



# Air Force Association

## General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter

### Quarterly Newsletter

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Volume 2015, Issue 3

## Message from the Chapter President

Dear Gabriel Chapter and AFA Members and Friends,

As I write to you the Congress is deliberating a “stop gap” spending bill to defer debate on issues and avoid a shut down of the Government. I won’t signal my opinion on the issues behind the shut down threat or the excuses for failing to finalize a budget before the end of the fiscal year. I will repeat the concerns of our leaders in the Association and in the Air Force about the impacts of the Federal Budget as it is about to be enacted. To set the context, our current Air Force is the smallest it has been since 1947, even though demands increase as the USAF continues to be globally engaged. The USAF is operating in a constrained budget environment while sustaining operations around the world. The budget under consideration will fund the Department of Defense (DoD) somewhere below the President’s Budget Request, and near the Congressional limits of the Budget Control Act (BCA). Funding the DoD at the BCA limits will devastate Air Force readiness and modernization and cause USAF leaders to sacrifice investment in technology, training, infrastructure, and personnel that is critical to readiness.

It’s worth considering that future air superiority is not a given. Just like your investment advisor tells you, past performance is not indicative of future success. The Air Force that dominated in Desert Storm in 1991 was the product of decades of investment in technology, training, and infrastructure. We must invest in the people and technologies that will achieve air superiority over our potential adversaries. The USAF must have adequate funding and budget flexibility in order to achieve and sustain the missions set out for it.

I recently read a magazine article by Warren Kozak that recounts the experiences of American soldiers and the people they liberated in wars – hot and cold – against totalitarians in the 20th century. Kozak observes that a few years ago, William Ayers, the 1960’s Weatherman terrorist turned University of Chicago professor, visited the University of Oregon to address to students. Ayers told the young audience that they were a lucky generation, because they would grow to adulthood in a world without a powerful United States. Ayers believed that a new world will offer greater freedom and opportunity because the United States will no longer determine everyone’s future and a small percentage of the world’s population (Americans) will no longer consume a disproportionate amount of the Earth’s resources and wealth. Kozak writes,

*The aging population around the world that was actually liberated from totalitarian rule in 1945 and again in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed might not see Ayer’s vision as a good thing. Their real-life experience refutes the revisionist*

*theory that a weaker America is better for the world. They understand what real evil looks like. They lived it. And they witnessed with their own eyes something unique in world history--a victorious army that wanted only to leave the lands they conquered and go home as soon as possible. They didn't colonize; they fought to end colonialization. They freed a large swath of humanity, fed them, and gave them billions of dollars to rebuild.<sup>1</sup>*

Amen, brother. Over the last hundred years or so, since the US entered World War I, the world is a demonstrably better place because of American leadership. And air power since 1942 has given Americans the decisive edge to achieve and secure American leadership and the worldwide prosperity that flows from that leadership.

Our Air Force continues to be challenged. As I've said before in these pages, I urge you to be vigilant and make your voice heard in the ongoing debate. 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)]. Your AFA also supports the retirement reform changes that keep the new system on par with the current system: TSP matching must remain at five percent, and extend through a service member's career. It's up to us to embrace those goals and support them with action.

As your chapter President and the elected members of the Chapter Council begin the last year of our terms, I ask each of you to 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.

See you at our next Chapter luncheon on October 8th!

*John "Dallas" Kennedy*

President  
General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter  
Air Force Association



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<sup>1</sup> From an article by Warren Kozak, "The Greatest Liberation: Humanitarians in Uniform," *The Weekly Standard*, Vol 20, No. 46, August 17, 2015, pp. 20-22.

## Chapter Activities

### Joseph Burke Recognized as Central East Region AFA Member of the Year

At the region caucus Saturday night during the National Convention, Central East Region President Gavin “Mac” Macaloon presented Joseph Burke with a certificate and gift recognizing him as the CER AFA Member of the Year. This represented a clean sweep for Joe, whose service to the Gabriel Chapter and AFAS earned him recognition as the Chapter, State, and Region Member of the Year. As Gabriel Chapter members already know, Joe has been instrumental in invigorating the activities and membership of the Chapter while serving as Chapter Secretary and Vice President for Chapter Events. His aggressive recruiting of guest speakers and enthusiastic marketing efforts rejuvenated the Chapter’s monthly membership meetings. In every month in 2014, 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 in 2014, 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.

### Gabriel Chapter Honored at Field Awards Dinner

As some of you know, the AFA National Awards Committee selected the Gen. Charles A. Gabriel Chapter as the recipient of the **First Year Retention Award** for a Chapter Size Larger Than 1100. Chairman of the Board, Scott Van Cleef and Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations David Dietsch presented the award, which was accepted on behalf of the Chapter membership by Chapter President Dallas Kennedy. This recognition is a fine tribute to our chapter’s dedication and outstanding efforts on behalf of AFA. Congratulations to all, and especially Joe

Burke, who has been personally responsible for recruiting upwards of 25 new members this year.



