



# Air Force Association

## General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter

### Quarterly Newsletter

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Volume 2018, Issue 1

## Message from the Chapter President

Dear Gabriel Chapter and AFA Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already six months into the AFA term year and three months into the calendar year. As I write this article, the calendar says we are in Spring, but we are the middle of the biggest snow storm of the past year. As you will see, much has happened since our last quarterly newsletter was published.

We have had a great year to date and I would like to thank all of our Gabriel Chapter members and families who have stepped forward to make our many programs a success. Many hands make light work. Our ability to serve the chapter membership and the goals of the Association are only as great as those who volunteer. I would also like to thank our Community Partners and Corporate Sponsors, who continue to provide financial support to the Chapter that allows us to run our many programs supporting the total Air Force family and aerospace education here in Northern Virginia.

We in the AFA Gabriel Chapter continue to promote a dominant Air Force here in Northern Virginia whenever and wherever possible. As you will see in this newsletter, your Chapter continues to:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
- **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power and STEM education.
- **SUPPORT** the total Air Force family, and promote aerospace education.

On June 15th and 16th our Chapter will be hosting the Annual AFA Virginia State Convention and Meeting where we will be electing our 2018-2019 AFA Virginia State Officers. Our Chapter Awards Dinner with a senior Air Force leader guest speaker will be on Saturday Night, June 16th. We will need some people to help run the Meeting and I encourage all to attend the Awards Dinner where we will recognize a Teacher of the Year for Northern Virginia.

Later this year we will be holding elections for the Offices of Chapter President, Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The next Chapter President will then be appointing the program VPs who run our many programs. I have asked our Chapter Treasurer and Past President Dallas Kennedy to lead the nominating committee to identify and submit a slate of candidates for this next term. I ask that you please consider how you can serve the Chapter in one of these positions, serve on a committee, attend an event or help out at one of many activities we have going on in the National Capitol Region like the AFA Wounded Airmen Cycling Challenge on May 19th.



Our next Chapter luncheon will be April 18th at Ciao Osteria in Centreville, VA. Our guest Speaker will be Colonel Dave Henshaw, USAF, Chief of ISR Current Operations Division, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense-Intelligence (OUSDI), The Pentagon, Washington, DC. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

*Joe Burke*

President

General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter  
Air Force Association



## Virginia State Air Force Association

*13th Annual*

### Virginia Air Force JROTC State Drill Championship

Saturday, 28 April 2018

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Atlee High School  
9414 Atlee Station Road  
Atlee, Virginia 23116*

#### Categories:

**Color Guard, Armed Exhibition, Unarmed Exhibition, Armed Regulation, Unarmed Regulation, Inspection Team, Armed Solo Exhibition & Individual Knockout (AS-I & Open)**



***United States Air Force Drill Team will perform at 3 PM  
Col. Frank Labash, Commander 192<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing  
Virginia Air National Guard will present Trophies & Awards.***

#### **Volunteers:**

If you would like to be a judge, scorer, or serve on the drill meet staff, please contact:  
Chip Moran at 757 735-2171 or [Chip.Moran@Yahoo.com](mailto:Chip.Moran@Yahoo.com)

## Gabriel AFA Community Partner Program

During these times of constrained resources and new emerging threats, our Air Force needs the Air Force Association to educate the public on the importance of air power and strong national defense. One of your AFA tools to help spread the message is the Community Partner Program. I strongly encourage each AFA Gabriel Chapter member help the Chapter actively recruit new Community Partners. As a chapter member you do business in the local community. Identify those businesses that you support and ask them to become a community partner with the Gabriel Chapter. Here are the top 10 reasons for a business to become a community partner:

1. \$90 A YEAR is affordable and your money supports Grants and Scholarships for local schools to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – a national priority.
2. You become part of an Organization with volunteers dedicated to connecting with active duty military, veterans, and their families thru events, activities, and networking!
3. Your local AFA Chapter provides you advertising in publications, events, activities, newsletters to the local AFA members.
4. Your business will have opportunities to advertise at local, regional and National AFA events!
5. Your business receives a plaque to hang up, a decal for your entrance - use your Membership in local advertising (print, radio, television); the Military likes doing business with those who support them!
6. Your business will be recognized for your support and involvement in the local area
7. Your business becomes a supporter of key National Programs such as Pilot4aDay, Cyber Patriot, STEM, ROTC
8. Your business becomes a Strategic Partner in our National Defense thru Aerospace Education and Advocacy
9. You save hundreds of dollars with discounts and savings visit: [www.afavba.org](http://www.afavba.org) or visit [services@afavba.org](mailto:services@afavba.org)
10. You get AFA Magazine, Chapter Newsletter, and email updates

Bottom Line: Being an AFA Community Partner is an opportunity to increase business and make a tremendous difference in the local community at the same time!

## Chapter Activities

### Military Deputy for Air Force Acquisition Speaks at Gabriel Chapter October Membership Luncheon

The AFA Gabriel Chapter held the first Monthly Membership Meeting of the new year on January 10, 2018, at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks in McLean, VA. Our guest speaker was Colonel Rocky A. Favorito, who is the Commander of the 844th Communications Group, and Director of Communications (A6) for the Air Force District of Washington (AFDW), Joint Base Andrews, MD.



*Colonel Favorito described some of the many challenges of his demanding position and gave Gabriel Chapter members insight into the dynamic requirements of providing uninterrupted communications to our National Military leadership.*

The 844 CG provides communications-computer systems support to AFDW staff and associated organizations throughout the National Capital Region to include HQs U.S. Air Force, National Military Command Center, and global communications support for the

Secretary of Defense, Chairman, JCS, and Air Force Chief of Staff.

Colonel Favorito riveted the attention of chapter members in attendance. There were a number of knowing chuckles and nods of agreement as Favorito recounted the challenges of providing for diverse customers from the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff to basic communication in the Pentagon. Several members are former communications officers who well recalled their own experiences managing communication outages with aging equipment. But all agree that we would not want Colonel Favorito's mission.

Chapter President Joe Burke presented Colonel Favorito with a Gabriel Chapter challenge coin, in appreciation for his frank and informative presentation.

### Chantilly High School Science Fair Boasts Judges from Gabriel Chapter

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Chapter VP for Aerospace Education led volunteers from the Gabriel Chapter to support the annual science fair at Chantilly High School. Joining Lisa were Lt Col Henry Heren, and retired colonels Ron Kelly, Dallas Kennedy. Each judge reviewed more than a dozen individual and group projects from young scientists in areas of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, and Environmental Science. According to Lisa Richter, "It was a great event talking to the students who have such enthusiasm for science and technology and pursuing STEM careers."

The Gabriel Chapter is proud of it's support to STEM education and its annual support of the Chantilly High School Science Fair. Thanks to our volunteer judges and congratulations to all of the participants in the event.

### Wreaths Across America Recovery and Cemetery Clean Up

On 20 January 2018, Gabriel Chapter members led by our Vice President, Pat Rocke, joined thousands of volunteers to recover and retire the 400,000 wreaths laid on the graves of our veterans in December.

Pat Rocke and Chapter Treasurer Dallas Kennedy were crew chief for more than a dozen dumpsters in once section of the cemetery for the annual Wreaths Across America Retirement, where all 255,000 wreaths put out on December



17, 2017 were removed from the grave sites at Arlington National Cemetery. Joined by Chapter President Joe Burke and other chapter officers and other members, our AFA team also backfilled a missing team and led cleanup of more than 40,000 wreaths.

The Gabriel Chapter Wreaths Across America



program showed respect and honor to our veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for active duty service members, veterans and their families to honor those who served.



*Colonel Jon Kim and his sons joined the Gabriel Team to retire holiday wreaths from Arlington National Cemetery.*

### **Gabriel Chapter Co-Hosts Air, Space and Cyber Information Technology Day**

The Air, Space and Cyber IT Day, a one-day conference, which was cohosted by the AFA Gabriel Chapter and the Armed Force Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) NOVA Chapter on 14 Feb 2018. Mike

chaired the committee made up of dozens of volunteers from both organizations over a four-month period, spending hundreds of hours in planning meetings, and coordinating with DOD and Air Force senior leaders and their staff. As this event was attended by approximately 500 military and industry from across the country.

