



Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Chuck Meador and Cadet Patrick Pearce

May 22, 2018 US Air Force Cadet Patrick Pearce graduated from the US Air Force Academy. Pearce, a Sulphur Springs, TX, Civil Air Patrol Cadet and participant of activities that AFA Chapter 416 hosted and funded, is a product of what investment in young men and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities is all about. Meador, the CAP Squadron Captain and mentor, was able to attend the graduation in Colorado. Pearce will be heading on to Pilot training in the near future. We will work to keep an eye on him as he seeks to be a warfighter who will watch over his country. Pearce; "Not a bad life for a country boy from East Texas. I'm humbled to have graduated from the US Air Force Academy and to receive my commission into the world's greatest Air Force. It takes a lot of effort for something like this to happen and I couldn't have done it without the help and support of my best friends and my family. I owe y'all everything. Here's to closing one chapter and to starting a new one as a pilot trainee!"

AFA Chapter 416 is pleased to have had a small part in his success!

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Calendar	
2018	
JULY	No meetings or activities
AUGUST	3-5: State Meeting Wichita Falls 15: Chapter Meeting
SEPTEMBER	11: Chapter Meeting 15-16: AFA Nat'l Convention 29: Golf Thing Fundraiser
OCTOBER	10: Chapter Meeting
NOVEMBER	No Meetings or Activities
DECEMBER	12: Chapter Meeting
2019	
JANUARY	9: Chapter Meeting
FEBRUARY	13: Chapter Meeting
MARCH	13: Chapter Meeting
April	TBD: Spring Thing Banquet 17 Chapter Meeting
May	8: Chapter Meeting
June	No Meetings or Activities
	* 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.

- **Community Partners:** Be sure to visit our Community Partners and thank them for their support. View them at www.netxafo.org
- **AFA's New Website is Live:** Earlier this month AFA launched its new website. The website offers easier navigation, a fresh look, and streamlined information. On the community page you will find the information that used to be on the Field Leaders page. This page includes a calendar of events, a link to the Field Leaders portal, and a link to the Field Leaders library. We are still fine tuning the Chapter Search function so please bear with us as we make sure that it meets all of your needs.



You can find 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!

AFA News and Information

- **Registration is open for the 2018 National Convention and Air, Space & Cyber Conference.** The registration page for the 2018 National Convention and Air, Space & Cyber Conference is live. Both events will once again be held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. The National Convention will be held September 15-16 and the Air, Space & Cyber Conference will be September 17-19. Read full details on delegate registration for the event. You can find more information on the www.AFA.org page.
- **Doolittle Brick Campaign** - Over 70 years ago, Jimmy Doolittle built the foundation for AFA brick by brick. You can continue his legacy and honor your service or a loved one's service to AFA or to our country by making a tax-free donation to receive a personalized brick tile at AFA's headquarters in Arlington, VA. You can choose from two brick options: \$200 option which includes the AFA logo or a \$125 option without the logo. Learn more and purchase yours at www.afa.org/bricks



President's Ponderings

Vance Clarke

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

On our cover you saw the picture of Chuck Meador and Patrick Pearce. We are so excited to have aided in support to the Sulphur Springs Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron where Pearce was a CAP Cadet. We provided support for events and know that Meador poured some heart and soul into him as well.

It is this type of impact that can be most notable for AFA. Seeing young men and women do things they never thought of or never thought possible is so rewarding.

All of you who assist – Community Partners, sponsors, volunteers, officers, and just all the friends and supporters of both CAP and our Air Force association chapter, thank you!

Your support makes a difference and it is shown often time with big results like 1st Lieutenant Patrick Pearce, but more often, in many nearly nameless young men and women who gain confidence and ability and knowledge that they are valued and can accomplish their dreams.

Unfortunately, Tammy Bryant has had to step away due to business commitments. We thank Tammy and know she will continue to support us as her time allows.

I am pleased that TSgt Susan Toy is still helping out with our Vice-President role and doing a great job.

Terry Thomas continues as our VP of Community Partners as well as stepping into our Treasurer role until we can find someone who can take that on for us.

We need many hands to make the work load lighter for each of us. **If you desire to help, let us know!** We have something you can help with, I am sure! President@netxf.org or call me at 903-274-9981.

Mr. Ted Brown

1 September 1961 – 21 June 2018

Chapter 416 Newsletter Designer

Joseph "Ted" Brown was a Chapter 416 member who provided a great deal of support to our newsletter. Ted told many, "This is an organization that should be supported because it works to do good things!"

