

**OUR COMMUNITY
PARTNER
SCHOOLS ARE SPECIAL!**

CRYSTAL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MIRAMAR HIGH SCHOOL

**OUR COMMUNITY
PARTNERS
ARE SPECIAL!**

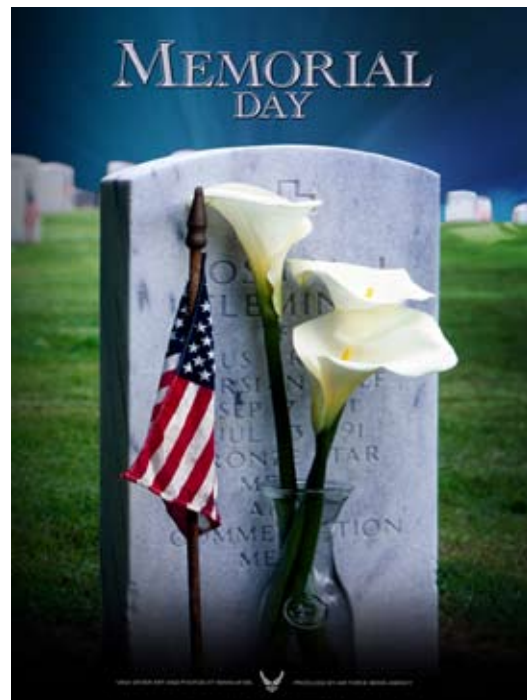
PRECISION TUNE
Coral Springs, FL

SHELLY PITTLEMAN
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

BANYAN AIR SERVICE
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

UNIQUE CLEANERS
Coral Springs, FL

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
GOLD COAST CHAPTER #351
P.O. BOX 5846
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33310-5846



**Remembering The Air Force Fallen
This Holiday**

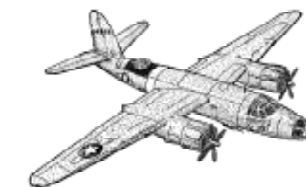
A1C Elizabeth Jacobson, 2005
TSgt Timothy Weiner, 2007

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
FT. LAUDERDALE
PERMIT NO. 803



*AFA Recognizes the
60th Anniversary of
the Air Force*

THE MARAUDER



President – LTCOL Harvery Bennett – 561-733-2234 – fxepilot@aol.com
VP – Ran Meriam, 954-575-1069 – Warhawk10@bellsouth.net
Secretary – Virginia Montalvo – 954-776-6426 – cap.vsm@juno.com
Treasurer – Joe Roberts – 954-434-7317 – virjoer@hotmail.com

WWW.GOLDCOAST351.ORG
WWW.AFAFLORIDA.ORG
WWW.AFA.ORG

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 26, 2008 Gold Coast Dinner

4th July
C.G. Station Miami – cookout

July 11-13
AFA FLORIDA CONVENTION
Golf on Fri; meeting all day Sat.
Cocoa Beach, Fl.
www.afaflorida.org

Sept. 13-17
AFA Convention
Washington, D.C. AFA.ORG

Sept.
Air Force Birthday Ball
SOUTHCOM

Nov. 6-11
“Vietnam Wall” – Univ of Miami
FREE-Miami Chapter sponsor

JULY 26th, 2008 DINNER PROGRAM

Please join fellow Gold Coast Chapter members to enjoy an evening of socializing, dinner and the opportunity to hear from an excellent speaker. We will have the pleasure of Col. Allen West, an expert on Afghanistan and Iraq, speak to us on the Global War on Terrorism. We seek as many of our members from all four of our chapter's counties for this very promising evening event.

WHERE: Duffy's Sports Grille; 6545 Boynton Beach Blvd.; Palm Beach County

WHEN: Saturday night at 6 pm on July 26th, 2008.

COST: \$20.00 per person

FOR RESERVATIONS: Please send your check to Pearl Feldman at 9920 Malvern drive in Tamarac, FL 33321. Her email is pearlwva@aol.com and phone is 954-720-0311. Make check payable to AFA Gold Coast Chapter 351. Please make your reservation and have your check to Pearl no later than July 23rd.

DIRECTIONS: I-95 to Boynton Beach Blvd, then west to Duffy's at the corner of Jog Road. From the Florida Turnpike, exit at Boynton Beach Blvd, then east to Duffy's.

We expect a solid response for this event, so make your reservation early.

Special thanks to those members who contributed to our solicitation request as it appeared in the last issue of the “Marauder.” So far, we received over \$900.00. There is still time for those who wish to contribute.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAY 2008

For quite a number of years, our chapter has been working very hard to have the F-86 repaired and remounted at Holiday Park in Fort Lauderdale. As recently as last October, Ran Meriam and I met at City Hall with city personnel to determine the status of F-86. We were assured that the project would be expedited. This did not happen.

