



Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398

SERVICE before SELF

EXCELLENCE in ALL We DO

Integrity first

Jan – Mar 2021

The Official Newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association

AFA Mission

To promote a dominant USAF and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security,

Advocate for aerospace power and STEM education, and

Support the total Air Force family and promote aerospace education.

Chapter Officers

President – Jim Connors
Vice President - Fred Gross
Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
Treasurer – Thom Guthrie

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President – Mark Chapman
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Secretary – Bill Yucuis
Treasurer – Gary Lehmann

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AFA HURLBURT CHAPTER 398 AND 1 SOW UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS PRESENTATION

by Max Friedauer, VP for Unsung Hero Programs

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 23 years, and in the Fall of every year we honor the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing, its units, and some tenant units. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, we were unable to have the traditional luncheon with all the honorees, guests, and co-workers present. But with the continued support of our co-sponsor, the Boeing Company, we were able to make a special presentation to the winners in the 1st Special Operations Wing Command Section in three separate awardee groups. This year the chapter recognized 23 "Unsung Heroes" (E1-E4) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and honored them with the presentation of a framed certificate, a Chapter coin, and \$20 to spend for a lunch at a restaurant of their choice. The awards were presented on 18 December 2020 by the 1 SOW Vice Commander, Col Hood, and 1 SOW Interim Command Chief, CMSgt Lang.

A special thanks to MSgt (Ret) Jerome Cole, his wife MSgt Debriella Cole, and TSgt Chavalier Hubbard who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put this all together. They sent out e-mail requests for nominations, organized and printed the award certificates, and coordinated the event with the 1 SOW Command Section.

Our 23 honorees and Unsung Hero Award Recipients were:
23 SOWS SrA Kyle Forsberg; 23 SOWS A1C Kaitlyn Campbell;
23 SOWS SrA Derek Jordan; 11 SOIS SrA Alissa Castro; 8 SOS SrA Daniel Wilson; 65 SOS A1C Izaya Rosas; 65 SOS A1C Pedro

Rodriguez III; 1 SOSS A1C Ron Santos; 1 SOSS SrA Timothy Ritter; 1 SOCES SrA Joshua Hall; 1 SOCES SrA Caleb Powell; 1 SOCES A1C Terry Sams Jr; 1 SOFSS SrA Jessica Garay; 1 SOSFS Sr A Kaleb Mahmood; 801 SOAMXS Ann Ayanna Dickerson; 1 SOMXS SrA Josh Pattison; 1 SOMXS Tatiana Gasu; 901 SOAMXS SrA Blake Hobbs; 1 SOMUNS A1C Austin Clubs; 1 SOMUNS SrA Paul Honeycutt; 1 SOMUNS SrA Gaerhett Ferguson; 823 RHS SrA Austin Mann; 823 RHS A1C Robert Gauper. Photos of the award winners are shown below.

Our next event will be in the Fall. Hopefully, we can return to the Soundside for that one.





Coming Events

Apr

14- Executive Board Meeting, 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach

30- Chapter and State TOY submissions due to National

May

7- 479 FTW Career Day, Pensacola NAS

12- Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach

Jun

9 – Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's

Jul

23-25 State Convention in Jacksonville

Sep

18-19 AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD

20-22 Air, Space, and Cyber Conference, National Harbor, MD

GOT STORIES, PHOTOS, OR NEWS????? SEND THEM IN!

vark02@cox.net

AFA HURLBURT CHAPTER 398 SELECTS

Teacher of the Year Winners

The Hurlburt Chapter has selected four outstanding teachers for recognition this year. During the COVID pandemic, teachers have had unique challenges trying to do virtual and/or hybrid instruction and have not had the opportunity to do many of their usual in-person student activities. Nevertheless, many teachers, including the ones we are recognizing, have been quite innovative in their approach to bring STEM related topics to their students and they continue to share best practices and innovative adjustments to perpetuate student interest in aerospace-related STEM subjects and careers. Allow me to introduce the AFA Hurlburt Teacher of the Year Winners for 2021.

Ms. Shannon Kirby, *Crestview High School, High School and Overall TOY.* Ms. Kirby has been teaching various levels of biology, chemistry, and physics at Crestview High School since 2013. This year, she is teaching all three sciences, biology and biology honors in virtual learning environment and chemistry, conceptual physics, and honors physics in the classroom. She brings hands-on collaborative learning to students at every level, meets students where they are, and challenges them to develop critical thinking skills while learning.

Mr. Alan Anderson, *C.W. Ruckel Middle School, Middle School Teacher of the Year.* Mr. Anderson has taught Science at Ruckel for 28 years, and headed the STEMM Program there for the past four years. His students connect STEMM concepts to real-world situations and careers by participating in various labs and competitions. He leads his students as they design and build robots, construct and fly drones, develop video games, solder circuit boards and constructing various towers, cranes and bridges with balsa wood. They also learn programming skills which are used with their robots and video game projects. According to his principal, his STEMM class is always among those first filled during school registration periods.

