



Chief Master Sergeant Bobby McCasland – an Air Force and Chapter 416 Treasure!

Air Force Association Chapter 416 is blessed to have strong supporters as well as people who did incredible things during their lives. Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt Retired) Bobby McCasland is one of those people!

Bobby and his wife Louise are strong supporters of their community and chapter. They provide regular donations spurred on by illnesses, successes, and just out right need. They have done so many memorials and support payments over the years it would be too numerous to mention!

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President's Ponderings Vance Clarke

AF Chapter 416 members and those reading these "ponderings" – Greetings!

It is with great pleasure I share news of our chapter accomplishments this past year.

We were selected as the Texas AFA Chapter of the year for 2017! We also, again, won the AFA Community Partner (CP) Gold Award – thanks to our *TREMENDOUS* VP CP, Terry Thomas! We also won the Large Chapter, Jack Gross Award for having growth in new members equal to 7-percent! This is all a testament to the great work of many people and only possible through the support of our Community Partners and donors. Thank you to you all.

I do want to single out a couple of people who were stalwart this year.

Terry Thomas: Terry has been a mainstay in the chapter for over 20 years. His work with our Golf Thing and the outstanding work he does with our Community Partner program provide us with resources to fuel STEM activities all around our region.

Trey Johnson: Trey has been managing our books and handling our finances with finesse and ensures all gets taken care of. He is doing a great job and somehow manages to keep up with all we throw at him.

Thank you to you both! You are both tremendous AFA advocates.

Trey was the recipient of an AFA Exceptional Service Award for his work over these past few years.

I also want to pass on some difficult news. When I arrived in Greenville, 7 years ago in 2010, I could not have joined this outstanding Chapter and team without the previous work of some tremendous Airmen and AFA advocates.

Leigh Oliver slipped the surely bonds of earth on 28 July 2017. I was not fortunate enough to have known Leigh but members like Tom Bailey told me that he was someone who kept this chapter going when the going was tough! He nearly single-handedly worked on reporting and keeping 416 running when there were few to support. He recruited and supported the likes of Tom Bailey to help and to continue the great legacy. He is credited by many for being the laborer behind keeping this chapter going when it easily could have faded away. Leigh is gone but his memory and hard work will forever be reflected in our continued work. God bless his family as we remember and thank him for his service.

And, I report that our Vice-President for Veteran's Affairs, Lt Col (Ret) Larry Ratliff is fighting for his life. Larry has been the "go-to Guy" for my entire 7 years here in working with our veterans visits at the Bonham Veteran's Community Center. He and his wife, Heidi, visited there nearly every week. Their work touched numerous veterans and family members over these past years – too many people to number. As Larry fights his fight, your prayers are requested for him and his family in this difficult time. It is with a heavy heart I report that this battle has an outcome that will take Larry home to be with his heavenly Father. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

With this, I sign off and reflect on the great joys of the men and women who make this chapter and life great!



CMSgt Bobby McCasland

Chapter 416 Ambassador

CMSgt McCasland had a full career.

He took the first KC-135 off the Boeing Production line and delivered it to its' first duty station. He was so knowledgeable that he helped with the writing of ground and flight manuals and all was intimately involved in early flight-testing.

Bobby was the Flight Mechanic and Flight Engineer for two Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and was one of the original founders of "Speckled Trout airplane" used by Air Force Chief's of Staff (COS) since the early 1960s. He was recruited to pick out a KC-135 Stratotanker from the KC-135 fleet and bring it to Greenville, TX, to convert it into the COS's personal aircraft. He traveled to numerous Air Force active duty and Reserve Units to find just the right airplane. Bobby did this at the tender-ripe age of 72!

To say Bobby made an impact on people is a bit of an understatement. His name adorns a Conference Room at Edwards AFB to this day because of his accomplishments at the Air Force Test Range.

On top of all his other accomplishments, Chief McCasland was asked to help work the B-52 program. The fleet of aircraft being generated needed someone to help keep the program on track and moving. Bobby was called on to go back to Boeing to help get the first five aircraft out of the Factory.

