



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

September 2019 Newsline

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## Field Operations Update

There is nothing more exciting than our National Convention and Air Space & Cyber Conference week. This is the time as Jimmy Doolittle once said "...to bring the gang together". Our Convention is being held exactly 72 years to the day as our first Convention in Columbus, Ohio. James Straubel in *Crusade for Airpower* describes it this way:

*"It was a huge reunion of people from all walks of life, some of them designated delegates representing wings and squadrons of the Association, but most were just members with a common bond-service in the Army Air Forces. They had taken a couple of days off from work and paid their own way (some hitch-hiked) to this Ohio city to see what this Air Force Association was all about. Altogether, 1,502 registered for Convention."*

We don't have nearly that many registered this year, but I am delighted to report that for the first time in several years our delegate count is trending up! In our April Newsline I challenged us to stop the downward delegate trend and hit the 200 delegate number, folks we are almost there! I can't wait till the credentials report on Saturday. We could exceed 200 delegates!

You are not coming because I asked you to; you are coming because we are doing everything we can to add value and make you want to be there. We read last years surveys and our Region Presidents polled our leaders to learn what was important to you. Although we couldn't act on every suggestion, we are rolling out many. Our Doolittle staff has jumped through

hoops to give us a great Convention line up!

New this year are 8 breakout Workshops on Saturday morning just before the Convention kicks off. If you can attend, there will be two sessions of four breakout workshops. The workshops are:

**10:00 am -10:50 am Saturday, September 14**

- Aerospace Education Workshop – Location *Chesapeake 1*
- AFA Development Initiatives – Location *Chesapeake A*
- Doolittle Leadership Center – Location *Chesapeake 2*
- AFA Membership Growth - Location –*Chesapeake F*

**11:00 am -11:50 am Saturday, September 14**

- Advocacy Panel – Location *Chesapeake 2*
- STEM Workshop – Location *Chesapeake 1*
- Chapter Websites – Location *Chesapeake F*
- Leadership Development – Location *Chesapeake A*

The link to sign up for the Workshops is [here](#).

I do hope you can take advantage of several of these workshops. The IT team will also be available to answer your questions and provide hands on help.

During these Workshops the Spouses Breakfast Meet & Greet is back and will offer our spouses and significant others an opportunity to get together at Pienza at National Harbor. There is no cost to attend but registration is [required](#). They are also planning a day trip to Old Town Alexandria while we address the business of our Convention. If you have a spouse or significant other who is interested in this day trip, please contact Louise Wilson at [lmw@thejonesfamily.org](mailto:lmw@thejonesfamily.org).

New this year – if you are registered for the Convention as a Delegate – we will not be distributing Delegate Kits as in years past. Only the Head of Delegation for each State will receive a Head of Delegation Kit. All read ahead materials to assist in preparing for the Convention have been posted on the AFA website [here](#) for your review and reference.

We will conduct our AFA Memorial Service on Saturday afternoon, at the beginning of the Convention and have a contested election for 2 at large Directors with 4 very qualified Field

Leaders nominated. We will welcome a new Chairman of the Board and recognize our departing Chairman. You will hear from our new AFA President and meet our new EVP. Our keynote Convention speaker is our 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Kaleth O. Wright.

Saturday night is our Annual Awards Dinner to recognize the best of the best followed by your Regional Caucuses. On Sunday, there are two special events. The first is the USAF Memorial at the National Cathedral followed by a special screening of “The Last Full Measure” movie prior to its National release in October. This movie tells the story of how William Pitsenbarger was awarded our nation's highest honor some 35 years after his death. Not only is this a great event for us to get together but we have raised close to \$5,000 for our Aerospace Education programs. If you haven't already and wish to attend the movie, please register [here](#).

All these things are happening because you asked for them. We read your surveys and are taking action where we can. I encourage you all to complete the survey you'll receive right after the Convention, tell us what works and what doesn't, and we will do our best to make our Convention a better experience for you next year and in the years to come!

I am happy so many of you decided to come to the Convention. Let's be sure to take advantage of all the networking opportunities we will have with each other. We will talk and share ideas and my hope is that next year more of you will come to see what this Air Force Association is all about! Still, 72 years later, it's about a reunion of people from all walks of life coming together with a common bond – a love of our Air Force and our entire Air Force family.

