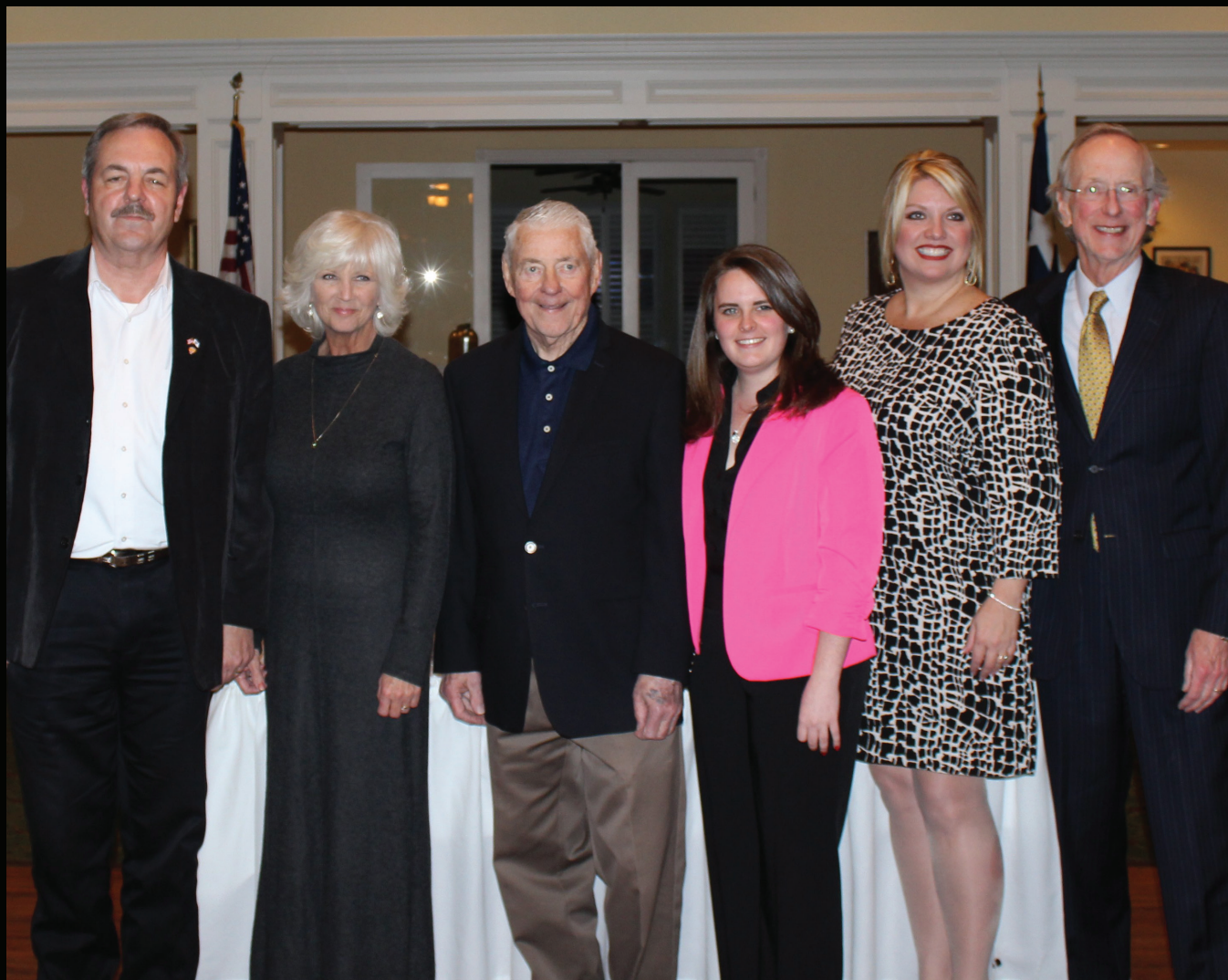




THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



CMSAF#5 Robert “Bob” Gaylor Visits Chapter 416

Trey and Susan Johnson, CMSAF Gaylor, Hayley Hasik, Jalinna and Dan Jones

CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT	SMSGT GREG HAMILTON
TREASURER	JOE GAUTHIER
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CALENDAR

APR. 2014	9	Chapter Meeting	26	ENP Banquet	
MAY 2014	3	Bonham Visit	14	Chapter Meeting	
JUNE 2014	11	Chapter Meeting			
JUL. 2014	9	Chapter Meeting			
AUG. 2014	1-3	TX State Meeting Abilene	13	Chapter Meeting	
SEPT. 2014	10	Chapter Meeting	12-15	National Conference	27 Golf Thing
OCT. 2014	8	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Chapter Officer / CAP Rec Dinner	12 Chapter Meeting
NOV. 2014	TBD	Vets Visit	TBD	Cyber Patriot	
DEC. 2014	TBD	Cyber Patriot	10	Chapter Meeting	
JAN. 2015	14	Chapter Meeting			
FEB. 2015	11	Chapter Meeting			
MAR. 2015	11	Chapter Meeting			

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26 Apr. 2014

3 May 2014

27 Sept. 2014

ENP Banquet

Paula Roy will be our
Guest Speaker



Paula Roy (left) and Betty Welsh

Bonham Veteran's Center



Golf Thing



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



The Air Force Association has declining membership. The Air Force Association needs to reach out to the younger generation.

