Message from the Chapter President

Dear Gabriel Chapter and AFA Members and Friends,

The discussion of the Air Force Budget is in full swing in Congress. Secretary Deborah James and our new CSAF General David Goldfein have been telling the story: today’s Air Force is the “smallest, oldest, and least ready” it has ever been, and the heavy operational tempo continues to take its toll on the service.

There is no single victim to exculpate or villain to censure and each of us can point to our own “pet rocks” that are underfunded worse than any other program. At the same time there continue to be inefficiencies that should be addressed. On the one hand, the Air Force now has just 55 Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve fighter squadrons. Its Total Force is 30 percent smaller than it was during Desert Storm. The average age of its aircraft is now 27 years old, and less than 50 percent of the combat Air Force is ready for full-spectrum operations. While 25 years ago, in 1991, there were 134 combat-coded Total Force fighter squadrons, 946,000 airmen in the service, the average aircraft was 17 years old, and 80 percent of the fighter force was ready for full-spectrum conflict. Clearly we need to spend more on manpower and modernized equipment, right?

Well, the level of defense spending for FY2017 remains at or near the peak of the Reagan buildup in the 1980s and the previous peaks during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Using inflation-adjusted dollars, the FY2017 budget request of $678.3 billion remains at a high level relative to the post-World War II average of $435 billion. So, we are spending enough to keep the Air Force strong and ready. Then how can it be the “smallest, oldest, and least ready” that it has ever been?

The answer is... it’s complicated. We probably have more infrastructure than we need and should reduce the number of bases we maintain to match the smaller, more agile force. In the June Air Force Magazine, Adam Herbert opines that the USAF is spread among nearly a third more bases that it needs. Do we need another round of BRAC.

And Air Force personnel costs are very high. Your Air Force Association believes that Airmen willingly choose hardship for the good of the nation. The nation must in turn honor its commitments to the troops. For that reason, any changes to military compensation—notably to retirement

programs—must be made in such a way that they do not break promises made to the troops. Few things would damage morale, recruiting, and retention more than breaking faith with the men and women in uniform. Future changes must ensure existing troops are “grandfathered in” to the old systems, or be made optional for today’s troops. This will slow the rate of change, but keeping promises is a moral imperative.

Nevertheless, AFA believes today’s compensation system can be improved, so that it is generous, fiscally sustainable, and appropriate for today’s and the future’s needs. The specifics can and should be debated, but the AFA supports the Commission on Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization and their report submitted in January 2015 as an important step toward a sustainable future force.

As always, the devil is in the details. As Association members and good citizens, we must all stay well informed. Be vigilant to the blandishments of populists and demagogues, pay attention to the issues and make your voice heard in the ongoing debate. Tell your friends and neighbors about the state of our Air Force and what you believe about the importance of a strong Air Force to our national security. Tell your elected representatives what you think. Our Association advises and advocates in order to advance our goals. AFA supports the USAF’s top three acquisition priorities [F-35, KC-46, Long Range Bomber System (LRBS)]. It’s up to us to embrace those goals and support them with action.

I also ask that you consider acting closer to home. Chapter elections are coming in August and your vote must count. In addition, please consider how you can serve the Chapter. We have many vacancies on our staff. Our ability to serve the chapter membership and the goals of the Association are only as great as those who volunteer.

Be sure to read about the achievements of our chapter members and our fantastic Teachers of the Year, Rachael Domer and Gail Drake. And congratulate Eric Burke, our Gabriel Chapter 2016 Member of the Year.

I hope I will see you in August at our Chapter Event on 20 August 2016 at the Reston Town Center for “Jazz under the Stars”, by the Airmen of Note – the U.S. Air Force Band.

John “Dallas” Kennedy
President
General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter
Air Force Association
**Chapter Activities**

**National Reconnaissance Office Honors Exceptional Performers**

The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Ms. Betty Sapp honored the top performers at the NRO for 2015 at the Annual Awards Ceremony on 5 April 2016. Chapter President Dallas Kennedy represented the Gabriel Chapter at the event. And was recognized as an honored guest, in appreciation for the Chapter’s support to the Awards Program. AFA's contribution was recognized in the program and the Chapter President was introduced at the ceremony and the Chapter thanked for our sponsorship. The Chapter gave a $500 donation to offset the cost of the awards program and each individual awardee will receive a one–year membership in the Air Force Association through the AFA Gabriel Chapter and the NRO Top Three Enlisted organization.

