



Apr-Jun 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

State Officers

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

AFA Chapter 398

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Tuskegee Airman inducted into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlburt AFA Chapter #398 Vice President Pensacola Representative, was invited to the Florida Air Museum in Lakeland, FL, for the Induction Ceremony for the Class of 2023 into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame. One of the inductees was 1st Lt. James R. Polkinghorne, Jr., USAAF.

While most of us have heard of General Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr. and his story, many have never heard of Lt. James Polkinghorne, Jr. and his story. Lt Polkinghorne was born in Pensacola in June 1921 and like Gen James was a graduate of Washington High School. While he was in college he enlisted in the military and was assigned to Tuskegee Army Air Field, AL, and earned his silver wings in February 1943. Gen James earned his silver wings at Tuskegee in July 1943. Following graduation, Gen James remained at Tuskegee as an instructor pilot and Lt Polkinghorne became a combat pilot and was assigned to the 301st Fighter Squadron.



His squadron was deployed to Europe and Lt Polkinghorne was shot down over Italy on May 5, 1944. His remains were never found, and he was later declared dead and awarded the Purple Heart. His name is inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy and he is also honored on the Tallahassee Aviation Wall of Fame inside the Tallahassee International Airport.

The General Daniel “Chappie” James Flight Academy is currently in an endeavor to find his remains in Italy, and bring him home to Pensacola. The Lt’s story is told in a book entitled “Lost in Heaven” by Leo Murphy. Mr. Murphy was the person who nominated Lt Polkinghorne to the Hall of Fame and he was in Lakeland and spoke at his Induction. Lt. Polkinghorne’s youngest sister, Maggie Wilson, still resides in Pensacola.

Chapter Member, Guest Speaker at College Viet Nam Memorial

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), and vice president of the AFA Hurlburt Chapter 398 for the Pensacola, FL, area, recently returned to his Alma Mata, Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, to serve as a keynote speaker for the dedication of a Vietnam Memorial for all the Alleghenians who served in the Vietnam War. Col Kinego worked with the college administration over the past several years to help make this dedication a reality. Col Kinego says he is so proud of his college for supporting all the Vietnam veterans who attended Allegheny College and served their country in Vietnam. The Memorial is located in a beautiful setting on campus and readily visible to students as they walk through the campus.



Junior ROTC Summer Leadership School Graduation

Colonel Fred Gross, USAF (ret) attended the Summer Leadership School Graduation on 14 June at Navarre High School. The guest graduation speaker was CMSgt Clint Campbell, 24 SOW Command Chief. Two hundred parents and friends attended supporting the students.

The graduation class consisted of 62 students in four flights. Fred presented Chapter 398 to the honor flight , Talon, at the conclusion of the ceremony

Colonel (ret) Ken Rodriguez has established the Summer Leadership School on Hurlburt Field with the logistics support of AFSOC for twelve years to provide teamwork and leadership challenges for the students. Chapter 398 has provided financial support for this program since its inception



2024 AFA Florida JR. ROTC Drill Meet

Chapter President Dann Mattiza attended the AFA Florida State Drill Meet on Saturday, 2 March, at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Daytona Beach, FL. AFROTC Detachment 157 from ERAU hosted the event and provided escorts, judges, and support staff to make sure the event went well. Ms. Sharon Branch of the Martin Harris Chapter was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and FL AFA's POC for Drill Meets for many years. She was assisted by SMSgt Jeff Lewis and CMSgt Larry Schneck who provided the technical expertise for inviting and organizing the teams. Det 157 from ERAU hosted and Cadet Marsicano headed up that effort. They did a fantastic job and were able to adapt quickly to changing weather conditions and requirements as the rain began to fall in the early afternoon. The group responded quickly and the final two events, Armed Drill Exhibition and Individual Drill Routine (IDR), were moved inside.

There were eight schools and nine teams in attendance. They were DeLand, Bartam Trail, Kathleen Senior, Mainland, Lake Worth, Celebration, Osceola, and Gulf Breeze High Schools. Gulf Breeze entered two teams for the meet. These schools competed in several events, including Inspection, Regulation Drill, Exhibition Drill, Color Guard, Armed Exhibition and Individual Regulation Drill.

Hurlburt Chapter 398 sponsored five of the trophies presented to the winners. Other FL AFA members present and presenting awards included Mr. Larry Belge from Falcon Chapter, Ms. Sharon Branch from Martin Harris Chapter, Mr. Dwyer Dennis, FL AFA State President and member of the Space Coast Chapter, and Mr. Joe Muhlberger representing the Waterman-Twining Chapter. Thirty-one trophies were awarded including the Best of Meet and Overall Excellence Trophy. This trophy was presented to Celebration High School and included the FL AFA Overall Excellence Traveling Trophy which is returned and re-awarded each year. Congratulations to all the participating cadets, and instructors. A special thanks to Ms. Branch and her assistants and to ERAU and AFROTC Det 157 for their work coordinating, sponsoring, judging, and hosting the event. (By the way, the cadets from Det 157 also served as judges for our event last year when it was held at Osceola HS.) WELL DONE, "Soaring Eagles".

Gulf Breeze HS AF JROTC Awards Ceremony:

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), and the Pensacola Representative Vice President for AFA Hurlburt Chapter 398, attended the Gulf Breeze High School AF JROTC Awards Ceremony on 3 May and presented the AFA Medal, Certificate, and a \$500 scholarship check to Cadet Rafael Garcia. Cadet Garcia will be attending the United States Air Force Academy & has aspirations of becoming a pilot. He also earned a full-ride Air Force ROTC Scholarship (if taken, he would've attended Auburn) and an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy.



Navarre HS Navy JROTC Award

Lt Col Dann Mattiza, USAF (Ret), Chapter 398 President presented the Navarre HS JROTC Scholarship to NJROTC Cadet Elijah Thompson at the Navarre High School Awards Ceremony.



Pensacola HS JROTC Awards Ceremony

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret) and the Pensacola Representative Vice President of the AFA Hurlburt Chapter 398, attended the Pensacola High School AF JROTC Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, 8 May, and presented the AFA Medal, Certificate, and a \$500 scholarship check to Cadet Sydney Jauncey, the FL-12 Cadet Corps Deputy Commander. Cadet Jauncey will assume Command of the Corps in the Fall as she begins her Senior year. She is the #1 cadet in her class and is a Top 10% student in her PHS class -- currently dual-enrolled at Pensacola State College working on her Associates Degree while completing High School. Also, she is the Commander of the FL-12 regionally and nationally-recognized Drill Team, and a varsity member of the PHS Softball Team.



2024 COMING EVENTS

July

- 10 – Chapter Executive Board, 1130,
- 20 – State Convention, Melbourne FL (Space Coast Chapter)

August

- 14 – Chapter Executive Board

September

- 11 – Chapter Executive Board
- 14-15 – AFA National Convention, Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center, MD
- 16-18 – Air, Space, & Cyber Conference, Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center, MD
- 18 – Air Force Birthday

October

- 9 - Chapter Executive Board
- 11 – Chapter Executive Board
- 16 – Chapter Awards Dinner



**COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER
2nd Quarter 2024**

Lockheed Martin Special Operations Forces Global Logistics Support Services (SOF GLSS)



Congratulations to Lockheed Martin SOF GLSS for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2024. A long standing AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2013 supporting our community, Air Force families, Airmen, cadets, teachers and students.

Lockheed Martin SOF GLSS is U.S. Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) largest service contract vehicle providing a wide range of tailored logistics, maintenance and sustainment services. Lockheed Martin conducts its day-to-day operations, providing the full range of logistics services required to support the SOF community.

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>	
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.

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