How many times do the active members of the AFA hear this? We hear it at every gathering, meeting and event. However, as most of us know, this is not a predicament unique to the AFA.

The church I belong to is quite a strong church in the community, and is even considered a model for churches in its district, but the church leadership constantly moans about the inability to grow faster and attract the younger crowd.

Members of the AFA would all like to see the organization grow and prosper, but what are we willing to change to do so?

Just knowing the members in the Texoma region, I know of numerous high achievers that are heroes of community service that we see at every regional gathering.

These outstanding citizens know what the goals of the organization are and truly believe in them. Many don't understand why more people don't see the light and join in the good fight. In the opinion of a growing number of AFA leaders that I deal with, partnering is a big part of growing in the future.

Some organizations may fear partnering because they think that the core integrity and culture that may have attracted them initially may be lost or compromised.

If we really believe in our organizational goals, I think we have sufficient options for partnering with other entities and being more successful. One definition of a partnership is an arrangement in which parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests. Sounds like we need more of that.

In our quest to educate, advocate and support, we are doing good things with the schools such as funding STEM projects like CyberPatriot, the Visions Program, robotics, rocketry and aerospace education. These programs are outstanding and they are probably creating a few future traditional members through military service and perhaps a few participants will remember that it was the

AFA that sponsored their event.

In many cases only one AFA member is present and the burden on these sole individuals can be high to maintain these relationships.

However, having joint community activities events where two or more organizations have numerous members of their organizations in attendance and openly participating could spur exponential results by comparison.

One outstanding example of partnering with a youth group is the growing Chapter 416 relationship with The War and Memory Project at Texas A&M University – Commerce. What a success this has become!

I think young people want to believe that their lives are making a difference. I also think that they yearn for the wisdom of older, more experienced men and women who will share time with them and show them that we have common goals that were previously unrecognized.

The key is that these young people may never be in the Air Force or even serve in the military, but the things they learn from those who have served and are serving will create a bond for AFA and other like organizations that can change the paradigm that damaged our country so much in the 1960's and still lingers today.

These opportunities can be right under your nose. Just the other day I realized that the church I've attended for years could team with Chapter 416 or even be a community partner.

The Boy Scout troop that meets at our church could be invited to visit the veteran's hospital in Bonham with the Chapter in May; who knows what could come of that. If we truly concentrate on our common goals with other groups, I believe our membership will grow as a result.

Who knows what the possibilities could be!



You can contact me at:
903-413-1453
President@netxafa.org

Trey Johnson
President, AFA Chapter 416

ENP BANQUET AND ESSAY WINNERS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan on coming out and supporting the student Earle North Parker Essay contest winners at TAMU-Commerce.

The awards banquet will be **26 April 2014** at the Sam Rayburn Center in Commerce.

Tickets are available by contacting **RSVP416@netxafa.org** or by calling **903-274-9981**.

Please, sign up soon and reserve your space.

CONGRATS! TO OUR THREE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WINNERS;

Caitlin Nance, 1st place, **Alicia Guthrie**, 2nd Place, and **Cody Redus**, 3rd Place.

Caitlin's essay is posted here and the others can be found on our website at **www.netxafa.org**.

PAULA ROY, AFA Headquarters, Family and Wounded Warrior Programs, will be our guest and speaker for the evening.

Come out and join us in recognizing these essay winners, our Teacher's of the Year, Civil Air Patrol Accomplishments, as well as a few presentations for our own chapter folks. It will be a nice evening ... look forward to seeing you there!

The F-35 Combat Aircraft: Why a Winner or Loser

By Caitlin Nance

Unknown by many civilians, the United States military, especially the Air Force, continually uses more and more advanced technology to defend the United States from "all enemies, foreign and domestic." With each passing year technology advances; some changes occur through a sort of technological evolution. Initially, after its creation, the United States Air Force had to undergo many rapid changes in order to meet the demands placed on it by this country. This continuous improvement embodies the third Air Force core value, "Excellence in All We Do." The F-35 aircraft, also known as the Lightning II, is the next advancement in military aircraft, and is yet another product of the United States military forces pursuit of excellence.