Ms. Betty Sapp, Director NRO, presided at the ceremony, assisted by Mr. Frank Calvelli, Principal DepDir, NRO and Maj Gen Stephen Denker, USAF, Mil Dep NRO and Commander AF Element (AFELM) of NRO. CMS Kevin L. Call, USAF, Senior Enlisted Leader also attended. Winners recognized were:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Awards** went to Mr. Justo Rivera and Mr. Mike Hale
- **Brian Malone Community Service Award** presented to Capt Michael Clark , USAF

Airmen were well represented as Top Performers in each category. Recognized for their exceptional performance in 2015 were:

- **Senior Airman Corey Laupert**, USAF, Junior Enlisted Member of the Year
- **Master Sergeant David Emington**, USAF, Middle Enlisted Member of the Year
- **Senior Master Sergeant Angela Saunders**, USAF, Senior Enlisted Member of the Year
- **Captain Mryamn Ruth**, USAF, Company Grade Officer of the Year
- **Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Jackson**, USAF, Field Grade Office of the Year
- **Ms. Reyna Kontos**, Junior Civilian of the Year
- **Mr. Coleman Lowry**, Senior Civilian of the Year
- **Launch Team**, Director’s Team of the Year

Congratulations to all of the nominees and awardees. Each individual awardee will receive a one–year membership in the Air Force Association through the AFA Gabriel Chapter and the NRO Top Three Enlisted organization.

Dallas Kennedy, President of the Gabriel Chapter, Participated in NRO Annual Awards Ceremony as representative from AFA Gabriel Chapter. Visited with Ms Betty Sap, Director NRO, Mr. Frank Calvelli, Principal DepDir NRO, and and Maj Gen Stephen Denker. Military DepDir NRO and reminded them about the Chapter’s support to the NRO as the only active duty unit in our AOR and about continuing and deepening the relationship with the Chapter and invited to our Chapter Award luncheon in May.
Brigadier General Brian T. Dravis Briefs Gabriel Chapter at April Luncheon

Thirty Five chapter members were on hand for the April Chapter Membership Luncheon. Brigadier General Brian T. Dravis, Director, Joint Service Provider, Director, JIE Technical Synchronization Office (JTSO) at the Defense Information Systems Agency, Fort Meade, MD, was our speaker and discussed the challenges supporting the Pentagon IT infrastructure and coordinating the activities of the Services to implement the Joint Information Environment. General Dravis leads a 2,500-person organization tasked with consolidating all IT Services and Computer Network Defense for the Pentagon and National Capital Region. As the JTSO Director, he is responsible for the architectural engineering and design to develop the Department of Defense’s Joint Information Environment (JIE). The JIE will synchronize current and future architectures, engineering designs, enterprise services, information capability enhancement, and applications. Moreover, the JIE provide a secure joint information environment leveraging a shared information technology (IT) infrastructure, enterprise services, and a single security architecture in order to achieve full spectrum superiority, improve mission effectiveness, increase security, and realize IT efficiencies.

General Dravis is an accomplished weapons systems officer, having employed the F-111D and F; F-4 G Wild Weasels, and the B-1 after he transitioned to the ANG in 1995. Later, he became a Cyber and ISR guy and standing up the initial MQ-1 and MQ-9 RPA capabilities for the Air National Guard. He is a genuine Renaissance Man and his presentation was warmly received by the Chapter members in attendance.

Major General David B. O’Brien, Mobilization Assistant to Military Deputy for Acquisition Speaks at Annual Awards Luncheon

Twenty-five chapter members and guests attended our Annual Awards luncheon at the site of one of the Chapter’s Community Partners, Ciao Osteria restaurant, in Centerville, Virginia. Maj. Gen. David B. O’Brien was our guest speaker and he described in frank detail the acquisition challenges facing our Air Force. Top on his list were ideas for acquisition reform and ways to better procure Information Technology.

Maj Gen O’Brien is the Mobilization Assistant to the Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for assisting the Deputy in leading research and development, acquisition, test, production and modernization of Air Force programs worth more than $32 billion annually.
including assignments in engineering, program management, requirements development, and contracting. His Air Force Reserve leadership responsibilities include network communications, test, maintenance, satellite on-orbit operations, acquisition and space launch.