*Gabriel Chapter President Dallas Kennedy accepts First Year Retention Award from AFA Board Chairman Scott Van Cleef and Vice Chairman for Field Operations David Dietsch*

### Gabriel Chapter Aerospace Education Activities Honored at AFA National Convention

For the third consecutive year, the General Charles A Gabriel Chapter earned the AFA Aerospace Education Achievement Award. The annual award recognizes Chapters who fulfill specific Aerospace Education achievement objectives, including outreach to JROTC and CAP, public education outreach programs, and selecting a teacher of the year.

The Chapter also received special recognition with a Certificate of Appreciation for STEM education programs. The Certificate honors the efforts of VP Aerospace Education Mike Winters and Brad Wilkins, along with the long-standing efforts of Aerospace Education Committee member, Gina Giles, to develop the CyberPatriot and science fair programs at Chantilly Academy in Chantilly, Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Marshall High School in Falls Church, and Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax.

Congratulations to our Aerospace Education team!

## Gabriel Chapter Sends National Director to AFA



*Lt Gen (ret) Chuck Heflebower, USAF  
AFA National Director*

At the Delegates Meeting of the AFA National Convention, AFA members from across the nation elected Lt Gen (ret) Chuck Heflebower to one of two "At Large" National Director positions. Chuck is a Life Member of the AFA, a Northern Virginia native, and a dedicated member and supporter of the Gabriel Chapter. Chuck wrote this to the members of the Gabriel Chapter, "I was pleased to join the team representing the Gabriel Chapter and the State of Virginia at our AFA National Convention. I am proud and humbled that I was elected to serve AFA (and the Air Force) as a National Director at Large. In that capacity, I have also been asked by [AFA Chairman of the Board] Scott Van Cleef to chair the Membership Committee and have, naturally, agreed to do so. Gil Petrino has done a great job as Chairman, we are working the transition, and I am delighted he will remain on the committee. Gary North has also agreed to remain the Vice Chairman of the Membership Committee. Thanks to all for your support!!"

Congratulations and continued success to AFA National Director, Chuck Heflebower!

## Chapter Members Honored as Congress Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War



*Then-AF Vice Chief of Staff, General Larry Spencer, USAF, recognizes Vietnam Veteran at ceremony on Capitol Hill*

[From the AFA Daily Report 9 July, 2015] -- LYNDSEY AKERS AND AMY MCCULLOUGH More than 600 Vietnam veterans and their families gathered on Capitol Hill Wednesday for a ceremony hosted by leaders of both the House and Senate commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who spoke at the event, thanked the "7.2 million living Vietnam-era veterans, their fallen comrades-in-arms, and the families of all who served," for their sacrifices, noting their service helped make the country stronger. "One of the reasons the United States has excelled is that, as a nation, we learn and innovate," said Carter. "And, one reason why we have the finest fighting force the world has ever known is that our military is a learning organization." He emphasized two important lessons learned from Vietnam. "First, we leave no one behind," he said. Though other countries have a similar ethos, "There are few that have such a steadfast and sustained commitment." He noted the Defense Department has some 650 people "devoted" to searching for, recovering, and identifying service members who remain missing, including the more than 1,627 still missing from the Vietnam War. Second, he said the nation must support its troops "regardless of our feelings about the war." That's a lesson he acknowledged, "some learned the hard way in



the Vietnam era." More than 58,000 Americans were killed during the war and more than 153,000 were wounded. ([DOD release](#)) (Video of House Speaker John Boehner's [comments during the ceremony](#).) ([Transcript](#) of Senate Majority Lead Mitch McConnell's remarks.)

According to Central East Region (CER) President Gavin "Mac" Macaloon, the event was well attended and well executed. AFA was originally given 24 seats, 12 vets and 12 guests of the vet. Thanks to the support of the Chapters, there were twice as many volunteers as there were seats available.

Participants from the Gabriel Chapter were:

Lt Col Ron Mattis  
Mrs Betty Mattis  
Arthur Farrington  
Mrs Sandra Farrington  
Dick Klass  
Bob Lightsey  
Col Paul Patton  
Mrs Gwendolyn Patton

Thank you for your service.

### [AFA Emerging Leaders Program](#)

The AFA Board of Directors approved the 2015/2016 class of Emerging Leaders. This year's selectees are:

- Buster Douglas, Langley Chapter
- **Brad Wilkins, Gen. Charles A. Gabriel Chapter**
- Sharon Branch, Central Florida Chapter
- Devon Lynn Messecar, Paul Revere Chapter
- Tyler Worley, Prescott-Goldwater Chapter
- Robbie Walsh, Oklahoma-Gerrity Chapter
- Paul Weseloh, Alamo Chapter

All the submitted nominees were very well qualified for this highly competitive program. Chapter members interested in competing for this program should contact the Chapter Council for more information. Award packages are due in March 2016.