Built to replace the Air Force's A-10 Warthog and the F-16, as well as the Navy's F-18, the F-35 brings the new combat capabilities that will be necessary in future conflicts as countries seek matches against the United States' interdicting air forces. A benefit from the F-35 is that it only requires one pilot, yet provides air-to-ground and air-to-air combat capabilities. This effectively allows one pilot in one plane to perform multiple missions potentially in demand by our country. This multi-role capability provides economy of force, requiring fewer troops and allowing manpower to be used elsewhere. The F-35 has been designed to serve in its role for up to fifty years, or until the next technological advancement takes its place, providing sustainability and improving the cost of development and production.

With current budget cuts being implemented across the nation in many different areas, it is understandable that a concerned American citizen and taxpayer would feel that the F-35 Project is an unnecessary waste of money and resources. However, one could argue that the assured protection of American assets overseas and at home is worth the cost. The United States Air Force's three core values, "Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence

in All We Do" can be applied in justifying the need for the F-35. There's an old saying: "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." In the air forces deployed in defense of the nation, there are many weak links. Many planes still used today have been in service for over fifty years and can no longer successfully fulfill their mission without suffering heavy losses due to outdated technology.

An example would be the big, slow B-52 which has been in use since the Vietnam War. By deploying the F-35, the United States Air Force and her sister services are maintaining the "integrity" that America's defense needs.

The American taxpayer should embrace the motto of "Service Before Self" just as the men and women who defend their country have. While it is not ideal to have to pay the taxes and experience the budget cuts necessary to develop new aircraft and train pilots to fly them, it is a necessary duty that every American should embrace, just as they did in World War II with "victory gardens," war bonds, and ration cards.

The final core value, "Excellence in All We Do," has already been mentioned; however, it would serve to remind those who oppose the F-35 project that the pursuit of excellence created the atomic bomb which prevented the loss of hundreds of thousands of ground troops in a planned land invasion of Japan. In fact, the sole purpose behind every advancing technology in our military is to require less manpower and provide national security without jeopardizing the lives of America's sons and daughters.



Cody Redus (3rd Place) and Caitlin Nance (1st Place) Essay Winners



GREENVILLE STATE MEETING



The 1st Quarter Executive Committee Meeting for the State of Texas was held February 28th – March 2nd at the Best Western Plus Monica Royale Inn and Suites in Greenville, hosted by Northeast Texas Chapter 416.

The President's Reception held on Friday night was wonderfully catered by Baker's Ribs, a Community Partner of Chapter 416.

During the reception, Vance Clarke, VP Communication for Chapter 416, introduced the now heralded War and Memory Project students from Texas A&M University-Commerce. The War and Memory students then showed an emotionally packed video of veteran interviews which included Eldon Turner, a long standing AFA member and Texas stalwart.

On Saturday morning, State President Gary Copsey called the meeting to order. Trey Johnson, Chapter 416 President, welcomed all, recognized participants, and introduced Brendon Payne, CEO of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

Payne welcomed the guests and spoke about the outstanding opportunities now offered in Greenville and the surrounding Hunt County area. Payne also handed out very nice souvenir bags to the attendees.

During the president's report, Copsey reminded the group of the constant specter of declining membership and its challenge to the leadership of the organization. He also emphasized the now recurring theme of utilizing the online training for chapter reporting.

Riq Baldwin, Texoma Region President, spoke about the next

Texoma meeting and the next Arnold Air Society event. Baldwin strongly encouraged chapters to take advantage of the new Wingman Magazine with inputs, as this media vehicle opens up a whole new advertising market that is exclusive to AFA members.



Colonel Topps

Lunch was catered by Cup and Saucer, another outstanding Chapter 416 Community Partner. Immediately following the luncheon, Lt. Col. James H. Spencer, Commander of the local 645th Aeronautical Systems Squadron, spoke to the group about the history of L-3 Mission Integration Division in Greenville, TX, with its roots all the way back to World War II. The history of the L-3 facility and the local impact of the Big Safari Program during the same time frame were masterfully woven together by Lt. Col. Spencer.

In the afternoon meeting, National Director at Large Dave Dietsch talked about Mitchell Institute initiatives and the Air Power impact of retired General Dave Deptula.

Copsey added to his earlier inputs by further emphasizing his priority of improving chapter reporting by

showing the AFA report training video and handed out the QAR (Quarterly AFA Reporting) checklist, both of which were quite informative and helpful.

After the Vice President and Chapter President reports, the meeting was adjourned.

The guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet, served by Cup and Saucer, was Col. Edward M. Topps, Commander of the 645th Aeronautical Systems Group at Wright Patterson AFB. He perfectly supplemented the local discussion of the Big Safari Program by Lt. Col. Spencer with his outstanding rendition of the national and worldwide history and impact of the organization.

Both Lt. Col. Spencer and Col. Topps were presented Mustang Fellowships from the Texas Aerospace Education Foundation by Chapter 416 President Trey Johnson after their speeches.

