



Oct 2022-Mar 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 – 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

Box 1220
Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

Chapter Annual Awards Dinner



The colors were posted by the FL-22 AFJROTC cadets from Choctawhatchee High School.

On the evening of October 19th, 2022 our chapter hosted our annual Awards Dinner.

Each year, our chapter recognizes classroom teachers for their accomplishments and achievements in exciting K-12 students about science and math (STEM) and preparing them to apply and contribute to tomorrow's technologies. This is a unique opportunity for us to reward special teachers who are furthering excellence and making coming to class an adventure. We also recognize our chapter award winners and our Community Partner of the Year.

Our Chapter Partner of the Year was Lockheed SOF GLSS. Mr. John Glaze, Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control (MFC) – Services, was present and accepted the award. Lockheed SOF GLSS was also the sponsor of the Chapter Awards Dinner.



Chapter Award winners pictured with Chapter Vice President Fred Gross were (left) Joe Kinego, Chapter Member of the Year 2021, and (right) Rick Soria, Chapter Member of the Year 2022.

Since we had been unable to host a dinner for a while, this year we recognized our Teachers of the Year for 2020, 2021, and 2022. They are:

- Meredith Coleman, Northwood Elementary School, Elementary Grades Teacher and Co-Overall Teacher of the Year 2020,
- Dawn Pack, Destin Middle School, Middle school Grades and Co-Overall Teacher of the Year, 2020,
- Gail Smith, Riverside Elementary School, Elementary Grades Teacher of the Year 2021,
- Alan Anderson, Ruckel Middle School, Middle Grades Teacher of the Year 2021,
- Miriam Gilmore, Silver Sands School, Exceptional Performance Award Teacher of the Year, 2021
- Shannon Madison, Crestview High School, High School Grades and Overall Teacher of the Year, 2021,
- Christi Rice, Wright Elementary School, Elementary Grades Teacher of the Year, 2022. and
- Sharlene Nunez, Ruckel Middle School, Middle Grades and Overall Teacher of the Year 2022.

Their selection was made from nomination packages submitted from across the panhandle.

Each teacher received a congressional certificate and a check for \$250. Overall Teachers of the Year were previously provided a scholarship to attend the US Space and Rocket Center's Educator Space Camp.

Ms. Nunez provided the gathering a short presentation about her experiences at the Educator Space Camp, Huntsville, AL. Our Chapter VP for Aerospace Education also provided a short presentation regarding our upcoming Spring Teacher Workshop.



Pictured with Lockheed SOF GLSS Mr. John Glaze are teachers, left to right, Christi Rice, Dawn Pack, Sharon Nunez, Meredith Coleman, Miriam Gilmore, Alan Anderson and Gail Smith.

Our congratulations to all the winners.

Since all the teachers being recognized were Okaloosa County School teachers, Mr. Steve Horton, Okaloosa deputy Superintendent, was present at the dinner.

The AFA appreciates what teachers do. Every teacher is making a difference in the lives of their students. We applaud these teachers who are making a difference in STEM and aerospace education.

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

Chapter Presents at JROTC Drill Meet

Chapter 398 Treasurer Dann Mattiza and his wife, Jean, recently attended the Florida State JROTC Drill Meet at Osceola High School in Kissimmee, Florida. This was the first Drill meet in several years as the previous 2 or 3 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Normally, this Annual event is open to various JROTC Drill Teams from throughout Florida and is frequently held at a college or university with an Air Force ROTC unit. In this case, Osceola HS volunteered to host the event and AF ROTC Cadets from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University from Daytona Beach, FL served as judges.

The drill meet was attended by 10 high schools, Bartram Trail, De Land, Miami Southridge, Hernando, Osceola, Celebration and Lake Worth High Schools from Florida, and North Henderson High School from North Carolina. The Drill Meet was held on 4 March and lasted most of the day as Drill Teams and Color Guard units from the various schools competed in Inspection, Regulation Drill, and Exhibition Drill events. At the end of the day, Cadets participated in the Individual Drill Competition to earn individual Awards. Over 40 trophies were awarded to the various schools and teams attending the competition.



The Hurlburt Chapter sponsors five separate trophies in honor of personnel with ties to AFSOC and Hurlburt Field. Mr. Mattiza was honored to present those trophies as follows:

- 3rd place trophy for Individual Drill (IDR) in honor of SrA Servais. The winner was Cadet Rueda Velasques from Celebration High School.
- 2nd place trophy for IDR in honor of SSgt Timothy Davis. The winner was Cadet Rodriguez from Osceola High School.
- 3rd place trophy for Drill Team Commander in honor of Capt Jeremy Fresques. Deland High School was the winner.
- 2nd place trophy for Drill Team Commander in honor of Gen Norton A. Schwartz. Osceola HS won.
- 1st place trophy for Drill Team Commander in honor of General Charles R. Holland. Bartram Trail HS was the winner.

Representatives from the Space Coast, Marty Harris and Waterman Chapters were also present to present awards to the cadet winners. Ms. Sharon Branch, Marty Harris Chapter Secretary, served as Master of Ceremonies and helped keep the event on track. Special thanks to all the AFA organizers and representatives for their participation. An extra special thanks goes to Osceola High School AFJROTC and their Aerospace Science Instructors and their cadet staff for helping make this year's event successful.

