



Gathering of Eagles 2024



Lt Gen (Ret) David Deptula



Col (Ret) James Harvey III



Gen (Ret) Jeffrey Harrigan



Dr Natalie Crawford



Col Berry, ACSC Commandant and Maj Watts, GOE Team Leader present Scott Key, Chapter Pres with litho. Photo by Greg Sharpe.



SFC (Ret) Clifford Newman



LTC (Ret) Tim "Rhino" Bennett



Capt (Ret) Guy Gruters



Mr Gene Krantz

The Gathering of Eagles (GOE) is the highlight of each class at the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). This yearly event began back in 1980 when Lt Col Paul Tibbets, the Enola Gay Pilot, visited the school to speak about his experience dropping the first nuclear bomb. The students response to hearing his story was overwhelming, and so the annual event was started.

Since this time the ACSC has invited our Air and Space Forces Association (AFA) Chapter to host a lunch for the Eagles and this year was no different. On May 9th, 2024 at Wynlakes Country Club we hosted six of the eight Eagles. Each of them played a valuable role in airpower. The six Eagles were: SFC (Ret) Clifford Newman, Lt Gen (Ret) David Deptula, Lt Col (Ret) Tim Bennett, Capt (Ret) Guy Gruters, Dr. Natalie Crawford, and Gen (ret) Jeffery Harrigan. The Eagles unable to attend were Gene Krantz and Col (Ret) James Harvey III.

It was our honor and pleasure to recognize the pioneers of airpower this year. We want to also thank our sponsors who turn out every year in support of this program and our AFA Chapter. PowerSouth was our Presenting Sponsor. Also, our platinum sponsors were; First Command, Servis 1st Bank, and the City of Montgomery. Our gold sponsors were; Max Credit Union, Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Cherokee Construction Incorporated, Troy University and Industrial Partners, LLC. We cannot do what we do without their continued support.

Correction: In the Apr - Jun 2024 Newsletter, it was brought to our attention by Dr. Daniel Haulman, retired USAF Historian, that Tuskegee Airman James Harvey III did indeed serve with the 99th Fighter Squadron of the 332d Fighter Group, "after" World War II, but "not during" World War II as stated in the newsletter. We apologize for this error.

2024 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



BEYOND THE HORIZON AIR & SPACE SHOW / TOY / STEM EXPO



“Beyond the Horizon” Air & Space Show

Hopefully, most of you had the opportunity to see the Air & Space Show at Maxwell AFB on April 6-7, 2024 with nearly perfect weather. It would seem many of you did as the attendance was estimated to be nearly 200,000 people attending either in person or on line. The show was spectacular with the Blue Angels being the headline show. This was the first time that the Blue Angels have come to Maxwell and it was also in conjunction with Montgomery's Navy Week events.



Blue Angels. Photo by Greg Sharpe.

Many other performers were there as well doing aerial acrobatics leaving most of us in awe of the dynamics of flight. One that caught the attention of many of us was the MiG 17 which displayed incredible speeds using its afterburner. Another highlight of course is the P-51 Mustang, which was the hero of WWII, the agility of that plane and the skill of the pilot made that a sensational part of a great weekend.

Many thanks go to our chapter and its members along with our Community Partners as we hosted a tent for the Blue Angels families and friends, DVs and others which provided a wonderful respite from the sun and perfect seating to watch a great show.



Blue Angels. Photo by Greg Sharpe.



P-51 and F-35



Hospitality tent and DV seating were enjoyed by all



Army Golden Knights



B-25 Mitchell



MiG-17 preparing for flight



Chapter 102 members were recognized with a litho from Maxwell AFB leadership for their support of the Air Show

Chapter/State Teacher of the Year Flies with the Blue Angels

The Montgomery Chapter and State of Alabama AFA Aerospace/STEM Teacher of the Year, Catherine Kenny, received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly with the Blue Angels. This outstanding STEM and robotics teacher at Pike Road Schools was selected to fly with the Blue Angels as a "Hometown Hero; Key Influencer." The Blue Angels Key Influencer program aims to showcase the hard work and dedication of people who give much to their local communities. Mrs. Kenny received instruction about the Blue Angels and their aircraft, the F/A-18 Super Hornet, went through emergency ejection training, and then took to the skies for an orientation flight where she pulled over 7Gs during aerobatic maneuvers by her pilot, Lt Connor O'Donnell, Blue Angel #7.



Scott Key - Chpt Pres, Susan Mallett - Chpt AE, Catherine Kenny - TOY and Ken Philppart - AL AFA Pres

Mrs. Kenny was presented the chapter and state teacher award at the Pike Roads Schools Board of Education meeting. She will also be recognized during the September Community Partners luncheon. Congratulations to Mrs. Kenny!