As a civilian, General O’Brien is the president of a firm specializing in strategy, innovation and operational leadership, as well as, an adjunct university professor. Previously, he held global leadership positions at two major Silicon Valley information technology firms, and earlier, at a prime-tier aerospace defense corporation, where he delivered several classified, civil and commercial space programs, including the then largest private equity, space-based remote sensing system joint venture. He is the recipient of that corporation’s National Contracts Achievement Award, and graduate of their Executive Development program.

**Eric Burke Recognized as Gabriel Chapter Member of the Year**

At our Chapter Awards luncheon in May, Eric C. Burke, Eric Burke, recent college graduate and nephew of Gabriel Chapter Secretary, Joseph Burke, was honored as the Gabriel Chapter Member of the Year. In his first year as a member of the Gabriel Chapter, Eric Burke demonstrated initiative, integrity and poise as a volunteer supporting our monthly meetings; volunteered to support the Virginia State Air Force Association at the National AFA Conference in September arranging snacks and beverages and acting as the host for various events throughout the Conference; and hosted the Hospitality Suite at the Virginia State quarterly meeting in March. His commitment to service is demonstrated by the fact that he drove more than three hours each way from his home in Pennsylvania in order to support our monthly meetings. He is a serious, thoughtful young man who personifies the AF values – integrity, service, and excellence. He is pursuing a commission as an Air Force officer through selection to Officer Training School and will meet the selection board in July. Through his commitment to the mission of the Association and his personal and energetic efforts, Eric Burke has brought great credit upon himself, the Gabriel Chapter, and the Air Force Association and distinguished himself as the Chapter Member of the Year.

Eric’s achievements were also recognized by the Virginia State AFA President’s Award presented to only nine AFA members across the commonwealth of Virginia.

**Chapter Members Recognized with Chapter Exceptional Service Awards**

Several Gabriel Chapter members were recognized with Certificates for Exceptional Service to the Chapter and AFA.

As Chapter Vice President for Government Affairs, Rick Larson has coordinated the Chapter’s support to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), the only active duty military unit in our Chapter area. Soley through Rick’s dogged persistence and personal commitment to serving the Airmen of the NRO, the Chapter was able to reinvigorate its participation in the Air Force Element awards presentation and the NRO Annual Awards Ceremony. Rick spearheaded our efforts at the NRO to overcome the obstacles laid out by the legal staff. His exceptional service brings credit to himself, the Chapter, and the Air Force Association.

As Chapter Secretary and Chapter Treasurer, Nancy Cribb’s sustained support in multiple roles and her unofficial position as collective brain and conscience for the Chapter have been instrumental to the many successes and achievements of the Chapter Council and the membership at large. Her largely thankless job routinely goes unrecognized, in contradiction of which we acknowledge now that her exceptional
service brings credit to herself, the Chapter, and the Air Force Association.

As Chapter Secretary and Vice President for Chapter Events, Joseph Burke has been instrumental in invigorating the activities and membership of the Chapter. His aggressive recruiting of guest speakers and enthusiastic marketing efforts rejuvenated the Chapter’s monthly membership meetings. In every month through the past year, his efforts brought senior Air Force leaders to forums for AFA members, industry representatives, and the general public to inform about the Air Force mission, people, and challenges. Moreover, he personally recruited more than 20 new members and a new Community Partner for the Chapter, offsetting declining membership. Through his commitment to the mission of the Association and his personal and energetic efforts, Joseph Burke has brought great credit upon himself, the Gabriel Chapter, and the Air Force Association.

Pat Rocke receives the Chapter Exceptional Service Award from Gabriel Chapter President Dallas Kennedy flanked by our Guest Speaker Maj Gen David B. O’Brien

Patrick Rocke’s, service as Chapter Executive Vice President has been instrumental to the success of the Chapter. His steady leadership, commitment to the Chapter and Association, and support to the Chapter President and Chapter Council have been key to our continued achievement. On December 10, 2015, Pat organized a Truck Crew for the annual Wreaths Across America event to show respect and honor our veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Pat was one of more than 50 crew chiefs for tractor trailers bringing wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. Gabriel Chapter members joined volunteers, family and friends to distribute nearly 10,000 wreaths to members of the public, who placed the wreaths on grave stones with a mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Pat’s leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence deserve special recognition and appreciation from the Gabriel Chapter and the Virginia State Air Force Association.

