



Air Force Association

General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter

Quarterly Newsletter

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

Volume 2006, Issue 3

Message from the Chapter President

Dear AFA Members and Friends,

Thank you for supporting the Gabriel Chapter. Your participation continues to reach military personnel, DoD civilians, industry professionals, family members, plus students and individuals in the community. For example, AFA members from the National Reconnaissance Office have teamed with the Chantilly Academy magnet high school to develop and conduct an advanced science project. Our Chapter linked with the Steele Chapter, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Washington Nationals baseball team to host the first Injured Military Appreciation Night for twenty wounded military members at a Nationals baseball game. Our volunteer POC helped arrange tickets for about 60 of our Chapter members to the dedication of the Air Force Memorial. In addition, we presented a \$500 scholarship to the top NRO graduate from the Community College of the Air Force. Please join us as we conduct a full schedule of activities in 2007. You'll do some good for your Air Force, your friends and yourself.

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

Chapter Meetings

Next Gabriel Chapter Meeting January 11, 2007



On January 11, 2007 the Gabriel Chapter will kick off the New Year with a Chapter luncheon at Clyde's of Tysons Corner. Our exciting keynote speaker will be Lt Gen Donald J. Hoffman, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, the Pentagon, Washington DC.

(<http://www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioID=5825>) He will address the current status of Air Force Acquisition.

Lt Gen Hoffman is responsible for research and development, test, production, and modernization of Air Force programs worth more than \$23 billion annually.

Cost is \$30 per person. Please R.S.V.P. by contacting Nancy Cribb at cribb_nancy@bah.com by COB Monday, January 8, 2007.

Chapter Activities

Gabriel Chapter Welcomes New Executive Committee Members

The Gabriel Chapter continues to grow and is actively involved in many noteworthy programs. As a result, we've added several new members to our Executive Committee. Their dedication and enthusiasm will certainly help make the Gabriel Chapter continue to make lasting impacts on our community! Please welcome.....

- Lt Col Tim Lambert, *Asst. VP- Aerospace Education- JROTC*
- Matt O'Kane, *VP- Unit Recognition*
- Jon Safley, *VP- Leadership Development*
- Ken Spencer, *Asst. VP- Military Affairs*
- Deborah Yates, *Asst. Secretary- Publicity*

Gabriel Chapter Send Four Members to AFA National Convention

Four members from the Gabriel Chapter -- Vice President Joe Price, VP for Military Affairs Greg Harrison, Commander of the Leesburg Composite Squadron Jeff Van Etten, and Chapter President Terry Young -- participated in the AFA National business meeting on Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 September 06, held at the Marriott Wardman Hotel in Washington DC. Joe Price served in a key role for the AFA Central East Region (CER) leadership team that developed a set of strong positions in advance of the National meeting. The CER white paper emphasized the importance of focusing on field operations, effective communications, member recruitment, and transparent decision making. The CER inputs resonated with the other regional delegations, and contributed to positive modifications of the AFA National proposals.

The National business meetings resulted in combining the AFA and the Aerospace Education Foundation into a single 501(c)(3) organization; a new slate of National officers for a combined board of directors; and new field unit reporting and funds distribution guidance. Most importantly, the change in tax status now opens AFA membership to all interested

individuals. Details are available on the AFA webpage. A special thanks to the Gabriel members who served as Virginia State delegates for this important weekend-long meeting.

Spires Soar Skyward to Honor Airmen by Deb Yates, Asst. Chapter Secretary- Publicity

On Saturday afternoon (10/14/06) shortly before 3 p.m., I watched history in the making as President George W. Bush said "...in the company of the brave men and women of the United States Air Force, I proudly accept the Air Force Memorial on behalf of the American people."



Saturday's dedication of the memorial at its site on the edge of Arlington Cemetery ended a 15-year effort to build a memorial for the only service not represented with a memorial in our Nation's capitol.



The ceremony held special significance for me as my son is a newly commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force. I wore a bright red hat with a ribbon that said "USAFA 2006---RTB". Red was the class color for the USAFA Class of 2006, which included my son, 2Lt Rich Harr (now stationed at Vance AFB OK). Many parents of cadets of that class had donated money to the AF Memorial to honor our cadets who were graduating the same year as the memorial would be dedicated.