He was the lead Program Manager on the Buffalo and Montana Aircraft Programs. He went to the desert and had two aircraft turned over to the Air Force so they could be modified into Test Bed one-of-kind aircraft for the Presidential, 89th Military Airlift Wing. Buffalo ended up being the first Glass Cockpit aircraft in the 89th Fleet and was used by President George W. Bush!

Bobby seems to never rest. He was again hand-picked to develop and manage the Drug Enforcement Agency's Cessna Citation

program here at Greenville, TX. This work generated continued successes for our law enforcement agencies.

Locally, Bobby and his wife, Louise, regularly visit the VA Hospital weekly and take cookies, prepared by Louise, as well as their tremendous good natured personalities. They are model examples of those servant leadership. Nothing has slowed them down for many years. In addition Bobby has been hitting up the local Grocers for all of their "Sweet" food items, Cakes & Pies, Cookies, etc. and taking those to the VA as well.



Letting no grass grow under his feet, he has also been a regular "Meals on Wheels" provider.

On top of all this, he single-handedly manages to care for the upkeep of two family cemeteries managing the mowing, weed-eating, and other maintenance!

Both Bobby and Louise have a heart for service and our veterans. They have been sponsoring a Free Veterans Breakfast hosted by the Elks one Saturday a month in Greenville, TX. This event touches so many and draws both the community and it's veterans together.

Bobby McCasland is a true Air Force Legend and a person our Membership and all of AFA should know about.



Cumby Robotics Ranked third in world

Extracted 26 April 2017 by Faith Huffman



Chapter 416 is blessed to have supporters who provide us funds to aid students to accomplish feats and attend events none could have imagined. Thanks to all who contribute – donors, Community Partners, and our members who give their time! Our \$1000 donation help this awesome team attend the world event. We are so pleased at their accomplishments!

The Cumby High School Robotics Team had a very successful year, which concluded with a first in division and third overall win at the Vex World Robotics championships Louisville, Ky.

“We are thrilled for them,” said CHS teacher and robotics advisor Lee Gifford. “They actually tied for second, but when you look at who else you’d competed against. We had lost to the two top teams, so we got third – in the world.”

Although they constructed and competed this school year with two robots — the A robot and the “Yea Boii!” Z robot — the Cumby students and their advisor Gifford are quick to point out that they are one big team, with more experienced students helping guide rookies through the process.

Composing the Z robot team were Hannah Jarvis, Jesslin Bond, Lacy Jacobs and Larek Walker. The A team consisted of Ken Chapin, Presley Clampitt, Hunter Milam,

Kadden Cota and Caden Phillips. Jarvis, Bond, Jacobs, Walker and Clampitt.

Teams qualify to compete at nationals one of three ways: by winning an excellence award or a tournament, or based on skills quality. Each competed at and won multiple awards at local and regional meets, as well as state.

For worlds, the top 50 high school teams in the world at the end of the season are automatically invited to participate. They also won multiple trophies for the accomplishments at other levels.

“We never thought we’d be there,” said Jesslin Bond, noting the shock of hearing their team’s name called among the top in the world.

“We were so excited. We didn’t know this would happen,” said Lacy Jacobs. “You don’t expect to do that good. You don’t think it’s going to happen to you.” “It’s happiness in its purest form,” Bond said.

Each team was tasked with building and programming a robot that would move items — stars and cubes at worlds — from one side of the field to another, with more points awarded for cubes than stars moved, Chapin said. They were timed on how many they could move within a specified time frame.

Another part of the experience the robotics team members enjoyed was meeting student competitors from all over the world and exchanging team items with them, and the bonding together with their own team over the course of the year, especially the four days away from home. Some students swapped T-shirts with competitors from other countries including Japan, and picked up bracelets and other items from teams from places including Mexico and Puerto Rico.



Chapter 416 – Events and Photos



Commerce High School Robotics Assist:
(Left) Chapter 416 is presenting a check for \$5000 to the Commerce ISD to springboard their High School Robotics program. Pictures on left, in grey jacket, VP CPs Terry Thomas, in middle in black suite in back, Chapter Teacher of the year, Earvin Larry, coach of the team. In red striped shirt is Larry Ratliff and next to him is Tom Bailey. Ratliff and Bailey identified the need at the school and orchestrated this donation through Chapter 416.

