

Air Force Association Richmond Chapter 243

JETBLAST



EDITOR: ELIZABETH HART JONES



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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

We are REQUIRED by AFA to send ONE newsletter each year via US Postal Service. If you have internet access and agree to receiving the Newsletter via e-mail you will be asked to send us confirmation to our new e-mail address at

AFA_VA243@member.afa.org

If you received this by e-mail we already have you in the data base, but you need to respond to us to make sure your address is entered into the data base at our new e-mail address. Thank you for taking time to either add or confirm your e-mail address, or to let us know you wish to receive the newsletter quarterly via USPS mail by calling Elizabeth Hart Jones at 804 763-9407 or Chip Moran (Toll Free: 800-296-1516).

“HOT TOPICS”

Chapter meeting and Luncheon

All members and their spouses are encouraged to come enjoy some good old Air Force camaraderie at our next Quarterly luncheon meeting.

- February 20 at 11:30 am***
- Airport Hilton Garden Inn in Sandston, 441 International Drive***
- Speaker: Bruce LaLonde President and CEO of the USO of Hampton Roads will discuss the new Welcome Center opening at Richmond International Airport this spring***
- Order lunch from the menu***

Reservations are requested but not required so we can have an idea of how many will be there. Call or e-mail Elizabeth at 763-9407 or ehjones@comcast.net Or Chip Moran at 800 296-1516 or AFA_VA243@member.afa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 20 Our First Quarter Luncheon Meeting**
- Feb. 18.....Virginia Is For Heroes Conference (see p. 8)**
- April 24..... JROTC Drill Meet at Atlee High School**
- Saturday, March 13....AFA State Meeting in Front Royal**
- May 1.....Our second quarterly meeting at the home of Col. William A. Jones, III, USAF Medal of Honor recipient, Warsaw, VA.**



Your AFA Chapter needs you! Please show us your support by attending events, and volunteering your services! All are invited to our executive committee meetings, now held at 7 pm on the 2nd THURSDAY of each month. We meet in the Café (upstairs) in Ukrops off US rt. 1 in Glen Allen (across from Virginia Center Commons).

And Please come to our Luncheon meetings.....we need you!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY HARPER ALFORD

Fellow Richmond Chapter Members,

We've just welcomed in a new year – 2010 – and a new decade, and with this new year comes changes in your chapter's leadership. **Dave Reisenwitz** stepped down after three years of leadership in the president's position, and I moved from treasurer to be the new Chapter President. Many thanks, Dave, for your time and efforts as president and the work you have done for the chapter. Dave is not leaving our EXCOM as he consented to be the "temporary" chapter Vice President until this position is permanently filled.

Replacing me as Treasurer is **Steve Combs**, who is new to our Executive Committee, but has been a chapter member for some time. Welcome, Steve, to the EXCOM and thank you for volunteering!

Elizabeth Hart Jones continues as Chapter Secretary, performing the very important task of producing the JETBLAST, our quarterly chapter newsletter. She did a superb job on the 2009 newsletters, and we are extremely fortunate she continues with this duty.

Continuing as Chapter Vice Presidents are: Government Relations – **Fred Williamson**, Veterans Affairs – **Dave Ellis**, Communications – **Julia Reisenwitz**, Leadership Development – **Chip Moran**.

In addition to the permanent Chapter Vice President position, we have three Vice President positions open: Aerospace Education, Membership, and Community Partners. Our chapter is substantially lacking in accomplishments in these areas, and we desperately need your help. Please consider joining your Richmond Chapter 243 leadership team. Perhaps two chapter members would like to share one of these VP slots, and the Chapter would greatly benefit.

There are two upcoming events to emphasize: Our first quarter chapter luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Please see the item in this newsletter for specific information on this. On Saturday, April 24, the State AFJROTC drill meet will occur locally at Atlee High School. This is a great event and volunteers are needed!

