



Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398



Oct - Dec 2019

The Official Newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association

**AFA Mission**

To promote a dominant USAF 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,

**Advocate** for aerospace power and STEM education, and

**Support** the total Air Force family and promote aerospace education.

**Chapter Officers**

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AFA Chapter 398

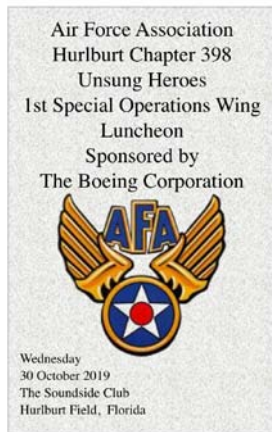
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**AFA HURLBURT CHAPTER 398 AND 1 SOW UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS LUNCHEON**

by Max Friedauer, VP for Unsung Hero Programs



The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 22 years, and in the Fall of every year we honor the Un-sung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its Units with a luncheon. This year the chapter recognized 20 "Unsung Heroes" (E1-E3) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and honored them at the Hurlburt Soundside Club for lunch on the 30th of October 2019. The Hurlburt Honor Guard presented the colors. SrA Jasmine Kirkland, 801st SOAMXS, sang the

National Anthem and Chaplain Gary Coburn gave the invocation. The Master of Ceremonies for the Luncheon was TSgt Chavalier Hubbard from the 1st SOSS. The guest speaker for the lunch was the 1st Special Operations Wing Commander, Col Michael Conley, and he spoke about Hurlburt Field's amazing young Airmen and how proud he was of all of them. He talked about our Airmen working behind the scenes and getting the job done without anyone realizing it or praising them. He said "I can literally pick on every single organization in our wing and tell you what folks are doing behind the scenes that we don't ever think about. It's easy to highlight the stuff that makes the news. When we go on a big mission, when we have rescue, we take out a terrorist that we've been hunting for five years, when we pull someone out of a burning car, you know, all that stuff makes the news and it's easy to highlight them." But the impact these Airmen make without fanfare is remarkable. To date, these unsung heroes have never been recognized for their contributions to the 1 SOW mission; today we changed that. He also thanked AFA and its Community Partners for the great support they provide to Hurlburt Field.



Col Michael Conley

Col Conley, assisted by the 1 SOW Command Chief Adams, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Framed Certificate. TSgt Hubbard read a few of each Airman's accomplishments as they came forward. The luncheon was sponsored with a grant from the Boeing Corporation represented by Col (Ret) Mark Transue. The Boeing Company is one of 35 Community Partners that support the many



programs the chapter is involved in. Also present were our AFA Chapter President, Jim Connors; Executive VP Fred Gross; and VP for Community Partners, Eddie Arroyo. At the conclusion of the luncheon, Chapter President Jim Connors presented Col Conley with a “brick” that was purchased in his name and will be placed at the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village in the “The Garden of Hope.” Mr. Connors also thanked the

supervisors for teaching and mentoring these Airmen so they could succeed and be successful and for nominating them for this award. A special thanks to MSgt John Durst, 73 SOS/DOFC, and MSgt Jerome Cole, SOSS/OSAT who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put this all together, taking reservations, creating the e-Invitations, organizing and printing the program brochures, preparing award certificates, and coordinating the event with the Soundside Club.

Our honorees and Unsung Hero Award Recipients were: A1C Ricardo Guerra, 1 SOCS; A1C Justin Johnson-Loyd, 1 SOCS; SrA Dezman Corbett, 1 SOFSS; A1C Ashlee Spaulding, 1 SOFSS; A1C Kayla Fernandez, 1 SOMDSS; A1C Lauren Ayers, 1 SOMDSS; SrA Deeanne Koch, 1 SOMDRS; SrA Cody Puffer, 1 SOCES; SrA Quadrecus Pierce, 1 SPCEs; SrA Bryanna Carter, 11 SOIS; SrA Kristopher Peeden, 11 SOIS; A1C Austin Fawcett, 11 SOIS; SrA Anna Williams, 1 SOLRS; A1C Dylan Lyerly, 1 SOLRS; A1C Albert Regalado, 1 SOLRS; SrA Rachael Drymon, 901 SOAMXS; A1C Anthony Gugliotta, 901 SOAMXS; SrA Bailey Miller, 1 SOSS; SrA Christopher Ott, 1 SOSS; SrA Kevin Crilley, 1 SOSS.



