



Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398



Oct-Dec 2021

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association.

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong national defense; honor and support our Airmen, Space professionals, and their families; and to honor and respect our enduring heritage

To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unrivaled air and space power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security.

Advocate for air and space power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development.

Support readiness for the Total Air and Space Forces, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families and members of the Civil Air Patrol

Chapter Officers

- President – Jim Connors
- Vice President - Fred Gross
- Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
- Treasurer – Dan Mattiza

State Officers

- President – Todd Freeze
- Vice President – Dwyer Dennis
- Secretary – Sharon Branch
- Treasurer – Gary Lehmann

AFA Chapter 398

Box 1220
Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

AFA HURLBURT CHAPTER 398 AND 1 SOW UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS PRESENTATION FOR 2021

by Max Friedauer, VP for Unsung Hero Programs

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 24 years, and in the fall of every year we honor the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its Units. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were limited to have only 50 people present at the awards luncheon at the Hurlburt Soundside Club. But in Special Operations we "Adapt or Perish" and adapt we did. We had a great luncheon with 18 of Hurlburt's finest Airmen, some of their spouses, their children, a parent, and friends. With the continued support of our co-sponsor, the Boeing Company, we recognized 18 "Unsung Heroes" (E1- E4) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and we were honored to have them as our guest for lunch.



The Hurlburt Honor Guard presented the colors. The audience spontaneously sang the National Anthem when the sound system failed, and Chaplain Richard-son gave the invocation. The Master of Ceremonies for the Luncheon was SrA Jadlayshu Williams from 1 SOFSS.

Col Jim Connors welcomed the group and provided a short synopsis of how the Hurlburt Chapter of the AFA supports the Wing and the greater fort Walton Beach community from Eglin AFB to Pensacola. The guest speaker for the lunch was the 1st Special Operations Wing Vice Commander, Col Timothy N. Hood, 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 "A few things that every leader should do, let your Airmen know what's important every single day, reinforce that...don't micromanage them, perhaps most importantly, once you give them that tool, get out of the way." "They embody what it means to be an Airman and more importantly they embody what it means to be an Air Commando." "We are proud to serve with these Unsung Heroes and I'm honored to

be able to recognize them today.” He also thanked AFA and its Community Partners for the great support they provide to Hurlburt Field. It was good to see some of the Airmen with their spouses and children and parents to share their special status as we honored them as our 1 SOW Unsung Heroes for 2021.

Col Hood, assisted by the 1 SOW Command Chief Freeman, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Framed Certificate and CMSgt Freeman presented each with a treasured RMO (round metal object). SrA Jadlayshu Williams read a few of each Airman's accomplishments as they came forward. The luncheon was sponsored a generous grant from the Boeing Corporation represented by Mr Matt Smith. The Boeing Company is one of 35 Community Partners that support the many programs the chapter is involved in. A special thanks to TSgt Latasha Hooper and SrA Jadlayshu Williams who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put this all together, sending out e-mail requests for nominations, organizing and printing the award certificates, and coordinating the event with the 1 SOW Command Section, Wing Protocol, and the Hurlburt Soundside Club for the meals and room setup.



Our 18 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.



2021 Grand Marshall for the Pensacola Beach Veterans Day Parade

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398, served as the 2021 Grand Marshall for the Pensacola Beach Veterans Day Parade. The annual parade is sponsored by the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge #497, and this year included the honor guard and armed and unarmed drill teams from Gulf Breeze High School's Air Force JROTC FL-932, sailors from the Naval Technical Training Center, NAS Pensacola, The American Legion Post #378, Gulf Breeze, the Emerald Coast Regional Group of the Blind Veterans Association, Healing Paws for Warriors, several local groups, and many veterans dating back to WWII.



Hundreds of flag waving people, including many families with small children lined the parade route along Via de Luna Drive on the beach. The parade ended at the Casino Beach Pavillion where Col Kinego gave a Veterans Day speech honoring veterans to a crowd of about 200.