Looking forward to seeing so many of you this week!

Thank you for your leadership and for everything you do each and every day for our Association.

Mac

Vice Chairman of the Board – Field Operations

*#JoinTheFight #AirmanForLife*

*Instagram: @boxrider56*

*Twitter: @VCOB\_Field*

*Facebook: @Mac MacAloon*



## Field Spotlight

Orville Wright and Doug Raaberg had the privilege of presenting a letter from Acting SECAF Matt Donovan to one of our WWII heroes, Col Floyd Haywood USAF (Ret) who celebrated his 100th birthday last month with his neighbors, family and friends.

Colonel Haywood led fifty B24 missions, including raids on Ploesti during WWII, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After WWII he served a career in our USAF, including B52 wing command. Floyd's exemplary leadership, dedication and courage in service to our Nation, Army Air Corp and U.S. Air Force is an example to all members of AFA.

## AFA's 2019 National Convention and Air, Space & Cyber Conference

As you know, our 2019 AFA National Convention, held in National Harbor, MD at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center, is just a few days away! We are looking forward to another fun, exciting, and busy weekend. National Convention is held on September 14-15. A full delegate agenda can be found [here](#). If you are planning on being a delegate and have not yet done so, please register as soon as possible. You can register [here](#) via the AFA Convention Delegate or Attendee option. Remember that you must be listed on your state's delegate roster to be an official delegate, so please be sure to coordinate through your State President. Again, this year we will have table assignments for our Saturday night Field Awards Dinner. Your table assignment will be printed on the dinner ticket you receive during registration check-in. Our Air, Space & Cyber Conference will begin on Monday, September 16, and runs through Wednesday, September 18. A full conference agenda can be found [here](#).

## What's New with WAP?

**Eat Good Do Good – September 24**

AFA's Wounded Airman Program (WAP) signed on a new restaurant partner as part of a new initiative being rolled out – *Eat Good Do Good*. This unique partnership includes kickbacks on lunch and dinner proceeds from restaurants to AFA's WAP, and our goal is to obtain one partner per month. This month's partner is Vola's Dockside Grill in Alexandria, Virginia! When people eat at Vola's Dockside Grill, order to go, or buy gift cards on **Tuesday, September 24** and mention AFA's WAP, the program will receive a portion of the proceeds to support our wounded heroes during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We are asking that you help us spread the word to friends, neighbors, family, DC, MD, and VA locals, community partners and more. We will have the official flyer with details to send soon. We are excited for this new opportunity and hope all of you will support this effort for our Wounded Airmen and their families!

#### **Airmen Taking Care of Airmen Shirts for Purchase**

Help us, help them! Our Wounded Airmen need our support. If you are not in the area to attend *Eat Good Do Good* with Vola's Dockside Grill, another opportunity for you to support is by purchasing a \$20 Airmen Taking Care of Airmen shirt today in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Your support makes a difference and every dollar helps us change and save more lives!

It is always a great time to get involved with AFA's Wounded Airman Program! For more information or to find out how you can help contact [AFAWAP@afa.org](mailto:AFAWAP@afa.org).



MSgt Melissa Martinez, a Team Air Force athlete, participates in the Shot Put at the 2019 DoD Warrior Games.

### **New AFA Merchandise is In!**

Thin micro poly socks featuring AFA logo, P-51 Mustang, F-86 Sabre, and F-35 Lightning II. Visit the [AFA Store](#) today or come by the Hangar Store during the National Convention and ASC:

**Saturday, Sept. 14 9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Sunday, Sept. 15 9:00 am - 2:30 pm**

**Monday, Sept 16 7:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Tuesday, Sept 17 7:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**Wednesday, Sept 18 7:30 am - 2:30 pm**

You can find the Hangar Store outside Potomac C Ballroom.

## **Pitsenbarger Awards Open October 1**

AFA will begin accepting fall applications for the Pitsenbarger Award on October 1. CCAF graduates planning to pursue a bachelor's degree are eligible to receive a \$400 cash award and complimentary one year e-Membership. Chapters are encouraged to coordinate with the bases in their area to present the award to these outstanding Airmen. Additional information and the application can be found [here](#).

## **AEC Updates**

Hot off the press - [Aerospace Education Newsletter](#) - Third Quarter 2019

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