



Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall

On Feb 14, 1973, Maxwell Air Force Base played a pivotal role in hosting the reuniting of 43 returning Prisoners of War with their families. Fast forward to Feb 14,

2023 and it has been 50 years since we welcomed home these American Heroes. So, it was only fitting that Maxwell AFB and the surrounding communities, not only celebrate our local Vietnam Era Veterans but make sure we never forget the sacrifices they made. AFA Chapter 102 sought the opportunity to sponsor the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall.

From March 13-15, the Wall was on display at Maxwell AFB during Operation Homecoming. Along with the Wall, there were several scheduled events and ceremonies recognizing our Veterans. These events included school children touring the display, a base open house, and a ceremony with Captain (Ret) Gary Rose, a Vietnam Prisoner of War, as the honored guest speaker. These were very humbling events and Chapter 102 was proud to have been given the opportunity to be part of them.



AF Issue Luncheon

AFA Chapter 102 held their Quarterly AF Issues Luncheon Mar 16, 2023. We were honored to have Col Ryan Richardson, Commander 42 ABW, as our guest speaker. Col Richardson thanked the Chapter for giving him the opportunity to speak at the luncheon and that he looked forward to working closely with us. He gave an informative speech on how Maxwell AFB, more specifically the 42 ABW, is transforming as a wing that is specifically combat support, and how they will be tasked to deploy to augment wings that are operational. He continued his speech on how the 42 ABW will improve upon its customer service and commitment to the Airmen, civilians and retirees that they support. He also talked about newly assigned Airmen not understanding how they fit in both on the base and in the communities and he asked those present to help the Airmen understand their importance both on base and in the community. Finally, he mentioned that the Maxwell Club was now available for events and the golf course was possibly reopening.



2023 Chapter 102 Officers

President: Scott Key — Vice President: Bruce Barton

Secretary: Pat "Irish" McCoy — Treasurer: Troy Eastman

To contact any of the Chapter officers e-mail afa.chapter.102@afa102.net

NATIONAL AFA OFFICERS VISIT CHAPTER



AFA Chairman of the Board visits Maxwell AFB

B/Gen (Ret) Bernie Skoch, AFA Chairman of the Board was at Maxwell AFB for Operation Welcome Home, the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam repatriation of POWs. He met with community leaders, some of whom he had worked while serving in the USAF. While at the Memorial Wall he assisted Vietnam veterans and some families of veterans find, amongst the 58,000 names, the name of their loved one etched on the Memorial Wall. He also attended AFA Chapter 102's Executive Committee meeting and the Quarterly AF Issues luncheon. He provided some insight about the future of AFA and how it will continue to support the active duty, reserve, guard and civilian Airmen and Guardians across the enterprise. He emphasized that chapters need to infuse new members so that we remain viable in that support to the Airmen. It was a pleasure to have him here and to showcase our Chapter's involvement in the community and with the 42 ABW.



AFA Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education & Director AFA Doolittle Learning Center Visit Maxwell

Stephen Gourley, AFA, Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education (AE), and Patrick Donley, Director, AFA Doolittle Center, visited Maxwell in late January. While here they visited offices at the national HQs of Civil Air Patrol and ROTC. They also met for a working dinner with members of the Chapter's Executive Committee to discuss chapter issues as they pertain to the overall AFA strategic plan. Having the opportunity to converse with national officers and leaders enables our chapter to stay relevant for the organization and for the local community.





GATHERING OF EAGLES



Meet the Eagles May 24, 2023 - Capital City Club



Gen John Raymond



Lt Gen Stacy Harris



CH Maj Gen Charles Baldwin



Col Leroy Stutz



Brig Gen Weldon Honeycutt



Capt Victor J Glover, Jr

2023 GOE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars! The annual Chapter 102 event honoring this year's Eagles will take place at the Capital City Club on 24 May. Instead of the usual GOE luncheon the chapter will be hosting an upscale plated breakfast beginning at 0900 in the Capital City Club's beautiful Skyline Ballroom.

Once again we have an opportunity to mix and mingle with some of the great Eagles who have been selected to participate in Air Command and Staff's Gathering of Eagles 2023 program. Among them are: Chaplain, Maj Gen Charles Baldwin, a Jolly Green search and rescue pilot before becoming the Air Force Chief of Chaplains; Capt Victor Glover, a NASA astronaut who has been selected for the Artemis mission to return to the moon; Lt Col Stayce Harris, Air Mobility pilot and the first Black Women to earn the rank of Lt Gen; B/Gen Weldon Honeycutt, led tactics development in the Air Mobile concept in Vietnam; Gen John Raymond, the first Commander of the US Space Command; Col Leroy Stutz, recipient of two silver stars and six and one half year Vietnam POW; Ms Patty Wagstaff, three time winner of the National Aerobatic Championship and member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame; CWO Raymond Wilson, UH-1 Huey pilot who served with distinction in Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli war and OPERATION JUST CAUSE.

Check our web site for registration information. Sign up early, this event is always a hot ticket sell out!



Patty Wagstaff



CWO Raymond Wilson

UPCOMING EVENTS

August TBD : Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon, Maxwell AFB Club

Oct 4, 2023: 34th Annual AFA Golf Tournament, Arrowhead Golf Club

See www.AFA102.net for event information and registration



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What an incredible quarter!! I don't believe it could have ended on a better note than the Chapter's support of the 42d Air Base Wing to make the Operation Homecoming event so special and the dynamic Air Force Issues Quarterly Luncheon held at the Club on Maxwell Air Force Base. We were honored to have Bernie Skoch, AFA Chairman of the Board join us for both events.

Operation Homecoming was touching, emotional and inspiring as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the release of the Vietnam POWs. We were able to honor the Vietnam Veterans, those that gave their lives in war, and those still missing in action. It was heartwarming to assist the family members who have never seen the wall in person and locate their loved

one's names on the black monument containing over 58,000 names.

We were excited to schedule our Air Force Issues Quarterly Luncheon during the same week as Operation Homecoming and have Colonel Ryan Richardson, 42d Air Base Wing Commander, as our guest speaker. The luncheon was well attended and the first held at the Maxwell AFB Club in 4 years. What a difference, the club staff was wonderful and the food tasty, we will be back more often now that it is back on track to hosting events. Colonel Richardson's vision of facilitating a new normal in reestablishing a blended culture of strong base/community relationship was inspiring. I believe we are at the perfect point in time for the Air and Space Forces Association to be a conduit for that effort.

I was overjoyed to recognize Susan Mallett at the luncheon as the winner of the 2022 Brewer Trophy for Aerospace Education. The National Aeronautic Association presents the award annually for sustained commitment to promoting aerospace education.

Mark your calendars for the Gathering of Eagle Breakfast on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the Capitol City Club. This event sells out quickly, so be watching for the invitation and respond quickly.

Scott Key

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 Alabama Power Company
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 Aviator Bar
 Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak
 Ballard Companies
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