

THE MARAUDER

Gold Coast Chapter 351 Quarterly Newsletter



DECEMBER 2011

President: Virginia Montalvo

<http://goldcoast351.org/news.htm>

MISSION The Air Force Association educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense; and supports the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family and aerospace education.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: To update your email address or Unsubscribe please email: mnauheimer@afa.org

President's Message

Greetings: 2012...another year for the Air Force Association to continue its good work; carrying out the all important mission of fighting for Airpower –for our nation, for our airmen and their families.

Looking back, we have seen the Air Force Association create the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program, recognizing outstanding airmen who have served our country exceptionally well. Did you know that the AFA came up with the idea to build the Air Force Memorial? And it was the Air Force Association through the AFA Foundation that raised private funds to build that outstanding Memorial. The Air Force Association has also established the Community College of the Air Force funding scholarship and grants for spouses and family members of our Airmen to continue their education. On Capital Hill, the Air Force Association fights an up-hill battle especially in this economy for equitable pay and benefits for those in the Air Force. And who else but the AFA would focus on Airpower-necessary for our national defense.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to continue to support the Air Force Association as it continues to support its mission of “educating the public about the importance of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocating aerospace power and a strong defense; and supporting the Air Force, its family and aerospace education.”

In this newsletter there is an item from the AFA National President Mike Dunn. There, you will see a website where you can see the AFA goals set forth for 2012. It is detailed, for example, Veteran Committee Goals include benefits, educational program upgrades and sustained health care. Please, look up the site and see for yourself what the Air Force is planning for 2012 and see how beneficial it is and will be to maintain your membership in the AFA. **Remember there is strength in numbers.**

We encourage you to join us at the council meetings and bring your ideas on how to increase the membership.

Excelsior! Virginia Montalvo

***SAVE THESE DATES:**

January 11, Gold Coast Council meeting at Banyan Bldg at Ft Lauderdale Executive Airport ; 1PM

January 28: Challenge Air at FXE, warhawk10@bellsouth.net for information

January 28 & 29, Wings of Freedom, WWII B17 & B24 visit; Boca Airport Mark84@att.net

February 3-6: Wings of Freedom, FXE

Flyer on website; warhawk10@bellsouth.net

February 15 Council Meeting at FXE; 1PM

March TBA; Bus Trip to US Seal Museum

Note from AFA National President: AFA members, many of you don't know the great work AFA does for you on the Hill – both in support of the Air Force and for you personally. One way we do this is to coordinate our Hill efforts with other veterans groups. We call this the Military Coalition, and we collectively represent about 5.5 million veterans.

Every year in the fall we hash out goals for the upcoming year. Sometimes we cannot agree; sometimes one or more groups “opt out” of a specific goal. We have put the 2012 goals on our website <http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/WashingtonPerspective/goals2012.asp> Take a moment to scroll through them to see what we are trying to achieve. If you have any thoughts on them, send them to me. Thanks, in advance.

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO Air Force Association

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2011



By Fran Shaw, SE Area VP

Wreaths Across America is a national, annual event of the sponsoring and placing of holiday wreaths on the graves site of our veterans during the second Saturday of December.

AFA Gold Coast Chapter members again this year organized a beautiful ceremony and with the help of many, many volunteers placed 1600 wreaths on the veterans' graves sites at the South Florida Veterans National Cemetery in Lake Worth, FL. on December 10.

GC President Virginia Montalvo and members, Loretta Young and Virginia Knudsen were instrumental in coordinating the South Florida WAA event beginning with the opening of the SF Veterans National Cemetery five years ago. At that time there were fewer than fifty people in attendance

This year there were over 200 guests present for the ceremony, including Congressman Alan West who spoke briefly and an aide from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schult office read her greetings. Mr. William Kling, president of the Broward Veterans' Council was the main speaker. A representative from each of military branch were called to the podium where a CAP escort presented a wreath to the person and both walked to the flagpole and placed a wreath on a stand.

