



AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

Montgomery Chapter 102 www.afa102.net Jan -Mar 2025



34th Annual Golf Tournament

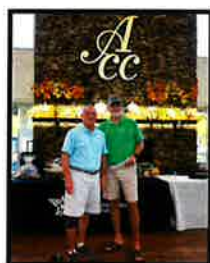


On October 2, 2024 our chapter held its annual Golf Tournament at Arrowhead Country Club. The weather was perfect, the course was in immaculate condition, and the golfers were ready for a fun day!

Special thanks to Seay, Seay, and Litchfield Architects for being our Tournament Sponsor. In addition, we also say thank you to all of the sponsors and to the many golfers who came out in support of our Chapter, making this a very successful fundraiser. We congratulate our winners (pictured below) and thank everyone for their support.

This is one of two major fund raisers for Chapter 102 and we are blessed to have several volunteers who year after year put this tournament together. The leader of the golf tournament is Patrick "Irish" McCoy. He begins this process early every June which ensures the every detail associated with our tournament is completed, resulting in a professional and fun tournament each year.

October 7, 2025 will be our 35th Annual Golf Tournament. Mark your calendars, we hope that you will be able to make it. Additional information will be available on our website <https://afa102.net/> summer 2025.



1st Place (Net)
Mark Schultz, Bobby McClure,
(not pictured Pat McCoy and Mike
Winkleman)



1st Place (Gross)
Randy Dortch, Steve German,
Jim Pitt (not pictured Joel Hughes)



2nd Place
Joe Barton, George Vogt, Ervin
Canada (not pictured Ron Olienyk)



3rd Place
Pat Burbank, Dennis Rea,
Scott Key, and Stef Eisen



Photos by Greg Sharpe

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 AL102.Montgomery@afa.org



VETERANS DAY



Air & Space Forces Association honors Veterans at Annual Veterans' Day Luncheon.

Chapter 102 hosted their Annual Veterans' Day Luncheon on November 14, 2024, at the 908th Flying Training Wing. The 908th is a strong supporter of the Montgomery Chapter and helped set up the maintenance hangar for the luncheon which allowed us to have a MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopter available for static display.



Col Whittaker

Colonel Chris LaCouture, 908th Flying Training Wing Commander was scheduled to give us an update on the new 908th mission and thank our veterans for their sacrifice and commitment. However, he was called away to Commanders' Call at Randolph AFB, TX. Colonel LaCouture reached into his leadership team, and we were honored to have Colonel Donna Whittaker, 908th Mission Support Group Commander, make the presentation. She did a masterful job explaining how the 908th Wing still has a readiness commitment to support deployments and how they exercise that process. Col Whittaker also recognized the importance of recognizing our veterans as well never forgetting them. Chapter President, Scott Key presented Maura Barton, VP, Newsletter, with the Executive Committee Member of the Year Eagle. Maura works tirelessly to capture, organize and distribute the Chapter 102 Quarterly Newsletter.



Scott Key and
Maura Barton

The attendees also had an opportunity to get familiar with the 908th training mission and see the MH-139 up close. We are thankful for our relationship with the 908th and look forward to our next visit to their facilities.



Janice and Col (Ret) Win DePoorter,
Col Wittaker, Susan Mallett,
and Scott Key



Two MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopters on
display at our Veterans Day Luncheon.



Col Wittaker, MSgt Blankenship,
and Scott Key

Photos by Greg Sharpe



VETERANS DAY



City of Montgomery Honors Veterans with Parade and Celebration



Chapter 102 was proud to participate in the early planning stages of the City of Montgomery Veterans' Day Parade and Celebration. We worked with the City of Montgomery Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs, Air Force units and Veterans Organizations to get maximum exposure and value for our Veterans.

The Parade went down Dexter Avenue and ended at Riverwalk Stadium where there was a Veteran Resource Fair, food booths, and a Celebration Ceremony. Colonel Chris LaCouture, Commander, 908th Flying Training Wing, committed to and delivered the new MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopter for a static display in the center field of the Montgomery Biscuits Riverwalk Stadium. We also had EXCOM Members at an information table promoting the Air & Space Forces Association.



Photos. **Top left to right:** MH-139 landed on center field Riverwalk Stadium. **Center left to right:** Scott Key, Col LaCouture and Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed. Scott Key with crew of the MH-139. **Bottom:** AFA members talking with Veterans.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Submitted by Jeff Newton, Interim Commissioner Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs exists to serve Alabama's 400,000 veterans and their families. Our mission is to promote awareness and assist eligible veterans, their families, and survivors to receive from the U. S. and State Government all benefits to which they may be entitled under existing or future laws to be enacted.

Our vision is to ensure that all veterans and their families understand and receive all the benefits, support, care, and recognition that they have earned and are entitled to by expertly administering all current programs, anticipating future needs, and taking appropriate action to meet these needs.

Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are experts on the VA claims process. Each VSO undergoes rigorous training and certification with one goal in mind: to serve you and your family. We have offices in 61 of our 67 counties. Find your local VSO at <https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/>. This is a free service to you and your family. Don't feed the VA claim Sharks!! Please help us get the word out by telling fellow veterans to call and visit their local VSO.

In partnership with the federal government and private industry, we serve the needs of aging or chronically disabled veterans at our State Veterans Homes in Alexander City, Huntsville, Bay Minette, Pell City, and Enterprise. The most any Veteran will pay is \$24.00 per day!

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort is in Baldwin County and sits on over 120 acres of spacious landscaped grounds. It was dedicated in December 2012 and has an estimated lifespan of 100 years. National Guard and Reserve service members are eligible if they served 24 months of traditional service and were honorably discharged. Veterans can pre-register for burial at both our National and State Cemeteries.

The nationally renowned Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program offers up to \$400 per credit hour for tuition to those who qualify. Dependents of Veterans with 40% service connected disability and meet residency requirements are eligible!





COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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President's Corner

As you can tell by the great stories Maura has captured for this edition of the newsletter, we ended 2024 on a high note. And a fitting ending to an awesome year. From the F-35 static at the 187th Fighter Wing to the Maxwell Open House/Air Show to the Air & Space Forces Association National Convention to the Gathering of Eagles to the City of Montgomery Veterans' Day Parade and Luncheon to the 908th Flying Training Wing MH-139 Grey Wolf static display in center field at Riverwalk Park—it's amazing what your EXCOM accomplished. So much so that the leadership development team asked the elected team to serve another term. Thanks for the vote of confidence.

President: Scott Key, Vice President: Bruce Barton, Secretary: Irish McCoy and Treasurer: Troy Eastman.

We have "growth" plans for 2025, but we will need additional bodies. Watch for a "Save the Date" membership call at the Maxwell Club soon. Come hear our plans, bring some new ideas, and find a place that could use your expertise.

Scott Key



We would like to welcome and thank Mr. Joe Donaldson, New York Life, for his support as a Community Partner.



SAVE THE DATES

Membership Call, Maxwell Club (date/time TBD)
6 Mar 2025-AF Issues Luncheon, Maxwell AFB Club
8 May 2025-Gathering of Eagles (GOE) Luncheon, Wynlakes CC
20-21 Sep 2025-AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD
7 October 2025 Annual Golf Tournament, Arrowhead CC
See www.AFA102.net for event information and registration

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.