

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association's Emerging Leaders Program began in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Michael J. Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the fifth profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

Emily C. Shay

Home State: Massachusetts.

Chapter: Paul Revere.

AFA Offices: Chapter secretary; formerly VP, Race Programs.

Occupation: Air Force civilian program manager.

Education: B.S., Northeastern University; M.S., Tufts University.



Q&A

What have you learned on AFA's Membership Committee? My goal on that committee is to be able to provide insight on the wants and needs of [the younger] demographic. ... I think the e-membership is great. It speaks to a lot of different needs that people have. I think that people are concerned about the environment, so with e-membership there's less paper [without a printed] magazine. Also you have your iPad with you all the time, so it makes AFA more accessible to people.

What new ideas do you have for AFA? Adding more networking events at the chapter level. ... A way to bring value to AFA members would be through things like educational opportunities and networking events and leadership opportunities.

How did you first learn about AFA? From my supervisor at the time. His name is Paul Zauner. He asked me to come on board and direct a race that we do. It's a big fund-raiser for our chapter. I've been directing that race for three years now.



At the 2014 Veterans Day 10K and 5K run, race organizer Emily Shay clutches her cellphone and a shotgun envelope full of awards. The Paul Revere Chapter sponsors the race, held at the Bedford, Mass., Veterans Affairs facility. Shay reports the event has raised \$30,000 in the last three years.

Try, Try Again: A Science Project Launches into Space

When the SpaceX company's rocket launched on Jan. 10, the **Northeast Texas Chapter** was as pleased—and relieved—as the International Space Station astronauts and the rocket company's founder, Elon Musk.

Along with supplies for the astronauts, the capsule contained a science experiment created by students from Rockwall, Texas. The Northeast Texas Chapter had arranged for a \$5,000 donation toward the goal of more than \$20,000 needed to send the project into space.

The successful launch came a little over two months after the first one ended with the rocket exploding just after liftoff from NASA's Wallops Island facility in Virginia.

That Oct. 28 mishap destroyed not only the Orbital Sciences Corp. launcher and its cargo of supplies for the ISS but also 18 science projects by student groups, including one from Rockwall.

Three days afterward, however, the Rockwall team members learned that they could reassemble their experiment and get onto Musk's SpaceX-5, scheduled for a mid-December launch from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla. The students met the new deadline and, as they had for the first launch attempt, faced round after round of rescheduled dates that pushed the liftoff into mid-January.

Several Rockwall schools actually started a year ago to send a science project into space through the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. Now freshmen at Rockwall High School, Will Brown, Ryan Figert, Brooks Helmer, Chase Howerton, James Matthews, and Harrison Smith were eighth-graders when they earned a spot for their experiment. It is called "How Microgravity Affects Yeast Cell Division and How it Relates to Human Cancer Cells." The team then had to raise the funds to secure their space launch.

The AFA chapter donation honored Chapter Community Partner Nancy Murray's father, retired Lt. Col. John J. Murray, a strong supporter of the chapter before his passing in 2012. According to Chapter Communications VP Vance M. Clarke, the donation had put the student's fund-raising effort "over the top."



Rockwall, Texas, students Brooks Helmer, Luke Cox, Ryan Figert, James Matthews, and Will Brown (l-r) discuss their science experiment that launched into space—after numerous delays and even a headline-making rocket explosion. The Northeast Texas Chapter contributed funds to their project.

Photo by Ron Baselle, Dallas Morning News

LA Ball

Gen. John Hyten, head of Air Force Space Command, speaks to the audience after receiving the Thomas D. White Space Award at the Los Angeles Air Force Ball, sponsored by the Gen. B. A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter in November. On stage (l-r): AFA Board Chairman Scott Van Cleef, Schriever Chapter Board Chairman Tav Taverney, and Chapter President Ed Peura. Below: Space and Missile Systems Center's command chief CMSgt. Craig Hall elicits smiles from the Los Angeles AFB Honor Guard, l-r: 2nd Lt. Nathan Olivarez, SrA. Corey Franzke, 2nd Lt. Arun Das, and 1st Lt. Justin Shimasaki. The airmen presented the colors at the ball. Below right: Dave Deptula, dean of the Mitchell Institute, Hyten, his wife, Laura, Pat Greaves, and SMC Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves.



USAF photos by Sarah Cornice



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Photo by Vic Johnson



In Wisconsin, CAP members honored local Congressional Gold Medal recipients. Billy Mitchell Chapter president Vic Johnson attended the ceremony. World War II CAP veteran Winifred Alexy stands fifth from the left (in maroon jacket), with another medal recipient, Bill Bruring, in CAP uniform, to her left.

CAP Gold in Wisconsin

In a Capitol Hill ceremony on Dec. 10, World War II-era Civil Air Patrol representatives accepted a Congressional Gold Medal—recognition for CAP’s wartime role in protecting the US against German U-boat attacks.

In the outskirts of Milwaukee two days later, **Billy Mitchell Chapter** President Victor L. Johnson Jr. attended a presentation ceremony for local CAP recipients.

Winifred Alexy and Bill Bruring were the two World War II CAP veterans able to accept their awards in person at the evening reception. Several relatives of other eligible CAP volunteers

received the medal on behalf of a family member.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported that Alexy became a CAP cadet at age 18 and served in her hometown of Duluth, Minn. Bruring, also 18 at the start of the war, joined CAP but soon left for Army service and later for Navy service in Korea. He is still in CAP and as part of this medal ceremony was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

The ceremony took place at a senior living center where Alexy lives. “Winnie must be a private person,” commented Johnson, “as a couple [of residents] did not know she was in World War II and a CAP member.”