Ms. Gail Smith, *Riverside Elementary School, Elementary School Teacher of the Year.* Ms. Smith has been teaching for 18 years and has served as the STEM Lab Teacher at Riverside for the past 5 years. Gail teaches a class from each grade level (Pre-K to 5) each day in the STEM Lab. There, the students are afforded the opportunity for well-planned, hands-on lessons that align to the state standards and the curriculum being taught in their classrooms. Returning to school during the COVID pandemic meant difficulties for teachers everywhere, but Gail did not allow that to interfere with her mission. Since the students were unable to share equipment, she sought out different materials for her lessons that ensured each child had their own. Classes were not allowed to use the STEM Lab, so Gail put science on a cart and traveled the school to take her engaging STEM curriculum to all classes. She makes sure a child never leaves the STEM lab without a slice of added wonderment for the world around them.

Ms. Marian Gilmore, *Silver Sands School, PreK–Post Graduate, Special Recognition.*

Ms. Marian Gilmore has a love of all things science and has impressed that love upon the students and staff at Silver Sands School. When appointed as the Science Teacher for Silver Sands, she found a way to incorporate her love of space and NASA into the program, while also continuing to expand our Aquaponic Greenhouse efforts and involvement with the CAP ACE Program. Her efforts with the CAP ACE program resulted in the school being selected as a National ACE School of the Year for 2020. Ms. Gilmore also utilizes technology to post science activities on the school YouTube channel which allows the students to connect to the lessons even when out of school due to COVID restrictions. Working with students that have significant special needs means that she has had to modify and accommodate lessons to make them appropriate and meaningful to our students. She does this easily and without “watering down” science terms. These lessons have been valuable in engaging our students in science concepts through real-world examples and activities they could do at home. Using her love of NASA and all things Space, she also arranged for the students to have a Zoom conference with Astronauts Don Thomas and Marcia Lindstrom. Using ZOOM again, she was able to bring in a guest speaker for their Virtual Science Fair and STEM night. Ms. Gilmore has only been teaching for a few years, but her love of learning and ability to share and excite students of all abilities about the wonders of Science is truly amazing and highly commendable.

Congratulations to all our winners.

AFA FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION

Planning for LIVE AND IN PERSON AFA Florida State Convention is underway by the Falcon Chapter in Jacksonville. Dates are set for 23 -25 July at the Omni Hotel in Jacksonville. While everything is subject to change based upon COVID, here are the plans to date.

For Friday arrivals: Planning is ongoing for either a Wine Tasting Social or a River Cruise. A Hospitality Room will also be available on Friday and Saturday.

The Business Meeting will be on Saturday, 24 July, and will include a Business Lunch. The Convention Dinner will be held that evening. We are hoping for a guest speaker to discuss the Space Force. An Optional Fashion Design Show by Petunia Patch is planned for those not attending the meeting on Saturday.

Planned fee schedule is shown below.

Rooms are \$96 per night with no tax. (Have to make reservations and payment through Falcon Chapter Treasurer—more on procedures as we get closer).

Saturday Continental Breakfast	\$10.00 per person
Saturday Lunch (Business Mtg)	\$35.00 per person
Saturday Dinner	\$40.00 per person

It will be the first time we have been able to get together as a group in over a year, so we hope it can go forward as planned.

AS STATED EARLIER, THIS IS IN THE PLANNING STAGE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The Official Sign-Up Sheet and Call for Funds/Reservations will come later via the STATE Web Site and email.



**AFA Chapter 398
Community Partner of the Quarter
Jan – Mar 2021**

Elbit Systems

124 E Miracle Stip Parkway
Mary Esther, FL 32569-1988
Phone: 850-377-7164

Congratulations to ELBIT Systems of America, Mary Esther, FL for being selected our Community Partner of the Quarter. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2012, Elbit Systems has been a strong supporter of AFA Chapter 398, our community, Air Force family, veterans, teachers, students, cadets, and Wounded Airmen.

Thank you, Elbit Systems!!

Chapter 398 Community Partners

AFA Chapter 398 is 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.

Diamond

FLIR Systems Incorporated

Platinum

The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach

Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach

Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS

Elbit Systems of America

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems

Alion Science and Technology (formerly Mac-B)

Gold

Eglin Federal Credit Union

Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial

Silver

Beach Community Bank

Cherry Wealth Advisors

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates

Sacred Heart Medical Group - Rheumatology

SA Technical Services Inc

Blue Force Gear

Emerald Coast Endodontics

On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC

Preston Hood Chevrolet

Bronze

Aqua Pool and Patio Company

Booz | Allen | Hamilton

Edward Jones

Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"

The Island Hotel by Ramada

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon

Dennis and Company

FNBT Bank

Serigraphia Inc.

Basic

Emerald Coast Funeral Home

It's All About You Massage & Day Spa

Little Caesars Pizza (Racetrack Road)

McNeil Hotel Group

Freedom Self Storage

Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn

Mama Nu's Kitchen

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