



THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



The faces and names of the people on the cover represent all that truly is the Air Force Association. We are blessed to have such a long standing group of a few who have made our chapter strong. The pictures reflect some of them and show the tip of the iceberg of our success. We continue to have many faces behind the scenes that make us successful. We know we have not captured them all, but a few of the steadfast are shown. These, more, and our community partners, generous donors, and those who support us in other ways, all make the difference. Thank you to you all. As we mourn the loss of DeWaun Simmons and Dr. Welby Edwards, and honor those like Lt Col John Murray, we can continue to be thankful for those who give of their time, talents and treasures.

God bless and thank you all!

CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	TREY JOHNSON
VICE PRESIDENT	SMSGT GREG HAMILTON
TREASURER	JOE GAUTHIER
SECRETARY	SMSGT CURTIS CHISM

WWW.NETXAFA.ORG

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CALENDAR

JULY 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

NOV. 2014 **1** Bonham Vet's Visit **TBD** Cyber Patriot **12** Chapter Meeting

DEC. 2014 **TBD** Cyber Patriot **10** Chapter Meeting

JAN. 2015 **14** Chapter Meeting **30** ENP Suspense to State

FEB. 2015 **11** Chapter Meeting

MAR. 2015 **11** Chapter Meeting **TBD** ENP Banquet

APR. 2015 **8** Chapter Meeting **TBD** Teacher of the Year
Suspense to State

MAY 2015 **13** Chapter Meeting

JUNE 2015 **10** Chapter Meeting

— WWW.NETXAFA.ORG —

27 Sept. 2014

1 Nov. 2014

Golf Thing



Bonham Veteran's Center



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Is America exceptional?
If so, what is American exceptionalism?
Why is it important to understand?

Yes.

America **IS** exceptional.

We are still the beacon of freedom and the positive example to the world, no matter what you might hear.

What is this “exceptionalism”?

There are probably a number of ways to describe it, but there are many in the world and even in the United States that appear to misinterpret what this description of ourselves means.

Our exceptionalism is not because we are smarter, physically stronger or genetically superior to citizens of any other country.

I believe our exceptionalism is based on the fact that ours is the only country in the history of this planet whose founding was based on the rights of the individual citizen over those of the government.

Our Constitution seeks to set limits on government. This basic belief derived from our Founders is a cornerstone for what makes America different.

Why is understanding our exceptionalism important? People who truly serve this country or support those who serve must believe that the United States has something special to offer itself, and, the rest of the world and therefore the country must stay strong.

Our Constitution set the defense of the nation as the highest priority to maintain this strength.
When this belief fades or disappears, then

every country and every style of government is treated as no better or worse than any other.

When that happens, is there anything worth protecting?

One of our major tenets in AFA is to Advocate for the Air Force and our airmen.

To do so properly, we must believe and recognize the special treasure we have in America’s sons and daughters, and to preserve and be able to articulate it.

This is where our need to Educate arises. Seeing recent events exposed such as the outrageous treatment of our veterans with regards to their healthcare and other benefits, one must recognize that this is a result of twisted priorities.

This can only happen when too many forget or are ignorant about our freedom and heritage; when we believe our history is no different than that of any other. We then allow ourselves to drift towards oblivion.

Never forget who we are; never forget where our freedom came from. Our Air Force needs our advocacy, our efforts to educate those in our immediate surroundings, and our full support.

Do all you can to educate, advocate and support for our Air Force and our country and know that they and the world need us now more than ever.



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

Trey Johnson
President, AFA Chapter 416

ENP BANQUET

TREY JOHNSON

President of Chapter 416,

Hosted the chapter's annual Spring Thing at TAMU-Commerce to recognize special honorees.

Honored were:

CIVIL AIR PATROL - *Patrick J. Pearce*

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR:

Billy Walker and *Jennifer Simpson* (Greenville Christian School)

ESSAY WINNERS

1ST PLACE - *Caitlin Nance*, Paris, TX (\$1000 + another \$1000 scholarship from Texas AFA State)

2ND PLACE - *Alicia Guthrie*, Greenville, TX (\$750 scholarship)

3RD PLACE - *Cody Redus*, Paris, TX (\$500 scholarship)

Congressman Ralph Hall attended the event and participated in presenting all the award mementos to the awardees.

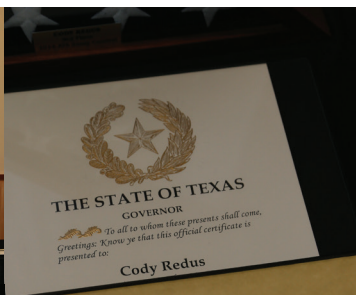
He also presented encased flags he had flown over the capitol on behalf of the student essay winners.