Topics of the Air, Space and Cyber IT Day included: Air Force Information Dominance Flight Plan, Multi-Domain Command and Control, Air Operations Center (AOC) Pathfinder, Nuclear C3, Globally Integrated ISR, Enterprise Infrastructure Revitalization and



*Lt Gen Brad Schwed, Air Force Chief of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, headlined the speakers at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Space and Cyber IT Day, co-hosted by AFCEA Northern Virginia Chapter and the AFA Gabriel Chapter*

IT Transformation, Enterprise IT as a Service (EITS) for USAF, Joint Information Environment and Data Center Consolidation. Trends in Cloud Migration, Cybersecurity, Mobility, IP Service Migration for Unified Capabilities, automation, and data analysis were also presented.

Many DOD and Air Force Senior leaders participated as speakers and panelists including:

- Lt Gen Schwedo, Chief, Information Dominance and CIO, SAF CIO/A6
- Lt Gen Shanahan, DDI (WS), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence
- Lt Gen Bunch, Military Deputy, SAF/AQ
- Maj Gen Dravis, Director Joint Service Provider, DISA
- Maj Gen Higby, Director Cyberspace Policy and Strategy in SAF/CIO A6
- Brig Gen Kennedy, Director C4, Office of the DOD Chief Information Officer

Air Force Association Mission and Programs were highlighted through showing of the National AFA Video and a presentation on CyberPatriot by Commissioner Bernie Skoch. AFA President Larry Spencer also attended. At the event, CyberPatriot booth manned by AFA staff.

The Gabriel Chapter received great feedback on the event. Lt Gen (ret) Bruce "Orville" Wright, AFA National Board member stated "Terrific leadership and work from my new AFA Board member perspective. This agenda reflects exactly what industry associations should do to support our Warfighters." A member of the Air Force Senior Executive Service stated, "As an AFA Life Member, it's good to see you collaborating with AFCEA, especially when they deal with securing our network."

**Gabriel Chapter Partners with Cold War Museum to Bring History Alive in Northern Virginia**



The Cold War Museum is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political confrontations between East and

West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Recently, AFA Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke, AFA Northern Shenandoah Chapter Vice President Tom Shepherd and AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations

Gavin "Mac" MacAloon attended a Cold War Museum event and presented Cold War Museum Executive Director Jason Hall with an AFA Community Partner Plaque. Both Chapters have been publicizing museum events, helping to increase attendance and resulting funding for the museum.

Hours: Saturdays 11-4pm, Sundays 1-4pm, and by appointment. Admission and the orientation tour during the public hours are free, but we welcome donations; there is a modest per-person fee for private tours by arrangement.

Location and Directions: The Museum is located at Vint Hill, the former Top Secret signals intelligence base just outside Gainesville, VA, in one of the former Vint Hill Farms Station buildings used during the Cold War by the US Army, the National Security Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency to intercept and interpret coded messages. Our Street Address is 7172 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill, VA 20187 (next to the Vint Hill Craft Winery). Our Mailing Address is P.O. Box 861526, Vint Hill, VA 20187.

Artifacts: Our collections are particularly strong with unusual artifacts in signals intelligence, image intelligence, aerial surveillance, civil defense, Berlin, the East German secret police (STASI), the Cuban Missile Crisis, and events such as the Pueblo and Liberty incidents.



*AFA Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke, AFA Northern Shenandoah Chapter Vice President Tom Shepherd and AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations Gavin "Mac" MacAloon presented Cold War Museum Executive Director Jason Hall with an AFA Community Partner Plaque.*

Staff: Our tour and collections staff include people with direct and extensive experience in



Cold War intelligence and military communities. When you visit, the real people explain the real artifacts.

Attractions: The Museum shares a campus with The Inn at Vint Hill, the Vint Hill Craft Winery, the Covert Café, and Old Bust Head Brewing Company.

For more information about the Museum and the Cold War, visit our website: [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org).

