



"Kittyhawk Flyer"



Issue No. 73

November 2016

A Leader and Gentleman for the Ages

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter Senior Advisor

We are deeply saddened with the passing of CMSgt (Ret) Bradford Denham on October 26. He was 75 years old. Chief Denham retired from the Air Force in 1988 after 28 years of service. Later he served as President of Chapter 751 in the early 90s and many of the programs he introduced are still in place today. He is credited with taking the Chapter from one whose small meetings took place in living rooms to the most active professional organization on Wright Patterson AFB. Several years ago, Chapter 751 established the Chief Master Sergeant Bradford Denham Scholarship, awarded to a Community College of the Air Force graduate. In recent years he attended the Chapter 751 Awards Banquet each January to present the NCO of the Year Award. In January 2016, he was awarded the Chapter's Exemplary Service Award.

Former Chapter 751 President, SMSgt (Ret) Chris Stanley, provided the eulogy in the presence of family and friends, including members of the Chief's AFSA family who made the trip to Tennessee.

"Chief Denham," said Stanley, "was an Air Force member who attained the highest enlisted rank; he deserved that (and more) and he was rightfully proud of that.

"I first met Brad Denham in early 1994 after I came to Wright Patterson AFB. He was the President of Chapter 751 and he welcomed me in with open arms. Brad

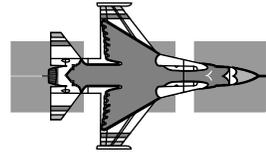


CMSgt (Ret) Brad Denham was eager to attend the Chapter 751 Awards Banquets to present the NCO of the Year award.

was a dynamic Chapter President who took the Chapter from one of mostly retirees (and barely getting by) to one of mostly active duty military. We grew into one of the largest and best Chapters in the Association due primarily to his leadership and the foundation he established.

"I subsequently became the Chapter President and, although Brad was not large in physical stature, I had incredibly large shoes to fill – not to mention huge expectations to live up to."

Chapter 751 was fortunate to call Chief Denham one of our own and he will leave behind a legacy of honor and integrity. Those who were lucky to know him personally will remember him not only as a true gentleman, but also a gentle man full of love; a love of family, friends, his wife of 53 years, Karen, and yes...a love for Chapter 751.



A word from the President...

By SMSgt David McCoy, Chapter President



Membership versus involvement; dispelling a myth or misperception. I have often heard people say that they don't want to become a member because they don't have the time to get involved. Others would ask why they should join

when we were going to keep doing what we are doing whether they are a member or not. And, still others have stated that they wouldn't join while this or that person was at the helm.

First and foremost, being a member is the single most important thing any one of us can do to help to protect our pay and benefits, both now and in the future. Just because we have something like tuition assistance today does not mean that cannot change in the future, as many saw not too long ago. Not only is your membership important but so too is that of any family members over the age of 18 who are eligible. The bottom line is the more members we have, the more Congress will listen to our concerns.

And, that is a great transition to my next point. Although AFSA will continue to do what they have been doing, they can always be more effective with greater numbers. As well, I often argue that taking an apathetic stance on joining is just an excuse not to take direct control over what you have already earned. How can you get better insurance than that? OK, so it won't pay you in the event Congress tries to take away BAH from military to military couples but the more voices we have in our corner, the more we will be heard. One important note on this very topic is that even if you are not impacted by this yourself, I guarantee

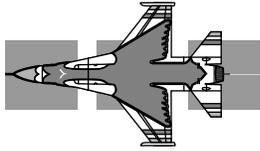
someone with whom you work with or someone you may know is affected. The members in this scenario might be married or they might just be single Airmen trying to save money by rooming together.

OK, so back off the soap box. Now, on to not joining because so and so is in office at any one of the three levels within the association, whether chapter, division, or headquarters. Again, I certainly can understand the sentiment here but cannot understand the logic. Just like with the general elections, why would you not want to have your voice heard? Now, this is not a jab at any of the leaders in AFSA or at a political party, as we are most certainly a non-partisan organization. The point is merely that if it is right to be a member and or to be involved, then it should not matter who is in the seat at the time. The association needs you and so do its members!

One myth to debunk, in my case, was thinking I had to get someone to join before I could get them to a meeting. Even if it took me a decade before going to my first meeting, it may not be representative of how others feel. In fact, it may be just the opposite; that getting someone to come out to a meeting to see for themselves what we do and what we're all about is just exactly the first step.