Ken Strafer Honored for Support to Wounded Airmen at Chapter Annual Awards Luncheon

Gabriel Chapter member Kenneth J. Strafer was recognized with a certificate of appreciation from Chapter President Dallas Kennedy for his support to Wounded Airmen. Ken attended the 2015 Warrior Games, supporting his friend and other wounded warriors and well represented the Gabriel Chapter. The 2015 DoD Warrior Games featured eight sporting events with approximately 250 athletes representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the British Armed Forces. Adaptive sports and athletic reconditioning activities play a fundamental role in the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of our service members and veterans. The events of the 2015 DoD Warrior Games promote the resiliency and warrior spirit of our wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, caregivers, and families. Ken’s support and commitment to the Chapter and dedication to excellence deserve special recognition and appreciation from the Gabriel Chapter and the Virginia State Air Force Association.

Gabriel Chapter Recognizes Teachers of the Year

As we have for the last several years, the Gabriel Chapter recognized two outstanding educators for their contributions to science and math education that contribute to the AFA’s Aerospace Education mission and improve the Math and Science aptitude and abilities of our young people. Each of our Teachers of the Year received a folio embossed with the AFA logo and a check for $250 from AFA National Headquarters, which was matched by a $250 grant from the Chapter.

When Battlefield High School opened as an Information Technology (IT) specialty school in August of 2004, Professor Gail Drake was the
very first BHS hire and especially recruited from teaching graduate students at Tufts University in order to get the IT program up and running. Working with Principal Amy Ethridge-Conti, Drake has largely been the idea-maker and progenitor behind many of the specialty IT program offerings - cyber security, programming, and robotics being main areas of focus.

Professor Gail Drake is honored as Gabriel Chapter High School Teacher of the Year for 2016 and receives a Certificate of Recognition presented by Gabriel Chapter President Dallas Kennedy and Maj Gen David B. O’Brien

Professor Drake supports the AFA Cyber Patriot competition as part of her STEM education activities. Drake is the coach for five CP teams and Lead Coach / Mentor for fifteen total teams in Virginia. Ms. Drake had approximately 80 students compete on the Battlefield teams this year. One of her teams earned Second Place for Virginia (Open Division) in CP VIII State Round. She mentored a new All-Service AFJROTC team from Battlefield High School to number one in the State of Virginia.


It is with great pleasure that the AFA Gabriel Chapter is recognizes Professor Gail Drake as our 2016 High School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Rachael Domer is the Gabriel Chapter K-12 Teacher of the Year for 2015 and receives a Certificate of Recognition from Gabriel Chapter President Dallas Kennedy and Maj Gen David B. O’Brien

Ms. Rachael Domer is an accomplished teacher who has been active in Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Math (STEAM) Education in Middle School since at least 2007 in the Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia. In 2010, she was awarded the Virginia Technology & Engineering Education Association (VTEEA) Middle School Program of the Year and was recognized in 2011 for her accomplishments at the International Technology & Engineering Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. And in 2015 she was recognized as the Gabriel Chapter K-8 Teacher of the Year.

In 2015, Ms. Domer was appointed as a STEAM Resource Teacher supporting the eight Mt. Vernon Pyramid schools within Fairfax County. She collaborates with teachers throughout Whitman Middle School (WMS) and Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) to help support the development of more interdisciplinary learning experiences for students. She is works
closely with peers across the pyramid to promote interdisciplinary STEAM learning opportunities at each of the schools. Mrs. Domer has also worked with elementary school teachers and colleagues from the Instructional Services Department to develop a collaborative learning environment for students and teachers field testing a new sixth grade energy unit. She is a mentor and inspiration to her students. We are proud to recognize Ms. Rachael Domer as the Gabriel Chapter 2016, K-8 Teacher of the Year.

**Gabriel Chapter Members Recognized at Annual Awards Luncheon**

Our May luncheon featured our Annual Awards Presentation and announcement of the Gabriel Chapter Teachers of the Year. Chapter President Dallas Kennedy announced that Eric Burke, was recognized as Chapter Member of the Year. Other chapter members were recognized for their efforts throughout the year.

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Cribb</td>
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<td>Mike Winters</td>
<td>Certificate of Appreciation</td>
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<td>Brad Wilkins</td>
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<td>Terry LaVoy</td>
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<td>Lee Rizzo</td>
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Some individuals were not available to receive certificates and Chapter Challenge coins. They will be presented at a future Chapter event.

