

SUMMER 2018

AESA

MAGAZINE

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AIRMAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION**



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and updates from
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Jeffrey Ledoux,
Air Force Sergeants Association
26th International President

FINAL THOUGHTS

Each year our delegates and guests get together in the spirit of fellowship at our AFSA Annual Convention and Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC). We also gather to hear from key leaders in our Air Force. This segment of the PAC helps us grow both personally and professionally. The AFSA PAC is the premier professional development opportunity for Airmen. I hope each of you walked away "re-blued" and looking forward to returning in 2019.

DELEGATES

Our Bylaws require us to meet annually to discuss the business of AFSA. During this year's meetings, which took place during the PAC, delegates gained perspective on how AFSA functions. We conducted several business meetings and elected the next group of leaders. We discussed the budget, our legislative platform, and heard from some great speakers. We reviewed and voted on two bylaw changes that will enhance AFSA. Furthermore, we presented many well deserved awards and engaged in some fun and fellowship. I hope this year's PAC did not disappoint.

NEW LEADERSHIP

I would be remiss if I didn't thank each of you for your continued support for the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA). Since 1961, this association has had just 25 Presidents. Each has done their absolute best to ensure the future of AFSA. This year, I chose not to run for office having already served for five years. I felt it was time to pass the baton to another leader.

President Mike Carton served as Vice President for many years and for a short time filled in as President when Doc McCauslin was hired to become CEO. Unfortunately, Mike never got the opportunity to put his stamp on the association. I believe he deserves that opportunity and I'm happy to see the delegates thought so as well. I ask each of you to give your full support to Mike as he takes AFSA onto even greater heights.

FUTURISTIC APPROACH

Before I depart, I wanted to leave you with some thoughts I believe are worth exploring. First, I believe the organization's Executive Council needs to be updated. While it's not broken, it's difficult to develop new leaders in AFSA if the rules we have in place tend to promote keeping the current leadership year after year.

I propose we study establishing a Board of Directors versus an Executive Council. A discussion paper was presented at this year's PAC that I believe should be studied and adopted in one form or another.

In summary, the board would be made up of a maximum of 13 members (all voting). There would be seven members elected at the PAC and six appointed. Those elected would be president, vice president, four regional vice presidents, and one family matters vice president. Those appointed to the board would be three individuals from industry, a past AFSA President, AFSA Executive Director, and either the current or a former CMSAF. All would serve a maximum of two two-year terms with few exceptions.

FINAL FAREWELL

After 12 years serving in different leadership positions at the International level with five of those as President, it's time to say farewell. History will determine whether we transformed the Association in a positive manner, but I'm happy to report we have returned to a balanced budget and have started replacing the funds used during the lean years. Representing you and testifying on your behalf in front of Congress were personal highlights of my time as president. Thank you for your tireless support over time and I wish each of you success as you continue supporting AFSA.

My thanks to the elected AFSA leadership, the Executive Council, for the support you provided me over the years and for your spirited discussions on the issues we faced. This was a great team!

A big thanks to my leadership partner, our Executive Director, Keith Reed, and to the great staff at our

AFSA Headquarters. They have done an exceptional job with the resources we presented them and are key to keeping AFSA moving forward. They need your help because AFSA is and will always be a membership-based association.

Growing AFSA takes the commitment of every member, not just a relatively small few. I ask that you keep recruiting and retaining to keep AFSA strong. I'll be watching and helping where I can.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you!



Jeffrey E. Ledoux
26th International President

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MEMBERSHIP

One-year, two-year, three-year and
life membership options are available.
Please call Headquarters for pricing. A
subscription to the *AFSA Magazine* is
included in membership dues.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

AFSA Magazine is the only magazine
dedicated solely to serving the Total
Enlisted Corps and their families. We
are obliged to serve the interests and
concerns of enlisted personnel and our
members by striving to report timely
and accurate information. The editors
reserve the right to edit all submissions
but will never materially alter the author's

viewpoint. The opinions expressed in this
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the Air Force Sergeants Association or
its editors.

AFSA does not necessarily endorse
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of America.

AFSA

Founded in 1961 by four Air Force
enlisted people, AFSA is a non-profit,
tax-exempted organization representing
the professional and quality-of-life
concerns of the Total Air Force (active
duty and components) enlisted
members in active, retired and Veteran
status, and their families, on Capitol Hill
and in the Pentagon. Through its many
programs and worldwide chapters,
AFSA also reaches out to bases
and communities to help those in
need and to raise awareness of the
sacrifices, concerns and contributions
of those who have worn or are wearing
enlisted chevrons.

AMF

An AFSA affiliate, the Airmen Memorial
Foundation (AMF), provides educational
assistance to dependent children of the
Total Air Force enlisted force. It is also
an annual participant in the Combined
Federal Campaign (CFC #10517).

