

THE MARAUDER

Gold Coast Chapter 351 Quarterly Newsletter



JUNE-SEPT 2015

Pres: V.S. Montalvo CAP.VSM@juno.com

<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: blarson@afa.org

President's Message:

October is Cyber Security Month. And I am happy to report that the AFA's premier program for young people, the CyberPatriot Competition has begun. Our chapter has nine teams signed up and their coaches and mentors are to be commended for stepping up to assist the teams.

AFA has started two new AE/STEM programs. One is an introduction guide to cyber security information for elementary grades; the other is the STELLAREXPLORERS Competition for high schools.

Our Chapter Teacher of the Year selection is under-way and apropos of the current *water on Mars* news, our November luncheon topic is about the MAVEN program: a mission designed to orbit Mars. We are also pulling together a one day trip to NASA's visitors' center in the near future and hope you will join us.

Every year the Gold Coast Chapter sponsors the Wreaths Across America event at the Lake Worth Cemetery. If you would like to purchase a holiday wreath to place on a veteran's gravesite, please look at the last page of this newsletter for an order form.

VSM

SAVE THESE DATES:

Oct 7, Gold Coast Chapter Mtg Banyan Bldg at Ft L Executive Airport; 1PM – all members invited

Nov 7th, Sat. 10:30am-1:30pm; FXE, Banyan Pilot Shop meeting room –Mavin Teacher workshop. Chapter members invited to hear speaker and join us for a box lunch. Please call to make a reservation.

Nov 11, 11 am Veterans' Day-See your city's place & schedule for event

Nov18, Gold Coast Chapter Mtg; 1pm Banyan, FXE

Dec 5, Sat.; Flight 19 Memorial, 1pm; NAS Museum at 4000 W Perimeter Rd in Ft Lauderdale 33315

Dec 14, Sat. AM; Wreaths Across America Ceremony- Lake Worth National Veterans'

Happy Birthday U.S. Air Force!

September 18, 2015 was the 68th birthday of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service. One year prior to that, the Air Force Association was incorporated in Washington (D.C.) at the request of General Hap Arnold. Its main purpose then was to:

1. Promote Air Power
2. To support the cause of a separate Air Force

Among the founding members were Jimmy Doolittle and Jimmy Stewart (yes, the actor).

Fast forward and we are still around, "The Force Behind the Force" Our Mission today is:

1. Educate
2. Advocate
3. Support

There are over 200 local chapters nationally and 14 chapters in Florida. Our membership reached over 100 thousand until recently. Presently the membership stands at approximately 92,000.

These comments were sent, courtesy of Rodrigo Huerta, Lt Col, USAF, (Ret.) and President of the AFA Miami-Hempstead Chapter. He mentioned that he couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than to watch the Air Force Band video at the following link: www.facebook.com/USAFBand/video/1015303971091121/

Aerospace News



Virginia Knudsen is the AFA Gold Coast Chapter and AFA FL State Aerospace Education VP was National (2)Teacher of the Year 2013 and continues as a STEAM Teacher & the Team Leader at Parkway Middle School, Lauderhill, Florida

Ms Knudsen, a "STEM 2 STEAM" Lead Teacher at Parkway Middle School in Lauderhill was a presenter at the South Florida Gifted & Talented Symposium this September 2015. As a STEM teacher, Ms Knudsen takes a technologically intensive approach to collaborative training with peer teachers for inquiry and project based instruction on atmospheric & geological science and meteorology, rocketry, and civil engineering. Ms K's innovative hands-on projects which are always based on the students' research, this year were focused on the students' use of recycling materials for the projects, hence the name, "Art Engineering".

At her breakout sessions, Ms Knudsen introduced one of her class programs: The Global Explorer Program in which her students in teams of four flew their virtual trip around the world using research and resources to identify endangered wildlife, ecosystems and climate change in an ever-changing coastal environment & their resulting art work.

The attending teachers were genuinely interested in the display of art work samples made from recycled materials of Ms K.'s various projects.

Ms Knudsen provided information on working website where educators could get free materials which included Civil Air Patrol and the Air Force Association websites.

FROM MILT MARKOWITZ MEMOIRS:

Our AFA chapter has had a close affiliation with the Women Air Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II for years in our area. When we were putting on Air Shows some time back, they usually had a table set up so that they could help promote their activities along with other groups. More recently, we have coordinated some of our programs with them.

The first time I ever met a WASP was at Harlingen Army Air Field in Harlingen, Texas. It was September of 1944. I had been assigned for training as a co-pilot in the B-24, four engine Liberator bomber. Harlingen was a

gunnery school and the military pilots flying training missions for the gunners were instructor pilots for the new co-pilots. Flying the tow-target planes were WASPS. They flew alongside the bomber, usually in an A-26 Douglas Invader and our gunners fired their machine guns at the targets. Each of the bullets fired from the bomber were painted a different color so that when the target was dropped, the hits by each gunnery student could be scored.

One night at the “O” Club, being 19 years of age and feeling very proud of my status as an Air Corps officer, sporting shiny pilot wings, I approached a very attractive young lady in WASP uniform, and announced that I was flying the B-24. “Oh”, she replied, “I’ve got about 1200 hours in those things”. In those days, we referred to that kind of situation as “...getting shot down.” I suspect it would be the same today.

THE NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES held in Omaha during the month of August this year hosted more than 800 athletes, all veterans. The competition covered track, field, cycling, shuffleboard, horseshoes, golf, swimming, bowling, badminton, dominoes, checkers, table tennis, nine ball and racquetball.. This week long games event is coordinated through the Department of Veterans affairs Recreational Therapy Department. It is open to all veterans over age 55, who use the VA Health care system. Veterans train and fundraise throughout the year to help make their participation possible. The games have an opening start with the lighting of a torch and close with a ceremony just like International Olympic Games. Veterans agree that the many friendships formed during this time are lifelong experiences .



Veteran Loretta Young a member of Gold Coast Chapter 351 received medals in track/1 mile powerwalk, bowling and shotput and discus events. On behalf of her team she sends many thanks to all who supported them.

OUR PARTNERS ARE SPECIAL. THEY SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER!
Please support them

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Wreaths Across America.org™



Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States once said:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States to be free."

On Saturday, December 12, 2015-10am Wreaths Across America™ and the Air Force Association welcome you to sponsor and to participate along with the annual laying of the wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and hundreds of Remembrance Ceremonies world wide in remembering our veterans by the laying of Holiday Wreaths at the South Florida National VA Cemetery in Lake Worth.

As American Citizens we can honor and cherish those who have given so much:

SPONSOR A WREATH TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

1 WREATH \$15.00 (you may order as many as you like)

****Please always include the codes in red (below) in your order
South Florida VA National Cemetery Group ID: **FLSFNL****

AFA Gold Coast Chapter 351 Sponsor: **FLAFA351**

For more information cap.vsm@juno.com

- (1) To sponsor a wreath visit the website at www.wreathscrossamerica.org pay on line**
- (2) Contact WAA by phone: 877-385-9504 x 304**

**(3) Make check out to and mail to:
Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249, Columbia Falls ME 04623**

Lake Worth Cemetery- 561-649-6489 Ceremony-561-244-8069