On a closing, and sad, note, one of our longtime members, **Ray Darnell**, passed away in December. Ray, along with his wife **Virginia**, consistently supported our chapter over the years and attended our quarterly luncheon/dinner meeting up through mid-2009. Our prayers and thoughts are with Virginia in this time of her loss. Ray, we will miss you tremendously! →

- **COMING SOON TO AN AIRPORT**

NEAR YOU! The USO will be opening a “Welcome Center” for military personnel at the Richmond International Airport. Bruce LaLonde, President and CEO of the USO of Hampton Roads will be our guest speaker at the next Richmond Chapter 243 Quarterly Luncheon Meeting. The Center is tentatively scheduled to open on April 1, 2010. If you would like to donate or volunteer, go to WWW.USO.ORG



Be sure to come to our luncheon on February 20 to hear more details. →

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time,
they just have the heart.”
-Elizabeth Andrews*

- **Virginia Historical Society Exhibit on U-2 Incident**

From The Richmond Times Dispatch, Jan. 14, 2010 issue: The Virginia Historical Society at 428 N. Boulevard in Richmond has just opened an exhibit on the life of **Francis Gary Powers**. “**Cold War Crisis: The U-2 Incident**” features letters, photos, Soviet artifacts and more from the Cold War Museum at Vint Hill, VA. Power’s son, **Francis Gary Powers, Jr.** founded the Cold War Museum, and is a member of our AFA Chapter. The exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society will run through May 30, and admission is free.

For more information, call 804 358-4901 or visit www.vahistorical.org →



EDITOR'S NOTE BY ELIZABETH HART JONES

As you learned in The President's Corner message, we have a new leader on our executive committee. Harper Alford has served for several years as our Treasurer, and has been a driving force on many chapter events. He's the perfect choice to take over the job as our president. We are fortunate to have him, and all the officers on the "Ex Com". Special thanks to Dave Reisenwitz for serving as our president for 3+ years, and continuing as our VP now.

We have an excellent and dedicated executive committee but we desperately need more chapter members to lend us a hand. Your AFA membership offers you much more than a monthly magazine...it provides many opportunities to socialize and stay connected to your Air Force roots through our quarterly luncheons and chapter events. It is a great place to find fulfillment through volunteering at fun activities like our JROTC State Drill Meet Championship. For three years we've held the Air Power Open Golf Tournament, our fundraiser for two worthy charities, the Families of the Wounded Fund and Operation Homefront, but due to lack of participation, we will not be hosting it this year. Perhaps if more members start to show interest in our chapter activities, we will be able to resurrect the Air Power Open next year.

You can help by coming to our luncheons. We are trying to make that easier for you by hosting them in different areas. November's meeting was in Fredericksburg; our next meeting will be on Feb. 20 in Richmond, and in the Spring we will be heading east to the Northern Neck for a meeting at my family home, the Jones House in Warsaw (near Tappahannock). This is where my father, Col. William A. Jones III grew up. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 1969, and the medal is on display there at the house. We will also invite the Charlottesville AFA chapter (named for my father) to join us.



If you have ever driven through Warsaw you may recognize the house...it's right on Rt. 360 in the middle of town across from the Rappahannock Community College. The house was built circa 1880 by William A. Jones, Sr., my great grandfather, and is preserved as it was in the early 1900's. It was featured on the Garden Week tour in 2006, and is rarely open to the public, so now is your chance! We will definitely need advance reservations since we will have to have lunch brought in, so keep an eye out for more information in April. This will be a really fun day and I hope to see you there!

And don't forget to come to our next luncheon on Feb. 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn out by the airport!

Elizabeth Hart Jones



Elizabeth Hart Jones
Your Realtor with Heart!





VETERANS' AFFAIRS UPDATE BY Chip Moran

Dave Ellis is away on extended vacation in sunny Florida. Thanks to Chip Moran, member of the Joint Leadership Council, for covering our Veterans' Affairs in this issue.

Virginia has one of the most active Department of Veterans Services (DVS) in the Country. Six years ago it formed the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations to work with the DVS in making sure it was providing the best possible care for Virginia's Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Members. Each year the DVS reviews the needs of its veterans and works with the JLC to bring these needs to the General Assembly. Each of these organizations has a representative to the JLC appointed by the Governor. These are the people who support you...

