



#### Apr-Jun 2022

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air and Space Forces 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, 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** 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

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

#### State Officers

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

#### **AFA Chapter 398**

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## Florida Aviation Hall of Fame Induction

The Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 is proud to announce that one of our chapter members, Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF, Retired, was formally inducted into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame on April 6, 2022. Joe, along with three others, was selected for the Hall of Fame in the class of 2020, but due to COVID-19 restrictions the formal induction ceremony was delayed for two years. The induction ceremony was held at the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame which is located in the Florida Air Museum in Lakeland, Florida. Joe is a 27-year Air Force veteran who has 4600 flying hours in the T-38, B-57, RF-4C, SR-71, B-1B, KC-135, and EC-135 aircraft. He flew 148 combat missions in Vietnam in the RF-4C and over 900 Cold War reconnaissance flight hours in the SR-71.



As a retiree, Col Kinego reaches out frequently to students in both high school and college, veterans' groups, and aviation museums across the country to tell the story of aviation, as well as to discuss the merits of military service to our country. He presented an SR-71 Cold War briefing for the University of West Florida Air Force ROTC students as well as to a UWF Government Class studying "The Causes of War." He has traveled to multiple Pensacola State College campuses to talk to students about his time flying the RF-4C in Vietnam as well as his SR-71 missions specifically targeting Vietnam. These visits were in support of a special project the students were doing on the Vietnam War.

He has also traveled and spoken to many other groups such as the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Air Force ROTC students, the Liberty University School of Aeronautics students, the Rochester, NY, Civil Air Patrol, the cadets from New York Military Academy, and the North Stafford, VA, High School ROTC cadets. Additionally, he has made multiple presentations for groups like the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), the Ocala Florida Hanger of Quiet Birdman, and the Southern Alabama Chapter of Ancient Aviators.

He traveled to Hutchinson, KS, to donate his SR-71 pressure suit to the Cosmosphere Space Museum and STEM Education Center, which is an internationally recognized STEM education center. In addition to being the center piece of their SR-71 exhibit, the suit is being used in classrooms and camps for hands-on exposure to students and campers so that they can gain a better understanding of how pressure suits work. Hopefully this exposure will energize students' curiosity to explore new areas leading to STEM pursuits.



Colonel Kinego is very active within the community by actively supporting many groups in addition to our AFA Chapter such as the Daedalians, the American Legion, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the Pensacola Children's Chorus, the Council on Aging of West Florida, the Northwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Council for the Blind, and several other organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Foundation. The Foundation was formed in 2019 to help educate the community and memorialize the life and legacy of General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., a native son of Pensacola, Florida, and an American hero. Colonel Kinego is also a docent at the National Naval Aviation Museum located on Naval Air Station Pensacola.

### Chapter Recognizes Teachers of the Year

AFA Chapter 398 VP for Aerospace Education Rick Soria, presented Ms. Sharleen Nunez her award certificate and check at Ruckel Middle School. Ms Nunez was selected as the Chapter Middle School grades and overall Teacher of the Year. Ms. Rice will attend Educator Space Camp in Huntsville, AL in June, with a scholarship provided by the chapter.



Pictured are Rick Soria, Sharleen Nunez, Selicia Nunez (daughter), and Ruckel Principal Mr. Paul Whiddon



Pictured are Wright ES Principal Dr. Anita Choice, Ms. Rice, and Rick Soria.

AFA Chapter 398 VP for Aerospace Education Rick Soria, presented Ms. Christi Rice her award certificate and check at Wright Elementary School. Ms. Rice was selected as the Chapter Elementary School grades Teacher of the Year. Ms. Rice will attend Educator Space Camp in Huntsville, AL in June, with a scholarship provided by the chapter.

### Chapter Awards JROTC Scholarship

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Chapter VP for Communications, Mark Chapman presented Navarre High School Navy JROTC Cadet LT Ivan Bateman a \$500 Scholarship. Cadet Bateman is an outstanding cadet, the battalion administrative officer and an outstanding lacrosse player. While maintaining a 3.76 GPA and an exceptional cadet personnel records management, playing varsity lacrosse and is on our drill team - a NATIONALLY ranked team that is #14 out of 660+ NJROTC units



## COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER



Awards Plus  
Frames By Sharon  
413 Green Acres Road  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Congratulations to Awards Plus Frames By Sharon for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2022. A long standing AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2015 supporting our community, Air Force families, Airmen, cadets, teachers, students and Wounded Airmen.

Awards Plus Frames By Sharon is recognized as one of the best, building custom picture frames and military awards on site with customer satisfaction always in mind. Outstanding quality work and one day customer service offered.

## 2022 COMING EVENTS

### July

- 13 - Executive Board Meeting, TBD
- 22-23 - Florida AFA State Convention, Tallahassee, FL
- 27 – 2022 AFSOC Commander's Social, 1730-2030, Soundside Club

### August

- 10 - Executive Board Meeting, 1130, TBD

### September

- 14 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130, TBD
- 17-18 – AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD
- 19-21 – 2022 Air Space and Cyber Conference, National Harbor, MD

### October

- 12 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130, TBA
- 19 – 2022 Chapter Recognition Dinner, Club House Grill (formerly Two Trees Restaurant, Ft Walton Beach, FL

## 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.

<b>Platinum</b>	
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
<b>Gold</b>	
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide	Eglin Federal Credit Union
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial	
<b>Silver</b>	
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	
<b>Bronze</b>	
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
<b>Basic</b>	
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.

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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