He commented on what an honor it was to share in this occasion and to see the brilliant accomplishments of Pearce, who he sponsored nomination to the United States Air Force Academy, and which Pearce began attending June 18, 2014.

He was also extremely proud of the dedication and devotion seen in these teachers and students.



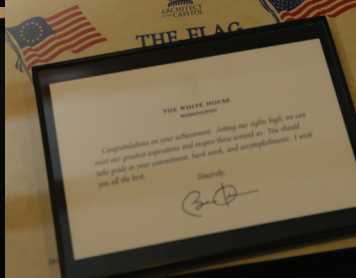
Mr. & Mrs. Simpson, Ralph Hall, Trey Johnson



Trey Johnson, Ralph Hall



Cadet Pearce, Ralph Hall, Trey Johnson



Ralph Hall, Caitlin Nance, Trey Johnson

Other attendees of note:

President TAMU-Commerce, Dan Jones and his wife

Charles Helm, Hotel owner and 20 Year community partner to Chapter 416

The key note speaker for the evening was **Vance Clarke**, Chapter 416 VP Communications.



See more photos and video on our AFA 416 Facebook page.

ENP BANQUET

April 11, 2014

Dedication as teachers to be rewarded
By *JOSEPH HAMRICK*
Herald-Banner Staff

GREENVILLE —

Jennifer Simpson and *Billy Walker* are some of the best teachers around, just ask the members of the Air Force Association (AFA).

Simpson and Walker, who both teach at Greenville Christian School, were selected as 2014 Teachers of the Year from the Northeast Texas Chapter of the AFA.

The teachers will be honored during the AFA's annual Spring Awards Banquet on April 29 at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

According to GCS High School Advisor Thomas Witt, both teachers were chosen for their dedication to the students they taught.

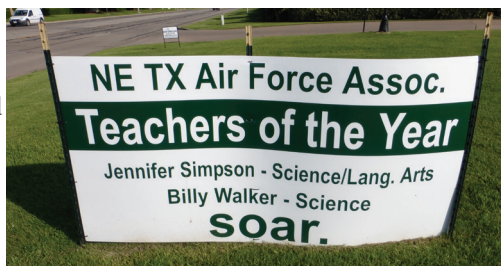
Witt, who nominated both teachers for the AFA, said he was pleased when he found they were the ones to be chosen. "For both of them to be chosen is an honor," he said.

Simpson, who teaches language arts for grades 5 and 6, said it was a complete surprise when she was notified of the award since she did not even know she had been nominated.

"It's great. It's an honor and I didn't know I was nominated so it was a surprise," she said.

Simpson said she came to GCS while looking for a school to enroll her daughter in.

"I was looking for a school to put her into in the private Christian School sector," she said. "I put her in here and fell in love with it."



"I like being able to have relationships and mentoring them," she said, adding she enjoys the discussions she has with the students in her classroom. "We can get into deeper understanding of symbolisms and deeper meanings and apply them to their every day lives."

According to Witt, he was not surprised when he found Walker had been chosen, since on top of teaching science at GCS, Walker also teaches at Paris Junior College.

"I felt that he was above the others," he said.

Walker said he was caught by surprise when he received the award. "I walked in and the head master, Mr. Bowers said 'congratulations.' I said 'for what?'" he said. "I was very surprised." A graduate of East Texas State

University with a bachelors of science in Ag Education in 1972, Walker went on to receive his masters degree in broadfield science in 1989 and is in his 32nd year of teaching at GCS.

"I think I have the perfect job," he said. "I love teaching and I love everything science."

Walker said he enjoys teaching at GCS because he is given the academic freedom to explore faith in science.

"Part of the reason I like being here is because I'm allowed to explain my understanding that science and that of Scriptures are completely compatible," he said. Walker teaches science for grades 9-12.

Being able to teach students all four years of high school, providing a constant face for students, helps the learning process for the students, Walker said.

"By the time these students graduate, I feel like they are my kids," he said. "It's more like a family instead of just co-workers. This school has been such a blessing."

Walker said receiving the award proves to himself that he is where he belongs.

"I feel like it's affirmation that I'm doing what I need to be doing," he said. "And it's very rewarding."



Ralph Hall, Trey Johnson, Billy Walker and his children, Mathew and Laura

GREENVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

FLYING HIGH WITH THE 416

Greenville Christian School:

April 19, 2014

GCS flying high

By JOSEPH HAMRICK

Herald-Banner Staff

The Herald-Banner Sat Apr 19, 2014,

01:27 AM CDT

GREENVILLE —

Greenville Christian School teachers found an entertaining way to learn about physics.

Retired electrician Larry Eastwood volunteered his time and resources to help sixth grade students learn Isaac Newton's laws of motion. By building and launching rockets in the air, Eastwood is able to demonstrate the first and third laws of motion. Newton's first law states that "every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it."