**Virginia CyberPatriot Winners Recognized at Battlefield High School**

Chapter VPs for Aerospace Education, Brad Wilkins and Mike Winters gave out awards at a Battlefield High School faculty meeting, in front of a gathering of other teachers and several parents. Mike Winters joined Gabriel Chapter High School Teacher of the Year, Professor Gail Drake to recognize the top performing teams. Mike presented chapter coins to each of the competitors and presented certificate on behalf of the State leadership.

These Cyber Patriot teams were recognized:

- All-Service State Award First Place
- Open Division State Awards Second Place
- Open Division Regional Certificates; First Place Gold Tier and First Place Silver Tier

**Chapter TOY Professor Gail Drake Selected as Virginia State AFA Teacher of the Year**

Professor Gail Drake’s achievements earned her special recognition when she was selected as the Virginia State Teacher of the Year. In his letter endorsing Professor Drake for
consideration as National Teacher of the Year, Virginia Stat AFA President said, “I am proud to present Professor Gail Drake as Virginia’s candidate for the Air Force Association National Teacher of the Year for 2016. Professor Drake left a prestigious program management position at Tufts University to help start up an Information Technology program at Battlefield High School. She was the first teacher hired to stand up the new school. She and Principal Ethridge-Conti have become an amazing team over twelve years building a superb STEM program that serves as a model for the entire Virginia education system.”

Drake was also recommended for National recognition by Virginia State Delegate, Tim Hugo, of Virginia’s 40th District. Delegate Hugo’s letter recommended Professor Drake for the AFA National Teacher of the Year award and said, “Ms. Drake’s long and outstanding career, as a leading teacher in STEM programs and technology-based extracurricular activities, has improved the educational standards of both Battlefield High School and the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole.”

Chapter Members Memorial Day Tribute to Airmen
The Gabriel Chapter of the Air Force Association provided “logistics” support to the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington VA. The ceremony included a remembrance of his father’s courage and strength by AFA President, General (ret) Larry O. Spencer.

Air Force Memorial Director Barbara Taylor speaks at Memorial Day Wreath Laying

The Band of America’s Few, made up retired US Marine musicians provided an outstanding program of patriotic music continuing the proud tradition of Marine musicians.

Eric Burke Receives Virginia State AFA President’s Award
In recognition of Eric Burke’s contributions to the Virginia State AFA at the Virginia Hospitality Suite during the AFA National Convention in September and at the Quarterly State Meeting in March, Virginia State AFA President Jimmy W. Ruth awarded him the Virginia State AFA President’s Award. Eric epitomizes the commitment, energy, and initiative that bring success to our volunteer organization. Congratulations, Eric!

Gabriel Chapter Members Receive State Recognition
In consideration of their contributions to the Virginia State AFA and the Gabriel Chapter, the following chapter members were recognized by Virginia State AFA President Jimmy W. Ruth at the State AFA meeting in June 2016.
### Member Award

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<tr>
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<td>Nancy Cribb</td>
<td>Virginia Special Achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Burke</td>
<td>Leadership Recognition</td>
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<td>Patrick Rocke</td>
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**Mr. Joseph Rouge, Defense Intelligence Senior Leader, Addresses Gabriel Chapter at June Luncheon**

At a presentation to twenty-five Chapter members at the June Membership Luncheon, Mr. Joseph Rouge spoke about innovations in space-based ISR and emerging capabilities. He also spoke about the need to open the DCGS architecture, both in terms of data services as well as ownership of the code base.

Mr. Rouge is a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader and is the Technical Advisor for Space and Cyber Space Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance in the Air Staff AF/A2. He is a Mr. Rouge is the Air Force senior technical authority for ISR requirements and integration for Space and Cyberspace. He advises Chief, Space ISR Capabilities on intelligence-related space and cyber activities and ensures AF/A2 effectively participates in Air Force, DoD, and Intelligence Community (IC) planning activities and policy development for space and cyber activities. Joe is a retired AF colonel and a long-time friend of the Gabriel Chapter. He has been active in space policy development for more than 40 years. He spoke at a monthly meeting last year about current challenges in space intelligence programs and offered his own unique perspectives on future space exploitation for national security and commercial use.

**Chapter Council Elections Coming Soon**

Do you ever say to yourself, "All this stuff is okay, but when is the Chapter going to do something I want to do?"

"I am fed up with the same old stuff. Somebody should do something about it."

"Heck, I could do a better job than the clowns running this Chapter!"

Well, now’s your chance to quit talking about it and DO something.