***The Real People Explaining the Real Things.***

### **Civil Air Patrol National Capital Wing Hosts Conference and Dining Out**

AFA Central East Region President Peter Jones, his wife Louise Wilson, Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke and his wife Ann attended the Civil Air Patrol National Capital Wing Awards Dinner on March 17<sup>th</sup>



*AFA Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke with his wife Ann, poses with AFA Central East Region President Peter Jones, and his wife Louiose Wilson, below the portrail of General Gabriel at the Bolling Air Force Base Club. Joe and Peter represented the AFA at the CAP National Capital Wing Awards Dinner.*

The top Civil Air Patrol performers from the across the National Capitol Region were recognized at the dinner, which culminated a weekend of seminars and training at the annual National Capital Wing Conference. See highlights from the conference and dinner at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvlc23DDFso>

### **Richmond Hosts Virginia AFA State Drill Competition**

Volunteers from the Richmond and Tidewater Chapters of the Virginia Air Force Association are once again hosting the annual Virginia AFA JROTC State Drill Competition. High school JROTC programs from across Virginia will converge on the Atlee High School gym on April 24<sup>th</sup> to demonstrate their skill and precision in marching and drill.

This year, the Virginia AFA will "spotlight" the Virginia Air National Guard, and the 203rd Red Horse Sq. This should be another great year. President of the Virginia AFA East Region and event chairperson, Chip Moran, wanted to thank the Gabriel Chapter for our support and to encourage your attendance at the event. (See the flyer for the event in this newsletter.)

### **Air Force Element of the National Reconnaissance Office Recognizes Top Performers at Annual Awards**

The Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Maj Gen Stephen Denker honored the top performers at the NRO for 2017 at the Annual Awards Ceremony on 21 February 2018. Virginia AFA Secretary and Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Dallas Kennedy, represented the Gabriel Chapter at the event along with Virginia North Region President, Tom Shepherd. The AFA officers were recognized as honored guests, in appreciation for the Chapter's support to the Awards Program. AFA's contribution was acknowledged in the presentation and the Chapter Treasurer, Dallas Kennedy was introduced at the ceremony and thanked for our sponsorship. The Chapter gave a \$1,000 donation to the NRO Top Three Enlisted organization to offset the cost of the awards program.

Maj Gen Stephen Denker, USAF, Mil Dep NRO and Commander AF Element (AFELM) of NRO. CMS John Bentivegna, USAF, Senior Enlisted Leader also attended. Winners recognized for their exceptional performance in 2017 were:

- Senior Airman Ashley Miller, USAF, Junior Enlisted Member of the Year
- Staff Sergeant Andrew Miller, USAF, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- Master Sergeant Kyle Lewis, USAF, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- Captain Jason Gabriel, USAF, Company Grade Officer of the Year
- Lieutenant Colonel Jerome Litzo, USAF, Field Grade Officer of the Year

Congratulations to all of the nominees and award recipients.



*Virginia AFA Secretary and Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Dallas Kennedy and Virginia North Region President, Tom Shepherd represented the Gabriel Chapter at the Annual Awards Ceremony for the Air Force Element of the National Reconnaissance Office.*

Dallas Kennedy, Virginia AFA State Secretary and Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, visited with 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.

The Gabriel Chapter and the Chapter EXCOM are committed to continuing and deepening the relationship between the Chapter and the NRO. Dallas also made arrangements for a follow-up meeting with CMSgt John Bentivegna to discuss Chapter support to enlisted personnel, in particular for supporting airman education and scholarship opportunities for pursuing advanced degrees.

### Gabriel Chapter Sponsors Wounded Airman in Local

Earlier this year, your Gabriel Chapter responded to a call to support a Wounded Airman from our Chapter to attend the Air Force Warrior Games at Nellis AFB, Nevada. In 2017, new OSD guidance was released that prohibited service branches from funding wounded warriors in veteran status to attend events. Since then, AFA's Wounded Airman Program had been hard at work to make sure that as many of these unfunded veterans can still participate. In many ways, these are the folks that need to participate the most.

Your Gabriel Chapter responded to the call, and through the generosity of our members and Chapter Sponsors, we contributed \$500 to offset expenses to allow Heather Carter to participate in the competition.