His remarks focused on the fact that Veterans Day allows us the precious opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a patriot, and also to reflect on both the costs and the blessings of liberty. He stressed that our veterans have accomplished remarkable things throughout our nation's history, and that they could not have accomplished what they did without the support of their families. He also told the audience that all Americans need to recognize that the defense of freedom is not just for those in the military; each one of us shares that duty and that responsibility, and we can protect our freedom simply by maintaining it here in America by voting in elections, celebrating our common heritage, and speaking out against all injustices. He closed by telling everyone to do something special to make Veterans Day more personal. He challenged the group to reach out and thank a veteran for his or her service to our country. He urged them to call someone they may have grown up with, someone they themselves may have served with, or someone who you just know is a veteran, and say thank you. Finally, he stressed that as we honor our veterans and remember their great deeds, we also must keep in our thoughts

and prayers the fallen, the missing, and those who are currently serving in harm's way.

PITSENBARGER SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED

Pitsenbarger Scholarship presented to SSgt Tia Riley, 1st SOHCS, at the 3 November graduation at Hurlburt Field. Pictured with SSgt Riley is Angela Mayberry, Hurlburt Education Office.

AFA salutes the continued education and personal development of our Airmen and Guardians. As they improve themselves, they improve our Air and Space Forces.

Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Awards provide a one-time grant of \$500 and a one year complimentary AFA eMembership to selected top USAF enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. The grants coincide with the CCAF graduation ceremonies held each Spring and Fall.



HURLBURT CHAPTER SUPPORTS WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. This year along with a \$500 donation, the Hurlburt Chapter and our Community Partner Lockheed Martin placed wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Beale Memorial Cemetery in Ft Walton Beach



Chapter VP Fred Gross



The Lockheed Martin Team

2021 COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR (2021)

Elbit Systems of America
124 E. Miracle Strip Parkway
Mary Esther, FL 32569

Congratulations to Elbit Systems of America, Mary Esther, Florida for being selected our Community Partner of the Year 2021. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2012, Elbit Systems of America has been a strong supporter of AFA Chapter 398, our Air



Force family, teachers, students, cadets, Wounded Airmen and our Unsung Heroes who perform the Air Force mission day in and day out with pride and excellence.

Elbit Systems of America, provides electro optics, airborne, night vision, tactical communications, and targeting systems, as well as focuses on commercial aviation, homeland security, and medical instrumentation solutions.

Thanks Elbit Systems of America!!

Chapter VP for Community Partners Eddie Arroyo presented the CP of the Year Award to Jim Wise of Elbit Systems of America

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Aqua Pool and Patio for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 4th Quarter 2021. A long standing AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2014 supporting our Air Force family, Airmen, cadets, teachers, students and Wounded Airmen.



Aqua Pool and Patio is a full-service company providing pool, spa and gorgeous outdoor furniture and patio designs for both commercial and residential properties in Pensacola and Ft. Walton Beach. Their long history and commitment to quality and service cannot be matched. Aqua Pool and Patio does it all!

Thank you for your support!

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.

Platinum	
Alion Science and Technology	The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach
Elbit Systems of America (2021 CP of the Year)	Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems	Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS
Gold	
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide	Eglin Federal Credit Union
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial	
Silver	
Cherry Wealth Advisors	Clemenza's at Uptown Station
Emerald Coast Endodontics	Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	Preston Hood Chevrolet
Sacred Heart Medical Group – Rheumatology	
Bronze	
Aqua Pool and Patio Company (CP of the Quarter)	Awards Plus Frames by Sharon
Beach Bank	Booz • Allen • Hamilton
Dennis and Company	Edward Jones
FNBT Bank	On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC
SA Technical Services Inc	Serigraphia Inc
Basic	
Emerald Coast Funeral Home	Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn	McNeil Hotel Group

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.

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or visit WWW.FLORIDACONSUMERHELP.COM, Chapter 398 registration number is CH32205

2022 COMING EVENTS

January

12 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130, Bangkok Bistro, Ft Walton Beach

February

9 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130, TBA

March

2-4 – 2022 Air Warfare Symposium, Orlando, FL

TBD - AFA Florida Winter Meeting

9 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130, TBA