### [Congratulations to Brad Wilkins: 2015-16 AFA Emerging Leader](#)

Gabriel Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Brad Wilkins, was selected as one of seven candidate from across the nation to participate as Emerging Leaders. The AFA Emerging Leaders Program is designed to identify, motivate, develop, and encourage emerging leaders to serve actively in AFA by providing hands-on experience and unique insights into how the Association operates and is governed. AFA needs an infusion of committed new leaders to bring a fresh perspective to the organization. The program is intended to accelerate the development of field leaders and to inspire them to serve at all levels of the Association. It is also designed to be an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for the participants and a program that will attract and retain our finest.

Wilkins was introduced to the other ELs at the AFA National Convention in September. He described the program and his role. "Though I don't officially start the Emerging Leader Program until October, I have already met many of the people who will guide me through the year. The AFA Convention was a great opportunity to learn about the Association and the challenges it faces. I look forward to helping the AFA achieve its objectives in the coming year."

In addition to Brad's efforts supporting the Aerospace Education goals of the chapter, he will serve on the AFA Development Committee, Chaired by National Director, Kevin Jackson. And, Brad starts working with Chantilly Academy again on Wednesday, 7 October on the CyberPatriot competition. Brad also recruited at least one person from his company to join him as a CyberPatriot mentor.

### [DISA Services Executive Addresses Chapter Members](#)

At our chapter luncheon on 16 July, Dave "Stick" Stickley the Services Executive for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Services Directorate (SE) spoke to 30 Chapter members and invited guests. Mr. Stickley is responsible for optimal and rapid delivery

solutions for mission critical enterprise and tactical systems across Warfighter, Business, and Intelligence mission areas leveraging the enterprise user vision. He gave a fascinating overview of the DISA Services Directorate, highlighting the variety of services DISA delivers for the Combatant Commanders, not to mention identifying key area for business development that appealed to a number of our Chapter members.

### [Vice Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency Speaks to Chantilly Academy Cybercamp](#)

Maj. Gen. Sarah E. Zabel, USAF, took time from an extraordinarily busy schedule to address students at the Chantilly Academy Summer Cyber Camp. She spoke to the students about the importance of Cyber Security to National defense, and the value of the training they were receiving to their own careers. General Zabel is uniquely qualified to speak to students based on her experience starting as a computer security analyst fresh out of the Air Force Academy throughout her 28-year career to her current position Vice Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency. What made the event even more extraordinary was that it happened on her second day on the job. We had invited General Zabel to speak when she was still at the Pentagon. Despite her new assignment and the rigors of relocating to Fort Meade, General Zabel kept her commitment to the Chapter and the students of Chantilly Academy to attend the mid-day graduation.



*Maj Gen Sarah Zabel poses with award winners from the Chantilly Academy Cyber Summer Camp. Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Mike Winters, is at the far left.*

The Chantilly Awards ceremony replaced our monthly membership luncheon. Twenty chapter members attended the ceremony, supporting our STEM education and CyberPatriot activities at Chantilly and the Chapter collected nearly \$500 in donations that will support our ongoing Aerospace Education activities. Many thanks to all who contributed.

### [National Reconnaissance Office Celebrate 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Air Force](#)

The Air Force Element (AFELM) of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) invited the Gabriel Chapter to participate in their celebration of the Air Force Birthday on September 18, 2015 at the NRO in Chantilly, Virginia. Chapter VP for Government Affairs, Rick Larson, and Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Brad Wilkins attended the event and supported a recruiting drive to encourage new members from the AFELM, and encourage current AFA member to become more active with Chapter events. This was the first event of its kind in recent memory and represents a continued growth in our relationship with AFELM NRO – the only active AF unit in the Chapter's AOR. Many thanks to Staff Sergeant Alex Colter, in charge of special events for the Air Force birthday at the NRO, and organizer of the event for the Gabriel Chapter.

### [New Chapter Member Eric Burke Attends National Convention](#)

*Eric Burke, recent college graduate and nephew of Gabriel Chapter Secretary, Joseph Burke, attended the National Convention and volunteered to help at the Virginia State Hospitality Suite. Here is his first person report from the Convention. Awesome week at the Gaylord and the AFA National Convention! It was spectacular event with a full agenda, informative and dynamic speakers, and a world class venue. I am a new AFA member and recent graduate of Penn State University, currently applying to Air Force OTS. While I was a student at Penn State I attended a number of large career and activity fairs, but none compare to my experience at the AFA National Convention.*

I was excited to attend the Board and Delegate business meetings where I gained valuable insight into the structure, business plan, programs, and future direction of AFA. As I attended various sessions, I was impressed with the number of young Airmen in leadership positions, especially in the Virginia and Maryland chapters, who are making large contributions to AFA while on active duty. To my surprise, I was privileged to attend a briefing by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James on her Strategic Master Plan for the Air Force.

