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## ANGELA DUPONT

### The Road to an AFA Bequest

Angela Dupont has come a long way from her roots in a mill town in Massachusetts to serving as vice president for corporate development at Alion Science and Technology of McLean, Va., one of the nation's leaders in providing engineering solutions to strengthen national security.

It was her experience as president of the Air Force Association's Paul Revere Chapter at Hanscom AFB, Mass., that exerted the greatest influence on her life. To acknowledge this impact and to give back to AFA, Dupont joined the Thunderbird Society in 2010 and made a generous provision in her estate plans for AFA.

Dupont's path to AFA was a winding one. She began her career in herbal wellness products sales, first in the Boston area and then on the West Coast. After moving back to Massachusetts, then-Congressman Marty Meehan hired her to lead fund-raising efforts as his finance director, recognizing her sales experience and political interest.

Since Meehan didn't accept political action committee funds, Dupont had to concentrate on the grass roots. "I learned early on to focus on the little guy and what's in it for him in building long-term support," she said.

After a stint directing international marketing for the Massachusetts Port Authority, Dupont took yet another turn in her career when she joined Titan Corp., an engineering and acquisition services company with a significant presence supporting the Air Force at Hanscom.

She was excited to have the opportunity to work with the Air Force. "I had an uncle who served in the Air



Photo courtesy of Angela Dupont

Force, a stepdad who always wanted to fly but couldn't because of eye problems, and a grandfather who had served in the Navy. Not only was I excited about my new job, but my family was very excited," said Dupont.

One of her coworkers at Titan, aware of her fund-raising background, asked if she had any interest in volunteering to help the local AFA chapter. Before long, Dupont was working with generals, officers, and the enlisted leadership in planning air shows, conferences, and trade shows. She used her fund-raising skills to generate revenue from the events to support scholarships for military families and other charitable activities benefiting service members and veterans.

"What I learned most," she said, "was service before self." Dupont had an opportunity to give back to something she had great affinity and respect for. To this day, "I'm always focusing on how what I do helps the

mission. The focus is off me and on the mission," she said.

Dupont also learned that AFA chapter success depended on a strong partnership with the Air Force. She was fortunate in having the leadership support of Electronic Systems Center commanders and their staffs. "They could clearly see the benefit of AFA's work to their airmen and their families," she said.

One of Dupont's greatest memories is attending the annual Outstanding Airmen of the Year Dinner, which honors a select group of 12 airmen from across the Air Force for their exceptional service. "I was just in awe to see what they do and how they put their lives on the line so we can all enjoy our freedom. I felt privileged knowing that AFA helps support their work," she said.

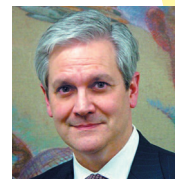
Inspired by wounded airmen she met at the dinner, Dupont soon increased her annual giving and eventually made a bequest by which 100 percent of her gift would go to wounded airmen and their families.

A former AFA national director and former chairwoman of the Development Committee, Dupont continues her service to the association today as a member of the national-level Field Council.

Whenever Dupont asks her fellow AFA members to make a donation, she asks what inspires their membership. "Find out what attracts them most to AFA and ask, 'Why not support that?'" she said. "I've been privileged to serve with AFA. Some of the best people I know I met through AFA."

For her generous support and leadership, we thank Angela Dupont.

By Larry Dilworth



# KI HO KANG

## Giving Back to Thank the Air Force

Ki Ho Kang is the first to tell you that he owes his career success to the Air Force.

Born in South Korea, Kang came to the United States at the age of 12. His family had limited financial resources. He pursued a bachelor's degree in engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., thanks to an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

During his 11 years on Active Duty and 10 years as a Reservist, Kang learned how to keep airplanes operating, fix problems, and integrate new technology.

He left Active Duty in 2000 and retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2010 as a lieutenant colonel. He is a Life Member of the Air Force Association.

Serving in the Air Force was a dream opportunity for Kang. Ever since he was a child, he was fascinated by airplanes and enjoyed building plastic models of fighters. "I always wanted to be around airplanes," he recalled. "For a guy who liked airplanes, it has been nice."

Since 2003, Kang has been the founder, president, and chief executive officer of KIHOMAC in Springfield, Va. The company has more than 235 employees and provides engineering services and solutions for military aircraft and missiles. "If not for the Air Force, I wouldn't even know this type of work existed," said Kang.

He considers himself fortunate to have had great mentors in the Air



Photo courtesy of Ki Ho Kang

Force. "At every step in my Air Force career, I learned something different and was exposed to great leaders who made me who I am today," he said. Looking back, Kang said he is "humbled and honored" by the dozens of people who "were concerned about my well-being and took the time to mentor me."

Kang's first job in the Air Force was at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, Calif., working as an engineer on A-10 ground-attack aircraft. This experience helped provide him with the technical skills that he uses to this day in his work.

Under the supervision of Maj. Bob Strasser, Kang learned about life and leadership and about the importance of savings. Through those lessons, he was able to start his own business. Capt. Francis McRory taught Kang the ropes of being an officer and an Air Force engineer, and the two became lifelong friends.

The financial rewards of his hard work and success put Kang in a position to make a \$10,000 gift to AFA.

"The Air Force gave me a bachelor's and master's degree and mentoring that helped me for all my career," said Kang. He has tried to give back the lessons he learned in the Air Force by mentoring others and through his financial support. Not only is Kang personally invested, KIHOMAC is a new member of AFA's Corporate Membership program.

In looking to the future, Kang said he would like to see support from him and others help to tell the story of the sacrifice of airmen and the courage it takes to fly. As an example, Kang cited the bravery of those involved in helicopter search and rescue missions who put their lives on the line in every mission. "Sometimes we focus too much on the hardware and not enough on the airmen. The planes are just tools," he said.

Kang's life has come full circle through the Air Force. When he was a high school student in Baltimore, Martin State Airport was nearby, the home of the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron. Kang would enjoy watching A-10s flying overhead. "Little did I know that I would be working on this aircraft and 20 years later, my life would be devoted to this," he said.

Throughout Kang's career, he has appreciated what the Air Force has meant for him. For Ki Ho Kang's generous support to AFA, we are deeply grateful. ■

*Larry Dilworth is AFA's vice president for development and marketing.*