

THE MARAUDER

Gold Coast Chapter 351 Quarterly Newsletter



OPEN HOUSE reminder **ALL INVITED**
Saturday October 29th; any time 9 to Noon
Learn to Fly Center, 1111 NE 10th St.
Pompano Bch Air Park Pompano, 333060
Coffee, snacks, good talk and a door prize.

www.GoldCoastAFA.org

FLYER - SEPTEMBER 2016

GoldCoastAFA@gmail.com

MISSION The Air Force Association educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense; and supports the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family and aerospace education.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: To update your email address or Unsubscribe please email: CBrown@afa.org

President's Message: A Personal Reflection Ride with the Top Down

I saw this saying on a candy wrapper and immediately thought of Leo. That's how he lived, with GUSTO, at least for the last twenty years that I knew him. Leo's life was a ride with the top down. And if you were fortunate to join him on his escapade you too would feel the wind in your hair. Leo lived with a sense of freedom; freedom from time restraints, enjoyment of the companionship of friends and the anticipation of what waited ahead. Yet, Leo did not spend his hours foolishly. No, in fact he was extremely responsible and when he made a commitment, he always kept his word. Yes, Leo loved life and enjoyed every minute of his globe-trotting. And those of us who were fortunate to know him well - learned to relax and along side of him enjoy the ride...with the top down. VSM

Cyber Group Stands up at Otis

The Massachusetts Air National Guard's 202nd Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group was activated on Aug. 28 in a ceremony at Otis ANGB, Mass., [according to a release](#). The group is made up of three squadrons whose mission is to "conduct global integrated cyber ISR operations to detect, characterize, and mitigate cyber threats, exploit computer networks, and enable full-spectrum cyber operations." Group commander Col. Joseph Morrissey said, "The importance of this mission cannot be overstated. Cyber is in the news every day and we have a unique opportunity to aid our nation in this domain."

See **CyberPatriot**, AFA's premier program on AFA website

SAVE THESE DATES:

Oct 29th, Sat. 9am-1:00pm; OPEN HOUSE

All members invited to meet and greet. Do join us for refreshments and a great door prize. Learn to Fly Center at Pompano Bch Air Park, See FLYER for more information

Nov. 5, Homestead Air Show Chapter Bus Trip
For more info, look for flyer on Website

Nov 11, 11 am Veterans' Day-See your city's venue & schedule for event

Dec 5, Mon.; Flight 19 Memorial, 1pm; NAS Museum at 4000 W Perimeter Rd in Ft Lauderdale 33315

Dec 14, Gold Coast Chapter Mtg Banyan Bldg at Ft L Executive Airport; 1PM - **all members invited**

Dec 17, Sat. AM; Wreaths Across America Ceremony- Lake Worth National Veterans' Cemetery



In June, Chapter's VP, Leo R. Gray, Lt Col. USAF (Ret.) was invited to attend the "Gathering of Eagles" event at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. There Aviation Legends shared their experiences with the Air Command & Staff College students.

GONE WEST

Leo R. Gray, Lt.Col. USAF (Ret) of the original Tuskegee Red Tail Pilots died Sept. 23, 2016 at the age of 92.

In his retirements years Leo was a motivational speaker. He always stressed the importance of persistence and of overcoming obstacles encountered in life. This is the legacy Leo leaves to those he mentored. We shall miss this great patriot and great American.

Excerpts from **2016 AFA National Convention Summary**
by Bill Yucis, AFA Florida State President

Seventeen AFA Florida delegates attended the AFA National Convention, held at the Gaylord National Harbor on September 17-18. WE were able to listen to many informative briefings about the state of AFA and a summary of their major programs. In addition, the delegates voted in the new AFA Leadership. The new AFA Chairman of the Board will be Whitt Peters, former Secretary of the Air Force. As I emphasized at the AFA Florida State Meeting,

I feel attending the National Convention gives members a better insight into AFA and the roles played at both the National and Chapter levels to support the AFA Mission to Advocate, Educate, and Support. On the AFA Website, select Field Leaders, and at the bottom right corner you will find the Power Point presentations given to delegates (soon). For those unable to attend, this will give you a feel for what was discussed.

At the State Convention, I emphasized that the AFA Budget and membership were the top two topics this year and that held true at the National Convention. Larry Spencer, AFA President, briefed that for the past few years, AFA has run a \$20 million Budget but only received \$18 million in revenues and unless that changes, AFA will cease to remain a viable organization in the near future. Another problem is AFA receives significant contributions for specific programs, such as the Wounded Airman Program, Mitchell Institute, CyberPatriot, and StellarXplorers, but those monies must be used only for those specific programs. Revenues for the General Operating Funds, which pay for all the administrative costs for these programs, are down significantly.

There were many discussions during the Convention concerning the Budget. You may have heard many rumors about what will and will not be cut out of the 2017 Budget, but be assured that nothing has been decided at this time but it was briefed several times that you can expect painful cuts across the Board at both the field and national levels to get the 2017 Budget closer to a balanced budget. Prior to the Convention, the Board of Directors and the EXCOM provided guidance to the AFA National Staff on which programs to cut and they are charged to develop a 2017 Budget. Prior to approval, the suggested Budget will be reviewed by several groups for input. In Florida, it will go to me, as Region President, and I will pass this along to the Chapters for review and input. You can anticipate, however, that Chapter payments from AFA National will be cut, probably at least 50% and maybe more.