A major theme taken out of the meetings was the need for more astute partnering with organizations that share common goals with AFA. All in all, the gathering was said by the attendees to be a model for all state executive meetings as NE Texas Chapter 416 continues a proud tradition of excellence in event execution and community service.

The next State Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Abilene on August 1 – 3, 2014.

CMSAF#5 ROBERT “BOB” GAYLOR

VISIT TO CHAPTER 416

Chapter 416 was fortunate enough to host CMSAF#5 Bob Gaylor and have him speak at a dinner at Webb Hill Country Club on 23 Jan 2014. Gaylor covered history of wars from 1941 until present time.

A video of his presentation can be found on our Facebook Air Force Association Chapter 416 page and web site - www.netxafa.org. A highlight of the visit was a two hour video history of Gaylor's life from 1941-1957 done by the East Texas War and Memory Program interns, Hayley Hasik and Jackson Dailey. Troy Brakefield captured some of the interview and we share it here.

By: Troy Brakefield

CMSAF Robert “Bob” Gaylor Likes to tell stories. Now he is telling his personal story to be archived in history as part of Texas A&M University-Commerce's War and Memory Project.

Gaylor, 83, served as the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, a position occupied by 17 people since its inception. After his USAF retirement in 1979, he worked for USAA until 1995 and has been a popular corporate speaker on such topics as motivation, team building and customer service.

“People remember brief phrases,” Gaylor said. “My success is in using phrases people can retain.” For the War & Memory project, Gaylor does not have to be on such a strict timeline. The historical archive project reaches out to veterans and their families to record their stories for the online American War Experience digital collection at A&M-Commerce. The project began as an assignment for Honors College students from their 20th Century U.S. History instructor – and Assistant Dean of the University Honors Program – Eric Gruver.

“I provided a starting point, and they have run with it,” Gruver said. “They're the ones who have spent their free time doing the research and spending their own money on gas and lodgings to go where these veterans are to speak with them.”

The research students got connected with Gaylor after a presentation to employees at a defense company in Greenville, Texas. There they not only received financial support from the defense contractor, they also met Vance Clarke, who often works with Gaylor to arrange his presentations.



Hayley Hasik, Bob Gaylor and Jackson Dailey

“To me, it was a natural fit to introduce Bob to the students,” Clarke said. “I’ve listened to his stories for so long and know their value. I think it is important that they be recorded so future generations can learn from them.”

For Gaylor's first interview, he discussed moving from his birthplace of Bellevue, Iowa, (“Dad was out of a job [with the city] when the new mayor got elected ...”) to Indiana, where he spent most of his childhood.

“On Dec. 7, 1941, I had gone to Shep's Restaurant after church to get a Snickers candy bar. The owner and customers were gathered around a radio listening intently to the broadcast. I never did get my candy bar and when I returned home, my dad explained to me that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese in a surprise raid,” Gaylor recalled. “I was 11-years-old and didn't totally understand — but I remember that my dad was very concerned.”

Soon his mother went to work at a vegetable factory and his father changed jobs to work at Alcoa, moving the family from Rossville, Ind., to Mulberry, Ind. Gaylor joined Boy Scouts (“It was very important in my development”) and took up a paper route. In 1947, he graduated high school at 16, got a job with the electric company and bought a car.

“I had eight car wrecks in 10 months, all minor. I knocked over a blinker light at a railroad crossing and was charged with driving with faulty brakes. On the way home from appearing before the judge with my mother, she calmly turned to me and said, ‘Have you ever considered joining the military?’” Gaylor recalled. “That was her way of suggesting I needed discipline.”

When he turned 18, he and a friend went to enlist with the Navy but were told there would be a wait. The recruiting officer noticed that they were young and anxious and suggested they go across the hall and apply with the Air Force. On Sept. 11, 1948, Gaylor arrived at Lackland Air Force Base.

Over the next 31 years, Gaylor worked in the military police, saw the integration of the services, helped reopen air bases, went to Korea, and learned about himself and the world. He became an instructor at the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy at Barksdale AFB where he learned many of the management techniques he would later teach across the globe, before eventually becoming the fifth CMSAF.

With a breadth of experience unlike any other, he now ponders the future of the military he served for so long.

“My personal crystal ball is cloudier than it ever has been. Congress, the Pentagon and the American people need to decide what they want and expect from the military and then provide them the resources needed to provide that defense,” he said. “It's important to our state of readiness.”

“The main positive I see is the spirit of today's Airmen and military units. [After years of active deployments,] we are finding out that they have capabilities far beyond what we thought. I applaud our forces and what they are doing.”

To contact The East Texas War & Memory Project team with information about a veteran or veteran's family that would like to be interviewed, email ETWMP@tamuc.edu.



EAST TEXAS
WAR AND MEMORY
PROJECT

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Thank you to all of our community partners

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