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Div. 6, Kerry Wright;
Div. 7, SMSgt Michael Shelley

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On the Cover: Volunteers dressed in the Air
Force's past uniforms during the Airman
Heritage Museum's 60th anniversary
celebration held Jan. 26, 2018, at Joint
Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.
(Photo by Sean Worrell)

COMMISSARIES AND EXCHANGES MAINTAINING SHOPPING BENEFITS

Change is nothing new to the retail market. As time goes on and technology develops, businesses must also evolve the tactics they use in order to stay competitive in today's world of shopper convenience. The commissaries and exchanges are no strangers to this phenomenon and have already begun making adjustments in an attempt to stay relevant. From giving Veterans access to shop online at exchanges, to allowing commissary employees to have shopping benefits, to broadening the sale of wine and beer at commissaries, changes are constantly happening and are not anticipated to end any time soon.

Currently, the biggest issue is the question of whether to merge the commissary and exchange systems into one larger retail entity. While this may not seem like an extraordinary ordeal to the average citizen, there is potentially a lot at stake that rides on such a decision and many questions that would come along with such a change. First, the exchange system is funded by Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF) and is a for-profit entity that takes the money it makes and turns it right back around into the Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds (MWR) for military bases. However, the commissaries receive appropriated funds from the NDAA each year, which are vital and necessary to keep the patron benefit of groceries sold at cost plus five percent.

As AFSA currently stands on the issue, we are not opposed to the possibility of a merged DeCA-Exchange retail system. Condensing the two into one comes with the possibility of saving funds, which, if used properly, could potentially enhance the benefit even more. New innovations like grocery delivery and meal kits are examples of what cost-savings could bring to a new and improved retail system. However, there must be an expressed and undeniable guarantee that the benefit as it stands will only be enhanced by any change. As more developments and announcements roll out, AFSA will make sure to advocate for the best interest of our members.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE HELP FOR DUAL-CAREER MEMBERS

Reserve component members represent a small percentage of Americans who serve their country while maintaining a civilian career. Recognizing the unique skills these service members bring to the table and the many challenges presented due to the increased operational requirements over the past 17 years of constant war, we wanted to highlight services offered by the Department of Defense (DoD) program Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). This program was established over 45 years ago and provides assistance to the member through means such as promoting education and adherence to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), providing a list of employers and support contacts within a service member's community, premobilization and demobilization checklists and much more. ESGR also hosts an annual awards program, which culminates with the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award presented each August recognizing outstanding employers who support the Guard and Reserve communities. Go to esgr.mil and click on "About ESGR" or "Employer Awards" to learn more.



ORION TESTING

The NASA Orion test capsule is loaded into a C-17 Globemaster III on loan from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Sept. 10, 2018. The mock capsule was later pulled out the back of the cargo plane Sept. 12 for its final parachute system test over the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kyle Larson)

FACT SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTRUCTION 1341.13, "POST-9/11 GI BILL" CHANGE

The Department of Defense issued a change to Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1341.13, "Post-9/11 GI Bill," updating policy on the transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits (TEB) by service members to eligible family members. Effective one year from the date of this change, eligibility to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits will be limited to service members with at least six years, but not more than 16 years, of total creditable service. There is no change to current provisions requiring a service member to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits, and make a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces.

The following changes go into effect immediately:

- Requires the military departments, the Department of Homeland Security with regard to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) to provide their guidance implementing transferability, as well as their written force training and education plans, no later than 60 days after publication of the revised DoD Instruction.
- Service members must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of their election to transfer benefits, and not be precluded from serving for four more years prior to approval of their election by either standard policy (Department or Uniformed Service) or statute. If there are reasons that preclude a service member from committing to four years of service, that service member cannot sign up to transfer their benefits. Reasons could include a mandatory retirement date, high-year tenure, retention control point, and those who are not medically qualified.
- Service members separated under "force shaping" authorities and policies prior to completing their required four years of service resulting from the transfer of education benefits retain their eligibility to transfer benefits. Effective immediately, the scope of "force shaping" was expanded to expressly include officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion, and enlisted personnel who were involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, or because of a change in these policies.
- Deletes the ten years of service exception. Previously, service members with ten years of service could transfer the benefit without serving the four years, if they were prevented by policy or statute from doing so. Now such members must be eligible to serve an additional four years when they elect to transfer educational benefits.

The change provides clarity on department policy for service members who are on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process.

The following changes are effective one year from the date of this change:

- Requires service members who have not applied for TEB, who are on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process to wait until the process is complete before applying for transferability.
- Requires service members who applied for TEB, but were denied due to insufficient retainability as a result of being on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process to request transferability again once they are fit for duty and commit to an additional four-year service obligation.
- Members subsequently found fit for duty, but only after having accrued more than 16 years of total creditable service, will be allowed to apply to TEB again, provided the member applies to TEB within 90 days of being informed of the fit for duty determination.
- Service members who have not applied, and who are subsequently found unfit for duty (with a medical separation/retirement order) but otherwise eligible to request to transfer their benefit (i.e., have six years), may not be approved for transferability with no additional service obligation.