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Expo

The STEM Expo was held Friday, April 5, 2024 in the Educational Resource Hangar on Maxwell AFB. Chapter 102 members were there to assist over 4000 middle and high school students and adult leaders from the River Region and surrounding areas. They also promoted AFA's unique STEM programs for youth, CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers and provided teachers with information on AFA's Aerospace/STEM Teacher of the Year program and the \$500 Educator Grant program.



MSGt Stephen Yelbert helping students at STEM expo stations.



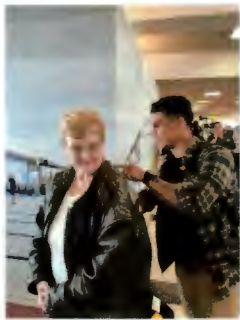
Pat and Betty McCoy assisting students at the expo.

D-DAY TRIP/BISCUITS BASEBALL

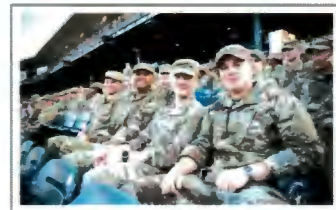


80th Commemoration of D-Day

While enroute to Normandy, France for the 80th Commemoration of D-Day, Chapter 102 member Susan Mallett had a layover at J. F. Kennedy airport in New York. While there she was approached by two men who admired her jacket with the C-47 "That's All ~ Brother!" nose art on the back. After talking she learned they would be jumping from that C-47 during the upcoming 80th commemoration of D-Day. She asked them to sign her jacket which already had signatures from the crew of that plane from another air show in Duxford, England. She also learned these two men are Army jumpers stationed in Columbus, Georgia and that they jumped from this C-47 at the recent Maxwell Air Show.



Military Appreciation Night at the Biscuits Baseball Game



The Montgomery Biscuits hosted a Military Appreciation Night on May 4th, 2024, "May the 4th be with you" and it was a very well attended night with superb weather and great crowd. The highlight of the night was when the large number of Officer Trainees recited the "Airman's Creed" very loudly so almost the entire downtown could hear the words. If you don't know the Airman's Creed as it has only been around now for about 20 years here are the words,

"I am an American Airman. I am a Warrior. I have answered my Nation's call. I am an American Airman. My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win. I am faithful to a Proud Heritage, A Tradition of Honor, and a Legacy of Valor. I am an American Airman, Guardian of Freedom and Justice, My Nation's Sword and Shield, Its Sentry and Avenger. I defend my Country with my Life. I am an American Airman, Wingman, Leader, Warrior. I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, And I will not fail."

Words that describe our selfless lifestyle, willing to give our all for the country we love so dearly. Take advantage of nights like this and get out and possibly see some of those wonderful people you served with all the years of your military career, it's a great time when you see those with whom you have served.



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP



To take advantage of the following sponsorship opportunities contact

Pat McCoy at (334) 538-5327 or

Make checks out to AFA Chapter 102 and mail to:

AFA Chapter 102 Golf, P.O. Box 241918, Montgomery, AL 36124-1918



Tournament Sponsor — \$3,000 - 2 teams - Special Recognition!

YES, I'll be The Tournament Sponsor!

Name: _____

Tournament Co-Sponsor — \$1,250 - 4 players - Special Recognition!

YES, I'll be The Tournament Co-Sponsor!

Name: _____

Gold Sponsor -- \$1000

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or

Silver Sponsor \$750

2 Players

Sponsorship recognition at tournament!

YES, (circle one) Gold -- Silver

Name: _____

Bronze Sponsor - \$500

1 player, Sponsorship recognition at tournament!

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Sponsorship recognition during tournament!

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Name _____

Beverage Cart Sponsor \$1,250

4 players, exclusive personalized signs on all beverage carts recognizing sponsorship.

Sponsorship recognition during tournament!

YES, I'll sponsor the Beverage Carts:

Name _____

Shirt Sponsor \$ 2,000

4 players, exclusive personalized signs on driving range recognizing sponsorship.

YES, I'll sponsor this item:

Name _____



GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION



33rd Annual AFA Chapter 102 Golf Tournament Wednesday, October 2, 2024



- * 4 person scramble
- * Sign-up as a team or individually
- * Registration fee is \$125 per player
- * Includes all fees, free range balls, beverages, snacks and dinner after the tournament
- * Check-in begins at 1100 - Assembly 12:15 -- Shotgun start at 12:30
- * Great door prizes
- * Prizes to top three finishing teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin



Proceeds support Maxwell/Gunter awards programs and Aerospace Education through the Montgomery Chapter of the AFA. Submit any inquiries to Pat McCoy by email at irish5327@gmail.com or mail at AFA Chapter 102 Golf, P.O. Box 241918, Montgomery, AL 36124-1918

Registration information and Sponsorship Opportunities can be found at www.afa102.net
Register on-line at www.afa102.net

You may register as an individual or a team. You will need the following information for each team member when registering: Name; Golf Handicap (30 max). Daytime Phone #, E-mail Address.