I cannot say enough about how important and how rewarding it is to be involved with AFSA in general, and Chapter 751 specifically. It is also important to point out that AFSA is not trying to replace any of the other organizations, such as an Airmen's Council, the Rising 6, or the Top III. As a matter of fact, these organizations all serve very specific functions and allow members at each of these levels to accomplish great

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President

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things together in peer-minded environments. AFSA instead seeks your support in unison with these other groups. We bridge the gap. Airman Basic have the same chance as our Chiefs to stand up and be heard. One of the great things about our chapter is that there are countless opportunities for mentoring, leadership, and fraternalism!

Again, being involved and to what degree is entirely up to you and your family members. There are many ways to get involved with AFSA and our chapter, even if you can't make it to a single meeting. You can always contact one of the Executive Council members, look us up on Facebook or on our chapter site, and volunteer in some way. If you are truly looking to be involved, I would encourage you to have a discussion with one of us. We will gladly help you get to the next level. We are here to guide and help everyone to be successful!

AFSA Volunteers Run a Marathon... Hydration Station

By TSgt Dominique Brown, Chapter Member

This year I had the honor of being one of two Hydration Station team captains representing our AFSA Chapter 751. I say honor, because it truly was an honoring and humbling experience.

Being new to the area (I only just moved here in June), I had no idea what to expect, or even what a Hydration Station captain was when I volunteered. Of course, I had heard about the Air Force Marathon previously, but all I really knew was I wanted to get involved and it had something to do with water. Let me just say, there is so much work that goes on behind the scenes. It is truly amazing to experience and be a part of.

Ms. Jeanette Monaghan was the Air Force Marathon coordinator who worked with all the team captains and she truly is

Retiree Appreciation Day

By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Field Operations Chairman

The Wright Patterson Retiree Activities Office hosts a Retiree Appreciation Day each year at the Hope Hotel to recognize, and share information of interest to, all military retirees, spouses, widows and widowers throughout Southwestern Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Eastern Indiana.

This year's event was held on October 28 and featured guest speakers, free medical screenings, refreshments, information booths and door prizes. As in past years, AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751 manned an information table where Chapter volunteers provided membership, organizational, and benefit information to potential and current AFSA members throughout the day. Additionally, guest speaker, MSgt (Ret) Morgan D. Brown, AFSA director of Military and Government Relations, discussed legislative proposals and their impact on military retirees.



A runner speeds by AFSA volunteers after taking a drink during the Air Force Marathon on September 17.

a fountain of knowledge and experience.

*See **Marathon** on Page 6*



Introducing the Airman Activities Coordinators

By A1C Timothy Snead and A1C Chloe Ingram, Airman Activities Coordinators

Hello, A1C Timothy Snead here. I am one of the new Airman Activity Coordinators for AFSA. Just some background: I am from St. Petersburg, Florida, living there my entire life before enlisting in the Air Force. I studied Biotechnology with the hopes of getting into medical research. I thought the military could be a stepping stone towards my certificate since I was in need of some hands on training.

Once I actually joined and went through BMT, I found that the military is much more than what meets the eye! Who would have thought the means behind serving the country had so much weight behind it? Learning this inspired me to become the best Airman I could be so I can serve more and more, aiming higher and higher.

I still want to become a scientist. Hopefully I could do that within the Air Force, but, as of now, I work in the Radiology department under 88 DTS. I enjoy my job, and serving patients completes the cause. I feel like I'm making a difference, and that is a good feeling to have!

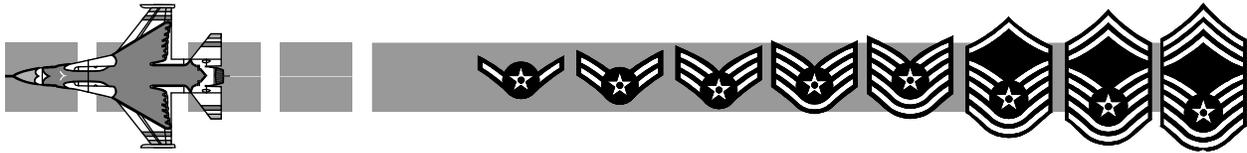
As an Airman Activity Coordinator, I would like to get the Airmen informed about AFSA while giving back to the community and having fun at the same time. I initially joined in hopes of building leadership skills and having a means to volunteer and give back. With this position, I have been able to do these things and many more. I am thankful for the support and to those within the organization, and I'm looking forward to planning more events. It just gets better and better!