The changes are intended to more closely align the transferability benefit with its purpose as a recruiting and retention incentive, and also to underscore to the department that while the Post-9/11 GI Bill is a transition/adjustment benefit offered as a reward to service members during a time of conflict, transferability of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit to dependents was enacted to serve as a recruiting and retention incentive.





A ONE-OF-A-KIND COMMUNITY, A KIND AND CARING MISSION

The Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) is a nonprofit organization whose core mission is to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen. Located along the beautiful Emerald Coast of northwest Florida in Shalimar near Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, apartments are available at Bob Hope Village, our independent living community, and at Hawthorn House, our assisted living and memory care residence located on the Bob Hope Village campus.

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★ *Thank you to our AFSA friends for 50 years of support.* ★

CONVENTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HOT
NEWS**

DIRECT FROM THE 2018 AFSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION &
PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S CONFERENCE

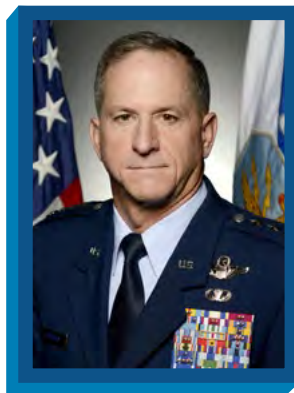
The 2018 AFSA International Convention & Professional Airmen's Conference brought together AFSA Members with Senior Air Force and Congressional leaders for professional development, the sharing of ideas and information, and to conduct Association business. A major highlight of the event is the Award and Recognition Ceremonies, which recognize specific members and supporters who have accomplished great things in support of our Airmen, Veterans, and their families. We are proud to recognize the names of the following International Award Recipients.

WILLIAM H. PITSENBARGER HEROISM AWARD



Staff Sgt. Jared R. Isenhardt

2017 AFSA EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP



Gen. David L. Goldfein

2017 L. MENDEL RIVERS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



**Representative William "Mac"
Thornberry (R-TX)**

AFSA MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Division 5
MSgt Alexander J. Rosales
Chapter 1473
Elmendorf AFB, AK



Division 1
MSgt Jennifer A. Marrott
Chapter 161
Hanscom AFB, MA



Division 2
MSgt Sarah A. Mrak
Chapter 371
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC



Division 3
MSgt Richard P. Jenkins
Chapter 881
Whiteman AFB, MO



Division 4
TSgt Meshanda S. Lopez
Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS



Division 6
MSgt Christopher D. Dodd
Chapter 1260
Luke AFB, AZ



Division 7
MSgt David C. Hamilton
Chapter 1674
Ramstein AB, Germany

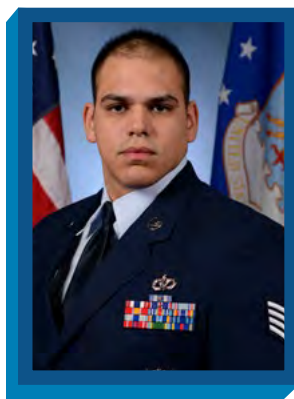
NCO OF THE YEAR AWARD



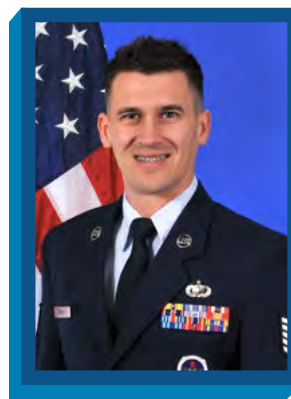
Division 3
MSgt Ruben J. Zamora
Chapter 964
Grand Forks AFB, ND



Division 1
SSgt Katrina L. Larson
Chapter 751
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH



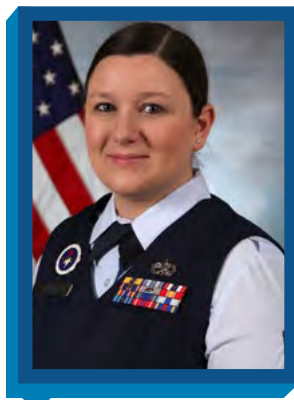
Division 2
SSgt Christian A. Arvelo
Chapter 377
Shaw AFB, SC



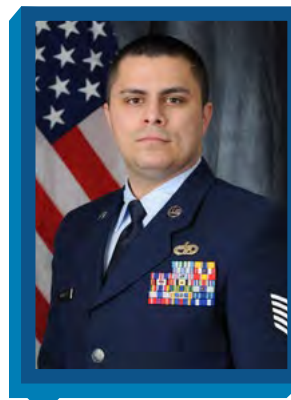
Division 4
TSgt Kevin M. Seney
Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS



Division 5
TSgt Antonio D. Haynie
Chapter 1473
Elmendorf AFB, AK



Division 6
TSgt Alexandria N. Salminen
Chapter 1201
Kirtland AFB, NM



Division 7
TSgt Jonathan M. Garrett
Chapter 1674
Ramstein AB, Germany

AFSA AIRMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



Division 4
A1C Rebecca L. Fentress
Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS



Division 1
SrA Alix C. Grassl
Chapter 751
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH



Division 2
SrA Adrian E. Roybal
Chapter 377
Shaw AFB, SC



Division 3
A1C Megan A. Moll
Chapter 881
Whiteman AFB, MO



Division 5
SrA Steven A. Nodine
Chapter 1550
Hickam AFB, HI



Division 6
SrA Samantha L. Lallave
Chapter 1320
Travis AFB, CA



Division 7
SrA David L. Dillon
Chapter 1674
Ramstein AB, GE

AFSA FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Division 3
Ms. Barbara L. Veach
Chapter 804
Kansas City, MO



Division 1
Mrs. Karin A. Staats
Chapter 779
Fort Wayne, IN



Division 4
Mrs. Stephanie Markin
Chapter 615
Barksdale AFB, LA



Division 5
Mrs. Amber L. Rosales
Chapter 1473
Elmendorf AFB, AK



Division 6
Ms. Jasheila Y. Collado Toro
Chapter 1328
Edwards AFB, CA



AFSA AWARD NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS— RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

AFSA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR OVER 500 MEMBERS

Division 1: Ch 751, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Division 2: Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA

Division 3: **Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK**

Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

Division 5: Ch 1473, Elmendorf AFB, AK

Division 6: Ch 1252, Nellis AFB, NV

Division 7: Ch 1674, Ramstein AB, Germany

AFSA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR UNDER 500 MEMBERS

Division 1: Ch 779, Fort Wayne, IN

Division 3: **Ch 964, Grand Forks AFB, ND**

Division 4: Ch 1066, Goodfellow AFB, TX

Division 5: Ch 1551, Yokota AB, Japan

Division 6: Ch 1253, Creech AFB, NV

AFSA CMSGT RICHARD L. ETCHBERGER CHAPTER COMMUNICATION AWARD

Division 1: Ch 751, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Division 2: Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA

Division 3: Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK

Division 4: **Ch 1075, Randolph AFB, TX**

Division 5: Ch 1473, Elmendorf AFB, AK

Division 6: Ch 1181, Peterson AFB, CO

Division 7: Ch 1674, Ramstein AB, Germany

AFSA CMSGT RICHARD L. ETCHBERGER DIVISION COMMUNICATION AWARD

Division 3: Mascoutah, IL

Division 4: San Antonio, TX

Division 6: **Aurora, CO**

Division 7: APO, AE

AFSA VETERAN ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE (VAVS) AWARD

Division 1: Mrs. Karol M. Worm, Ch 751, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Division 3: **CMSgt (Ret.) Hershell Spurlock**, Ch 804, Kansas City, MO

Division 4: Mrs. Irene Heffern, Ch 615, Barksdale AFB, LA

Division 6: MSgt Jeremy J. Keely, Ch 1328, Edwards AFB, CA

AFSA HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD

Division 1: **Ch 161, Hanscom AFB, MA**

Division 4: Ch 1075, Randolph AFB, TX

Division 5: Ch 1551, Yokota AB, Japan

Division 6: Ch 1181, Peterson AFB, CO

AFSA INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AWARD (CHAPTER)

Division 3: **Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK**

Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

Division 5: Ch 1551, Yokota AB, Japan

AFSA INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AWARD (INDIVIDUAL)

Division 1: CMSgt (Ret.) William C. McMullen, Ch 201, Dover AFB, DE

Division 3: CMSgt (Ret.) Kevin M. Ott, Ch 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD

Division 4: **MSgt (Ret.) Johnny C. Byrd**, Ch 615, Barksdale AFB, LA

Division 5: SSgt Roxanne C. Berg, Ch 1556, Osan AB, Korea

Division 6: TSgt Justin N. McCullough, Ch 1328, Edwards AFB, CA

AFSA INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Division 6: **MSgt Christopher D. Dodd**, Ch 1260, Luke AFB, AZ

AFSA VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (VSA) (CHAPTER)

Division 3: **Ch 804, Kansas City, MO**

Division 4: Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

Division 5: Ch 1551, Yokota AB, Japan

Division 6: Ch 1328, Edwards AFB, CA

AFSA VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (VSA) (INDIVIDUAL)

Division 1: **MSgt NaTosha M. Nordquist**, Ch 161, Hanscom AFB, MA

Division 2: SMSgt Tommy Tipton, Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA

Division 3: SSgt Joshua J. Philbrick, Ch 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD

Division 4: Mrs. Irene Heffern, Ch 615, Barksdale AFB, LA

Division 6: MSgt Rene R. Colon-Mestey, Ch 1328, Edwards AFB, CA

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

AFSA and the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) joined together to conduct a scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible, dependent children of the enlisted Total Air Force members. AFSA, AMF (including the CMSAF Scholarship Program), and AFSA International Auxiliary award scholarships valued from \$500 to \$3,000 to students attending an accredited academic institution. The grant amount and total number of scholarships awarded are dependent upon funds available. To date, over \$2 million in scholarships have been awarded to Air Force dependent children.