I was also present two years ago at the groundbreaking for the memorial wearing that same ribbon to represent the Class of 2006 and it was incredibly rewarding to be there again Saturday seeing the project completed. I felt like I was representing all those parents and Cadets of the Class of 2006, as well my Air Force Association (AFA) Gabriel Chapter of Northern VA and the Air Force Association of Graduates (AOG).

The simplicity of the new Air Force Memorial was especially striking in the beautiful sunlight of Saturday afternoon. The three spires look like the Thunderbirds infamous "bomb-burst" maneuver that they performed immediately following the formal dedication ceremony. One speaker pointed out the spires are a great reminder of the Air Force's important past, present and future.



"This memorial soars. It soars in space and in the imagination," Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne said. "These three spires echo our values: integrity, service and excellence. ... This memorial is a brilliant symbol of freedom and the spirit of flight."

I stood in the Pentagon parking lot surrounded by about 30,000 people, young and old, who had traveled far and wide to attend this event. It was touching to see families with great-grandfathers from World War II accompanied by young grandchildren. I felt honored to have helped my AFA Chapter distribute 60 tickets for our chapter members and their families. Isn't life about sharing special events and making history together?

"Under these magnificent spires, we pay tribute to the men and women of the Air Force who stand ready to give all to their country," the President said. "And looking from this promontory to a place once filled with smoke and flames, we remember why we need them."

The current location has a beautiful view of Washington D.C., with a direct view of the Pentagon, including the area impacted by the events of 9/11. On Saturday the Colonial Flag Foundation created a beautiful Field of Honor display of 1,000 Flags that gently flapped in the breeze during the Dedication ceremony. All of this came together to remind me once again



that my son's USAFA Class was the first one in a generation to make the conscious decision to enter a military academy during war time.

"A soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought; a Marine can walk the beaches he once stormed; but an airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across on a mission to defend freedom. And so it's fitting that, from this day forward, the men and women of the Air Force will have this memorial, a place here on the ground that recognizes their achievements and sacrifices in the skies above," stated President Bush.

When my son was five I took him to the Vietnam War Memorial for the first time. In that instant I realized that one day my son would be called to serve his nation. Today he awaits the start of pilot training in January. Who knows, one day he may be flying directly over this memorial.

"And like generations that came before, we will answer history's call with confidence. We will confront the threats to our way of life; we will fight for our liberty without wavering; and we will prevail." The president said.

My son's classmates have answered their call to duty in a variety of ways including pilot training, communications, and medical school. One



is a communications officer in South Korea, which makes the daily news of nuclear testing from that region extremely real in a personal way. The daily news is very real to everyone who has loved ones serving in the military.

"Every man and woman who has worn the Air Force uniform is part of a great history. From the Berlin Airlift to the Korea War, to Vietnam, to the Gulf War, to Kosovo and today's war on terror, a long blue line of heroes has defended freedom in the skies above. To all who have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, America stops to say: Your service and sacrifice will be remembered forever, and honored in this place by the citizens of a free and grateful nation. May God bless you all." And may God bless the men and women of the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2006 as they

begin their journey as future leaders for our Nation.

Gabriel Chapter Prepares for 2007 Salutes

The Gabriel Chapter is expanding its recognition of active duty and civilian personnel in 2007 through two major events, Salutes to the Air Force's Space Acquisition Office and the National Reconnaissance Office. The Salute to the Air Force Space Acquisition Office will be held in February/March 2007 at the AFA National Headquarters in Rosslyn, Virginia. Our Salute to the NRO will be held in April/May 2007 in Chantilly, Virginia. Both events provide an opportunity for the organizations' leadership and AFA to honor annual award winners.

