



Jul-Sep 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 – Michael Liquori
Secretary – Sharon Branch
Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

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Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

AFA Funds Child Care Training for Military Spouses at Eglin, Hurlburt

AIR & SPACE FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air & Space Forces Association is partnering with Operation Child Care (OCC) Project to enroll 25 military spouses at Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field in Florida in a weekend-long professional child care training course November 16-17, certifying them within the DOD's set of requirements to work as private caregivers on military installations.



The initiative, HomeFront Help, is the latest from OCC Project, a nationwide nonprofit led by military spouses focused on improving child care access and equity for military families. AFA is funding the project through its United Forces & Families (F2) program.

HomeFront Help was designed to relieve a longstanding gap in child care availability on military installations. Upon completing the weekend-long cohort, participants will meet and exceed the DOD's standards to provide emergency, ad hoc, and part-time care to Eglin and Hurlburt families, as well as be eligible to augment staff at on-base child care facilities.

AFA is paying a \$250 stipend to all participants who complete the course. Participants also will receive the following benefits for free:

- Certifications, including Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid
- FBI, state criminal history, and child safety background checks
- 40 hours of free provider training, including special needs and behavioral support
- Two hours of one-on-one consulting with industry care experts

After completing the cohort weekend, participants will be added to a local database of vetted, certified private caregivers to help connect them with military families in need of child care.

“HomeFront Help is an amazing win-win for our forces and families: not only is it going to give Eglin and Hurlburt families access to more safe, high-quality caregivers, but it's going to equip military spouses with the skills and

certifications to thrive in a mission-critical career field while compensating them for their time investment,” said Kari Voliva, AFA’s Vice President for Member & Field Relations. “Operation Child Care Project has created exactly the sort of initiative that embodies our United Forces and Families vision of a culture where strong families continually build stronger forces. We’re proud to stand by the OCC Project team dedicated to tackling challenges head on with creative solutions.”

Applications to enroll in HomeFront Help are open now until November 11. Military spouses and early childhood education professionals in the greater Eglin AFB community are encouraged to apply. [Learn more and apply now.](#)

Chapter Awards and Teacher of the Year Banquet

The Hurlburt Chapter held its annual Awards and Teacher of the Year dinner October 16th at the Clubhouse Grill in Fort Walton Beach. As in the past the event was sponsored by Lockheed Martin, who plays an active role in strengthening the quality of life in our country and the communities where we live and work. The corporation primarily supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and military and veteran causes.

Air & Space Forces Association Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field, Florida, recognizes Lockheed Martin and appreciates their sponsorship of this evening’s events and AFA Chapter 398 programs in support of our Air Force family, local teachers and students, annual Science Fair, ROTC scholarships and much more.

This year the Chapter and a number of our members were recognized both at the state and national level for contributions to the Air & Space Force Association

Col Allison Black (USAF – ret) was recognized by the Florida AFA for her tireless support while serving as the 1st Special Operation Wing Commander with the Jerry Waterman Award. This award is presented to the active-duty member within the state that has made the most significant contribution to the Air and Space Forces mission during the last year.

Mr Emil (Max) Friedauer, received the Gen Lewis H. Brereton Award which is presented to the civilian who has made the most significant contribution to airpower over the past year or period of time.



Our State Teacher of the year who is also recognized as the Chapter Teacher of the Year is Ms. Heather Stewart of the Paxton Scholl in Walton County Florida.

Other awards presented were as follows:

State/Regional Unit Awards

- Exceptional Service - Best Single Program
- Exceptional Service – Communications
- Exceptional Service – Community Relations

Individual Awards

- Presidential Citation – Mr. Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo
- Sustained Service Citation – Mr. Joe Kinego and Mr. Leslie Matheson
- Chapter Member of the Year – Ms. Susan Ault-Davis



Chapter Level Recognition

- Special Citation – Outstanding Performance – Ms. Meredith Coleman (Chapter VP for Aerospace Education)
- Sustained Service Citation – Mr. Ed Sauvageau

National Level Awards Unit Awards

- Aerospace Education Achievement, Aerospace Education Excellence (Extra Large Chapter), Exceptional Service – Best Single Program, Exceptional Service – Communications, Exceptional Service - Community Partners (Extra Large Chapter), Community Partner Achievement Award, and Chapter Growth Award.