Ned Hance pins an AFA CAP Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year medal onto Jerry Jaipersad’s uniform. Hance is from Florida’s Waterman-Twining Chapter.

Congress approved a Congressional Gold Medal for CAP last May. Living CAP World War II veterans and family representatives of those who have died receive replicas of it. AFA honored CAP with a Lifetime Achievement Award at its convention last fall.

Stepping Up to the Task

Waterman-Twining Chapter President Edward H. Hance presented an AFA Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year Award at a banquet in Florida.

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RESUME



Tuskegee Airman Leo Gray addresses the Miami-Homestead Chapter.

Cadet Jerry Jaipersad received the medal and AFA Citation at a mid-December annual awards event in Brandon.

Keith Barry, commander of the General Chuck Yeager Cadet Squadron in Brandon, explains why in an email: "With nearly all of the squadron's cadet officers graduating from high school ... and moving on to either military service or attending college out of the local area, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Jaipersad stepped into the leadership role of both first sergeant and the ranking cadet in the squadron.

"He has displayed excellence, performing tasks normally reserved for the cadet commander, in addition to his own responsibilities as first sergeant."

During this event, Hance, too, received recognition: a CAP Certificate of Appreciation from Barry.

A Tuskegee Airman's Tales

Tuskegee Airman Leo R. Gray spoke to the **Miami-Homestead Chapter's** luncheon meeting in October, recounting anecdotes from World War II, when he was among America's first black military airmen.

Gray, an AFA Life Member of Florida's **Gold Coast Chapter**, entitled his presentation to the Miami AFA audience "Home Free." Chapter President Rodrigo Huete said that Gray spoke about difficulties he encountered as an African-American in the military.

At age 18, Gray went to single-engine training at Tuskegee AAF, Ala., in 1943. He flew 15 combat missions as a P-51 Mustang pilot over Europe, serving with the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group.

After leaving Active Duty in 1946, he earned two college degrees and began a 30-year career with the US Department

of Agriculture. He retired as a Reserve lieutenant colonel in 1984.

The Total Force

The **Gen. Charles A. Horner Chapter** convened its "first-ever expert panel" for its November meeting in Iowa—and that was only Part One.

Chapter President Harley Thornton said chapter members representing the Total Force made up the gathering's roster of speakers: Lt. Col. Ryan D. Hollman, commander of AFROTC Det. 250 at Iowa State University; retired Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Schwab, who had been ANG assistant to the commander of Air Combat Command; and retired Maj. Gen. Linda S. Hemminger, a Reservist, who was mobilization assistant to the Air Force deputy surgeon general.

Thornton said the panel focused on "people topics": organization of forces, command structure, duty status, and promotion processes.

Hollman, who brought three cadets with him to the meeting, said the speakers covered similarities and differences in the three components—an area his students often overlook because they focus on their immediate goal of Active Duty service.

On the green with 1976 US Open champion Jerry Pate (center), at the Eglin Chapter's golf tournament in Florida, are (l-r): Mike Kostelnik, chapter Aerospace Education Foundation chairman; Curt Long, Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council chairman; Paul Hsu, a scholarship sponsor; and Bob Patterson, Florida Region past president. This 42nd annual Doolittle Scholarship Open, in November, netted some \$18,000 for the chapter foundation.



Photo by Eddie McAllister

In fact, the discussions prompted the cadets to ask about retirement from Active Duty versus from the reserves, Hollman said.

Thornton explained that the meeting concentrated on personnel topics because a follow-on appearance by this expert panel is scheduled for this month. They'll discuss the missions carried out by the three sectors of USAF's Total Force.

James E. Smith, 1923-2015

Retired Col. James E. Smith, an AFA national director emeritus, died Jan. 25. He was 91 and a resident of Princeton, N.C.

Better known as "Red," he once told AFA's membership department that if they addressed his mail to James E. Smith, the post office at Princeton wouldn't know who it was for.

Colonel Smith was born in Boaz, Ala., and had served as a pilot from World War II through the Vietnam War years. His assignments included five years on the Joint Staff and participation in the Berlin Airlift.

In his civilian career, Colonel Smith taught business management at community colleges and served as Princeton town manager. ★

Reunions reunions@afa.org

C-141A/B crew members and squadron, Travis AFB. June 20 at Pippo Ranch, Vacaville, CA. **Contact:** Jack Pledger (520-705-0658).

F-86 Sabre Pilots Assn. April 26-28 at the Gold Coast Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas. **Contact:** J. R. Alley, PO Box 34423, Las Vegas, NV 89133 (702-363-9880) (alleyoop3@cox.net).

Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, all units. June 11-13 at the Clarion Hotel in Branson, MO. **Contact:** Tim Pierce (864-654-7510) (tap6869nam@gmail.com).

Saigon Mission Assn, including all who served in or supported the Vietnam War.

May 1-2 in Dayton, OH. **Contact:** Hal Segerson (731-614-2134) (hsege1@charter.net).

Udon RTAB, Thailand, veterans. July 9-13 at the Best Western Plus Cutting Horse Inn and Suites, in Weatherford, TX. **Contact:** Jerry and Thim Long, 118 Mariah Dr., Weatherford, TX 76087 (817-594-4623) (jclhydsr71bafb@gmail.com). ■

Having a Reunion?

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