AFSA SCHOLARS

The 2018 AFSA Scholarship Program awarded eight scholarships totaling \$17,500. AFSA's top scholarship went to Natalie Catan Ebreo, who will be continuing her education at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

\$2,500 Fini Scholarship
Natalie Catan Ebreo

\$2,500 Abbott Scholarship
Jarrell Martin Cooper

\$2,500 Klobus Scholarship
John Phillip Hendershott

\$2,500 Staton Scholarship
Kyle Thomas Henry

\$2,000 Garner Scholarship
Scott Kang-Hee Meyers

\$2,000 Rousher Scholarship
Brandon Michael Lundmark

\$2,000 Page Scholarship
Miranda Isabelle Pavey

\$1,500 AFSA Excellence in Military Leadership Scholarship IHO General Mark A. Welsh III
Collin Marshall Profitia

AMF SCHOLARS

The 2018 AMF Scholarship Program awarded 25 scholarships totaling \$37,500. Without the support of the gracious donors and sponsors, the AMF would be unable to grant the number of scholarships provided to deserving recipients each year.

\$4,000 Clyde V. Prince Memorial Scholarship
Tristan Wyatt Boling

\$3,000 Veterans United Home Loans Academic Excellence Scholarship
Deborah Kay James

\$2,500 Academic Excellence Scholarships
Sarah Nicole Richardson

\$2,000 Richard Howard Scholarship
Allysa N. Temple

\$2,000 Julene Howard Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Dane Reynolds

\$2,000 Sharon Piccoli Memorial Scholarship
Donovan Walker Wright

\$2,000 Sgt. James R. Seal Memorial Scholarship
Megan Ashley Valliere

\$2,000 Academic Excellence Scholarships
Mary Leanne Brannon

\$1,500 Academic Excellence Scholarships
1. Alesia Nicole Booth
2. Chad Michael Gallego

\$1,000 USAA Scholarship Academic Excellence Scholarships

1. Grace Margaret Tristan
2. Charles Joseph Gallego
3. Jordan Rene Maxwell
4. Ericka L. Hewes
5. Alexander Jeriel Minzler

\$1,000 GEICO Scholarship Academic Excellence Scholarships

1. Alexander J. Molina
2. Kamryn Taylor Alward
3. Kayla Rose Scott
4. Emma Mae McCurdy
5. Megan Marie Liguori

\$1,000 First Federal Bank of Kansas City Academic Excellence Scholarships

1. Elizabeth Kirstin Strasko
2. Garrett P. Walters
3. Skye Michelle McCall
4. Brandi A. Walker
5. Corinne Mackenzie Ebner

CMSAF SCHOLARS

The 2018 Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force Scholarship Program awarded 11 scholarships totaling \$16,500. The top scholarship—The CMSAF Paul W. Airey Memorial Scholarship—goes to Kianna Evette Flowers. She will continue her education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland.

\$3,500 CMSAF Paul W. Airey Memorial Scholarship Sponsored by GEICO®
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MISSION PARTNER SCHOLARS

NCO of the Year
MSgt Ruben J. Zamora
2-Year Scholarship from
Columbia Southern University

AFSA Airmen of the Year
A1C Rebecca L. Fentress
2-year Scholarship from
Waldorf University

William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism
SSgt Jared R. Isenhardt
Full 4-Year Scholarship from
American Military University

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TOP PERFORMERS

SKYHIGHERS

(recruited 100 or more members):

* Denotes Repeat SKYHIGH (from the last two consecutive years)

MEMBER NAME	CHAPTER	RECRUITED
*Kazumura, Daniel	F0652	305
Michaca, Rodolfo	F1077	284
White, Deontre	F1077	234
Elliott, Stephen	F1056	145
Lease, Adam	F1669	143
Tolley, Bethany	F1054	119
Hall, Steven	F1077	110
*Seney, Kevin	F0652	102
*Lopez, Meshanda	F0652	101
Cliborn, Jacob	F0652	101
McCoy, Christopher	F0652	100
*Kirby, Aaron	F0652	100
*Patterson, Tiffany	F0652	100
Freshwater, Jasmine	F0652	100
Dodd, Christopher	F1260	100
*Stevenson, Soledad	F0652	100
*Bartlett, Zachary	F0652	100

HIGHFLIERS

(retained 100 or more members):

* Denotes Repeat HighFLIER (from the last two consecutive years)

MEMBER NAME	CHAPTER	RETAINED
*Gates, Colin	F0479	424
*Kolwitz, Roland	F0851	142
Kolwitz, Jean	F0851	103

TWINFLIERS

(recruited/retained a combined total of at least 100 or more members (75/25)):

* Denotes Repeat TwinFLIER (from the last two consecutive years)

