



Oct 2023-Decr 2023

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air and Space Forces Association (AFA).

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, Guardians, and their families; and to honor and respect our enduring Heritage

To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security.

Advocate and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world.

Support Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Chapter Officers

President – Dann Mattiza
 Vice President – Nelson Arroyo
 Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
 Treasurer – Dann Mattiza

State Officers

President – Dwyer Dennis
 Vice President – Edward Hood
 Secretary – Sharon Branch
 Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

Box 1220
 Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

Hurlburt Chapter Supports Wreaths Across America

Each December on America Day, the and Teach is wreath-laying locations in all 50 Anyone who gratitude for the volunteer at a in saying veteran for their service.

Volunteers across by placing live, headstones of our fresh evergreens the nation play a valuable role balsam veterans' wreaths on the fallen heroes. For centuries, have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed the servicemember's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.

This year's Wreaths Across America Day took place on December 14, 2024. On that day, more than 2 million Veterans' Wreaths were be placed across Local, National and Cemeteries as well as Veterans' Military Memorials and

At each of those America Location throughout the the ceremony, manage the addition to Wreaths Across assistance of businesses and to place wreaths

This year as in members once and collecting of wreaths at the Beale Memorial Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach.



National Wreaths Across mission to Remember, Honor carried out by coordinating ceremonies at more than 4,225 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. wants to offer a small gesture of freedoms Americans enjoy can wreath laying ceremony to assist names aloud and thanking them

the nation play a valuable role balsam veterans' wreaths on the fallen heroes. For centuries, have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed the servicemember's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.



sites, a Wreaths Across Coordinators worked year to organize and promote coordinate wreath delivery and placement of wreaths. In location coordinators, most America locations rely on the community members, local civic groups and organizations on the day of the event

years past Chapter 398 again participated in the laying

Chapter Celebrates 2023 Teacher of the Year

On October 18th at the Annual Teacher of the Year Banquet the Hurlburt Chapter recognized Ms. Karmen Broaddus as the chapter 2023 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Broaddus is a mathematics teacher at Ruckel Middle School in Niceville, Florida. In recognition of her accomplishments in the field of Science Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) she received a check for \$500 and a scholarship to attend the US Space and Rocket Center's Educator Space Camp this summer, along with a congressional citation.

The chapter also presented a number of national level awards. Unit level awards included the AFA award for Aerospace Education Excellence, Exceptional Service awards for Community Relations and Community Partners, the Community Partner Achievement award and the award for chapter growth. Joe Kinego received the Medal of Merit and Chapter VP for Aerospace Education received the Exceptional Service Award.



Our new Chapter Vice President, Mr. Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo was presented with the Tommy Harrison State member of the Year Award and the Chapter Member of the Year,

Additional awards included Sustained Service Awards to Fred Gross, Susan Ault-Davis, Max Friedauer and Mark Chapman. Special citations were presented to Ricardo Soria and Eddie Arroyo. Ed Savageau and Joe Kinego received Exceptional Service Awards.



The Chapter was also recognized by the State AFA with Exceptional Service Awards for Community Relations, Aerospace Education, Communications, and Best Single Program. All in all a very rewarding night.

Chapter Partners with Okaloosa County INSPIRE Conference

This year Chapter 398 joined forces with Okaloosa County Schools to participate in the 2023 INSPIRE Secondary Math and Science Professional Learning Mini Conference. Chapter VP for Aerospace Education Mr Rick Soria gave a presentation on hover crafts covering concept, design, construction and operation with one lucky teacher being selected to take a hover craft back to their classroom to inspire and challenge their students. He also gave presentations on grant writing.

Other Chapter members manned an informational table explaining the mission and goals of the Air & Space Force Association and encouraging STEM teachers to compete for the AFA Teacher of the Year program





COMMUNITY PARTNER(S) OF THE QUARTER 4th Quarter 2023

Jimmy's Gun and Pawn Shop Inc.

22 Eglin Pkwy SE

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5453

(850) 244-5184

Jimmy's Gun and Pawn has been a dedicated AFA Chapter 398 Community Partner since 2012 and an outstanding member of the Fort Walton Beach Community, providing continued support to our Airmen, Guardians, veterans, cadets, students, teachers and our Air and Space Forces family.



2024 COMING EVENTS

January

10 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

15 - Martin Luther King Day

February

12 – East Panhandle Science Fair, Okaloosa County Fairgrounds

12-14 - AFA Warfare Symposium, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colo.

14 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130

19 – Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day)

20 – East Panhandle Science Fair Awards Ceremony, 1800, Beachside Church, Ft Walton Beach

TBD – State Winter Meeting

March

13 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130

15 – Unsung Heroes Luncheon, 1130, Soundside Club

19 – Florida Presidential Preference Primary

31 – Teacher of the Year Nominations due to Chapter President

April

1 - State Award packages due to chapter president

15 - State Award packages due to state president

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.

<u>Platinum</u>	
The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems	Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach Lockheed Martin SOF Global Logistics Support (GLSS)
<u>Gold</u>	
Eglin Federal Credit Union Riesberg Institute The Kinego Family Trust	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial SA Technical Services Inc
<u>Silver</u>	
Cherry Wealth Advisors Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	Emerald Coast Endodontics Sacred Heart Medical Group – Rheumatology
<u>Bronze</u>	
Awards Plus Frames by Sharon CP of the Quarter Clemenza's at Uptown Station Emerald Coast Funeral Home First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)	Aqua Pool and Patio Company Edward Jones Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Worldwide) Preston Hood Chevrolet
<u>Basic</u>	
Dr. Lynn W. Reynolds	Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn

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