These events build on the Gabriel Chapter's inaugural event in its Salute series. The Salute to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), held on 30 March 2006 at the NRO Headquarters, honored the Office's superior performers. The event was hosted by NRO Director, Dr. Don Kerr and included distinguished guests Brig Gen Carpenter and Mr. Scott Large of the NRO leadership, Gabriel Chapter President Emeritus Gen. (ret) Ed Eberhart; Gen. (ret) Thomas Moorman, Jr.; Gen (ret) John Shaud; Lt Gen (ret) Don Peterson; and the Honorable Keith Hall. The costs of the event were offset by the Gabriel Chapter's corporate partners.

Companies interested in participating in the upcoming events should contact Matt O'Kane, o'kane_matt@bah.com or 703-377-6207.

Gabriel Chapter Awards Grant to Top NRO CCAF Graduate

The Gabriel Chapter continues its relationship with the NRO. We are regularly engaged in events such as the semi-annual Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) graduation. Maj Joe Price, Gabriel Chapter Vice President, was honored to attend the most recent graduation on 16 November 2006 at Bolling AFB. Maj Price presented a certificate redeemable for \$500 in college expenses in honor of Gen (Ret.) Ralph "Ed" Eberhart and a one-year AFA membership to the top NRO

graduate, SSgt Tessa Fontaine. SSgt Fontaine was the top graduate out of five NRO participants.

For this last award, the Gabriel Chapter doubled the monetary reward from our last scholarship reward and linked it specifically to reimbursement for future college expenses. The award recipient is selected by the NRO military senior NCO team and is based on the Pitsenbarger Award criteria which considers job performance, scholastic achievement, educational goals and leadership qualities. The Spring 2007 Gabriel scholarship will be presented in honor of General Lester Lyles, USAF (Ret).

Winning Team

The headline in the local news the next day read, "Braves Crush Nationals, 6-1," but for at least one group at the Washington DC baseball game, the evening had been—in the words of Gabriel Chapter President Terry Young— a resounding success.



The Gabriel Chapter and Steele Chapter teamed up with the Washington Nationals baseball organization to help sponsor our first event for our injured military from Walter Reed Medical Center. With the excellent cooperation from the Walter Reed staff and 25 AFA volunteer escorts, we hosted 20 US military members who were injured or became seriously



ill while overseas, plus 20 family members. We're not sure who was happier to be and enjoying the game under beautiful

weather conditions—the military members, or their families.

Special thanks to Ken Spencer, our event leader. He was ably assisted by Nancy Cribb, the escort coordinator; James Chung, liaison with the Nationals organization; and Ryan Moser, our Walter Reed liaison.

The Nationals went above and beyond. Their Outreach Events organization provided free tickets, escorted several of our military members to the Diamond Suites area, and one of the ownership members personally distributed the National hats to all the participants. The Walter Reed staff provided the transportation and staff coordinators, and designated the military members and family to attend. Dean Economou from the Steele Chapter arranged for a box of free Sprint Nextel phone cards; some were distributed to the military members in attendance, others will be given to other injured members back at Walter Reed. The Gabriel and Steele AFA Chapters shared the costs.

We credit the Langley Chapter with being “the AFA leader” in inspiring us to host this event. The Langley Chapter hosts three to four similar events for veterans at the VA hospital in Hampton and the Chapter shared recommendation on how to carry out this moral boosting activity.

Congratulations for making the evening of 18 Sept 06 a memorable event for a lot of deserving military members and their families.



Leesburg Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Continues to Soar

The Leesburg CAP had a very busy 4th quarter! Beginning with a change in command mid-October, Maj Jeff Van Etten, assumed the role as Commander of the Leesburg Composite Squadron. In late October, eight cadets attended the Wing Conference in Richmond. Wing training activity was then conducted in November. Available aircraft were flown to Culpeper, VA and then sent out in search of targets. The cadets played a critical role at both the mission base and as ground team members.

Currently, the CAP has a Cessna 182 with the new Garmin 1000 glass cockpit at Leesburg for the next three months, so they will be busy getting the pilots and aircrews trained on where all the new buttons are and how to use it for

both air search as well as digital photography with the realtime satellite telephone modem.