In accordance with our Chapter Constitution, we are electing officers for the term beginning 1 October 2016. Article VI, Section 1 requires that "The election of officers shall occur once every two years in the third quarter of the second Operating Year." You will soon receive an email that constitutes the call to membership to submit their ballots to elect chapter officers for the two-year term beginning 1 October 2016.

As announced at the Chapter Membership Luncheon on 21 June 2016, the Chapter Nominating Committee is recommending the following individuals to serve in the positions indicated.

- **President** - Joseph Burke
- **Vice President** - Patrick Rocke
- **Secretary** - Michael Winters
- **Treasurer** - John Kennedy

Cast your vote by 31 August 2016. Ballots received after midnight will not be accepted.

The election will be held by email (IAW Article VII, Section 1) and the results will be announced before the AFA National Convention 18-19 September. The new officers will assume their duties 1 October 2016 for a 2-year term.

**Chapter Council Vacancies**

We are looking for volunteers to fill other vacancies on the Chapter Council, as well. Interested members should contact Chapter President Dallas Kennedy at john.kennedy@afa-gabriel.org or any member of the Chapter Council.

- VP Chapter Events – Vacant
- VP Awards and Recognition – Vacant
- VP Veterans Affairs – Vacant
Save the Date
Our next AFA Gabriel Chapter event will be a gathering August 20 at the Reston Town Center for “Jazz under the Stars”, by the Airmen of Note – the U.S. Air Force Band.

Honoring Our Fallen Comrades
This section of our newsletter is to recognize the service and sacrifice of our fellow airmen and Gabriel Chapter members, who have gone to their final reward. If you would like to recognize a fallen comrade or family member in these pages, please send information to our VP Communications at afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org

Other Items in the News

AFA Renames Premier Annual Conference
The Air Force Association’s guiding purpose is to promote a dominant United States Air Force - one that wins in air, space and cyberspace. Cyber is a critical aspect of everything we do as a nation, and we see a strong need to provide emphasis to this mission area in our flagship event. We are pleased to announce the new name of our premier conference as the AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference! Registration opens May 1. Visit afa.org/airspacecyber now.

AFA Nominating Committee Announces 2016 Slate of Candidates for National Office
The AFA Nominating Committee, under the leadership of George Muellner, met in Dallas, TX, on 7 May 2016. The Committee is forwarding the following slate of candidates for office to the Delegates at the September 2016 Convention.

Chairman of the Board:
• F. Whitten Peters (DC)

Vice Chairman, Field Operations:
• F. Gavin MacAlloon (VA)

Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education:
• Richard Bundy (VA) (2nd Year Eligible)

National Secretary:
• Tim Brock (FL) (2nd year eligible)

National Treasurer:
• TBD*

National Director at Large (Two vacancies):
• Charles Johnson (VA)
• Kathleen McCool (TX)
• Leonard Vernamonti (MS)

National Director, Central Area:
• Terry Cox (TX)

National Director, West Area:
• Joan Sell (CO) (2nd year eligible)

* NOTE: Nora Ruebrook (HI) had been nominated by the committee for the position of National Treasurer, but resigned last week (06/20) and will not be considered for the election in September.

AFA and Virginia Veterans
Your AFA is represented by Governor’s appointment to the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Services Organizations. This Council gives one voice to the interests of more than 840,000 Virginia veterans. The JLC supports the Department of Veteran Affairs and provides direct input to the Governor and General Assembly for annual budget items and legislation to further the interests of veterans and their families in Virginia. The stated goal is to make Virginia the most “veteran friendly state in the union.” Major programs of interest are the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (not to be confused with the national Wounded Warrior Project), the construction of two new Veteran Care Centers (one in Hampton Roads), the maintenance of three Veteran Cemeteries (one in Suffolk), support for the Virginia War Memorial, and specific programs like the Veterans, Education, Training and Employment. For questions about the JLC or to make input, contact Bart Barton, hbartonjr@verizon.net.
Virginia Department of Veteran Services
“Re-brands” Program for Wounded Veterans

Virginia State AFA VP for Veteran Affairs, Bart Barton discusses the difference between the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP).

Basically, the former is administered by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the latter is a national non-profit. The two are distinct veteran support programs with different means and target audiences.

DVS has recently announced the rebranding of the “Virginia Wounded Warrior Program” as “Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS).” The name change is effective on October 1 and all the contact information is available on the DVS website at http://www.dvs.virginia.gov.