We lost Ted this year and miss him terribly. He made a lasting impact and helped teach us how to get our newsletters out in a better fashion than in the past.

We grieve along with his family and pray that he lives on in their hearts as well as our memory and that he shows up in the work we continue to do.

In 2015, the chapter submitted and presented the AFA Texas Medal of Freedom to him for his work.

The write up read:

Ted Brown has been instrumental in our chapter and is worthy of recognition an AFA Texas Medal of Freedom would provide. He has worked aggressively to keep our newsletter up for several years now but recently became a member and is really doing great work. Ted has been called on to generate our eight-page newsletter at the last minute on a few occasions due to materials being turned in late. He has managed to juggle his hectic and demanding work schedule yet stay as late as it has taken to ensure we deliver a solid product as well as information our members desire. Ted is to be commended for keeping a great attitude, providing sound advice, and in organizing a stellar product each month for AFA Chapter 416. He has also spoken up on AFAs behalf with senior people in his work place and garnered additional support for our efforts. Ted is a great member and one who touches all our members each quarter through his work and skillful graphics efforts.

Ted is missed by AFA, his co-workers, and his family. God is holding him close.

Thanks Ted!



Air Force Association aids

FJHS robotics program: May 27 2018

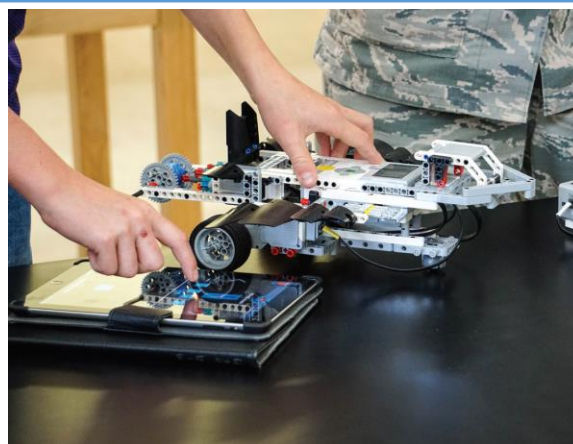
Courtesy Photos/Test from The Farmersville Times

Chapter 416 continues to support STEM activities wherever it can. Farmersville Jr. High School is blessed to have teacher Marcie Whited who has done a lot of work with AFA. Supporting her STEM programs at the school always pays off in student education and opportunity. We are pleased to have been able to support her and the FJHS programs and look forward to future opportunities.

If you are aware of a school program that requires some support, please let us know at President@netxafa.org or by calling 903-274-9981. We will evaluate and provide assistance as we can where it will aid in making an impact on students and the community.



The **Air Force Association, Northeast Texas Chapter 416 presented a check for \$670** to the Farmersville Junior High Robotics Program, \$250 as an AFA and **Lt. Col Larry Ratliff memorial donation** and **\$420 from the 645 AECS of Greenville as part of a Battle of Britain event they held**. The Air Force Association also funded a Donors Choose Grant for the FJHS robotics program earlier this year which purchased various books to support winning construction and programming ideas. FJHS hopes to compete in next year's First Lego League competitions.



Eighth grade robotics student Matthew Day demos multiple motor use on EV3 Lego Robot. Robot was designed, built and programed by Matthew Day and Raul Herrera. Three 'Fighter Jet Plane Robots' were designed, built and programmed by the students to simulate a fly over in memorial of Larry Ratliff.



Eighth grade robotics student Elijah Saldivar shows his robot to Vice President of Community Partners for Chapter 416 Terry Thomas, who also serves as Vice President of Community Partners Texas AFA and SMSgt Ryan Wiebbecke Superintendent, 645th AECS.

AFA Chapter 416 is always looking for opportunities to support STEM activities and other educational activities. Let us know where we can help!



Destination Imagination-Global Competition



AFA Chapter 416 has contributed to the Destination Imagination, Backyard Pit Crews efforts for many years now. We are pleased to see the impact that STEM challenges and their interaction with others has had. Great job on being 8th on the globe!

Extracted and Edited from the Herald Banner

Every year that Greenville's "Backyard Pit Crew" Destination Imagination team competes, it does so with the perspective that no one person is greater than the whole, and that humility is what brings the team together.

Team coach Brent Money said the spirit of humility is something that he took from the second book of Philippians. The verse reads: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you not look only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others.

Daniel McGraw, Adelle Money, Andrew Money, Brynne Scott, Cole Teurman-Lay, Brady Tibboel and Jacob Vaughn participated on the team this year.