Central East Region (CER) JrROTC Drill Meet Scheduled for Fall 2007

JrROTC is an effective leadership development program that is an important many Air Force members and their families. Your Gabriel Chapter AFA has encouraged the growth of this outstanding activity by supporting the Chantilly Academy JrROTC program. Now, the Gabriel Chapter is expanding the visibility of the JrROTC effort by arranging the inaugural AFA Central East Region (CER) drill competition in the Fall 2007.

The competition will include ten drill teams from across a five state area. The competition will be held at the National Guard Armory in Washington DC, which is within driving distance for most CER teams that will participate. SSgt Neil West, an active duty Gabriel Chapter member assigned to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), has volunteered to coordinate the competition. This sharp NCO has already built an Operating Instruction to guide the event, based on the successful Virginia State AFA drill competition held annually near Richmond.

Look for additional information on this worthwhile event in the future. The regional drill event adds excitement and encourages healthy competition between schools and units. The high school students in the JrROTC programs are the direct beneficiaries.

Chapter Sponsors Elementary Schools in Visions of Exploration Program

In conjunction with USA Today, the Gabriel Chapter signed up to sponsor five classrooms in Fairfax County for the Visions of Exploration Program from the following schools:

- Canterbury Woods Elementary School
Annandale, VA
- Poe Middle School
Annandale, VA
- Irving Middle School
Springfield, VA

- Lake Braddock Secondary School
Burke, VA
- Newington Forest Elementary School
Springfield, VA

The *Visions of Exploration Program* is supported by AEF and provides teachers and students resources to enhance skills in math and science among the nation's elementary and middle schools. Already, almost 1,300 classrooms throughout the country are being sponsored.

An organization can sponsor a specific classroom entitling that classroom to receive:

- A Visions of Exploration Activity Guide
- 30 copies of USA TODAY and Experience USA TODAY daily lesson plan delivered for 18 weeks (the newspapers will include a special label with the AEF name on it)
- Access to additional aerospace activities at www.education.usatoday.com and www.aef.org
- Letters to teachers and parents about the program
- Student and Teacher Certificates of Completion
- Teacher Training provided by USA Today

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)

In the News



Chantilly Jr ROTC Reaches Out to the Community

Learning from those who served

By: Layla Wilder

11/15/2006 The Fairfax County Times (Centreville-Chantilly)



In a few years, what students of Chantilly Academy had a chance to do this Veterans Day may not be possible.

About 50 cadets from the academy's Advanced Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program visited and honored veterans, particularly those who served in World War II, and their relatives at the Forest Glen Senior Apartments at Sully Station in Centreville.

Capt. Briana Allard, 17, a senior at Robinson Secondary School, said the visit was a good opportunity to learn "life lessons." "It won't be much longer that we are able to interact with the veterans and hear their stories," Allard said.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that, although 3.5 million veterans of World War II are still alive, more than 1,000 of them die every day.

Allard said she was especially reminded of the high mortality rate of aging World War II veterans when a man at Forest Glen showed her pictures of one veteran who passed away about two weeks ago.

Chantilly Academy, based at Chantilly High School, is one of Fairfax County Public Schools' six academies designed to help students learn specific professions.

Instructors of the academy's JROTC program started taking students to Forest Glen every Veterans Day three years ago "to give the cadets appreciation for those people who served," instructor Sgt. John Wilkins said.

This year, before the cadets left for Forest Glen, teacher Lt Col Tim Lambert said he told them to take the time to listen to what the veterans had to say.

"Soon there will be very few left to share, and there is great wisdom and so much experience that those people have," Lambert said.

Carrie Brown, community relations director at Forest Glen, said residents are always "tickled" when visited by Chantilly Academy students.

"It's something that has become tradition," said Brown, who is also the mother of Marine Corps Cpl. Matthew Ayers, 22, a T.C. Williams High School graduate currently serving in Iraq.