It is a very moving ceremony and a wonderful way to honor our veterans. ■



Veterans of the Korean War (KWVA); the stoutest supporters of the Wreaths Across America Event since its inception in South Florida, once again volunteered to place wreaths on gravesites to honor those who have fallen.

Bob, Bob & all you wonderful men –you are not forgotten nor is your military service in Korea to our great nation forgotten. Thank You. VSM

National World War II Museum New Orleans, LA

By Ran Meriam

Some or many of you may have been to this wonderful facility or perhaps not. It was conceived by the late noted historian Stephen Ambrose in 1991 and was opened appropriately on the 56th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2000. Sadly, Dr. Ambrose died October 13, 2002 of lung cancer at the too-young age of 66.

I had made plans to meet my son coming down from his home in Columbus, Ohio and a former college roommate coming in from Scottsdale, Arizona, and we would then enjoy the museum's 70th Commemoration of Pearl Harbor, beginning Wednesday, December 7th. This museum, as its name implies, focuses solely on World War II.

The only airplanes currently displayed are an iconic Douglas DC-3 (C-47 Skytrain) and a Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber. The Skytrain was built in Oklahoma City and delivered in 1944 in time to participate in the D-Day landings. Of course there are several Higgins boats which played such a pivotal role in the Marine landings throughout the Pacific War and many other displays of smaller guns and other weaponry. Andrew Jackson Higgins had his factories in New Orleans and had as many as 30,000 employees there in the busy war years producing thousands of landing craft of various designations. This is one of the main reasons Ambrose wanted the museum placed in New Orleans. What one largely finds there are well-authored narratives and smaller examples of the total war that was WWII. This museum is recognized as the finest museum in the US to cover this topic.

What is truly remarkable, in my opinion, is that this museum has over 130,000 members. Dues are no less than \$35 per year and many of us send in far more than that as regular members. If one argues each member pays no less than \$50 and that represents no less than \$6.5 million coming to the National WWII Museum per year from memberships alone. And beyond that healthy revenue flow, there are the donations, grants, etc.

Currently, the facility has two main buildings. First is the original building, called the Louisiana Pavilion. This is where all the war information and displays are sited. The second large building erected to date is the Victory Theatre Pavilion. In this building is a giant screen on which a wonderful film called Beyond All Boundaries is shown. Also in this facility are the Stage Door Canteen and the American Sector Restaurant.

The next building to be coming on line is the United States Freedom Pavilion and about a third of its prospective \$34 million cost is furnished by Boeing. It is scheduled for completion in 12/12.

One of the most charming aspects of this establishment is the Victory Belles. The museum has no less than 5 3-person teams attired in early 40's cloths. These beautiful gals are a huge favorite as they sing and dance in the main museum or at the Stage Door Canteen or in the course of outreach efforts.

As one would surmise, the calendar of events there is full. We were there three days in a row and there were constant activities ongoing in the Louisiana Pavilion. I highly recommend visiting this museum. When you do, allow yourself no less than a full day or more to enjoy all it has to offer.

Look for FLYER announcing our Chapter's bus trip to the US Seal's Musuem in Ft Pierce.

A MUST READ-You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle, somewhere in the Cenral Highlands of Viet Nam. It's November 11, 1967-LZ X-ray. Your unit is outnumbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away that the CO has ordered that MedEvac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,00 miles away and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then- over the machine gun noise- you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in, But...it doesn't seem real because no MedEvac markings are on it.

Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you.

He's not MedEvac so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway. Even after the MedEvac were ordered not to come, he's coming anyway. And he drops it in sites there in the machine gun fire as they load 3 of you aat a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety.

And he kept coming back! 13 more times. He came until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over the the captain had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm. He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey.

MEDAL of HONOR Recipient, Captain Ed Freeman United States Air Force, died Wednesday at the age of seventy in Boise, Idaho. December 2011

May God Bless and Rest his Soul.