Reports were also discussed about the Region President meeting and they will be changing, probably less than once a quarter. I know many of you see them as a waste of time but there are a couple of reasons to continue them. First, as State president, it gives me a better feel for what is going on around the State. Second, much of the data is needed to verify that AFA (as a national entity) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Membership was also discussed several times. So far in 2016, AFA has had a record number of new members, but the revenue associated with membership has declined. That is because of the high number of complimentary memberships. In addition, there was only a minor increase in overall membership due to the large number on non-renewals. Retention is a primary issue for the future. For example, over 3000 CyberPatriot Team leaders were given free membership with the hopes that they will renew as full members.

Advocacy is a primary AFA mission at the National level. The AFA Government Relations staff routinely interacts with Capitol Hill and other federal agencies on national policy topics such as: caring for veterans, retirees, and active duty personnel; recapitalizing the Air Force's aging fleet; securing space and cyber space; strengthening the nuclear mission; and investing in airpower.

Chapter members can become effective APAs ...reaching out to the public and key stakeholders in communities across the country in order to effectively communicate the important role that our Airmen play in supporting our nation's global defense strategies.



Milt's Memoirs

It was August 28th, 1945. The BIG BOMBS had been dropped and

the Japanese had announced their intention to surrender. The orders had come down and the 380th Bomb Group was to fly a huge group formation of 48 B-24 Liberator bombers over the main Japanese island of Honshu. I don't believe that throughout the entire war, the Flying Circus ever was required to provide that many aircraft at the same time on a single raid. The mission was designated as an Armed Reconnaissance. Each of the four squadrons would put up twelve aircraft. They would fly three boxes of four planes each. There would be a lead squadron, then a squadron flying slightly behind on either side of the lead, and finally, the fourth squadron taking position behind the others.

Each Liberator, I recall, carried eight 500 pound bombs, about half of our maximum capability. Our squadron, the 528th, took position on the left side of the lead squadron. Our plane was on the left side of our squadron, thus the left side of the whole group. What made this exciting was that when the group made a turn, our plane was the most pressed upon to maintain position. On a left turn, we would have to slow down to minimum airspeed and hope we would not stall out and fall out of the sky. If we were on the outside of a turn, we had to maintain full engine power, and make over 200 miles per hour, just to keep up with the formation.

As a result of all this cockpit activity, Bill Breece, the Aircraft Commander and I kept very busy with power and controls trying to maintain formation. The weather was beautiful, but we had not the time to enjoy it. The Japanese did not fire nor take any offensive action toward us and so, we did not drop any bombs on them. We returned to our base on Okinawa after almost ten hours of flight time. This was the last major effort the Flying Tigers ever put forth. World War II officially ended with the signing of the surrender documents a few days later on the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Gold Coast 351 Officers for 2016

Virginia Montalvo-President Vacant - Vice President
Joseph Roberts-Treasurer
Loretta Young-Veteran Affairs
Bob Morris-Membership
Bob Marks-Government Affairs
Virginia Knudsen - Aerospace Education
Justin Burr-Webmaster, Ed Weber- USMC Advisor
Thaddeus Hamilton -Veteran Rep

This year has hit MAITAI, the Tuskegee chapter of Miami and Broward Counties with a number of member losses. The latest loss is that of Tuskegee member Mr. John Spencer. He was a quiet and unassuming man. For more than a decade He served the chapter well as its financial secretary. He and his loyalty to the Tuskegee cause will long be remembered. Rest in Peace. VSM

Leo congratulates Loretta Young on her wins at the National Senior Games for Veterans. Ms Young is our (Gold Coast) Chapter's Veteran Liaison VP

In Ayr,



Leo and Dianne (Mrs Gray) pose with Lt General Stayce Harris, USAF. Leo's last planned appointment was to go to Wash. DC and witness the pinning of the third star on Lt. General Harris. She is the Assist Vice Chief, Air Staff HQs in DC. We are proud that she is also an AFA member.



Leo visits with long time friend Ms Dawn Seymour at the Gathering of Eagles. Ms.Seymour was the first female pilot with the WASP.



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God bless America

WINGS OVER HOMESTEAD



AIR SHOW



Saturday

November 5, 2016

Departure 8am

Arrival 5-6pm

**SEE the USAF Thunderbirds, the
Golden Knights, Static Displays &
others *Also Food Vendors***

Air Show: FREE Hosted by 482
Fighter Wing

Bus: Arranged by Air Force Association
Gold Coast Chapter \$20 members
\$25 non-members

Reservation: Call Loretta

954-257- 6763

BUS PICK UP 8am at the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail Station in Ft Lauderdale

BUS RETURNS approximately 5-6pm

Directions: Bus will be at the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail Station parking area to the rear of the University of Phoenix parking area on West 6th Way. Entrance is at light off Cypress Road between Andrews Ave and Powerline (9 Ave) west of I95.

DO BRING a chair or wheel chair, suntan lotion, sunglasses, umbrella, hat, camera & pen for autographs and EAR PLUGS . Please DO NOT BRING food or drinks. All bags will be inspection.