Eastwood said the engine is the external force applied to the rocket.

"Once the engine fires, that is the external force," he said. Eastwood said once again the engine is used to show Newton's third law, which states "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." "This shows them how it applies," he said.



Eastwood said they are able to get the rockets on a yearly basis through a grant with the Air Force Association's local chapter in Greenville. Since students are learning propulsion, Eastwood said the AFA gives them approximately \$250 each year, which pays for the rockets. Students in Jennifer Simpson's science class build the rockets for two days, then get to decorate them the day before launch. Eastwood said they are able to teach the students another side of physics by showing them how to decorate their rockets without causing instability in the rocket.

Eastwood said they have always had successful launches. "We've never not had a launch," he said. "Sometimes we've had to have a second or third try, but we've been able to get them in the air."

BONHAM VETERAN'S CENTER



Chapter 416 Visit - 5 May 2014

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ALLIANCE BANK, GREENVILLE	HARDMETAL SOLUTIONS INC
AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK, GREENVILLE	HILLIARD FLORIST & GIFTS
APEX SUPPLY COMPANY	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, GREENVILLE
BAKERS RIBS, GREENVILLE	HUNT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BEST WESTERN PLUS MONICA ROYALE INN & SUITES	INNOVATION FIRST
BRASS RAIL	JERRY J RANSOM PROPERTIES
BRITAIN CHEVROLET/CADILLAC	JJ SASS IMPRINTS
CALICO CAT	JOE GIBSON AUTOMOTIVE
CELESTE JR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY	JUNGLE BURGER
CHECKMATE EMBROIDERY (ROCKWALL)	KINCY ABSTRACT & SABINE TITLE
CITY OF GREENVILLE AIRPORT	L-3 MISSION INTEGRATION DIVISION
COKER-MATHEWS FUNERAL HOME	LAKEPOINT ADVISORY GROUP REID JOHNSON
COLLIN STREET BAKERY	LAW OFFICES OF MORGAN & GOTCHER
CORD CRUNCHER INC.	LEINART CONSTRUCTION
CRUMPTON TV & VIDEO	LLOYD BLY - PRUDENTIAL TEXAS
CUP AND SAUCER	OFFICE SOLUTIONS
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DISCOUNT WHEEL & TIRE	PALIO'S PIZZA CAFÉ (ROCKWALL)
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EYECARE AND LASER MANAGEMENT; DR. HOLLY FISHER-BRITT (ROCKWALL)	SANDER'S BARBER SHOP
FAMILY VISION CENTER	SCOTT-SINGLETON & FINCHER
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX AVIATION MUSEUM	SIERRA NEVADA CORPORATION
GENERAL DENTISTRY - KYLE SMITH D.D.S.	TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
GENTLE DENTAL	TEXAS A&M COMMERCE
GILMER HIGH SCHOOL	THE TARPLEY AGENCIES
GOLDEN EAGLE FLIGHT TRAINING	TIM DRAKE JEWELERS
GREENVILLE FLORAL AND GIFT	TWO SENORITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
	WEBB HILL COUNTRY CLUB



IN MEMORIAM

DEWAUN SIMMONS

19 MAR 1971 – 1 APR 2014

Well done good and faithful servant

DeWaun aided our chapter in putting together our awesome newsletter over the past 12-18 months.

He left his position on 19 March, his birthday, and then left this world on 1 April 2014.

Our hearts are heavy for his wife Melanie and her loss, as well as ours.

E-mail to AFA chapter leadership on 19 Mar 2014

Well that time has come. As a contractor, my last day is today. I won't have time to come see everyone because it's about time to go right now, but it has been a distinct pleasure to work with each one of you. It's rare to find so many high caliber people in one place. I'm praying our paths will cross again. Thank you for making my experience here at L-3 so thrilling and one that tops my list.

Perhaps we'll see each other here at L-3 again one day, but as an employee. Only time will tell. But I wish you all the best, be well and God bless.

Regards,

C. DeWaun Simmons

Graphic Artist | Contractor | Superior Group

Perhaps, we will see you yet again our friend.

Chapter 416 lost a good friend, contributor, and just all around great guy.

God bless and keep us all.

DR. WELBY EDWARDS
9 DEC 1914 - 9 SEP 2013

*A long time Community Partner and friend of AFA.
God bless your family*

Thank you to all of our community partners

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www.netxafa.org

LEGAL STUFF: The NORTHEAST FLYER is published more or less quarterly by the Northeast Texas Chapter 416 of the Air Force Association, P. O. Box 8633, Greenville, TX 75404-8633. Chapter hotline 903-457-6605. The AFA is a non profit organization. Chapter President: Trey Johnson Please address correspondence to the Northeast Texas Chapter, including comments on the NORTHEAST FLYER to the address above.

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