WHO'S WHO – Each quarter we will endeavor to spotlight one of our members. This quarter please meet USAF Veteran Gerald David Rennart: Born Bronx, New York City, Graduated William HowardTaft High School, 1952.

I am a Korean Veteran-enlisted U.S Air Force.'52-56; Reserves until 1960. Assigned to Air Rescue Service with the 7th Pacific Fleet for Special Operations and to Navy Task 7th Fleet Force South Pacific.

I witnessed the Operation Castle (Bravo), (Big Boy). I was one of 1999 other witnesses to the 1st Hydrogen Bomb explosion; the largest nuclear detonation in the world
I am a Nuclear Radiation & Ionization Veteran and belong to Natl. Nuclear Veterans' Association
I Always tell other's I glow at night!

I moved to South Florida in 1966. Worked in Corporate Companies until retirement
Currently, I belong to many civic and military organizations, including Broward Veteran's Council and the American Legion Post365 in Sunrise where I am the Vice Commander. My recent training has certified me as a VA Post Service Officer. Recently I was appointed as the Gold Coast Chapter Membership VP for 2012.

I have loved flying since I was a kid. I joined CAP and attended meetings on Long Island, New York. One day, I signed my mother's signature to fly in an L-19 Piper. Boy, was I punished! That first flying experience fed my desire to be a pilot. My mentor during those days was my best buddy's brother- a pilot in the USMC.

When the opportunity arose, I took flying lessons and became a Certified Private Pilot. 1968
Purchased and owned a Cardinal 177 in 1969. I flew and logged in approximately 7500 hours before I sold my plane.

I have always been proud of my years in the United States Air Force. Proud to serve my country& a proud Veteran!

“Education continues to be a vital part of AFA’s mission and we urge continued attention to the future need for STEM professionals by government, industry, and AFA’s peer organizations. AFA remains vigilant and active in advocating for education programs that focus on the promotion of STEM studies, such as DOD STARBASE, grants and scholarships, Visions of Exploration, CyberPatriot, and others.”

Quote from AFA National President's, Message

Vet of the year award, surprise!

Many people may have forgot about his time in the U.S.Army. He is the son of an Air Force General, and a accomplished Golden Gloves boxer, and he graduated from Pomona College with a B.S. degree, and then became a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University. He joined the U.S. Army at the prompting of his father.

After graduating from Officer Candidate School he attended and graduated from both Army Airborne and Ranger training in the very top of each class. He was selected for U. S. Army Special Forces Training but refused so that he could attend pilot training where he earned his wings, and became an accomplished U.S. Army helicopter (gun ship) pilot, and achieved the rank of Captain. He was about to be promoted to the rank of Major, and appointed to teach at West Point when he resigned his commission from the Army to go into music and acting. You can tell in this video that his time in the military means a lot to him.

I won't give away who it is. You should just watch. I bet you will be surprised!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU-A7eqadho&feature=related>

Congratulations to the twelve Gold Coast CyberPatriot teams registered for 2012.

Army JROTC Atlantic Community School, Delray; JROTC Boca Raton Community, Boca; CAP Composite Squadron, Boca; AFJROTC Coral Springs High, Coral Springs; Public School- Coral Springs High, Coral Springs; Civil Air Patrol Lantana Cadet Squadron, Lantana; AFJROTC Martin County High, Stuart; CAP Miramar High Cadet Squadron, Miramar; CAP N Palm Bch Cadet Sq, Palm Beach Gardens; AFJROTC Northeast High, Ft Lauderdale; Public School-Northeast High, Ft Lauderdale.

We look forward to meeting some of these young people at our next dinner meeting. We hope many of you will join us to personally congratulate them for their efforts in taking the cyber challenge. VSM

Model Aircraft-The chapter has a wholesale account with an aircraft model distributor. We can get you a model of a plane that might have special memories for you or a loved one at less than normal retail cost. Milt Markowitz 561-499-0583 or markf84@att.net

OUR PARTNERS ARE SPECIAL. THEY SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER! PLEASE SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSES!

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