



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members:

It is hard to believe that within just a few short days we will have a new Commander in Chief. Hopefully, the focus that the new President will take will be to hone in on the need to strengthen the deficiencies in our military readiness.

I'm sure you have been reading in the Air Force Magazine and several other sources, that the airframes, power plants and electronics in our Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army are seriously aging and our ability to project as a world power is weakening. We must be vigilant and demand change to the defense budget. We must voice our opinion and hold our elected officials accountable for their poor support of our military's needs. We can't afford to allow our armed forces to fall behind in readiness. Our Air Force Association CEO Mike Dunn has been doing a superior job in keeping us informed and we must no longer keep quiet! We cannot afford to show apathy on this issue. It has to be a priority.

Switching gears, I want to hear what our Chapter can do for you. We all share a love and commitment for our Air Force (in my case also the Marine Corps) and social events and hangar parties/talk seem as a great way to keep our comradeship together. However, to keep our Chapter strong we need to have you get involved. What would you like to see in our Chapter? What direction should we be looking at? Your input is important if we are to have a strong Chapter. So, I am asking you to let me hear from you with your ideas and thoughts. I can be reached by e-mail at JACSAM@AOL.COM. Let's communicate!

I would like to thank Ed & Mary Lou Lynch and Pat & Lennie Ohlsson for their financial support for ROTC Cadets to attend the Awards luncheon. Finally, I'd like to wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By: Dave Cummock

The following is copied from the AFA Update of 16 Oct 08:

AFA Member Get a Member Campaign

As you've seen in the Daily Report and Air Force Magazine, AFA's Member-Get-A-Member Contest is running until Dec 31, 2008. For every member you recruit, you get one chance to win one of 3 prizes

***Dell Studio 15 Laptop computer
\$1,000 cash (donated by AFAVBA Banking Center)
16 GB Apple iPad Touch***

Recruited members can join online or with a paper application, and they'll need to provide the Recruiter's name as well as phone number and member number if known.

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CHAPTER AWARDS LUNCHEON



Left: President Jack Howell welcomes our Awards Luncheon guests



Right: John J. Mitchell delivers the invocation. Col Mitchell is a former Commander of AFROTC at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



Chapter President Jack Howell presents awards:

Left: Teacher of the Year MSgt Russell Garthwaite with a check for \$250



Right: Cadet Nathaniel Drenckhahn receives a trophy as Chapter Member of the Year. He has been our webmaster keeping our Chapter Web Site current.

Visit our website at Aflorida.org



Left to Right:

- Cadet Nathaniel Drenckhahn
- Cadet Kelly Maloney
- Cadet Justin Baier
- Jack Howell
- Cadet Danielle Sands
- Cadet David Mandel



Left to Right Marguerite Cummock, Steve Ridder and Dave Cummock

Steve Ridder was our Awards luncheon speaker and a newly designated Doolittle Fellow. He is a terrific speaker who had the attendees listening intently to his message.

In his 19 years of service at ERAU, Steve has led an amazing expansion of the athletics program. Starting with virtually nothing in 1989, ERAU now has a fantastic sports complex that supports 16 varsity sports for men and women.

Of even more importance than the great athletic complex and the highly competitive sports teams, is Steven's leadership of character development, ethical behavior and moral courage among his athletes, coaches and fans.

His Doolittle plaque reads:

**Steve Ridder
A Champion of Character**

An apt description of Steve Ridder.



Left to Right Marguerite Cummock, Keith Phillips and Dave Cummock

Chapter 288 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is a fine organization that has long been a strong advocate for sport aviation, and education for its' members in building, restoring, maintaining and safely flying sport airplanes. Over the years it has also participated in ever increasing community service.

EAA supports aerospace education in local schools, flies many young people in the Young Eagles program, gives orientation flights to AFROTC students and provides formation flyovers for graduations, funerals, memorial services, parades, patriotic celebrations and various other community events.

EAA 288 is designated as an AFA Doolittle Fellow for Sustained Community Service.

Chapter 288 President Keith Phillips accepted on behalf of the Chapter Members.