AFA HURLBURT CHAPTER 398 AND 1 SOW UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS PRESENTATION FOR

2022 by Max Friedauer, VP for Unsung Hero Programs

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 25 years, will continue to honor the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its Units every year. We had 67 people present at the awards luncheon at the Hurlburt Soundside Club on Friday, 24 March 2023. We recognized and honored 20 of Hurlburt's finest Airmen, two were unable to attend because they were deployed. With the continued support of our co-sponsor, the Boeing Company, we recognized 18 "Unsung Heroes" (E1-E4) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and we were honored to have them as our guest for lunch



The emcee for the Luncheon was SSgt Kameron Thompson from 1 SOSS. Chaplain Richardson provided the invocation.



The guest speaker for the lunch was the 1st Special Operations Wing Command Chief CMSgt Joey R. Meininger, and he spoke about Hurlburt Field's amazing young Airmen and provided a brief history of how this program was just the right spark that some needed to excel. He explained how he as a young Fireman at Hurlburt many years ago was selected as an "Unsung Hero" and how that was the first time he had been formally recognized and given a pat on the back for a job well done. He then went on to say that he and the Wing Commander, Col Black, had talked and agreed that there should be one more "Unsung Hero" to be added to the list and he asked Lt Col Max Friedauer to come up and be recognized as the 21st "Unsung Hero" for today for having started this program 25 years ago but also for supporting the community by volunteering his time and support to

so many local and National charitable organizations. Both Col Black and CMSgt Meininger presented Lt Col Friedauer with their Command coin.



It was also good to see eight of the Airmen with their spouses to share their special status as we honored them as our 1 SOW Unsung Heroes for 2022.

Mr Dann Mattiza, assisted by CMSgt Meininger and the 1 SOW Commander Col Black, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Certificate and Mr Mattiza presented each with a treasured RMO (round metal object). SSgt Thompson read a few of each Airman's accomplishments as they came forward. The

luncheon was sponsored by a generous grant from the Boeing Corporation represented by Mr John Hillsman. The Boeing Company is one of 23 Community Partners that support the many pro-grams the chapter is involved in.



AFA Chapter 398 Acting President, Mr Mattiza thanked everyone and presented CMSgt Meininger with a certificate showing the Paver the Chapter purchased in the Chief's name and thanked him again for being our guest speaker.

A special thanks also to MSgt Brandon Larson and SSgt Yanessa Quiles and their team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put this all together, sending out e-mail requests for nominations, organizing and printing the award certificates, and coordinating the event with the 1 SOW Command Section, Wing Protocol, and the Hurlburt Soundside Club for the meals and room setup.



Our 20 honorees and Unsung Hero Award Recipients were: A1C Tara Lisica, 1 SOCPTS; SrA Ebenae Eddy, 15 SOS; A1C Hunter Forck, 4 SOS; SrA Aaron Gley, 4 SOS; SrA Alba Samaniego, 11 SOIS; SrA Gayle McCrary, 1 SOMDG; A1C Damian King, 1 SOFSS; SrA Joshua Leo, 1 SOLRS; SrA Wyatt Mata, 1 SOCES; SrA Tyler Merson, 1 SOCONS; A1C Czion Person, 1 SOSFS; SrA Caleb Beard, 1 SOMXG; A1C DeMarco Cobb, 901 SOAMXS; SrA Tristan East, 1 SOMXS; SrA Isaiahlee Elizardo, 1 SOMXS; SrA Alexander Girardot, 901 SOAMXS; A1C Alyssa Larson, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Anna Lee, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Pedro Tineo, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Cody Vasseur, 801 SOAMXS.



2023 East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Chapter Vice President Dann Mattiza attended the 2023 East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair awards ceremony last night and presented the certificates (framed by Fred), checks and a Chapter Coin to each of our four winners. Just to validate your choices, be aware that our four award winners made MULTIPLE trips to the stage to be recognized and receive awards. In addition, in the Junior Division, Mr. Carter Deering was 1st overall and Ms. Julia Milz was 4th. (Deering will be advancing to the next level—State.) In the Senior Division Colt Stevens ranked #2 in the Physics and Astronomy Category and Summer House was 2nd in the Engineering Category.

Judging was done by chapter members Fred Gross, Susan Ault-Davis, Nelson Arroyo, and Mark Chapman





COMMUNITY PARTNER(s) OF THE QUARTER

4th Quarter 2022

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.

1st Quarter 2023

The BOEING Company

4626 Anchor St NW
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548



Congratulations to The BOEING Company Fort Walton Beach, FL for being selected our Community Partner of the Quarter. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2006, BOEING has been a strong supporter of AFA Chapter 398, our Air Force family, teachers, students, cadets, Wounded Warriors and particularly our Unsung Heroes who perform the Air Force mission day in and day out with pride and excellence.

Thanks BOEING!!

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.

Platinum

The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach	Elbit Systems of America
Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach	Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems
Lockheed Martin SOF Global Logistics Support (GLSS)	

Gold

Eglin Federal Credit Union	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial
SA Technical Services Inc	

Silver

Cherry Wealth Advisors	Emerald Coast Endodontics
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	Preston Hood Chevrolet
Sacred Heart Medical Group – Rheumatology	

Bronze

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon CP of the Quarter	Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Clemenza's at Uptown Station	Dennis and Company
Edward Jones	Emerald Coast Funeral Home
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Worldwide)	First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)

Basic

Dr. Lynn W. Reynolds	Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn
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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

2023 COMING EVENTS

April

12 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

May

10 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

June

14 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

July

12 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

14-15 – AFA Florida State Convention, Ocala FL

August

12 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

September

12 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130

9-10 AFA National Convention, National Harbor MD

11-13 – Air, Space and Cyber Conference, National Harbor MD