Hello! I'm A1C Chloe Ingram, your other AAC for AFSA Chapter 751. A little about me: I was born and raised in a little town in East Texas. I moved to Tennessee when I reached adulthood, met my husband, got some dogs and worked as a waitress and as a full-time student. My husband and I agreed that way of life was really hard for us, so I decided to join the military for free college and better opportunities.

It's been awesome! My only complaint: the snow. How do you Northerners do it??? I currently work at NASIC as a Scientific Analyst.

As an AAC, I am excited to help my peers learn more about the benefits of AFSA as well as spearhead volunteer events and fun activities for Airmen to enjoy!



AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference

By SMSgt David McCoy, Chapter President

The Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC) and International Convention is our best, and sometimes only, opportunity of the year to hear directly from Headquarters AFSA and our very own Air Force leadership. Information about what is directly impacting every Airman in our force, whether an AFSA member or not, is shared and the audience is given the chance to ask questions.

This year was no different. We had the great fortune of again hearing from our International President and the CEO, CMSgts (Ret) Dan Yeomans and Robert Frank, respectively, as well as from our new Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David Goldfein, and CMSgt of the Air Force, CMSgt James Cody.

Additionally, we had many business sessions geared toward updating delegates on what each chairperson is doing with their respective areas, whether it be Membership, Legislative, or Finance, to name a few. Another very important portion of the meetings is to discuss recommended changes to Bylaws.

This year, the big topic of discussion was whether or not to make a change to the Association's name and open membership up to all services with full access and voting rights. As most of you have already heard, both of those recommendations were denied.

In addition to information sharing and conducting meetings, we have a tradition of recognizing the best in our association with several award presentations. Most are conducted during the planned meals with a few more done during the business meetings. Although Chapter 751 did well at the Division 1 convention with our award submissions, we did not take top honors in most categories this year. We did, however, receive one top award and it was for our Membership Chair, SMSgt Joe Dittman, who was recognized with



SrA Jessica Carlton, MSgt Jennifer Rosenbaum and CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia practice a little fraternity at the PAC.

the 2015 Membership Achievement Award for recruiting and retaining efforts. Congratulations Joe!

If you couldn't make it this year, please add it to your calendar and make every attempt to attend next year. The PAC will be held July 22-26, 2017 in Reno, Nevada. Take a peek at the flier for next year at www.hqafsa.org/2017-afsa-convention. You may want to consider bringing the whole family and making a mini vacation out of it as well. In fact, take a few extra days and go visit Lake Tahoe, which is only 36 miles away.





Highway Clean-Up

By A1C Chloe Ingram, Airman Activities Coordinator

Chapter 751 adopted a two-mile chunk of Kaufmann Avenue, and, on October 15, volunteers with AFSA gathered on a brisk Saturday morning to beautify this section of highway. Donuts and orange juice were had, and, beginning in the middle of the section, the volunteers split into two teams, each taking a different path before converging again in the middle: this time with 50 pounds of garbage between them.

Interesting finds ranged from a dirty

diaper to ornaments hanging from trees to roadkill (look but don't touch). Lots of fun was had, and together, the teams helped to keep one of Fairborn's highways beautiful!

The next Highway Cleanup will be next year. To learn more about this program, or to sign up for the next Highway Cleanup, contact A1C Chloe Ingram (937-257-7919) or A1C Timothy Snead (937-257-9464).

Marathon

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The entire marathon staff ensured we had what we needed, when we needed it, and that we were trained properly (Who knew there is a special way to hold a cup??).

Our team of volunteers had to show up at the Hydration Station site by 5:30am to have everything set up and ready to go for the start of the Marathon at 7am; a truly amazing group of people to work with. Everyone showed up energized and ready to go. There was absolutely no complaining about how early it was, and no standing around waiting to be told what to do, they just jumped in and took care of business.

Once the race kicked off, things really got kicking! Seeing the wheelchairs and the runners passing our station, from the very first to the very last, was truly inspiring! Witnessing the blood, sweat, and tears in person really made you realize what these individuals trained so hard for and how much it meant to them. It was extremely touching to be able to be a part of that, especially when the runners went out of their way to thank us.

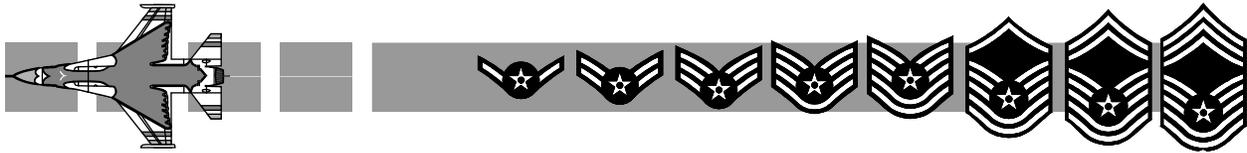
My advice to those who have never volunteered for this event: do it! It is definitely an experience I don't think any

of us will ever forget.