On behalf of AFA and our strategic partners, Deloitte and the *Semper Fi* Fund we wanted to take a moment and thank you for supporting our wounded Airmen at the 2018 Air Force Trials! A special thank you for supporting one of your local wounded warrior's, Heather Carter. She is amazing and has made it on the Air Force team, thanks to your generous support! She will



*Through the generosity of Gabriel Chapter members and support from the DW Steele and National Capital Chapter, Heather Carter was able to attend the Air Force Trials for the National Warrior Games.*





*Warrior Games competitor Heather Carter is joined by AFA Vice President for Field Operations, Mac MacAloon at the Air Force Trails in Las Vegas, Nevada*

continue her journey to Warrior Games, which will be hosted by the US Air Force at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) We appreciate you and everything you do for AFA and for our Airmen.

We are all Airmen for Life!

### Director of the Air National Guard Speaks At Chapter Luncheon

The AFA Gabriel Chapter held its Monthly Membership Meeting on March 14, 2018, at Ciao Osteria Restaurant in Centerville, Virginia. Our guest speaker was is Lt General L. Scott Rice, who is the Director, Air National Guard, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 105,500 Guard members and civilians in more than 90 wings and 175 geographically separated units across 213 locations throughout the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Lt Gen Rice was accompanied by Chief Master Sergeant Ronald C. Anderson, who is the twelfth Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard. He represents the highest level of enlisted leadership and is the principal advisor to the Director of the Air National Guard. Chief Anderson is responsible for matters influencing the health, morale, welfare, and professional development of more than 105,700 Air Guard members.



*Lt Gen Scott Rice briefed Gabriel Chapter members on the variety of Federal and State missions performed by Air National Guard personnel across the United States and around the world.*

Lt Gen Rice spoke about the mission of Air National Guard personnel around the world. Many of those in attendance were surprised to learn that Air Guardsman are currently supporting operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. General Rice continued to answer questions for nearly an hour and his presentation was warmly received by the 35 chapter members who attended the event.



*Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke presents Chapter Challenge Coins to our guests of honor at the March Monthly Meeting.*

Chapter President Joe Burke presented a Gabriel Chapter challenge coin to General Rice in appreciation for his frank and informative presentation. He also presented challenge coins to CMSgt Anderson and General Rice's Executive officer, Captain Keith Marshall.



*Chef Anthony accepts the 2018-19 Community Partner recognition from Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke at the March Monthly Meeting.*

Chapter President Joe Burke took the opportunity to present Community Partner recognition to Ciao Osteria. Owner Sal Speziale is one of the Chapter's longest Community Partners, having joined the chapter in 2013.



*Gabriel Chapter President Joe Burke recognizes new Community Partner, KaylaTek and Company President, Brigadier General Tony Tata. USA (Ret.).*

President Burke also recognized our newest Community Partner, KaylaTek, Inc., presenting the Community Partner plaque and 2018-19 medallion to KaylaTek President, BG (ret) Tony Tata, USA.

### **Upcoming Events**

Save the date for these upcoming Chapter activities for the next quarter:

- Wednesday, April 4, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, April 18, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Ciao Osteria Restaurant in Centreville, VA. Guest speaker is Colonel David Henshaw, Chief, Current Operations at ISR Operations, Warfighter Support, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense - Intelligence (OUSD(I))
- Wednesday, May 2, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, May 9, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Maggiano's Little Italy, Tysons Corner. Guest Speaker is Col Todd Sriver, Chief, Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration at the Air Staff
- May 19, AFA Wounded Airmen Cycle Challenge
- Wednesday, June 6, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Saturday, June 16, 0800 to 1600 VA State Convention & Quarterly Meeting Hosted by Gabriel Chapter – Hyatt Regency-Herndon, VA
- Saturday, June 16, 1800 to 2100 Gabriel Chapter Annual Awards and TOY Dinner -- Hyatt Regency-Herndon, VA
- Tuesday, July 3, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, July 11, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Speaker TBA
- Wednesday, Aug 1, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, Aug 8, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Speaker TBA
- Wednesday, Sept 5, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Sept 15-16, AFA National Convention
- Sept 17-19, AFA Air, Space, and Cyber Conference
- Wednesday, Oct 3, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, Oct 10, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Speaker TBA
- Wednesday, Nov 7, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov 14, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Lunch Meeting – Speaker TBA

- Wednesday, Dec 5, 1900 to 2000 Gabriel Chapter EXCOM Virtual Meeting
- Wednesday, Dec 12, 1130 to 1330 Gabriel Chapter Holiday Lunch Meeting – Speaker TBA

Next Chapter EXCOM meeting will be Wednesday, April 4, 1900 to 2000.

