



Air Force Association General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

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<http://www.afa-gabriel.org/>

Volume 2006, Issue 2

CONGRATULATIONS
GABRIEL CHAPTER
SELECTED AS THE VIRGINIA AFA
2005 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR!!!!

Message from the Chapter President

Dear AFA Members and Friends,

Your Gabriel AFA Chapter is touching people and making a positive difference--for the enlisted, officer, civilian and contractor members of the NRO; the Leesburg Civil Air Patrol; the Chantilly Academy JROTC; aerospace industry members; and your children who go to school in the Gabriel area of responsibility. We've reached out in a tangible way to each of these communities this past quarter. More importantly, we have big plans for fall 2006: starting up an AFA Central East Region JROTC drill competition, hosting a family tailgate for the dedication of the Air Force Memorial; and supporting a trip for injured veterans to a Nationals baseball game. Jump on board--you'll do some good for your colleagues, friends and neighbors.

Terry Young
President, General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter
Air Force Association

Chapter Meetings

HQ USAF/A9 Speaks at 2nd Quarter Chapter Meeting



On February 15, 2006, the Gabriel Chapter hosted its 2nd quarter Chapter luncheon at Clyde's of Tysons Corner. Our exciting keynote speaker was Dr. Jacqueline R. Henningsen, Director, Studies & Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned, HQ USAF. Dr. Henningsen provided an overview of the newly realigned AF/A9 and its mission to ensure quality studies & analyses, assessments, and lessons learned processes support

key Air Force leadership positions and decisions.



Thanks to all attending Chapter members and friends that made this event another great success!

General Lester Lyles, USAF, Retired, Speaks at 3rd Quarter 2006 Chapter Meeting



General Lester Lyles, USAF, Retired, addressed two different audiences at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Westfields on August 21, 2006.

At a Gabriel Chapter-sponsored breakfast meeting, the former Commander of Air Force Materiel Command spoke to a group composed mostly of industry members. Later that morning, he spoke to a forum of officers from across the NRO community. He outlined some key lessons he learned growing up in the in space and acquisition communities; listed challenges we face now and possible solutions to begin addressing those issues; and asked for inputs on topics of importance to military, civilian and contractor professionals. The issues of concern in both groups were remarkably similar. Critical items included the need to:

- Tie the NRO tightly into the military community and re-energize strong bonds with the Air Force leadership and mission.
- Develop a career path for officers, enlisted and civilian personnel, including the engineers and scientists essential to long term NRO capabilities.
- Identify methods that NRO members can use to improve NRO and space/intelligence capabilities in an era of reduced manpower, tight budgets and a multitude of threats

At the breakfast, the Gabriel Chapter presented Gen Lyles with a unique thank you for his support. The Chapter will sponsor one scholarship for the top NRO graduate at each semiannual CCAF graduation event, normally held at Bolling AFB. The winner must intend to complete their four year degree. The total value of the cash award and one year membership in the Gabriel Chapter AFA is \$286. The spring 2007 General Charles A. Gabriel scholarship will be presented in honor of General Lyles.

We were fortunate to enjoy strong guidance and attentive interaction by General Lyles during his four hour visit. This Air Force icon remains closely tied into the USAF mission and leadership; General Lyles forwarded several of the key inputs from the two sessions to members of our Air Force leadership team for consideration. A special thanks to Major Joe Price, our Gabriel Chapter Vice President, and the NRO Company Grade Officer's Council for setting up and running this noteworthy pair of events. Stay tuned--we'll be doing more activities at the NRO.

Gabriel Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting

On August 8, 2006 the Chapter EXCOM conducted its Quarterly meeting in McLean, VA. Minutes from the meeting are located on the Chapter website:
www.afa-gabriel.org.

Chapter Activities

Chapter Teacher of Year Wins VA State AFA Award

At the 2nd quarterly Chapter meeting, the Gabriel Chapter presented its Teacher of the Year (TOY) award to Marty Rothwell of the Chantilly (High School) Academy. Mr. Rothwell teaches Engineering Physics, Engineering Systems I & II and Physics of Technology. His superior achievements also earned him the Virginia State AFA TOY award!

Since he has been with Chantilly Academy, Mr. Rothwell's students have participated in numerous FIRST (For Inspiration and

Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competitions. In the first year of competition, Mr. Rothwell's students placed 33 out of 66 teams. In more recent years, Mr. Rothwell's robotics team has placed consistently in the top third of the competition and twice they have made it to the tournament phase which is the "playoff" level. To accomplish the robotics team's success, Mr. Rothwell and his students have had to build strong partnerships and develop sponsorships within our local business community.