A huge thank you to my co-captain, TSgt Zachary Johnson and our team of volunteers: SrA Ashley Adams, SrA Dominic Anderson, SSgt Amanda Bliablias, SrA Zackery Chenevey, A1C Devin Figures, SrA Lorali Hickson, Lt Victoria Hutzley, Ms Jennifer Johnson (TSgt Johnson's wife), Miss Kiryn McLendon (my daughter), MSgt (Ret) Don Roden, SSgt John Patrick Uy, and TSgt Jason Wilkin. Without all of these individuals our Hydration Station would not have been a success.



Team AFSA gathers before dawn to get their Hydration Station ready before the big race.



Airmen Against Drunk Driving

By A1C Chloe Ingram, Airman Activities Coordinator

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is a volunteer group that dedicates its time to fellow Airmen, acting as a backup plan for Airmen that need a ride home. AADD's goal is to prevent drunk driving; it does not take any personal information or question Airmen that are in need of assistance, so there is no worry of getting in trouble. It's better to call than drive



AADD volunteers pass the time playing games and enjoying pizza while waiting for the next call.

drunk.

AFSA does its part by sponsoring at least one weekend a quarter. Although it is the Sergeant's Association, lending a hand to the Airmen is not outside our scope of practice! Although staying up from 10pm to 3am can seem intimidating, with all the games and food, time flies especially when you're having fun! From Pictionary to Exploding Kittens and Domino's Pizza to Cousin Vinny's Pizza, there are plenty of games and food to keep the night alive.

Updates for the last two quarters: AFSA had a total of 20+ volunteers and received nine calls for pickups. Thank you all for giving back and volunteering to make this possible!

Contact our volunteer coordinators A1C Chloe Ingram (937-257-7919) or A1C Timothy Snead (937-257-9464) for the next volunteer opportunity.

It's Time to Submit Award Nominations!

By SMSgt Steven McCabe, Chapter Trustee

Every year AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751 sponsors awards for Airman, NCO, SNCO, Chapter Member, and Family Member of the Year. We are soliciting one nomination in each category, as applicable, from every squadron-equivalent unit. Winners will be announced at the annual Chapter Awards Banquet on January 21, 2017. Those selected will compete at the AFSA Division level.

We are also soliciting input for Band Member of the Year, Honor Guard Member of the Year, Reservist of the Year, and Recruiter of the Year. These annual awards are unique to Chapter 751 to recognize those serving the Air Force in special capacities.

The overall purpose of AFSA's annual awards is to recognize those who have made significant positive contributions to both their assigned organizations and AFSA.

Guidelines for submitting nominations will be distributed via email no later than November 16, 2016 with submissions due no later than January 6, 2017.

If you would like to join the awards team contact SMSgt Steven McCabe via email at steven.mccabe@us.af.mil.



Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 16 | Thanksgiving Gift Card Distribution Day |
| Dec 3 | Holiday Party at the Dayton VA Medical Center |
| Dec 6 | Chapter Elections |
| Jan 6 | Nominations for Chapter Awards Due |
| Jan 21 | Chapter Awards Banquet |

Chapter 751 Officers

President

SMSgt David McCoy

Vice President

MSgt Jennifer Rosenbaum

Secretary

SrA Jessica Carlton

Treasurer

MSgt Aura Hampton

Trustees

- 1) SMSgt Glenda Marck
- 2) SMSgt Steven McCabe
- 3) TSgt Jason Mann
- 4) TSgt Christopher Revier
- 5) SMSgt Derick Heflin

Airman Activities Coordinators

A1C Chloe Ingram

A1C Timothy Snead

Chaplain

Vacant

Senior Advisor

CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia

Visit the www.AFSA751.org to learn more about Chapter activities.

Email us at AFSA751@yahoo.com

The *Kittyhawk Flyer* is a publication of:
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Chapter 751 Representatives

Membership Co-Chairmen

TSgt Jason Mann

SMSgt (Ret) Christopher Warsitz

Legislative Chairmen

MSgt Derick Heflin

Communications Director

CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia

Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc.

Executive Board Member

TSgt Jason Mann

Field Operations/VAVS Chairman

CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm

Reserve Activities Coordinator

TSgt Michelle Helregel

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General Membership Meetings:
1st Tue of the month, 1130, at the WP Club