## Navarre High School Military Appreciation Night

On Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, Navarre High School conducted its first ever Military Family Appreciation and Information Night to help connect military families and their dependent students to the support resources available to them in the school and community. Hurlburt Chapter 398 was proud to help sponsor this event and Mr. Thom Guthrie from our Chapter was there to represent us. The various guest speakers included Col Hunter from Hurlburt Field, representing the 1 SOW leadership. Almost 500 children of active duty members attend Navarre high school, and several are involved in the Navy JROTC program there. (Our Chapter also supports annual scholarship awards to that Outstanding Unit.) Chapter 398 joins Col Hunter in praising Navarre High School administrators for helping to create a culture to connect and encourage help-seeking behaviors in our young military dependents. Support to Families is very important to our Military Members and we appreciate all efforts to strengthen that support.





## CCAF Graduation



Mr. Fred Gross, Hurlburt Chapter 398 Vice President, attended the Community College of the Air Force Graduation Ceremony held on 6 November at the Soundside Club and presented Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Scholarships to: SRA Adam Fisher, SRA Raymond Norris, SRA Talia Ambrosio-Earle, and SRA Randall Yerigan. Hurlburt Chapter 398 has been an active supporter of this program for many years and works closely with the Base Education Office and AFA to ensure we select quality recipients for these awards.



There were over 300 graduates for the Fall Ceremony and approximately half were in attendance with members of their families. The Guest Speaker for the event was Dr. Royce H. Hasinger, Dean of the Community College of the AF.

## AFA Awards Banquet

Hurlburt Chapter 398 held its Annual Awards Banquet on 1 October at Two Trees Restaurant in Fort Walton Beach. We use this opportunity to recognize our Teachers of the Year, Community Partner of the Year and our State and National Award winners. This year's event was sponsored by Lockheed Martin, one of our Community Partners.

Chapter President Jim Connors served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Choctaw's AFJROTC Honor Guard presented the Colors, and Chapter Member Bud Sauvageau gave the Invocation. Following a brief introduction of Honored Guests, Chapter Members and guests enjoyed a Buffet Dinner prepared by the Two Trees Staff.

Our first Honored Guest (and invited speaker) was Cadet Colonel Sydney Cloutier of Pensacola High School's AFJROTC unit FL-12. Cadet Cloutier was recently selected as the winner of the AFJROTC and Air Force Association's Leadership Award. She recently attended the AFA National Convention to receive her award and accepted Mr. Connors' invitation to come and speak to us about her experiences in AFJROTC. She is currently serving as the Cadet Commander of PHS' AFJROTC unit. All attendees were impressed with her poise and speaking ability. (Imagine yourself at 17 or 18 years of age doing this!) We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Our next Honored Guest and Award Winner was Ms. Marsha Harp of West Navarre Primary School, our Chapter Teacher of the Year for 2019. She was introduced by our Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Rick Soria. He cited her many achievements and then presented her with her Award and Certificates. Ms. Harp then shared some of her efforts and experiences in the classroom as she worked to introduce her students to Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation and Mathematics (STEAM). Ms. Harp's principal was also on hand to recognize her and to praise her efforts as a dedicated educator.

The Okaloosa County Superintendent, Mr. Marcus Chambers, also attended our Award Ceremony and addressed the gathering briefly to thank Hurlburt AFA for our efforts to recognize and support teachers in the area. As most of you know, our Chapter solicits nominations for Teacher of the Year from Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties, and teachers from all those counties have participated in our Teacher Workshops and other events. We appreciate the support we have received from all the local school districts and they are grateful to us for our Chapter's support through events such as the Teacher of the Year program, teacher workshops, JROTC scholarships, funding for teachers to attend Space Camp at Huntsville and participation in the annual Science Fair where our members act judges and the Chapter provides monetary awards to winners.



Mr. Nelson Arroyo, our VP for Community Partners took the podium after Mr. Chambers and recognized our Community Partner of the Year, Boeing Global Services, FWB, for their support to Hurlburt Chapter 398 over the past year. Several members of the company were present at the dinner and Mr. Hank Sanders accepted the award on behalf of the company. A write up about the Award was in the last Newsletter; but is repeated below. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2006, BOEING has been a strong supporter of AFA Chapter 398 and in our efforts to support the Air Force family, teachers, students, cadets, Wounded Warriors, and particularly our Unsung Heroes, who perform the Air Force mission with pride and excellence day-in and day-out. We truly appreciate Boeing Global Services' unwavering support.

### **Boeing Global Services, FWB -- Community Partner of the Year 2019**

BOEING FWB is the preferred supplier of professional, proven, and innovative defense and government support and services. They offer fit-for-purpose platform and infrastructure services. The services are tailored to meet customers' mission requirements and operational priorities. Their mission is to provide innovative solutions that deliver on promises and exceed expectations. This includes sustainment of the AC-130U Gunship as well as modifications and sustainment of the CV-22. Boeing provides support to over 200 U. S. Air Force, Army, and Navy programs. Their focus is to provide world class engineering, technical publications and services to US and Allied forces.