### Chapter Council Vacancies

We are looking for volunteers to fill other vacancies on the Chapter Council, as well. Interested members should contact Chapter President Joseph Burke at [joe.burke@afa-gabriel.org](mailto:joe.burke@afa-gabriel.org) or any member of the Chapter Council.

- VP Chapter Events – Vacant
- VP Awards and Recognition – Vacant
- VP Airmen and Families / Wounded Airman Program – Vacant

## Other Items in the News

### 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 Gabriel Chapter VP for Veterans Affairs, Bob Austin [bob.austin@afa-gabriel.org](mailto:bob.austin@afa-gabriel.org)

### Veteran's Corner

This edition of Veteran's Corner is a combination of several recently announced programs by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Please share these with other vets that may find the information useful. Updates will be provided when released by the VA.


**Veterans ID Card:** Veterans having served with a honorable discharge may now apply for the Veterans Identification Card (VIC). This card will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans. To request a VIC, Veterans must visit [vets.gov](http://vets.gov) and click on "Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card". A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

**The White House VA Hotline:** The VA Hotline is now fully staffed with live agents working to serve Veterans 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. The hotline is now staffed by a team consisting of 90 percent Veterans or employees who have a Veteran family member. The VA Hotline provides Veterans with a direct, dedicated contact line that allows them to interact with highly trained, live agents to answer their needs and concerns. Hotline agents answer inquiries, provide directory assistance, document concerns about VA care, benefits and services, and expedite the referral and resolution of those concerns. The hotline can be accessed at 855-948-2311.

**New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently announced that the VA is considering possible new presumptive conditions that may qualify for disability compensation related to Agent Orange exposure. This decision for further review is based on the National Academy of Medicine (NAM)'s latest report regarding Veterans and Agent Orange, and associated data and recommendations from the NAM Task Force. Any new approved presumptive conditions for service connection that would qualify for disability compensation would be formally announced by the VA. Speculation is that bladder cancer may be one of the conditions under review.

**New Program for Claim Resolution:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it will launch the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program, or "RAMP," with the goal of providing Veterans with the earliest possible resolution of their disagreement with





VA's decision on their benefit claims. RAMP will provide expanded opportunities for Veterans to enter the new, more efficient claims review process outlined in the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, which was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on Aug. 23. By February 2019, all requests for review of VA decisions will be processed under the new, multi-lane process. The initiative allows participants to have their decisions reviewed in the Higher-Level or Supplemental Claim review lanes outlined in the law. Veterans who disagree with the decisions they receive in RAMP can appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Veterans Corner is submitted by Bart Barton, State VP for Veteran Affairs and the State AFA Representative to the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veteran Service Organizations. For questions about the JLC or to make input, contact Tom Wozniak [wozniakTA@cox.net](mailto:wozniakTA@cox.net) or Gabriel Chapter VP for Veterans Affairs, Bob Austin at [bob.austin@afa-gabriel.org](mailto:bob.austin@afa-gabriel.org) .

## 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](mailto:afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org)

## Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors

### Chapter Corporate Sponsors

In recognition of designation at the Bronze-Level, Chapter Corporate Sponsors 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](http://afa-gabriel.org)
- Invitations to all Chapter events and Chapter membership meetings



### Gabriel Chapter Bronze Level Sponsors

**Technica®**



In addition, Silver-Level Sponsors receive:

- One reserved seat at monthly membership luncheons

Gold-level sponsors receive:

- Two reserved seats at monthly membership luncheons

Platinum-level sponsors are recognized with:

- Four reserved seats at monthly membership luncheons



### Gabriel Chapter Silver Level Sponsors

**CSRA**

**DSA**  
Employee-Owned, Mission-Driven

**TRACE**  
SYSTEMS

If you would like more information on the Gabriel Chapter Corporate Sponsor program, contact [afa\\_gabriel\\_chapter@afa-gabriel.org](mailto:afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org)



### Gabriel Chapter Platinum Sponsor

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Mission Systems

### Gabriel Chapter Community Partners

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.