MEMBER NAME	CHAPTER	RECRUITS	RETENTIONS	TOTAL
Shelley, Michael	F1674	48	64	112
Zalesky, Steven	F872	35	67	102
Gallup, Gregory	F1076	49	51	100

AFSA TOP RECRUITER

***Daniel Kazumura**
Division 4 Chapter 652
305 Recruits

AFSA TOP RETAINER

***Colin Gates**
Division 2 Chapter 479
424 Retentions

AFSA TOP RECRUITING CHAPTER

Division 4 Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS
1,325 Recruits

AFSA TOP RETAINING CHAPTER

Division 2 Chapter 479
McGhee-Tyson ANGB, TN
424 Retentions



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MAKE THE CONNECTION

GIVING AND GETTING HELP WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS



Jerry, an Air Force Veteran and participant in VA's Make the Connection campaign, and his wife Cheryl. This article highlights Jerry's story of strength and resilience and showcases how Make the Connection can offer great tools and resources to Veterans and their families who may be facing different life challenges.

At first, Cheryl figured her partner, Jerry, was just recovering from a major surgery. The U.S. Air Force Veteran lacked energy; he didn't have much interest in eating. But then, he'd just had open heart surgery.

And Jerry had reason to feel down. Their dog had died on the Fourth of July, and their other dog had organ failure. They had raised their dogs from puppies, so Cheryl figured he was naturally upset about that as well.

Eventually, she realized it was more than that.

"He would sit in a chair in the living room and watch TV, and he would not want to eat a meal," Cheryl remembers. "And he would not come to bed. I had to fight him to get him to take a shower. He seemed to have depression off the charts."

TIME FOR ACTION?

When do you get more involved? When do you share more than maybe you'd otherwise be comfortable sharing about what your partner is going through? When do you reach out for help? And when do you put your foot down?

These are questions that Cheryl has navigated. "If you are in a relationship with somebody, you do need to act," she says. "You do need to explore. You need to get involved as soon as you see signs that alarm you. The sooner the better. ... And now I'm wiser—older and wiser—but it took a lot for me to get to the point where I am."

SEEING THE SIGNS

Jerry played the trumpet in the Air Force Band. He had excelled at music in high school, and a mentor had encouraged him to audition. He enlisted when he was 17, traveling across the United States and in several other countries. He also played at a lot of funerals.

After leaving the service, Jerry started a family, went to school on the GI Bill, and began a career in sales. He met Cheryl in the 1980s, when he was going through a divorce.

Fast-forward to 2011. It was Cheryl who pushed Jerry to talk with a doctor about his declining health. She went with him to his appointment, writing out a list of questions about his symptoms. When it was revealed that Jerry needed heart surgery to replace a valve, she spoke with his surgeon about his heavy drinking.

"The surgeon ... told me it was a very good thing that I shared with him Jerry's drinking habits," Cheryl says. The doctor explained that if Jerry started displaying certain symptoms, it was important to know that they could be related to withdrawal instead of post-surgical problems, otherwise it could cause a potentially fatal treatment error.

About a month after the surgery, Jerry developed an excruciating case of shingles across the left side of his body. "Probably the worst pain I've ever had," he says. "All I could do was sit in the chair, watch TV, and cry."

"My advice to somebody in a close relationship with a person that is not behaving in a healthy manner, who is not communicating, who is hiding what they're doing — [is] that may only be the tip of the iceberg."

— Cheryl, Veteran spouse

To help him deal with the pain, his doctor changed his medication from Valium to Oxycodone. "That was lights-out for me," Jerry says. "But I decided it wasn't going to work, or I [felt] it wasn't working. But I'd wake up in the morning, I have to take my Oxycodone and wash it down with vodka. And then from then on, it's sort of fuzzy."

Somewhere along the way, Cheryl, realizing now that this was something other than depression, called Jerry's children: "You're going to lose your dad," she told them, "if somebody doesn't help me with the problems that I am seeing." They eventually helped him get into a private facility to deal with his substance use.

"As much as I got involved in his medical care, I did not perceive that there was an issue with prescription medications," Cheryl says. "I regret it immensely now, but I didn't think of it. I didn't check on medications. I had no idea that that was exacerbating the alcoholism."

For months, Jerry battled a tough cycle: He'd attend a substance use program, get out, and then relapse immediately—not with the Oxycodone, but with his drinking. This happened once, twice and a third time. Finally, Cheryl set an ultimatum.

"I told him he was not welcome to come back until he had completed a program, No. 1, and No. 2, lived on his own and was able to maintain on his own a healthy lifestyle—and prove to me that he was committed to that," Cheryl says. "And I stuck to my guns. But I also told him that as long as he continued to try, I would support him. I would come and see him. And I did."

The conversation hit Jerry hard. Even now, his voice catches as he recounts her message: "Don't come back until you're well." He called a friend and stayed with her. "I didn't sleep," he says. "I just had thoughts of suicide."



A day later, he was taking the bus across town to gather some of his belongings, when the bus stopped right in front of the VA medical center. He looked over, saw the building, and said to himself: "I got to be in there."