We even met with the mayor in January and were assured that the city could allocate money out of their aviation budget. We attempted to relocate the F-86 from Holiday Park to Ft. Lauderdale Executive airport (FXE). In the end, it was decided that the F-86 should remain at Holiday Park.

On March 14, 2008, we again met at City Hall with their staff personnel. We learned that, finally, a project manager had been assigned to the project. His name is Frank L. Bellissimo, engineering design manager for the city. We all agreed upon specific time frames for the repair, remounting and layout by the City's consultant firm.

When the first target date came on May first, I phoned Frank for a status report. No reply. Last week I repeatedly left messages for Frank to call me. When he finally did call me, I asked for a progress report.

He said, "The private consultant was sick"... "...The request for quotation (RFQ) hadn't been received for the airframe repair or the pedestal." I asked if he had called any of these people. His answer was, "No, I'm waiting for them to get back to me." My response was, "You are the project manager. It is up to you to manage and expedite these items." His response was, "I'll see what I can find out." "When?", I asked. "Next week." He said.

We took immediate action and made an appointment for Ran and I to meet with Frank's manager on Friday, May 30th. I'll keep you all apprised.

As a member of both Broward Navy Days and Navy League, I was invited to ride the aircraft carrier, Iwo Jima from Norfolk, VA to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. This is an attack transport carrier that houses hover craft within the hull. It then transports Marines ashore. The carrier acts as a platform for attack helicopters carrying Marines into battle. To my surprise, Fran Shaw, our S.E. FL area VP and Walt Houghton were also aboard amongst over 80 invited guests. "Flight Ops" consisted of "touch and go" practice landings and take offs throughout our voyage. The ship arrived at the "Port" Sunday evening with a dramatic manning of sailors and officers lined along the perimeter of the ship.

"Navy Days" celebrations followed throughout the rest of the week. Destroyers, cruisers and submarines were the focal point for everyone. Fran and VP Ran Meriam, acted as hosts and vehicle guides for sailors visiting various children's hospitals. Rear Admiral Dan Holloway made an unexpected appearance which captivated the hearts of all the young children.

On Saturday, May 10, our chapter visited "Fantasy of Flight" in Polk City, FL. The historical display of aircraft ranging from the Kitty Hawk era to the present, was unbelievable. Milt Markowitz and I had fun on the bus by soliciting and signing up three new chapter members. This great trip was all made possible through the tireless efforts of the following people:

1. Loretta Young, "Transportation Specialist"
2. Virginia Montalvo, "Fantasy of Flight coordinator"
3. Virginia Knudsen, "Flight (bus) Attendant"

Our heartfelt thanks go to our hard working chapter members.

We urge you all to attend the following forthcoming events:

1. Our State Convention at Cape Canaveral, FL on Friday, July 11 and Saturday, July 12, '08.
2. Our National Convention on Saturday, September 13, '08 and will conclude on Wednesday 17th. It will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C.



Ran Meriam, GC VP and AFA FL Sec; Fran Shaw, AFA SE Area VP; and Rear Admiral Dan Holloway, Cdr., Carrier Strike Group 12, aboard the USS Iwo Jima for the Fleet Week 2008 reception.

GOLD COAST PARTICIPATES IN FLEETWEEK

Fran Shaw was the coordinator for the COMREL activities for the Fleet Week ships and found volunteers to act as escorts for the vans or buses taking Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen to schools, hospitals or Habitat for Humanity. When the call went out for volunteers, Ran stepped up to the plate not once but two days. He was the escort to Chris Everett Children's Pediatric Wing of the Broward General Hospital and then again he went to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital with a van of sailors the next day. RADM Holloway visited Joe DiMaggio Hospital also. AFA was well represented during Fleet Week!



Fran Shaw, Charlie Wood, Lt. Gil Nelson, USMC, GC Pres. Harvey Bennett, Mike Cozzens, President Business Systems, onboard the USS IWO JIMA. The group had the privilege of riding down from Norfolk to Ft. Lauderdale on the Iwo Jima arriving for the beginning of Fleet Week 2008.



Ran Meriam, Gold Coast Chapter VP and State Secretary, awards the Air Force Association Medal to Cadet Colonel Kevin Ives at the Northeast High School AFJrROTC Awards Program Wednesday night, April 30th. Kevin is a senior and will be continuing his studies at FAU in the fall.



Cadet Casey Martin receives the AFA BRONZE MEDAL LEADERSHIP AWARD - CRYSTAL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL. Pictured with 1st Lt. Martin is CAP Major Kathy, CAP UNIT COMMANDER.

Presented May 28, 2008 at the awards ceremony at the school by AFA FL AREA VP, Fran Shaw. Cadet Martin also received his 1st Lt. bars at the ceremony. This is a rarity for a Cadet to make Lt. while still in middle school.