2010 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The following legislative objectives were adopted by the Joint Leadership Council (the JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations (the VSO's) on August 12, 2009. These are the prioritized objectives of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations represented on the JLC.

1. Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans. The JLC requests that the General Assembly enact legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution to require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% service-connected disabled veterans without regards to means testing. Identical legislation passed the 2009 General Assembly and must also pass the 2010 General Assembly.

2. Support the Department of Veterans Services FY11-FY12 Budget. The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly:

- Continue level funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) at \$2 million per year (GF); and
- Appropriate \$100,000 (GF) in FY11 to continue development of the Automated Claims Processing System for veterans disability claims; and
- Provide the necessary resources to open and operate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery: \$40,000 (GF) in FY10, \$285,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) in FY11 and ongoing, and five positions.

3. Virginia War Memorial Operating Funds and FFE Funds. The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly:

- Appropriate \$910,000 (GF) in FY11 to purchase furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center; and
- Appropriate \$693,000 (GF) in FY11 and on-going to operate the Center.

4. Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries. The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$36,000 (GF) in FY11 so that burial vaults may be sold at cost at Virginia state veterans cemeteries.

5. Military and Veteran Court Programs. The JLC requests that:

- The General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize localities to establish special court programs for veterans and military personnel; and
- An educational program be established to educate judges, attorneys, first responders, and others on the unique challenges faced by combat veterans and the treatment options available to them; and
- A study be conducted to identify further ways of helping combat veterans who come in contact with the legal and criminal justice systems.

6. Military Family Relief Fund. The JLC requests that an administrative or legislative solution be found so that grants from the Military Family Relief Fund are not treated as taxable income.

For more information about Veterans Services in Virginia contact Chip Moran at

(800) 296-1516 or Chip.Moran@Yahoo.com



Honor Flight Trip for Veterans to World War II Memorial

Submitted by Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia, Inc.

Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia will host its third bus trip for World War II veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington , D.C. on April 17, 2010. Veterans wishing to go on the trip should visit <http://honorflighthtva.org/> to download the application. Please submit your application as soon as possible so we can plan for the trip. If you have questions or comments, contact us at honorflighthtva@cavtel.net or if you prefer, call us at 1-877-424- VETS.

Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia Inc. is a Williamsburg based organization formed in October 2008. Our goal is simple: to take by bus every World War II veteran in the Historic Triangle Area (Hampton Roads, Tidewater, and Richmond) who is able and has not been to Washington to visit their memorial. We must do this now before all our veterans of that war leave us. Veterans pay nothing for the trip. Buses will depart from Virginia Beach and Williamsburg , but may also depart from Richmond if we have a sufficient number of travelers from that area.

Our volunteers organize the veterans for travel, arrange the travel both to and from Washington, and arrange all activities and meals in Washington . The trip is completed in one day, spending several hours at the World War II Memorial, then visiting the Korean War Memorial and Arlington Cemetery , depending on the weather. Veterans will be treated to dinner at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico before returning to Tidewater.

We also need volunteers for the trip to serve as guardians. These volunteers will serve as guides or as a guardian for a veteran in a wheelchair.

To volunteer, visit <http://honorflighthtva.org/>.

We are an affiliate of the national group Honor Flight Network, which began this activity in 2005 and began flying veterans to Washington on commercial charter aircraft in 2006. There are now about 40 hubs or cities from which trips, mainly by air, originate. Due to our proximity to Washington , our trips are by bus. National Honor Flight Network provides us with technical and travel support, and helps arrange activities in Washington D.C. We are funded 100% by private and commercial donors. We are supported by many veterans organizations in the region.