**South Riding**  
COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY



## Chapter Finances

Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Dallas Kennedy, reports on the Chapter's Finances:

### Chapter Financial Activity

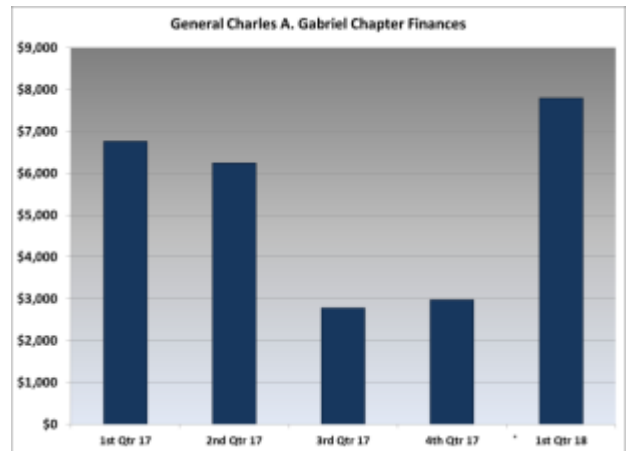
*\*Current values are as of date of newsletter publication\**

#### Inflow:

- Chapter Membership Meetings
- Chapter Sponsors and Community Partners

#### Outflow:

- Chapter Membership Meetings
- New Chapter Presentation Coins
- Administrative Expenses





## Gabriel Chapter Top Ten Tips for Recruiting and Retaining Members

The General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter has been recognized for a successful retention program. AFA Field Operations asked Chapter President Joe Burke for his secrets to success. Here are ten tips that Joe shared with our AFA National Field Operations Staff. How has the Chapter been so successful at growing new members and retaining existing members? Joe said, "My usual answer is that there is no magic to retention, that it just takes some commitment and to remember it's a contact sport."

Here are the Gabriel Top Ten Tips for Retention:

1. **Chapter Programs and Events That Offer Value to Members** - People join the Association for different reasons and have varying interests in AFA programs. Retention starts with running balanced Chapter programs that advance the AFA mission -- Advocating for Airpower, developing Aerospace Education and supporting Airmen and Families – while offering "something for everyone." Our membership events bring active duty and reserve component speakers who present on topics that serve the AFA mission. We have at least one Chapter social event a year and we run monthly meetings in different locations throughout our AOR to make it easier for members to attend.
2. **Communicate with our Membership.** We have a great communications team with VP for Communications, Jack Diamond, and VP for Social Media, Sam Shelton. Every week we notify members about upcoming Chapter events through our Quarterly Newsletter, Chapter website, Facebook page, and Constant Contact email notifications.
3. **Reach Out to First Year Members and Transfers** – We download the Chapter membership roster monthly (or whenever it's updated by national) and contact new members to make sure they know we are their Chapter and are ready to help them get active in our Association.
4. **Don't Take Attendance** -- We understand that they can't get to some or even most of our events due to active duty, work or family commitments. We make it clear that if they can participate in only one of our events, they are still making a difference. Even for our Executive Committee Members, we consider participation voluntary – whatever time they can commit is valued and appreciated.
5. **Track Status with AFA Provided Reports** - We download our Roster from the AFA website when it is updated around mid-month. The Update Roster lists all members who are coming up for renewal or whose memberships are expiring. The roster also tells us whether or not a member we previously contacted about re-upping has actually renewed his or her membership.
6. **Watch the AFA Retention Training Module** - The Retention training module on the AFA website goes through the entire process, including the how to use the rosters for Chapter retention.
7. **Assign a Chapter Lead for Membership** – Our Chapter VP for Membership is currently vacant. Nevertheless, one person needs to lead the Retention effort. So our Chapter President has stepped in, assisted by other Executive Committee (EXCOM) members. The Chapter President owns and leads our program. It takes a group of people to implement, but one person is responsible.
8. **Retention is a Contact Sport** – We personally contact each member. Usually the member has already been contacted by AFA National, with letters and emails. We assign a real person to reach out with personal contact – by telephone or email -- to each member who is up for renewal.
9. **Retention is Also a Team Sport** – Whenever possible; we make sure that the person who recruited the member, or who knows him or her best, reaches out to make the contact. For all others, we divvy up the list among the EXCOM. In the end, an assigned sponsor (retention committee or a member who knows them) contacts the member and provides that personal touch.
10. **Follow-up** – Every month our VP for Membership audits the membership roster to see who renewed. We follow-up with any disconnects and confirm the member's status. Sometimes a member confirms that they renewed their membership even though they do not show up on the roster. So we have to call AFA HQ membership and resolve the issue. AFA HQ is always ready to assist us!



## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Association is proud to announce that we are furthering our partnership with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to promote aerospace education and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers.

"The partnership between AFA and CAP offers a great opportunity for members from both organizations to stay connected and advocate for the future of our Air Force," said General Larry Spencer, AFA President. "Education is one of AFA's top priorities, and we believe this relationship supports that mission by granting our members access to invaluable information on the rich history of our great Air Force."

As a thank you to AFA members, CAP is extending a special opportunity for AFA members to become involved as "Friends of CAP" for \$15 instead of the usual \$35 cost. AFA "Friends of CAP" pay \$15 as a tax deductible gift to further support Civil Air Patrol without volunteer membership obligations. Friends will receive the Civil Air Patrol magazine twice a year, as well as periodic emails with updates from the national staff and development office. Friends are also eligible to take advantage of member benefits and discounts. To become an AFA Friend of CAP [click here](#) and use discount code AFACAP on page two of the online form.

If you know of any CAP members who are not currently AFA members, please encourage them to join AFA at a special price for new CAP members. [Click here](#) for more info.

We look forward to partnering with CAP and working together to promote aerospace education and a dominate Air Force.



**Air Force Association**  
1501 Lee Highway Arlington, VA 22209-1198  
[AFA.org](http://AFA.org)

Phone 703-247-5800  
Toll Free 800-727-3337

## 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).

Executive Committee		
President Emeritus	Gen (Ret.) Ralph "Ed" Eberhart	
President	Joe Burke	<a href="mailto:Joe.Burke@afa-gabriel.org">Joe.Burke@afa-gabriel.org</a>
Vice President	Mike Winters	<a href="mailto:Michael.Winters@afa-gabriel.org">Michael.Winters@afa-gabriel.org</a>
Treasurer	Dallas Kennedy	<a href="mailto:John.Kennedy@afa-gabriel.org">John.Kennedy@afa-gabriel.org</a>
Secretary	Jack Diamond	<a href="mailto:John.Diamond@afa-gabriel.org">John.Diamond@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Aerospace Education	Lisa Richter	<a href="mailto:L.D.Richter@afa-gabriel.org">L.D.Richter@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Airmen and Family Programs/Wounded Airmen	VACANT	
VP Awards and Recognition	VACANT	
VP Communications	Samantha Shelton	<a href="mailto:Samantha.shelton@afa-gabriel.org">Samantha.shelton@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Community Partners	Ron Cournoyer	<a href="mailto:Ron.Cournoyer@afa-gabriel.org">Ron.Cournoyer@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Events	VACANT	
VP Government Affairs	Lee Rizzo	<a href="mailto:Lee.Rizzo@afa-gabriel.org">Lee.Rizzo@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Leadership Development	VACANT	
VP Membership	VACANT	
VP Military Affairs	Heather Celano	<a href="mailto:Heather.Celano@afa-gabriel.org">Heather.Celano@afa-gabriel.org</a>
VP Veterans Affairs	Robert Austin	<a href="mailto:Robert.Austin@afa-gabriel.org">Robert.Austin@afa-gabriel.org</a>
Webmaster	Filip DaSilva	<a href="mailto:Filip.Dasilva@afa-gabriel.org">Filip.Dasilva@afa-gabriel.org</a>

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