AFA Florida officers had the pleasure of being sworn into office by Chairman Bob Largent at the AFA National Convention in Washington D.C. in September. Missing from the photo is Dick Schaller, our Executive Vice President.

Left to Right: FL AFA State Secretary Ran Meriam, FL AFA State Treasurer Marguerite Cummock, AFA National Chairman of the Board, Bob Largent, FL AFA State President Tim Brock

Membership Matters Continued from Page 1

For nearly 25 years my wife and I have worked hard to AFA at the Chapter, State, Region and National level. It has been a labor of love because we are among AFA's "true believers". AFA is important to our Air Force and hence our National Security. That is why we are glad to do what we can to help.

As a close observer and participant in AFA affairs, I am pleased to report some good news. Our National reorganization under afa21 is a success. It has streamlined operations and cut costs. Our National leaders and our National Staff have done and are doing an excellent job. Our National President/CEO (a former member of this chapter) is doing an outstanding job of leadership and innovation..

There is one serious problem; however, that we can't seem to get under control though many good people have and are trying. MEMBERSHIP in AFA is continuing to decline. Why is that a big deal? Because more members means more political influence and more financial resources. It means AFA can better Educate, Advocate and Support the USAF and the future safety of our country. Is that a big deal? It is to me and I hope it is to you too.

To quote President John F. Kennedy "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". One thing we, everyone of us, can do for your country is sign up some new members.

When I joined AFA in 1981, National membership was greater than a quarter of a million. Now it is about 120,000. Does it matter? I certainly think so. Membership is our life blood—MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

WANT TO SUPPORT AFA PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES?

Good News! Tax-Free Gifts from IRA Accounts re-authorized! On October 3, 2008, Congress re-authorized legislation that allows donors to make tax-free gifts from their IRA Accounts. If you are age 70-1/2 or older and are required to receive minimum distributions from your IRA and you do not need the money for personal use, you can make gifts totaling up to \$100,000 a year from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities like AFA. If you and your spouse each have an IRA account, you can each make a maximum \$100,000 gift. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for IRA gifts, you will not be required to pay income tax on the amount. The legislation cover IRA gifts made in tax years 2008 & 2009. This is a great way to support AFA educational initiatives, research and advocacy effort.

For a detailed explanation contact Lois O'Connor, Director of Development at 703-247-5832

CONGRATULATIONS

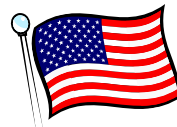
1st Lt Sherrie Surmanek (shown here with a T1A Jayhawk Trainer she flew in pilot training) is a May 2006 graduate of ERAU Daytona. She earned her commission from AFROTC Det 157 and she earned a coveted slot to USAF Pilot Training. It came as no surprise to find our that Sherrie finished at the top of her pilot class of 20. As the only woman graduate, she joins a select group of only 596 female Air Force Pilots. She was a standout as a cadet as well having served as the Cadet Wing Commander during her senior year at ERAU.

Sherrie is now a graduate of USAF Survival School and the C-17 Crew Training Program. She will be flying the giant C-17 aircraft all over the world since it is the most important and most prolific Air Force Transport aircraft. C-17s are airborne every minute of every day somewhere in the world. She is based at Charleston AFB, South Carolina.

Congratulations Sherrie, you are off on two of life's great adventures—your career and your impending wedding.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



*Cadet Bhumik Patel
Cadet Ryan Phaneuf
Cadet Gavin Walter
Charles Munson*



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FLIGHT PLAN



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**CHAPTER WEBMASTER
Cadet Nathaniel Drenckhahn**

VISIT AFA FLORIDA WEBSITE
afaflorida.org
With link to McCarthy Chapter Website
Or go directly to
genjamesmccarthy.afaflorida.org

**WE APPRECIATE OUR
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM**

**EMBRY-RIDDLE
AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY**

**MERCEDES BENZ OF DAYTONA
BEACH**

**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
SPRUCE CREEK**

**J. W. STENGER TRUCKING
COMPANY**

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