Scholarship presented to an Outstanding Huntsville High School AFJROTC Cadet

By John Phillip

Cadet Lt Col Jamie Chapman, a four-year member of Huntsville High School's Air Force JROTC unit, was awarded the Major Howard Christiansen Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 on April 25, 2018. Cadet Chapman was rated as Best-of-the-Best among the three AFJROTC units in the Huntsville/Madison area.

Overall, the criteria for this award is based on accomplishments in leadership, scholarship, and exceptional support to the school, the AFJROTC program, and fellow cadets. Cadet Chapman has excelled in all criteria. A short summary of her accomplishments is included below.

Cadet Chapman has definitely been a strong leader. She was selected as a flight commander during her sophomore and junior years where she effectively led over fifteen fellow cadets each year. During her senior year, she led the unit's Mission Support Squadron, where she directed other cadets in areas of logistics, recruiting, public affairs, personnel, and administration. She was hand-picked to attend the Alabama Student Council Association Conference, the Rotary Youth Leadership Camp, and the JROTC Aviation Challenge Leadership Camp. She received the 2018 Daughters of the American Revolution Award and the 2017 Scottish Rite Medal for her leadership, good character and self-discipline. Scholastically, she has achieved a 3.57 Grade Point Average and is ranked in the top 25% of her class.

In supporting her unit and school, she was a tech-savvy member of the unit's Cyber Patriot team for two years, finishing in the top 17% of all AFJROTC units in the 2015 national competition. She was hand-picked for an officer position on the school's Student Council, responsible for accurately disseminating school media information. Also, she was a very systematic and methodical editor for the school's 2017-2018 yearbook where she constructed layouts for the 51 school clubs and 125 faculty/staff members.

These are only the major accomplishments of Cadet Chapman in the last four years at Huntsville High School. She has definitely demonstrated a solid pattern of initiative, self-discipline, patriotism, scholarship, and leadership. Cadet Chapman will attend Mississippi State University and major in Political Science with a minor in Accounting and Business Management. The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association is honored to support the college education of this deserving Air Force Junior ROTC cadet.

Finally, it is important to recognize that Dick Christiansen, a son of Major Howard Christiansen, made the scholarship presentation to Cadet Chapman. Dick has attended the three previous memorial scholarship presentations and gives a very credible and personal testimony to the sacrifice and patriotism of his father, who was a WWII B-17 bombardier and a lifelong member of the Air Force Association. Additionally, we wish to gratefully acknowledge that Dick made another very generous donation this year to our memorial scholarship in honor of his late father.



After John Phillip (l) had announced the scholarship winner, Dick Christiansen (c) presented the Major Howard Christiansen Memorial Scholarship to Cadet Lt Col Jamie Chapman at Huntsville High School on April 25, 2018.

AFJROTC Scholarship Winners

May 2018



AFA Chapter 335 Treasurer, Jack Royster, presents a Chapter Scholarship to Cadet Col Hannah Gulley at Bob Jones HS.



AFA Chapter 335 VP for Aerospace Education, Jay Carlson, presents a Chapter Scholarship to Cadet AIC Alexis Battie at Mae Jemison HS.

Huntsville AFA Members Support the Local State Veteran's Home

By Scott Patton

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the AFA joined with other local service organizations such as the Sergeants Major Association (SGMA), Warrant Officers Association (WOA), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Association of the United States Army (AUSA), and the National Association "Screaming Eagles" Chapter (NASEC) to once again provide funds and serve an annual true southern BBQ at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, AL, on Saturday, 9 June 2018. Over 300 Veterans, families, and staff enjoyed the camaraderie and service. Many boxes of candy bars have also been donated as prizes for the home's weekly bingo events. The AFA continues to provide support for the 150 veterans at the home and assist the VA mission to remember and respect our Veterans.



A Cool Way to Support Wounded Airmen

Check out the article on page 3 – you see what your AFA is doing through the Wounded Airman Program. You have a way to get in on the action. Following the completion of the games, the Chapter obtained the beverage refrigerator used during the Warrior Games, 1-9 Jun 2018. It was used just 3 days during the games; however, in shipment it did suffer a small dent (size of a nickel) on the upper back corner.

We are raffling this mini refrigerator off with half of the proceeds going to the Wounded Airman Program; the other half will be used locally in support of the Tennessee Valley's programs. Details of the refrigerator are listed below.

At the next Executive Council meeting on 19 July, we will raffle off this beverage cooler.

Tickets are just \$5 for a chance and include a chance to win a bottle of wine to start your collection. But if you aren't planning to attend the meeting, you can still get in on the action. Just write a check, payable to the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter, and send it to:

Russ Lewey
1207 Rison Ave. NE
Huntsville, AL 35801

For every \$5 you donate you will have one chance to win this refrigerator and your first bottle of wine. We must *receive* your check by 18 July to participate. Winners will be notified by phone on 20 July. Any checks received after that date will go to support Wounded Airmen and AFA Programs.