The Conference was a tremendous networking opportunity! Throughout the event, I volunteered at the Virginia hospitality suite where I networked and interacted with active and retired members of the Air Force in all ranks and AFSC's. The Virginia hospitality suite hosted hundreds of people from all States during the conference, and was a great venue to unite the chapters that attended the event. For me personally, being a member of AFA has provided many resources and a glimpse into the workings of the Air Force. I made many great connections and look forward to returning next year!

### Changes to Chapter Council

Since election results were announced in October, several members have been unable to continue their service to the Chapter. The Chapter is in desperate need to fill the CP for Chapter Events. 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](mailto: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
- VP Communications -- Vacant

### Save the Dates

Our next AFA Gabriel Chapter lunch meeting will be **October 8th** at 1130 to 1330 at Clyde's in Tysons Corner. Mr. Dave Cotton, Deputy

DoD CIO for Information Enterprise, is our invited guest and speaker.

## **Other Items in the News**

### 2015 National Convention and Air & Space Conference A Huge Success!

The 2015 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition has come to a close, thank you to all who attended the event! The conference hosted more than 6,900 attendees over the three-day event, 50 speaker sessions, 130 exhibitor booths, and 100,000 square feet of space on our technology exposition. Audio files and videos from the conference can be found [here](#). Mark your calendar now, for the 2016 AFA National Convention and Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition on September 17-21, 2016, at the Gaylord National Hotel in National Harbor.

### AFA and Virginia Veterans

Your AFA is represented by Governor's appointment to the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Services Organizations. This Council combines the interest of the over 840,000 veterans in Virginia to one voice. In support of the Department of Veteran Affairs, the JLC 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](mailto:hbartonjr@verizon.net).

### 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.

Traditional members will continue to receive a hard copy of Air Force Magazine and will have full access to all online content.

Additionally, over the next several months, the Magazine will be moving toward implementing a members-only area; a system that will prevent internet users from accessing certain online content without a paid membership. The electronic version of the Magazine will also be migrating from its current PDF format to a new format which will present the entire magazine in digital format identical to the print magazine. This new format will also give us the ability to present this digital version within the members-only area.

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).

### **Gabriel Chapter Welcomes Community Partner Link Solutions**

At our June Awards Luncheon, the Gabriel Chapter was pleased to recognize our newest Community Partner. David Joslin, COO, for Link Solutions accepted a handsome cherrywood plaque to be proudly displayed in their business area to instantly identify our Partners. With this identification, military members and retirees in Northern Virginia will recognize our Partners as supporters of Gabriel Chapter and AFA programs.



*Mr. David Joslin, Chief Operating Officer (center), accepts certificate, plaque and Chapter Coin recognizing Link Solutions as an AFA Community Partner from Gabriel Chapter President Dallas Kennedy (right) and Chapter Secretary Joseph Burke (left)*

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.

We are delighted to welcome local technology leader Link Solutions 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](http://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.

### Wounded Airmen

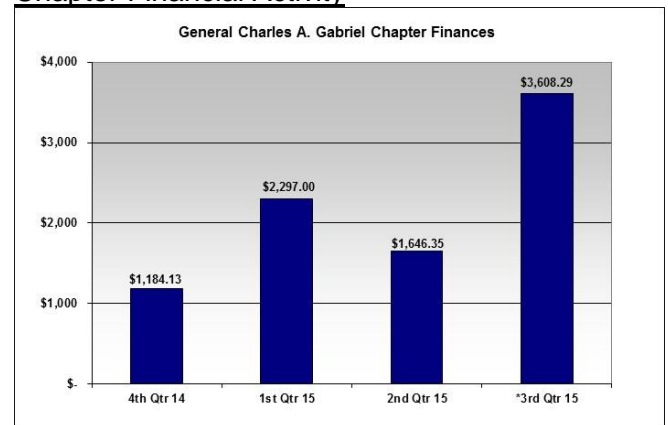
The Wounded Airman Program's MOU was signed in October, 2013, and since then we've been spreading the word about the program, diligently reporting our efforts to the Air Force, fundraising, and supporting Airmen where there's need. Our partnership with the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program continues 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](mailto:afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org)

## Chapter Finances

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

### Chapter Financial Activity



*\*Current values are as of date of newsletter publication\**

### Inflow:

- AFA Chapter Retention Award
- AFA Quarterly Rebate
- Donations for Chapter Support for STEM Activities
- Chapter Membership Meetings

### Outflow:

- Chapter Membership Meetings
- Administrative Expenses

## 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 us at [afa\\_gabriel\\_chapter@afa-gabriel.org](mailto:afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org).

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