Mr. Rothwell has also been the mentor for the past two years at the Carderock Naval Surface Weapons Center where over 200 students from all over the Northeast region attend during the summer to work with the Navy's best and brightest Engineers. Last year, out of 600 applicants for the program, 1 was a student of Mr. Rothwell's and this year he anticipates 7 will apply and participate. In addition to his many other efforts, Mr. Rothwell is not just preparing his students for college but preparing them for life, in roles as supervisors, business professionals and Engineers.

Chapter Members Recognized for Their Dedication

Congratulations to the following Gabriel Chapter members for their exceptional contributions to our Chapter:

Medal of Merit

Jim Holt
Matt O'Kane



Exceptional Service Award

Joe Price

Citation of Achievement

Tim Carey
Fred Knowles
Matt Monczewski
Tom O'Beirne

Chapter Member of the Year

Nancy Cribb



JROTC "Pass-in-Review" Ceremony

On June 10, 2006, the Chantilly Academy Junior ROTC conducted their annual "Pass-in-Review" ceremony to mark the successful completion of the 2005-2006 academic year. Maj Sheila Allen, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, and TSgt John Wilks, Aerospace Science Instructor, presented the annual awards to the top performers and graduating seniors in front of a large crowd of proud family members and friends at the Chantilly HS gymnasium. The cadet leadership prepared and led the 75 members of their detachment through an excellent parade ceremony.

Because of our on-going support, the Gabriel Chapter had the honor of serving as Reviewing Official for the ceremony, a role filled by the Gabriel Chapter President. A variety of certificates and scholarships were awarded. The annual Air Force Association Award, the capstone presentation for the Chantilly Academy JROTC cadet of the year, was given to fourth year (HS senior) Cadet Brian Bierwirth. The AFA Award is based upon a positive attitude, impeccable appearance, professional courtesy, and the attributes of initiative, productivity, ethical conduct and adaptability. Additionally, the nominee must be in the top five percent of their JROTC organization and rank in the top ten percent of their class academically. Apparently the US Army agrees with the selection--Cadet Bierwirth has earned a full four year Army ROTC scholarship and will attend Clarkson University in New York. Congratulations to Cadet Brian Bierwirth.

Additionally, one graduating senior will attend the US Air Force Prep School this summer and compete next year for a slot in the USAF

Academy class of 2011. Several other cadets earned partial scholarships and will continue their military training and education at the college level.

The Chantilly SASI, Maj Allen, has accepted a similar JROTC position and will start up her third AF JROTC Detachment, this time at Hylton HS in Prince William County. Our Gabriel Chapter leadership offers our sincere thanks to Maj Allen for her excellent leadership and especially her great cooperation and friendship. Maj Allen praised the Gabriel Chapter AFA for our support:

"I can't say thank you enough for the unwavering support from you and the AFA, Gabriel Chapter for your staunch support over the past 4 ½ years. It has been my great pleasure serving the Fairfax County community with its first Air Force JROTC program. The challenges of starting a non-traditional JROTC program, having cadets attend from eleven different high schools and fitting a 4-year program in a two-year concept were eased by the support from people like you....Please pass on my thanks to the Gabriel Chapter members."

Maj Sheila Allen

We extend a warm welcome to Maj Allen's replacement, Lt Col Tom Lambert. The Fall 06 cadet commander will be C/1st Lt Briana Allard. The Chantilly Academy JROTC unit will participate in their 2nd annual Summer Leadership School camp at Ft. A.P. Hill 21-28 August with unit VA-821 (Arlington Career Center – Lt Col Randy Royce). Our Gabriel Chapter leadership is already discussing options to continue our relationship in the future with the Chantilly Academy Principal, Mr Doug Wright, and the Detachment NCOIC, TSgt Wilks.

Chapter Community Partners

The Community Partner Project (CPP) provides Northern Virginians and local small, medium and large businesses, a chance to promote U.S. Air Power education. The Project extends to AFA members and supporters alike.

