



Oct-Dec 2024

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

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air & 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

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President – Dwyer Dennis
Vice President – Michael Liquori
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Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

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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 more than 4,225 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Anyone who wants to offer a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy can volunteer at a wreath laying ceremony to assist in saying veteran names aloud and thanking them for their service.

Volunteers across the nation play a valuable role by placing live, balsam veterans' wreaths on the headstones of our fallen heroes. For centuries, fresh evergreens 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 placed across Local, National and Military Cemeteries as well as Veterans' Memorials and historic sites.

At each of those sites, a Wreaths Across America Location Coordinators worked throughout the year to organize and promote the ceremony, coordinate wreath delivery and manage the placement of wreaths. In addition to location coordinators, most Wreaths Across America locations rely on the assistance of community members, local businesses and civic groups and organizations to place wreaths on the day of the event

This year as in years past Chapter 398 members once again participated in the laying and collecting of wreaths at the Beale Memorial Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach.



Chapter Member Speaks at Leadership Conference

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), and the Pensacola Representative Vice President for AFA Hurlburt Chapter 398, was asked to speak at the 12th Flying Training Wing Leadership Conference which was held at Pensacola Naval Air Station. The 12th FTW is headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in San Antonio, TX, and consists of the 12th Operations Group which conducts Instructor Pilot Training at Randolph AFB, TX, the 479th Flying Training Group located at NAS Pensacola, FL, and is responsible for conducting all Air Force Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training, and the 306th Flying Training Group located at the United States Air Force Academy, CO, and conducts powered flight training, soaring, and parachute training for the Air Force Academy cadets.



Specifically, Col Kinego was asked to discuss operational risk management (risk assessment and mitigation). As examples he used his RF-4C pilot experience in Vietnam and discussed how RF-4 crews assessed and mitigated operational risks during their day/night combat missions in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, his SR-71 experiences as an SR-71 pilot and squadron commander to discuss risk assessment and mitigation measures the SR-71 Blackbird community used to conduct operational Cold War reconnaissance missions primarily targeting the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, North Vietnam, and Cuba, and his experiences as a B-1B wing Director for Operations, Vice Commander, and Commander to discuss the challenges the B-1B program faced fielding a new weapon system and preparing B-1B aircrews, maintenance personnel, and the whole wing and base infrastructure for a nuclear commitment in support of the Cold War and The Strategic Air Command's SIOP commitment.

Following each aircraft example during his presentation, a group discussion was held to look at how those examples would be looked at and evaluated using the current Air Force Operational Risk Management direction in the Department of the Air Force Pamphlet (DAFPAM) 90-803. The overall response to Col Kinego's briefing and the follow-on discussions was excellent.

Unsung Heroes

The 1st Special Operations Wing has appointed MSgt Juan Santiago, 1 Special Operations Squadron 1st Sgt, as the POC for the Unsung Hero Program. Max Friedauer, founder and Chapter lead for the Unsung Heroes Program met with MSgt Santiago as he finalizes his team to select this year's recipients. Currently the recognition ceremony is tentatively set for Mid-March and plans for the ceremony are for it to be at the Soundside Club on Hurlburt Field. The Wing Commander and Command Chief are available at that time and look forward to attending the Luncheon

Chapter Awards Pitsenbarger Scholarship to CCAF Grad

Col Fred Gross USAF (Ret) and chapter member attended the Community College Of the Air Force graduation on 4 December 2024 held at the Soundside Club. The ceremony speaker was CMS Heather Malensek, 1st SOW Special Operations Comptroller Squadron.

Many family, friends, Commanders, and fellow airmen attended including the 1 SOW Commander, Colonel Patrick Dierig.

The Pitsenbarger Scholarship was awarded to SSgt Jacob Lopez from the 1st Special Operations Maintenance Squadron.



2025 COMING EVENTS

February

12 - Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

TBD – State Winter Meeting, Virtual

March

3-5 - AFA Air Warfare Symposium Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center Aurora, CO

12 – Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

TBD – Unsung Heroes Award Ceremony, Soundside Clup, Hurlburt Field

March

9 – Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER 4th Quarter 2024

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS)

Congratulations to Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 4th Quarter 2024. An AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2011, Lockheed Martin RMS is supporting our community, Air Force families, Airmen, cadets, teachers and students.

Lockheed Martin RMS provides systems engineering, software development, training solutions and complex program management for global security, civil and commercial markets. RMS draws on its core capabilities in advanced platforms and weapons, C4ISR, global sustainment, training and sensors. RMS employs over 35,000 employees on over 1,000 programs at 25+ locations across the U.S. and around the world

Lockheed Martin RMS
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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>Diamond</u>	
Emerald Coast Connected	OMNI Broadcasting
<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 SA Technical Services Inc Reisburg Institute	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial The Kinego Family Trust
<u>Silver</u>	
Emerald Coast Endodontics	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates
<u>Bronze</u>	
Awards Plus Frames by Sharon Emerald Coast Funeral Home Preston Hood Chevrolet	Aqua Pool and Patio Company First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)
<u>Basic</u>	
Clubhouse Grill Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn	Dr. Lynn W. Reynolds

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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