Chapter Recognition



Chairman Whitten Peters and “Mac” MacAloon, present Vance Clarke, the 2017 Chapter 416 CP Gold Award.



Greenville Christian School Rocket Launch
(Above and Below) Students of Greenville Christian School work on their Rocket Launch projects. This was another banner year for the students and teachers. Use of the rocket materials purchased by the Chapter resulted in a lot of learning and fun for all!

Cumby Robotics – 3rd in World!



Chapter President, Vance Clarke, presenting coins to the Cumby Robotics team at a celebration event held in honor of their 3rd Place in the World-Wide competition held this past year. (See story in this edition)





Calendar	
2017	
OCTOBER	11: Chapter Meeting
NOVEMBER	7-10: (Tent)TAMU Vets Vigil 8: Chapter Meeting
DECEMBER	13: Chapter Meeting
2018	
JANUARY	No meetings or activities
FEBRUARY	14: Chapter Meeting TBD: Spring Thing Banquet
MARCH	14: Chapter Meeting 16-18: State Meeting (Aggieland)
APRIL	11: Chapter Meeting
MAY	TBD: Bonham Veterans Visit 9: Chapter Meeting
JUNE	13: Chapter Meeting
JULY	No meetings or activities
AUGUST	TBD: State Meeting 8: Chapter Meeting
SEPTEMBER	12: Chapter Meeting 15-16: AFA Nat'l Convention TBD: Golf Thing Fundraiser
	* Meeting schedule is subject to change to best meet needs of day/night meetings. Please see e-mails that will come out referencing day/time of future meetings.

AFA News and Information

- **AFA 70 for 70**—This campaign is going strong by highlighting 70 diverse heroes that make up our Air Force family—including those who have served past and present, families, community supporters and anyone who has shown a commitment to make our Air Force great.
- **Renew for Less!** Those of you looking to renew your membership should focus on taking advantage of the 70for70 option. You can get an electronic membership for only \$15 dollars! Just enter “70for70” in the promotion code area. Good for one year!
- **AFA.org:** Be sure to check out the updated AFA website for additional information and offers you may be able to take advantage of.
- **Community Partners:** Be sure to visit our Community Partners and thank them for their support.

You can find a great deal of information on the www.AFA.org website. Please take some time to review the emails you receive as well as look at AFA issues and events to see if you find something you are interested in or to make yourself more “aware” for your next conversation opportunity!





Community Partners

Thanks for your Support!

Aerway
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American National Bank, Greenville
Apex Supply Company
Bakers Ribs, Greenville
Best Western Plus, Greenville
Bob Tedford Chevrolet Company
Brass Rail
Britain Chevrolet/Cadillac
Calico Cat
Celeste Jr High School Library
Checkmate Embroidery (Rockwall)
City of Greenville Airport
Coker-Mathews Funeral Home
Collin Street Bakery
Commerce Ind School District
CORE STEM Academy (Rockwall)
Crumpton TV Video
Cumby ISD
Cup And Saucer
D. Earls Tax Company
Dairy Manor Bed Breakfast
Danny Keene Enterprises
Debbie Sickels "Young Living Essential Oils"
Discount Wheel & Tire
Employee Solutions
Ernie's BBQ Inc.
Eyecare & Laser Mgmt (Rockwall)
Family Vision Center
Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum
Fritz Industries
Smith Family Dentistry
Gentle Dental
Gibson Automotive
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Scott-Singleton Fincher
Servpro
Shenaniganz
Sierra Nevada Corporation
Splash Kingdom Water Parks
Texas AM Commerce
The Tarpley Agencies
Tim Drake Jewelers
Tobacco Patch
Two Senoritas Mexican Restaurant
United Real Estate; Lloyd Bly, Realtor®
Webb Hill Country Club

Want to help? Call us at 903-274-9981
Or email President@netxafa.org



Thank You Community Partners!

Nissan of Greenville

CORE STEM Academy, Rockwall

Flight of the Phoenix

Tobacco Patch



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