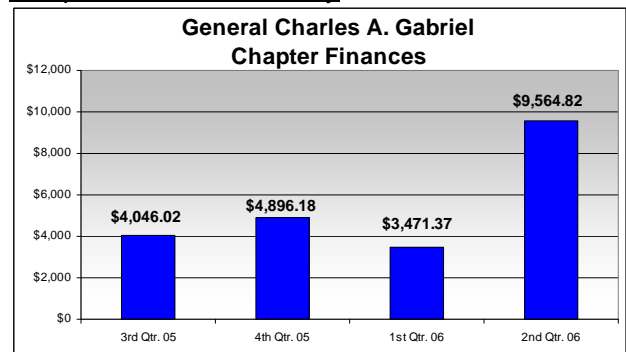
Benefits for supporting the Gabriel AFA include: membership in the AFA and 12 annual; copies of the AFA magazine; attendance at speaker events and other projects; recognition on the Gabriel Chapter web site; and opportunities to participate in AFA Virginia State and AFA National events.

If you know of a firm or individuals who might be interested in a CP role, please contact Matt Monczewski, Vice President CPP, Gabriel Chapter. (mmonczewski@juno.com)

Chapter Finances

Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Fred Knowles, reports on the Chapter's Finances:

Chapter Financial Activity



Inflow:

- Industry Salute Contributions
- AFA National Headquarters- Mandatory scheduled Chapter reporting
- Community Partner Membership
- Quarterly luncheon attendee fees
- AEF Grant

Outflow:

- Administrative EXCOM reimbursements
- Quarterly luncheon fees
- Teacher of the Year Award
- AF JROTC Grant

News Release

Virginia Department of Veterans Services
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
www.dvs.virginia.gov

Governor Kane Directs State Agencies to Look for Opportunities to Improve Services to Veterans

RICHMOND—Executive Order 19, which Governor Timothy M. Kaine signed at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Richmond on June 16, directs the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to prepare a comprehensive report on the status of Virginia's programs and services to the state's veterans. The Order directs DVS and other state agencies to find ways to offer new, expanded or customized services that will meet the educational, health care and social service needs of Virginia's veterans. The order gives special attention to disabled veterans, and asks all state agency heads to renew their commitment to giving veterans preference when hiring.

"In his first five months in office, Governor Kaine has shown a strong commitment to the welfare of Virginia's veterans. Executive Order 19 further demonstrates his support of our veterans and their families," said Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

DVS, the Board of Veterans Services and the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations will submit legislative proposals for the 2007 General Assembly session to the Governor by September 30, as directed by the order. An interim report on DVS' findings about the status of veterans services in Virginia is due to the Governor by October 15, 2006 and a final report is due by April 30, 2007.

Approximately 750,000 veterans live in Virginia. In 2004, veterans accounted for nearly \$6 billion in direct federal spending in Virginia. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs expended \$1.8 billion on compensation and pension benefits, health care, cemetery services, and construction while the U.S. Department of Defense paid \$4 billion in retirement pay to Virginia's veterans.

"It's thanks to our veterans that we are able to enjoy freedom everyday," added Burgess. "In

return, we must ensure that they receive the medical, educational, and support services that they need and that they have access to meaningful employment."

Virginia War Orphan Education Program Renamed and Expanded

RICHMOND—New legislation passed by the 2006 General Assembly renamed the Virginia War Orphan Education Program to the Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program. The legislation also expands eligibility for educational benefits to spouses.

Under the new legislation a spouse or child, between the ages of 16 and 29, of a military service member killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or at least 90 percent disabled may be eligible for education benefits. These benefits may include full payment of tuition, fees, room and board, and books at any state-supported college or university in Virginia. Previously, these benefits were not available to spouses, and eligibility capped at 25 years of age.

"We have more than 850 children of military service members who are taking advantage of this program and who are currently enrolled in state-supported colleges and universities around Virginia," stated Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS). "This new legislation acknowledges the value that Virginia places on the men and women who serve in the military. It ensures that the educational needs of their families will be taken care of should something happen to the service member during a military operation."

The veteran must have been a Virginia citizen at the time he or she entered the military or must have been a Virginia citizen for at least five years prior to the surviving dependent's application for admission. The surviving spouse may also satisfy residency requirements if he or she lived in Virginia for at least five years prior to marrying the service member or has been a citizen of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date of application.

Eligibility will usually be determined using documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. However, the veteran or surviving spouse may be asked to provide documentation verifying residency, the applicant's age or relationship.

Additional information about the program and eligibility requirements is available at the DVS website, www.dvs.virginia.gov.

Update Your Information

Please visit the Chapter web site at <http://www.afa-gabriel.org> to update your contact information and gain access to additional information on the Gabriel Chapter's history, meetings, and events.

Suggestions?

Do you have a suggestion for the newsletter or a Chapter initiative? Please feel free to contact Terry Young, President, Gabriel Chapter (terrence.j.young@saic.com)

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Support our General Charles A. Gabriel Community Partners...

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