Chapter President Jim Connors continued the Awards portion of the event by presenting the Brereton Award to Mr. Jerry Williams, CEO of Eglin Federal Credit Union (EFCU). This award was initially made at the State Convention in June, but we took this opportunity to thank Mr. Williams once again and give other Chapter members the opportunity to view the Award and hear from Mr. Williams. As you can see, there are actually two awards, one a personal keepsake, and the other a travelling award that is kept in the office or building for a year before moving on to the next winner. The GENERAL LEWIS H. BRERETON AWARD is for the civilian Florida resident who



has made the most outstanding contribution to airpower during the past year or over a multiyear period. The EFCU has long been an active support of the Hurlburt Chapter and Mr. Williams' participation and support to the USAF, Air Force Association, Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB, and a multitude of programs and events championing military members, dependents and veterans over the past years justified his award. Thank you!

Our next Award winner was Mr. Les Matheson, who received the Chapter Member of the Year Award. Les is constantly on the go and can be seen at almost any military ceremony or other event, usually in a kilt and with a set of bagpipes. But that is only a small portion of his service and involvement. He is a member of multiple veterans' organizations and associations and is an avid supporter of each of them. He is a veteran, patriot and a volunteer working for our veterans and members. Thank you for your Service, Les!



There was one other special recognition during the evening and that was to Mr.



Clay McCutchan. Clay was selected as the Chapter Member of the Year last year but was unable to attend our ceremony. Jim took this opportunity to publicly thank Clay for his past and continued support of the Chapter's Aerospace Education program by hosting Teacher Workshops and tours at his private airfield between Milton and Holt. Clay has been an active member of the Chapter for years and has provided outstanding support to several of our events. Visiting his airfield is always a treat!

Mr. Connors then thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the event. Thanks again to all who attended and "Congratulations!" to all our Award Winners.

## Coming Events

### January

- 8 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 29 - Regional Science Fair Judging, 1630, Fairgrounds

### February

- 8 - 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Gen "Chappie" James, 1000??, Air Armament Museum, Eglin AFB
- 12 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 26-28 - AFA Air Warfare Symposium, Orlando, FL
- 29 - Teacher Workshop, Clay McCutchan Interstellar Air Park, Time TBA

### March

- 11 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130, Mama Nu's, FWB
- 17 - Presidential Primary - GO VOTE!

### OTHER STUFF

- Teacher of the Year Nominations - Watch For Announcements this Quarter
- Wounded Warrior Training Camps - Expect in April More to Follow!!

## Chapter 398 Community Partners

AFA Chapter 398 is very fortunate to have very supportive Community Partners. Through their generous funding and involvement, we were able to support our Wounded Warrior training camp, Teacher Workshops, Teacher of the Year recognition, Space Camp, student scholarships, Unsung Heroes Airmen recognition, Cyber Patriot competitions, regional Science Fair and much more.



Thank you to all current partners who renewed their commitment this year and went above and beyond with grants and other financial support.

Again, "Thank you!" to all our Community Partners who supported us throughout the year. We are looking forward to a very busy and successful new year and with your support we will make it better than ever.

### **Diamond**

FLIR Systems Incorporated

### **Platinum**

The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach  
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems  
MacAulay-Brown

Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach  
Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS

### **Gold**

Eglin Federal Credit Union  
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial

Elbit Systems of America

### **Silver**

Beach Community Bank  
Emerald Coast Endodontics  
On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC  
Preston Hood Chevrolet

Cherry Wealth Advisors  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates  
Sacred Heart Medical Group - Rheumatology

### **Bronze**

Aqua Pool and Patio Company  
Booz | Allen | Hamilton  
Edward Jones  
SA Technical Services Inc  
The Island Hotel by Ramada

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon  
Dennis and Company  
FNBT Bank  
Serigraphia Inc.  
Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"

### **Basic**

Emerald Coast Funeral Home  
It's All About You Massage & Day Spa  
Little Caesars Pizza (Racetrack Road)  
McNeil Hotel Group

Freedom Self Storage  
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn  
Mama Nu's Kitchen

Community Sponsorship levels are: Commando - \$5000, Diamond - \$2500, Platinum - \$1000, Gold - \$500, Silver - \$300, Bronze - \$150, and Basic - \$100. If you know of any business interested in becoming a Community Partner, please contact one of our chapter officers.

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Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or visit [WWW.FLORIDAConsumerHELP.COM](http://WWW.FLORIDAConsumerHELP.COM), Chapter 398 registration number is CH32205