An hour later, Jerry was in the psychiatric ward and stayed for 21 days. Over those three weeks, counselors encouraged him to enroll in a VA substance abuse program.

It would prove life-changing. The program was a 24/7 immersion that kept Jerry going to meetings and busy with chores, and taught him about addiction and alcoholism.

"I finally got to realize that it's a disease, and it had to be treated like that," he says. Treating the symptoms wasn't working. "You had to learn what was causing them and how to cope with them, and what triggered them."

Jerry had been blaming himself, and the counseling taught him how to deal with that loss of self-respect and self-worth. "You get past that and realize that it's a disease and it's treatable," he says. "Treat the disease. Learn coping skills. Know when they're going to happen or what triggers you, and adjust your behavior accordingly. That was a tremendous help for me."

FINDING STRENGTH

The program included 90 days of inpatient treatment and then 90 more days of outpatient care. Jerry spent another two years living away from Cheryl, in an apartment by

himself, spending much of his time going to sessions and seeing counselors.

Finally, one day, Cheryl called him: "I think you're ready." Jerry moved back in. They attended counseling together. He sticks to the rules he's laid out, not taking so much as an aspirin or a Benadryl without the blessing of a doctor.

"I'm very proud of him," Cheryl says. "He is very concerned, very attentive to his behaviors to stay on the straight and narrow, to stay sober. That has taken a strength and a willingness to stay alive." There are still things Jerry's working through. But eventually, he would like to get involved in service work that will allow him to do some mentoring.

"It's not about the money at this point," he says. "It's about being able to pass on what I have been able to take advantage of, and to help other people—whether it's just one or two, or 10, or 100, you know?"

"I never thought for a minute in my lifetime that I would have been able to stop drinking. To be where I am today, as far as my attitude towards alcohol, it's not even in my mind. I never thought I'd ever get to that stage, so it's possible."

➔ Are you facing a substance use issue? [Find resources.](#)



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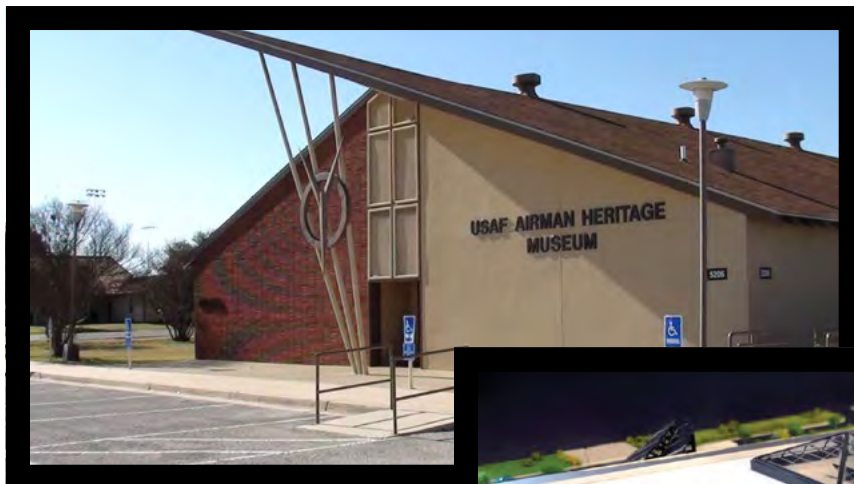
RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF ENLISTED AIRMEN

THE PROUD WORK OF THE AIRMAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

by John Worthington
Marketing Chair, Airman Heritage Foundation



Basic military training trainees Richard Dibble, left, and Dominic Gurule, right, clean the exhibits at the USAF Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III)



Current USAF Airman Heritage Museum

Architectural rendering of future USAF Airman Heritage Museum facility



The mission of the Airman Heritage Foundation (AHF) is to support the USAF Airman Heritage Museum and its mission to preserve and honor the history of enlisted airmen. The Foundation seeks to increase awareness of the USAF and the Museum in preserving and honoring the many significant accomplishments, culture, traditions and legacy of enlisted airmen. It works to educate current and future airmen and the general public on the role enlisted airmen have played in the success of the USAF mission, while creating a program to enhance the education and professional development for future airmen. And, the AHF raises funds and provides resources and financial support for museum and heritage-related activities not fully funded by the Air Force. The Foundation's Board of Directors is led by President Timothy Dickens, Chief Master Sgt., USAF (Ret.), and is composed of other retired military and civilian volunteers who manage the various AHF programs, finances, marketing and fundraising.

Strategic partnerships are critical to the success of the Foundation. It has continued to enjoy and mature its relationships with the Air Force Federal Credit Union and the Air Force Sergeants Association. President

Dickens notes that, "they both share the passion of our purpose and are key advocates towards our efforts to 'Build the Dream.'"

Additional relationships with local community leaders and representatives from local, state and national offices have helped them appreciate the value in supporting the AHF and long-term partnerships. And, partnerships with HQ AETC, the Command History

Office, 502nd ABW and the 37th TRW remain essential to providing guidance and support.