National Level Individual Awards

- Exceptional Service – Mr. Nelson Arroyo
- Exceptional Service - Mr. Joe Kinego
- Medal of Merit – Mr. Mark Chapman and Mr. Max Friedauer

Teachers of the Year

- Elementary, Ms. Michelle Tucker, West Navarre Intermediate School
- Middle School, Ms. Heather Stewart, The Paxton School
- High School, Ms. Tami McConnell, Navarre High School

Ms. Tucker and Ms. McConnell were also given scholarships to attend the Space Camp in Huntsville AL, (Ms. Stewart was a previous attendee)

The final Award of the evening went to SA Technical Services, In. as the Community Partner of the Year. Accepting the Award was SA Tech President Mr. Harold (Ned) Shelgren.



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

SA Technical Services, Inc.

Congratulations to SA Technical Services, Inc. (SA Tech) for being selected as our Community Partner of the Year 2024. SA Technical Services is a long-standing AFA Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field Community Partner and active supporter of AFA programs since 2008.



SA Tech is a Service- Disabled, Veteran Owned, Small Business headquartered in Niceville, Florida, with a primary focus on high-end systems engineering, program management, technical services, acquisition, information assurance and training support for government customers. Their mission is to provide high quality and immersive training experience to our clients while creating opportunities for service-disabled veterans to thrive in the small business world. They uphold the values of integrity, dedication, and excellence and contribute to the growth and innovation of the training and modeling and simulation industry. Through commitment to outstanding customer service and community involvement, they strive to make a positive impact on the lives of clients, employees, and fellow veterans.

143 Mulry Drive
Niceville, FL 32578
850-613-6085

Volunteer opportunities for Wreaths Across America 2024 are as follows:

December 13th - Pre-stage (unload) wreaths at Beal Memorial Cemetery, 316 Beal Pkwy, NW, Ft Walton Beach. Dress comfortable for the climate. Leather gloves recommended. Showtime 0830. Two-hour task. 50 volunteers required.

December 14th - Official ceremony and laying of wreaths at Beal Memorial Cemetery. Dress uniform for active duty requested, business casual/respectful for everyone else. Showtime NLT 0845. (Showtime for official uniformed military flag/wreath party is NLT 0830 under the bell tower.) Ceremony begins promptly at 0900. Two-hour ceremony/task. Please note this year's event parking will be on the South end (rear/opposite end of the NW Beal main entrance).



Additional tasking for 6 personnel to assist with cemetery parking. Showtime is 0730 and dress is uniform of the day.

December 27th - Pick-up wreaths at cemetery and dispose of. Dress comfortable for the climate and use of leather gloves is highly encouraged (ants may be located under wreaths). Showtime 0830. Two-hour task. 50 volunteers required.

Seeking 300 volunteers to lay 2000 wreaths. NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY. Children under parental supervision welcome.

2024 COMING EVENTS

November

11 - Veterans Day

December

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

13, 14, and 27 – Wreaths Across America

25 - Christmas



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER
3rd Quarter 2024



RIESBERG INSTITUTE

Congratulations to the Riesberg Institute for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 3d Quarter 2024. A new AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner supporting our community, Air Force families, Airmen, cadets, teachers and students. Riesberg Institute began in 2001 with a vision to create a destination medical practice that specializes in sinus, hearing, and voice — all under one roof.

Riesberg Institute
4900 N. Davis Highway
Pensacola, FL 32503
(850) 476-4300



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.

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

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