

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor

Dancing

The **Ramstein Chapter** modeled its contest on the popular TV series “Dancing With the Stars” but called its version a “Dancing With Our Heroes” gala.

Rather than pairing celebrities with professional dancers and having them compete in a Los Angeles TV studio, the AFA event in Germany pitted airmen and civilians performing at the Ramstein Air Base Officers Club.

Instead of paying contestants, the dancing in Deutschland raised money for wounded warriors in the community and those transitioning through Germany from deployments—the heroes alluded to in the title.

So was it a contest or a fund-raiser? “There was a competition,” replied Chapter President SMSgt. Bradley A. Williams, “but all of [the] dancers were committed to the cause more than the competition.”

In fact, SrA. Alicia Garcia said, “This is a way that I can use my passion to support a great cause and our warriors.”

Along with partner SrA. Joshua Plucinski, she won overall honors with a tango. A country swing dance earned SSgt. Jennifer Jordan and Caleb Jordan second place. SrA. Aaron Blackmon partnered with Alexis Underwood for a waltz that took third place. In fourth place, Mary Miracle and SrA. Tyler Goodloe performed something called an East Coast Mash Up.

Williams counted 153 guests, including wing and squadron commanders, staff members representing US Air Forces in Europe, expatriate retirees, Army personnel, and even several Marines en route to deployments.

The contest generated so much excitement that “some of the dancers’ families flew in to see the event,” Williams wrote in an email.

He credits chapter member SSgt. Sadie D. Martin with organizing the dance and Life Member SrA. Shabree N. Heasel—one of USAF’s 2014 Outstanding Airmen of the Year—for stepping in when he and Martin had to go TDY.

A large group of nonmembers volunteered to help, too, most notably SrA. Josiah Austin as the choreographer.

The volunteers even arranged for child care—with meals—and for a community sponsor, Grace Studio, to entertain the audience with two numbers.

Chapter President Williams said Dancing With Our Heroes raised \$1,700.

A Motivating Major General

Retired AFRC Maj. Gen. Gerald C. Still, president of the **Lehigh Valley Chapter** in Pennsylvania, presented Civil Air Patrol cadets Rachel Scheller and Ian Martinez-Morel with CAP awards in July. A CAP press release stated that Martinez-Morel, who received the Amelia

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Earhart Award, and Scheller, who earned the Ira C. Eaker Award, were thrilled to have Still at their award ceremony. "I hope that when the younger cadets see a major general handing me that certificate, it will inspire and motivate them to become leaders," Scheller commented.

Try, Try Again

"I'm busy, but here's my business card." You might be discouraged by

such a noncommittal reply when recruiting a new member. But not **Genesee Valley Chapter** President Alfred E. Smith. When he ran into Charles Price at another New York function, he again asked him to join AFA, and this time the Tuskegee Airman said yes. Price worked in intel in World War II with the 1000th Signal Company, attached to the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy. He retired from the Rochester, N.Y., police

department as a captain and today speaks to groups about his service with the US military's first African-American aviators.

Wider Audience for the Story

In Florida, the **Eglin Chapter's** treasurer, Steve Czonstka, presented the Doolittle Raiders' *Last Reunion* book to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, located in Valparaiso. The chapter donated the book so the story of the 1942 raid on Tokyo, led by Jimmy Doolittle, could be shared with more people. ✪

Photo by William Noyes



At Whiteman AFB, Mo., Science Olympiad team members from Macon County High School examine the inside of an A-10. Whiteman Chapter's aerospace education VP, TSgt. Steven Brevelle, guided these students on a base tour. It was all part of the kids' instructor, Clint Coffey, being selected as the chapter's High School Teacher of the Year.

Look for more chapter news in *Wingman Magazine*.

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Reunions

20th FW Assn (1930-today). Oct. 14-18, Hilton New Orleans Riverside. **Contact:** (770-429-9955) (abbyndavid@aol.com).

B-26, including 3rd Bomb Wg, 17th BW, 452nd BW, 12th Tactical Recon Sq (Korean War). Oct. 6-8, Langley Inn at JB Langley-Eustis, VA. **Contact:** Antonio Fucci (805-491-0686) (afucci@msn.com). ■

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