Registration fee is \$125 per person

Payment: Pay on-line at www.afa102.net (it's safe and secure)

or

Mail payment to: AFA Chapter 102 Golf, P.O. Box 241918, Montgomery, AL 36124-1918

Registration Will Open on August 1, 2024!
Registration Will Close Friday, September 27, 2024

Air Force Association Chapter 102 is a nonprofit, charitable organization of the type described in sections 170 and 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Taxpayer Identification Number: 26-2712615. The Internal Revenue Service has determined that we are exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donors may deduct contributions to Air Force Association Chapter 102 as provided in section 170 of the Code. Goods or services valued at \$40 per golfer participating were received in exchange for this donation.

SAVE THE DATES

10 Sep 2024 Community Partners Luncheon, Maxwell AFB Club

14-15 Sep 2024: AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD

2 Oct 2024: 35th Annual Golf Tournament, Arrowhead CC

Nov 2024 Veterans Day Luncheon 908th Airlift Wing (date and time TBD)

See www.AFA102.net for event information and registration



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President's Corner

The Wynlakes Country Club Ballroom was “buzzing” this past May 9th, as the Montgomery Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) Chapter 102 hosted a most memorable luncheon that honored six notable aviation and space legends, the “Eagles”. These Eagles were selected by the 2024 Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) students. ACSC is the lead organization for the Gathering of Eagles (GOE) the program that selects and hosts the Eagles.

The GOE luncheon is another avenue for closer interaction between the River Region communities and Maxwell AFB. Over 150 guests gathered to enjoy fellowship and get to meet and visit with these living legends.

While this event is complete, there is plenty of action in the “wings”! An AFA Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon is set for 10 September at the Maxwell Club. The invitation is open to the community at large; look for the reservation link soon at <https://afa102.net/>. For information on becoming a Community Partner, link to <https://afa102.net/community-partners/>. The information is at the bottom of the web page. Have a great summer!

Scott Key

Support Our Community Partners

1st Place Trophies (Ms. Barbara Truelove)
 Air University Foundation (Mr. Joe Panza)
 Alabama Information Technology Consulting (Mr. Bob Frye)
 Alabama Power Company (Ms. Leslie Sanders)
 Dr. Allen Peck
 Apropos (Ms. Terri Owen)
 Associated Insurance Administrators, Inc. (Mr. Patrick Albrecht)
 Ballard Companies (Mr. Gen. A. Ballard)
 Baptist Health (Mr. W. Tyner)
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 Mr. Brent Krause
 Brown Studio Architecture (Mr. Sommerville Hill)
 City of Montgomery (Mayor Steven Reed)
 Civil Air Patrol (Mr. John Desmarais)
 Mr. David Grimes
 Mr. David Harwood
 Dixie Electric Corporation (Mr. Ernie Faulkner)
 Mr. Doug “Cinco” DeMaio
 Dr. David Thrasher
 Ms. Eileen L. Harris
 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation (Mr. Steve Kermish)
 First Command Financial Planning (Mr. Mark Dieriam)
 Founder, The Montgomery Biscuits (Ms. Sherrie Myers)
 Friend of AFA102 (Mr. Patrick McCoy)
 Friend of AFA102 (Mr. Chuck Nath)
 GEICO Insurance (Mr. Perry Hudson)
 Golden Animal Hospital (Dr. Mickey Golden)
 Goodwill Industries of Central Alabama, Inc. (Mr. Andy Potter)
 Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood (Mr. David Reed)
 Hair Odyssey (Mr. David Dandridge)
 Henig Furs, Inc. (Mr. Michael Henig)
 Hodges Warehouse and Logistics (Mr. Paul Hodges)

Hooper and Associates (Mr. Perry Hooper, Jr.)
 Industrial Partners (Mr. Nimrod Frazer)
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 J&K Materials and Trucking, Inc. (Ms. Karen Montz)
 Jerry Kyser Builders, Inc. (Mr. Jerry Kyser)
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The AFA Montgomery Chapter 102 Newsletter is published quarterly by the Montgomery Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association for the benefit of its members. Comments, suggestions, or questions regarding chapter activities or the contents of this newsletter should be directed to either Joe Panza, editor, jpanza@knology.net or Maura Barton at brucemaura@gmail.com. Newsletter published on a Macbook Pro. Our thanks to Wells Printing for their outstanding service and support of Chapter 102.