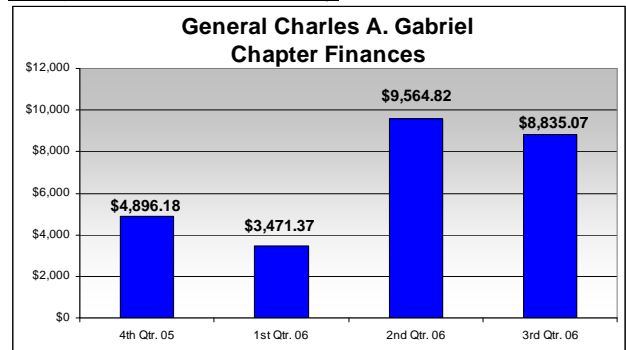
"Their stories are amazing," said Cadet Megan Manly, 18, a senior at Westfield High School.

The cadets presented colors, read tributes to veterans - including prisoners of war and soldiers who are missing in action - and gave red and white carnations to all Forest Glen residents who attended the event.

Chapter Finances

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

Chapter Financial Activity



Inflow:

- AFA Quarterly Rebate

Outflow:

- Sponsored Memberships (3)
- EXCOM Lunch
- AFA VA Suite Flowers
- Convention Expenses
- Nationals Game for Injured Veterans

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)

Executive Committee

President Emeritus	Gen (Ret.) Ralph "Ed" Eberhart	
President	Terry Young	terrence.j.young@saic.com
Vice President	Maj Joe Price	pricejos@nro.mil
Treasurer	Fred Knowles	knowles_frederick@bah.com
Secretary	Nancy Cribb	cribb_nancy@bah.com
Asst. Secretary, Publicity	Deborah Yates	yates_deborah@bah.com
VP-Aerospace Education	Jim Holt	holt_jim@bah.com
Asst. VP-Aerospace Education, JRTOC	Lt Col Tim Lambert	tim.lambert@fcps.edu
VP-Communications	Tom O'Beirne	obeirnet@saic.com
VP-Community Relations	Matthew Monczewski	mmonczewski@juno.com
VP-Leadership Development	Jon Safley	jon.g.safley@saic.com
VP-Membership	Tim Carey	timothy.carey@ngc.com
VP-Military Affairs	Greg Harrison	harrison_gregory@bah.com
Asst. VP-Military Affairs	Ken Spencer	spencer_kenneth@bah.com
VP-Unit Recognition	Matt O'Kane	o'kane_matt@bah.com

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

<p>Clyde's Restaurant Tysons Corner 8332 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182 Phone: (703) 734-1900 POC: Melissa Apte E-mail: melissa_apte@clydes.com Web site: www.clydes.com</p>	<p>Hunan West Restaurant 8938 Burke Lake Road Springfield, VA 22151 Phone: (703) 534-9874 POC: Alan Louie E-mail: alan.louie@msn.com</p>
<p>First Savings Mortgage Corporation 1950 Old Gallows Road Vienna, VA 22182 Phone: (703) 883-9590 POC: Doug Roderick E-mail: droderick@firstsavings.com Web site: www.dougroderick.com</p>	<p>Long & Foster 7010 Little River Turnpike Annandale, VA 22003 Phone: (703) 813-8240 POC: Mary Anthony E-mail: m.anthony@longandfoster.com Web site: www.longandfoster.com/mary.anthony</p>
<p>Health Forward Wellness Center 1830 Town Center Drive #410 Reston, VA 20190 Phone: (703) 835-3896 Fax: (571) 323-1486 POC: Allison Abizaid E-mail: Allison@healthforwardwellnesscenter.com Web site: www.healthforwardwellnesscenter.com</p>	<p>Oakwood Apartments 1550 N. Clarendon Blvd Arlington, VA Phone: (703) 258-3000 POC: Daphne Melillo E-mail: dmelillo@oakwood.com Web site: www.oakwood.com</p>
<p>Holiday Inn Tyson's Corner 1960 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean, VA 22120 Phone: (703) 738-3122 Fax: (703) 893-2062 POC: Kristie Poehler E-mail: kristie.poehler@bfsaul.com Web site: www.hitysonscorner.com www.conferenceandtraining.com</p>	<p>USIS 7799 Leesburg Pike Suite 400 South Falls Church, VA 22043 Phone: (703) 637-4870 POC: Sam Kirton Email: sam.kirton@usis.com Web site: www.usis.com</p>