So you ask why change the program’s name? DVS strives to take a wellness approach to their services to veterans and families. Over time, the words “wounded” and “warrior” have been over-used and can be a distraction for those vets and family members that are looking for support from the Virginia program. For example, a vet coping with behavioral health concerns may not identify with the “wounded” label unless they are physically injured or disabled. Additionally, the term “warrior” may either be inaccurate or, worse, not apply to all those eligible for assistance. Finally, non-veterans served such as family members do not see themselves as “wounded” or “warriors”.

The name change will also avoid the continuing brand confusion with the WWP. This national organization has many objectives that are not the same as the Virginia program. By offering a comprehensive approach of behavioral health, rehabilitative and support services to all Virginia vets, the Virginia program stands apart from the national one.

As this is simply a branding change, all the previously offered services will remain the same. The VVFS will continue to serve Virginia’s veterans coping with the impact of military service, deployments, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and stress or trauma related conditions such as PTSD from military service. VVFS with continue to be the health-care safety net for all Virginia veterans, including National Guard and Reserve Component service members and their families. VVFS will also continue to provide a dedicated outreach to Virginia’s most vulnerable vets including those experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness or those incarcerated. You can help by getting the word out to those who would benefit from these services.

To reach a VVFS office in your area or for further information or assistance, call the VVFS toll free number 1-877-285-1299 or the VA Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255.

Wounded Airmen

The Wounded Airman Program’s MOU was signed in October, 2013, and since then we’ve been spreading the word about the program, diligently reporting our efforts to the Air Force, fundraising, and supporting Airmen where there’s need. Our partnership with the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program continues to strengthen. For those unfamiliar with the AFW2 Program, the program works hand-in-hand with the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program and Airman and Family Readiness Centers to ensure Airmen receive professional support and care from point of injury, through separation or retirement, for life. Chapters have taken it upon themselves to fundraise and plan for the year ahead based on events, need, and Airmen in their local areas. They have also responded financially, and with time, manpower, and other resources when called upon, to reach out in their local communities. We continue to build guidelines to best work together. The Gabriel Chapter is looking for volunteers to help build our own program to support the work of AFW2. If you are interested in helping develop this program for the Chapter, contact afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org

Chapter Corporate Sponsor: General Dynamics Mission Systems

Through the special efforts of Chapter Member Al Moore, General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) in Crystal City, Virginia has become a Silver-Level Chapter Sponsor.

In recognition of designation as a Silver-Level Chapter Corporate Sponsor, GDMS will receive:
• Identification as a Community Partner of the Gabriel Chapter with a Cherrywood plaque and two individual memberships to the Air Force Association
• Recognition as a Chapter Corporate Sponsor on the Chapter Website afa-gabriel.org.
• Invitations to all Chapter events and one reserved seat at monthly membership luncheons
• Invitations to Chapter membership meetings

If you would like more information on the Gabriel Chapter Corporate Sponsor program, contact afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org

Gabriel Chapter Welcomes Community Partner PowerTek

PowerTek Corporation is a creative and innovative women-owned business with service solutions spanning the entire life cycle of Information Technology. The company supports U.S. Government customers in the defense, law enforcement, and civilian sectors. Powertek perfects partnerships among personnel, team members, and the customer to transform technology challenges into advanced business process solutions. Projects range from design and development to integration and operations. The company’s core service areas include Enterprise Infrastructure Services; Systems Architecture and Application Engineering; Program and Performance Management; and Cyber Security and Information Assurance.

Leveraging technology since 2001, Powertek has a Top Secret facility clearance and was named by CIO Review as one of the 20 most promising defense solution providers in 2015. The company is International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000:2008 and ISO 20000-1:2011 registered, and has been appraised at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Maturity Level 3 (CMMI ML3).

We are delighted to welcome local technology leader Powertek Corporation as a Gabriel Chapter Community Partner.

By affiliating with AFA, our Partners join with other AFA members worldwide to support policies and programs that provide the Air Force with the trained men and women and the modern weapon systems needed to fulfill its missions and help assure America has a deterrent force sufficient to ensure this nation’s peace and security.

Partners’ designated members receive AFA’s monthly publication, Air Force Magazine. The magazine allows them to keep abreast of AF matters through an informative and entertaining mix of articles on a wide variety of subjects, including new weapons and aircraft, national defense issues, legislative reports, first-person accounts of air operations, book reviews, and much more.