Money, a Greenville City Council member, has seen the team grow from its humble beginnings into the team that placed eighth this year at a global competition that had more than 80 teams from around the world.

It was the third time that the team competed at the global tournament. "Our team started out as a team that was all Greenville Christian School students," Money said. "And as some of those students moved to home schooling and public school, some just dropped off the team and we ended up with a team that was more of a mix."

Money who, before attending law school, taught biology at Greenville High School, said he learned about the Destination Imagination competition and saw it as a great opportunity for students to discover their talents and interests.

Each year the competition's organizers propose challenges that students have to solve on a budget of \$200. Though coaches are allowed to advise their

teams, students must do all the work and research to come up with a solution to the challenge presented to them.

For this year's competition, the team built and programmed a robot that traversed through a maze. Students added acting and music to the performance to add a narrative to their technical solution. Money's son, Andrew, said the team made a big push to be more precise in their approach.

"We finally figured out how to use computers and circuits, and the software to really integrate it into the mechanical aspects of the presentation," he said. "We've never had anything this accurate; it has always been kind of a 'brute force' approach."

The competition also does not limit participation based on school location, which allows for groups like the "Backyard Pit Crew" to come together for a worthwhile experience.

Cole Lay, who was responsible for the computer programming for the presentation, said he loves the opportunity the competition provides him to meet students from other cultures.

"Meeting new people from different cultures opens your eyes and opens up your mind. Every person you meet, you see a whole new perspective," Lay said.

His mother, Sarah, a physician in Quinlan, said the Destination Imagination program is a good fit for her child, not only for the technical skills that he has learned, but also because of the life lessons that he has picked up along the way.

"I think encouraging kids to do their best and teaching them confidence through their own successes prepares them to handle whatever the future holds for them," Lay said.

Kathy Vaughn, a software engineer at L3 Technologies, said her son, Jacob, has enjoyed using his musical talents in several of the team's projects.

"They have not only learned how to win together, they've also learned from failing together," Vaughn said.

This year, the team qualified for the global competition and traveled to the University of Tennessee in May to compete against teams around the world. It was the team's third trip to the global competition.

During the presentation, the team found itself dealing with a technical difficulty when a wheel on their robot lost its treads.

"Well, I'm just a piano man, so I had to keep playing and just had to watch," Jacob said. "I just put a lot of work into it and I just somehow kept going."

Though the Backyard Pit Crew is now done with their year-long commitment and they are already planning for their next competition.



Marcie Whited – Farmersville teacher leading robotics and May 1, 2018 science fair!



Farmersville Jr. High Students who participated in the Science Fair. What a great showing and time. Thank you! (above and below)



Greenville Christian School Rocket Launch

April 27, 2018



Readying the rockets for launch!



Liftoff Into the wild blue yonder!



The students impacted by our donation of \$320 to support materials for their rocket launch program. Thanks to teacher Dianne Shipley for her leading this group.

Great success is obvious.



Mike Chouteau, one of the owners of Nissan Hyundai of Greenville, TX, with Terry Thomas, 416 VP Community Partners.



Community Partners

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Two Senioritas Mexican Restaurant

United Real Estate; Lloyd Bly, Realtor®

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



Thank You Community Partners!

Apex Supply Company

Checkmate Embroidery (Rockwall)

Duncan Dental

Chapter 416 – 2018 AFA Community Partner Gold Award!

July 27, 2018 - THIS MESSAGE IS SENT ON BEHALF OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, FIELD OPERATIONS **MAC MACALOON**

Dear Vance,

I am delighted to inform you that the Awards Committee has **selected the Northeast Texas Chapter to receive the Community Partner Gold Award**. This recognition is a fine tribute to your chapters' dedication and outstanding efforts on behalf of AFA.

Awards presentations will be made during the 2018 National Convention at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The award will be presented at the AFA Field Awards Reception on Saturday starting at 6:30 pm.

The note above was joyfully received. On behalf of all our leadership, **hats off and job well done to Terry Thomas our VP Community Partners! This is the 7th year in a row** we have been awarded the AFA CP Gold Award and it is nearly all because of Terry's twenty-plus years of work in our area. It is no surprise to us as we are well aware of the outstanding work he does. **Well done faithful servant!**



NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416

Air Force Association

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Chapter President: Vance Clarke - Please address correspondence to the Northeast Texas Chapter, including comments on the NORTHEAST FLYER to the address above.