Igloo - Indio Model MIS-1530

Keep drinks cool and easily on-hand with the Beverage Wine Center. With three glass shelves, this compact cooler holds 110 cans or small plastic or glass bottles. Alternately, it can hold over 30 bottles of wine, with a sturdy and durable chrome rack that makes bottles easy to retrieve. Electronic temperature controls let you keep your drinks as cool as you prefer. With its sleek appearance and stainless steel-look frame, this black beverage center is ideal for almost any kitchen, bar area or den.
Dimensions: 21"W x 20"D x 32"H



Community Partner Renewals

Mr. Scott McWhirter (r), General Manager for General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) in Huntsville receives the "Ace" plaque and Gold renewal medallion from Chapter member and VP for the Chapter's Community Partner program George Krym (l).



Mr. Andy Bevilacqua (c), Air Force Vietnam Veteran and CEO, Bevilacqua Research Corporation, accepts the renewal medallion from Rick Driesbach (l), Chapter President and Guy Broadhurst (r), Chapter VP.

Community Partner Renewals



Chapter member Brig Gen Gary Connor (ret) (c) presents the 2017-2018 Community Partner renewal medallion to Ms. Elizabeth Morard, CEO, and Mr. Carlos Kingston, President, Qualis Corp.

Thank You!

The Tennessee Valley AFA chapter would like to thank all of its Community Partners for their generous contributions and support. Through their commitments, Chapter 335 is able to carry out its key mission of promoting youth-focused, aerospace education. Our aerospace education outreach effort includes scholarship programs, school-based cyber security & space system design competitions, and teacher workshops. Our Community Partners are prime enablers in developing and challenging young minds to meet our Country's defense needs for the future. We thank you!

Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 Community Partners

ACE Level

GATR Technologies

www.gatr.com

General Atomics

www.ga.com/ems

Mary's Wine and Spirits

Hwy 431 South,
Brownsboro, AL

MTSI

www.mtsi-va.com/

Radiance Technologies

www.radiancetech.com/

R-Squared Consulting, LLC

www.rsquaredconsulting.com

Willbrook Solutions, Inc.

www.willbrook.net

Wingman Level

Aero Thermo Technology

www.aerothermo.com

Conditioned Air Solutions

www.conditionedairsolutions.com

Davis Strategic Innovations, Inc.

www.davisdsi.com

Edward Jones

www.edwardjones.com/
BrendaArmstrong

Intuitive Research and Technology

www.irtc-hq.com/

W.W. Supplies

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/wwsupplieshuntsville/)
www.supplieshuntsville/

Basic Level

Aleta Technologies

www.aletatechnologies.com

Bevilacqua Research Corp

www.brc2.com

Delta Research, Inc.

www.dr-inc.com

Dentistry Downtown

www.rebeccahowelldmd.com

FlyQuest

www.FlyQuest.net

Irrigation Maintenance Services, Inc.

256-755-1524

Jackson Center

www.jacksoncenter.net/

Lamar Advertising

www.lamar.com/huntsville

Landers McLarty Nissan

www.landersmclartynissanhuntville.com

Linc Research Inc.

www.lincresearchinc.com

Linda Morgan - Legend Realty

[http://www.legend-realty.com/](http://www.legend-realty.com/linda-morgan/)
[linda-morgan/](http://www.legend-realty.com/linda-morgan/)

NeXolve

www.nexolvematerials.com

Northington Consulting

www.northconllc.com

Parsons Corporation

www.parsons.com

PeopleTec

www.peopletec.com

Qualis Corporation

www.qualis-corp.com

Redstone Federal Credit Union

www.redfcu.org

Shear Faith

[https://www.vagaro.com/](https://www.vagaro.com/shearfaith1)
[shearfaith1](https://www.vagaro.com/shearfaith1)

Sigmatech

www.sigmattech.com

Southeastern Skin Cancer and Dermatology

[https://](https://www.southeasternskin.com)
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

3rd Quarter

19 Jul - Executive Council Meeting

7 – 9 Aug: Space & Missile Defense Symposium, VBC

16 Aug - Executive Council Meeting

15 Sep: USAF 71st Birthday (Chapter Social and Veteran's Home)

20 Sep - Executive Council Meeting (tentative)

4th Quarter

31 Oct – 4 Nov: The Wall That Heals in Huntsville

3 Nov: Vietnam War Commemorative Event #4

11 Nov: 100th Anniversary of End of WW I

Do you have something newsworthy to share with our membership? Send your articles and photos to afa335.news@gmail.com for inclusion in the next edition of the Tennessee Valley Flyer.