Gabriel Chapter Welcomes Community Partner Synaptek

Synaptek Corporation is an 8(a) certified small disadvantaged business (SDB) established in 2008 to provide imaginative and innovative IT services and solutions to the Federal Government. Synaptek a full spectrum Information Technology services provider, focused on providing mission-aligned, cost-effective enterprise solutions and support that enable the Government to leverage advanced technologies to improve services, increase efficiencies, and better perform their missions.

Their expertise spans IT service solutions, technical support, strategic planning, systems and software engineering, design and development, integration, implementation support, architectural development, data migration, enterprise architecture, training, enterprise network engineering, cyber security, and operations and maintenance.

We are delighted to welcome local technology leader Synaptek Corporation as a Gabriel Chapter Community Partner.
Highlight on Community Partner Ciao Osteria

The Gabriel Chapter is proud to acknowledge Ciao Osteria restaurant in Centerville Virginia (www.ciao-osteria.com) as a Community Partner. The owner, Sal Speziale, USAFA Alum ('78) is former USAF fighter and test pilot.

The food is excellent and they have a wonderful wine list. But make sure you reserve a table on the weekends because it is the most popular new restaurant in our AOR.

Gabriel Chapter Welcomes Community Partner MSAG

MicroSystems Automation Group (MSAG) is a service disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) providing subject matter expertise, program management, and technological solutions for government and commercial clients since 1989. MSAG has a rich history of working with customers to understand their business problems, and leveraging technical expertise and knowledge to deliver solutions that improve business performance, reduce costs, and most importantly, allows its clients to serve better their customers. The MSAG philosophy is to develop a long-term working relationship and work to understand the customer’s long-term goals beyond the requirements.

MicroSystems Automation Group (MSAG) with a Top Secret facility clearance has been leveraging technology to help Federal, state, and local government clients work more effectively and efficiently for more than 28 years. MSAG is one of the Washington region’s Fastest Growing Companies (number 9), is International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000:2008 registered, and has been appraised at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Maturity Level 2 (CMMI ML2).

MSAG was recently awarded the Department of State (DoS) Small Business Contractor of the Year Award of Excellence for 2015 and continues to be in the Inc 5000 for the 3rd year in a row.

We are delighted to welcome local technology leader MicroSystems Automation Group (MSAG) as a Gabriel Chapter Community Partner.

Gabriel Chapter Welcomes Community Partner Link Solutions

The Gabriel Chapter was pleased to recognize our Community Partner Link Solutions who recently renewed their membership as a Chapter Community Partner. Thanks to David Joslin, COO, for Link Solution who renewed their commitment to the Gabriel Chapter and will continue to display the handsome Cherrywood plaque that instantly identifies our Partners. With this identification, military members and retirees in Northern Virginia will recognize our Partners as supporters of Gabriel Chapter and AFA programs.

Since inception, LSi has developed expertise in the design, development, and management of IT applications and systems, management of business operations, and delivery of development services. We partner with our clients to deliver state of the art services that
exceed current needs and meet all long term business objectives

**Air Force Association e-Membership**

AFA is announcing a new membership option, the eMember. This is an exciting new initiative brought forth by our national Membership Committee. eMembers will be identical to a traditional member in every way except they will not receive the print copy of Air Force Magazine. Instead, they will receive an online version of the magazine only. They will receive all other current member benefits. eMembers are eligible to hold office, vote, and in every way enjoy the benefits of an AFA membership. For now, eMemberships will be available as one-year memberships only and will cost $30.

We are entering a new and exciting period in AFA in which we aim to turn around membership decline, attract younger members who prefer the digital format, and expand AFA’s outreach to influence the public through digital content. We believe the eMember option will provide a valuable addition to your membership recruitment efforts in the Field. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors who want to support America’s air arm – at a discounted price. For more information go to [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org).

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**Chapter Finances**

Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Nancy Cribb, reports on the Chapter’s Finances:

**Chapter Financial Activity**

- **Inflow:**
  - AFA Quarterly Rebate
  - Chapter Membership Meetings

- **Outflow:**
  - Chapter Membership Meetings
  - State Meeting
  - Administrative Expenses

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**Chapter Financial Activity**

*Current values are as of date of newsletter publication*

- **Inflow:**
  - AFA Quarterly Rebate
  - Chapter Membership Meetings

- **Outflow:**
  - Chapter Membership Meetings
  - State Meeting
  - Administrative Expenses
Update Your Information

Please visit the Chapter web site at http://www.afagabriel.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 us at afa_gabriel_chapter@afagabriel.org.

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