Please see how you can help by visiting <http://honorflighthtva.org/>



AIR FORCE LICENSE PLATE PROPOSED IN VIRGINIA

Thanks to the gallant efforts of our very own chapter member, Dave Kolmer, and with the help of our new Treasurer, Steve Combs, Virginians may have a new US Air Force license plate to display on their automobiles. Dave says he noticed cars with US Army, Marines, even the Coast Guard logos, but found nothing available for the best of the best, the USAF, so he decided to do something about it. He contacted our Chapter Executive Committee, and recruited our help. He and Steve Combs approached Delegate Richard Anderson, Colonel, USAF (ret), R- Prince William County and lifetime member of the AFA. Del. Anderson graciously agreed to sponsor the bill. Stay tuned for developments. The status to date:



- A bill (House Bill 1370) has been filed for this legislative session of the General Assembly proposing a specialty license plate for present and past members of the USAF
- Delegate Richard Anderson is the chief sponsor of the bill, and twenty other delegates are co-sponsoring it
- The plate will feature the modern USAF logo on the left and the words “U.S. Air Force” at the bottom
- If all goes well, the plate should become available through DMV before this year is out
- The plate will likely cost \$10.00 in addition to normal license and personalization fees



Day at the General Assembly, January 18,2010

Joint Leadership Council members met with members of the General Assembly and with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General to advocate for the JLC's 2010 Legislative Objectives. Jeff Platte serves as the Virginia State AFA representative to the JLC. Bart Barton is his alternate. Chip Moran represents NAUS on the JLC. Dave Ellis served as NAUS representative to the JLC 2003-2009.



Delegate Rich Anderson addressing the JLC .
Photo Courtesy: Stan Crow, AUSA



Bart Barton, Chip Moran, Delegate Algie Howell, and Bill Townsley. Bart, Chip, and Bill are all AFA members. Delegate Algie Howell served in the USAF 1956-60.
Photo Courtesy: Stan Crow, AUSA

THE VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROGRAM
Presents



VIRGINIA IS FOR HEROES 2010

Thursday, February 18, 2010

9:00am to 5:00 pm

A conference addressing the support of veterans and their families experiencing the effects of combat stress and traumatic brain injury.

The Greater Richmond Convention Center

403 N. 3rd St., Richmond, VA 23219

Speakers include:

- Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (invited)
- Hon. L. Tammy Duckworth, Dept. of Vet. Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Army Brig. Gen. Loree Sutton, Dir. Of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury
- Dr. Tina Trudel, President, Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Centers, & Site Director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at Virginia NeuroCare
And many more...

On-line registration for this FREE statewide training and networking event is available until Feb. 8

www.VirginiaforVeterans.com

Lest we forget! Col. Carl Bess has offered to spearhead a group of AFA members for wreath-laying at the Virginia War Memorial and other veterans ceremonies. We've called for volunteers to help in previous issues but so far **NO ONE** has stepped up to help! He can't do this alone. If you are interested in assisting with this valuable and meaningful service, please contact Col. Bess at 804 217-9724 (home) or 804 314-8933 or e-mail cbess@comcast.net



*“Poor is the country who has no heroes
But beggared is the people who having them
forget...”
-Anon.*

AFA DUES TO INCREASE \$\$\$

During the September 2009 AFA National Convention, the delegates agreed to increase the annual dues, and by extension, the multi-year dues, by 25%, as of July 1, 2010. This is the first adjustment since 2000 – almost ten years. The new one-year membership rate will be \$45, versus the current \$36.

Until July 1 of this year, annual renewals can still be obtained at the current price of \$36. *So act now* if you are thinking of renewing your membership for one, or three years, or even a lifetime membership. ➔

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION TOP ISSUES FOR 2010

(From the October issue of Air Force Magazine, page 63)

The following recommendations were adopted at the AFA National Convention on September 12, 2009.

SUPPORTING OUR AIRMEN

- The AFA salutes all of our troops for their service.
- The AFA will strongly oppose any effort to change Tricare.



RECAPITALIZING THE AGING FLEET

- Begin the production of new tankers.
- Continue acquisition of the C-17, modifications of the C-5B/Cs.
- Increase the production rate of the F-35.
- Retain CSAR as a core Air Force mission and replace the CSAR helicopter.
- Take the necessary steps to ensure long-range strike capability is sustainable.

STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE

- Provide a life extension program that ensures safe, reliable and secure nuclear weapons to deter, assure and provide stability.
- Caution the Administration and Congress against large nuclear weapon reductions that will undermine our security.

SECURING SPACE AND CYPERSPACE

- Place an increased emphasis on space capabilities and robustly fund this critical mission area.
- Focus on developing the next generation of cyber security experts and capabilities now.

DEVELOPING AIR FORCE PEOPLE; EDUCATING AIRPOWER PROFESSIONALS

- Invest in technical education to build the support foundation the nation needs.
- Continue and expand national programs encouraging the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

INVESTING IN AIRPOWER

- Support a minimum defense spending base of four percent of the national GDP.
- Urge DOD to establish a strategic plan to define the elements of a robust defense Industrial base and the steps needed to maintain that robustness.

AFA JROTC SCHOLARSHIP

The Air Force Association would like you to know about a scholarship program currently available. Do you know of anyone who is a senior in high school – who will graduate Spring 2010 – who is a dependent of an enlisted active duty Air Force Airman (or Guard or Reserve) – who is enrolling in college in a science, technology, engineering or math degree program this Fall?

If so, that student may want to apply for the Lt Col Romeo and Josephine Bass Ferretti Scholarship. A recipient of this scholarship will have \$2,500 sent to their college or university.

Please visit our website at <http://www.afa.org/ae/aid/Ferretti.asp> for more information and for an application.



Atlee High School Air Force JROTC at State Drill Meet '09

Don't miss the 5th Annual Virginia AFA JROTC State Championship Drill Meet at Atlee High School on April 24 from 9:00 to 4:00. It's a fun and exciting day...quite impressive to see what our young people can do. The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from Bolling AFB will perform at the closing ceremony and serve as judges. Thirty-two of the thirty-four AFJROTC Schools in Virginia are expected to participate...this promises to be the best attended ever. The event is co-sponsored by AFA Richmond and Tidewater Chapters and volunteers are needed for help with scoring, judging and hosting a "Lounge" for JROTC Instructors, Judges and Staff where a continental breakfast and pizza lunch will be provided. Hats and Tee shirts will also be for sale. If you can give us some of your time that day, please contact Chip Moran at: Cell 800-296-1516 or Chip.moran@yahoo.com



AFA Richmond Chap. 243
P.O. Box 2195
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116

E-mail: AFA_VA243@member.afa.org



The Force behind the Force.

We're on the web!
www.richmond-afa.org

2009 Chapter Officer Roster and Vacant Positions

President **	Harper Alford	H 804-754-2350	hsa888@gmail.com
Vice President**	Dave Reisenwitz	H 804-750-1116	dreisenwitz@verizon.net
Secretary**	Elizabeth Hart Jones	Cell 804-763-9407	ehjones@comcast.net
Treasurer**	Steven Combs	H 804-496-6067	steven_j_combs@hotmail.com
VP Aerospace Ed.	VACANT – Desperately NEEDED !!!		
VP Gov. Relations	Fred Williamson	H 804-512-4653	fhw@hwagroup.com
VP Vets. Affairs	Dave Ellis	H 540-891-7246	david_sally@verizon.net
VP Comm.	Julia Reisenwitz	Juliar285@gmail.com	
VP Membership	VACANT – Desperately NEEDED !!!		
VP Community Partners	VACANT – Desperately NEEDED !!!		
VP Leadership Dev.	Chip Moran	Cell 800-296-1516	Chip.moran@yahoo.com
Members At Large:			
	Bob Gill	milfig@msn.com	
	Bruce Ivey	iveyclan4@earthlink.net	

The Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM) meets the Second Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the “Café” (upstairs) at Ukrops (US 1 across from Virginia Center Commons). All members are welcome!

Positions followed by ** are elected for two year terms, unless incumbent agrees to serve longer. ALL other positions are appointed by the elected officers to members who have shown a desire to serve in that position or on a specific committee. You are the “ONE” member who can help us grow !!