OUTREACH

The Foundation is constantly looking for education and outreach opportunities. The AHF's USAF Heritage Collection, a display of authentic USAF uniforms and accouterments from throughout the years, has grown in variety and popularity as it helps recognize the proud USAF history and those who have served. The collection, in collaboration with the museum staff, has been a hit with exhibitions at several Air Force base events such as open houses, air shows, and retiree activities, as well as civic events and even fashion shows. Foundation Education/Outreach Program Director retired USAF Lt. Col. Dave Schultz found and contributed many of those items



AHF President
Timothy Dickens,
CMSgt, USAF (Ret.)



AHF Education/Outreach
Director Dave Schultz, Lt
Col, USAF (Ret.)



AHF Hosted WAF 70th Anniversary Luncheon and Fashion Show

to the collection so that, coupled with a large quantity of items inherited from AFSA, the AHF USAF Heritage Collection has become a “mobile museum” to support the AHF mission throughout the Air Force. Schultz says, “The collection provides the Foundation a capability to further increase awareness and educate the active duty force, veterans and the general public in our ongoing efforts to preserve and honor the history, heritage, traditions, culture and legacy of USAF enlisted men and women.”

Along with static displays, AHF has engaged active duty personnel at locations where the collection has been displayed to help showcase the uniforms by acting as living history re-enactors, describing the uniform, the period and, in some instances, the veteran they represent.

In addition to outreach activities, the AHF worked closely with the museum staff to provide promotional and financial support for their series of educational presentations for enlisted personnel, “Profiles in Leadership,” which featured

distinguished speakers such as retired Admiral William McRaven.

GATEWAY LOCATION

It is fitting that the museum is located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the Gateway to the Air Force, where all enlisted airmen, Active, Guard and Reserve, come to be part of the greatest Air and Space Force in the world. The current USAF Airman Heritage Museum was built in 1956. It, along with the Security Forces Museum, air park and parade field, comprise the USAF Airman Heritage Training Complex at Lackland.

As part of the JBSA-Lackland General Plan “Corridors of Excellence” program, engraved bricks are being installed in prominent areas along the parade field and adjacent areas on the base. The Airman Heritage Foundation Legacy Paver Program seeks to honor military service members—past, present and future—particularly our enlisted Airmen.

The program also offers an ideal way to recognize specific individuals and groups who support our efforts. Details on how to obtain a Legacy Paver are found on the AHF website, myairmanmuseum.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

What do 83%, 30,000, and 0 represent? “83%” is the percentage of Enlisted Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Airmen serving in our Total Force; more than 30,000 Enlisted Airmen go through Basic Military Training each year and learn the culture of commitment and life of service needed for our national defense; while 0 is the number of state-of-the-art museums in the world that focus on the history, heritage and legacy of Air Force Enlisted Airmen. The Airman Heritage Foundation (AHF) wants to change that 0 figure.

The Airman Heritage Museum does a great job of collecting, researching, preserving, interpreting and presenting the enlisted corps' history, heritage and traditions. And, it instills an understanding and appreciation of the distinctive Airman culture through engaging exhibits, educational and outreach programs, and the ongoing stewardship of its historic national collection. However, its footprint of 7,000 square feet, with only 5,000 square feet of exhibit space, accommodates just 35 exhibits and is woefully inadequate to exhibit the large number of artifacts currently stored offsite in remote locations.

BUILD THE DREAM

The AHF Vision is to build a new USAF Airman Heritage Museum, a state-of-the-art facility that will preserve and display the proud heritage, countless sacrifices, and significant achievements of enlisted airmen, and be an educational resource for their rich history and character development. It will be a museum learning center that will be the "go-to" destination for those seeking to learn, understand, admire and respect the full spectrum of our Air Force's enlisted heritage.

Museum exhibits and programs would be integrated into basic military training curriculum and would provide educational programs for colleges, schools, civic groups and the business community. It would provide a research center for historians and scholars. And

it would be a must-see tourist attraction of national caliber.

As envisioned, the new facility would have an 85,000-square-foot footprint with 50,000 square feet of exhibit space and a 7,500-square-foot auditorium. The total budget for construction and exhibits is \$50,000,000. Local fundraising campaigns and national funding efforts are underway.

The Foundation welcomes all donations, large and small, and has several options through which individuals can participate:

- Become an AHF member
- Purchase a Legacy Paver
- Contribute to the Foundation
- Mark CFC Charity Code #68584 on pledge forms to support the AHF
- Encourage friends and acquaintances to participate

Building the Dream is a major undertaking that requires the support and cooperation of people and organizations at many levels to succeed.

The AHF is dedicated to making the new, USAF Airman Heritage Museum a reality. Visit myairmanmuseum.org, and follow us on Facebook. Help us spread the word as we continue to ramp up our ops tempo for success.



Airmen living history reenactors at Barksdale AFB Global Strike Command 2017 Air Force Ball



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