

# CHAPTER NEWS

| Advocating the needs of the United States Air Force Community |

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## A Message from the Chapter President

Joe Tartaglia, the current Chapter President, is PCSing in August so I have agreed to take over as the Waterman-Twining Chapter President. Joe has done a wonderful job, as an Active Duty airman at MacDill AFB, to increase Chapter involvement at the base. The Waterman-Twining Chapter is the largest AFA Chapter in Florida with a little over 1000 members and yet only about 5-6 members are active. In this Chapter Newsletter, I want to showcase some the great things the Chapter has been doing and hope that you would agree to help in a couple of small ways.

Just to be clear, I am not asking to attend regular meetings because the Chapter area stretches from Sun City Center (where I live) in southeast Hillsborough County to St. Petersburg in south Pinellas County to Brooksville in Hernando County. Hopefully you will see from the Newsletter that there our opportunities to support the Chapter wherever you reside. I hope you would consider expanding our Chapter presence. I would be especially like to see some members who would be able to continue the great work done by Joe Tartaglia at MacDill AFB.

Thank you for the support you currently give both Air Force Association and the Waterman-Twining Chapter by continuing to be AFA members.

Bill Yucuis  
 President, Waterman-Twining Chapter  
 Air Force Association

## Chapter Officers

### President:

Bill Yucuis

FL315.Waterman@afa.org

### Vice-President:

Ned Hance

### VP, Aerospace

### Education:

Greg Moyle

### Treasurer:

Gary Gilchrist

### Secretary:

Dennis Foley

### Newsletter Editor:

Becka Simmons

## Jerry Waterman Education Foundation Officers

### Vice -President:

Greg Moyle

[gwmoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:gwmoyle@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer:

Steve Howard

### Legal Counsel:

Justin Kriger

## Wounded Warrior Games

The 2019 DoD Wounded Warrior Games are coming to Tampa on June 21-30, 2019 and is being hosted by the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from MacDill AFB. In 2011, AFA created the Wounded Airman Program (WAP) with the focus of Airmen taking care of Airmen. The Air Force Association, as part of the WAP, will be hosting a Hospitality Tent during the swimming events, which are being held at the Long Aquatic Center in Clearwater on Saturday, June 29. The Hospitality area will provide an area for wounded warrior competitors from all services, and their caregivers and families, to relax. The Waterman-Twining Chapter is supporting the Hospitality Tent by providing volunteers to man the Hospitality area, coordinating with the *Support the Troops* organization to deliver water and snacks, providing fresh fruit from Publix, and books and games for the children.

## Pitsenbarger Award

Twice a year, Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) holds graduation ceremonies and the AFA awards the Pitsenbarger Award to the top USAF Enlisted person. The Pitsenbarger Award includes a \$400 grant and complimentary AFA eMembership. At MacDill, a Waterman-Twining Chapter member presents the award. One goal of the Chapter is to give a grant to more outstanding graduates of CCAF at MacDill. If you in making a donation and designate it to the Chapter Pitsenbarger Award grant, through the Waterman Education Foundation, contact Greg Moyle at [gwmoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:gwmoyle@yahoo.com).



SrA Jennifer Miranda of 6<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron receives the Pitsenbarger Award.

# Stewart Middle School



Bill Yucuis at Stewart MS Teach In

The Chapter has actively supported Stewart Middle School, located near downtown Tampa, for several years. Since 2000, Stewart Middle School has been a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Magnet school, with a special emphasis in aerospace and aviation. Each year, Chapter members Bill Yucuis and Greg Moyle attend the annual Teach In Day to speak with students about our life experiences. If you would be interested in being part of the Teach In or John Glenn Club interview process, please contact Bill Yucuis at [f316.waterman@afa.org](mailto:f316.waterman@afa.org).



In addition, the Chapter also supports the John Glenn Club, an after-school space club. This club is highly competitive to join and Chapter members are asked each year to interview students and participate in the selection process. The highlight of the club is a two-day, overnight trip to Kennedy Space Center every year and the Waterman-Twining Chapter supports the trip with \$1200 each year, through the Waterman Education Foundation. If you are interested in making a donation and designate it to the KSC trip support, contact Greg Moyle at [gwmoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:gwmoyle@yahoo.com).



Astronaut Nicole Scott  
with Stewart MS students



Stewart MS students at KSC

## FTAC Award

The Chapter has recently started presenting an Outstanding Airman Award to the top graduate of the First Term Airman Center (FTAC) program. Each month, 18-25 newly arrived airmen attend the one week FTAC program which provides a structured first duty station professional development program, designed to transition Airmen from a training mindset to the mission-oriented environment while reinforcing lessons learned in Basic Military training and technical training to prepare Airmen for their role in supporting the mission. The Waterman-Twining Chapter presents a pen set and a 1-year AFA eMembership to the awardee. If you would be interested in helping with this program, please contact Bill Yucuis at [fl316.waterman@afa.org](mailto:fl316.waterman@afa.org).

## AFJROTC

The Waterman-Twining Chapter has 10 AFJROTC units (shown below) within the Chapter area. Each year, the Chapter is asked to present the AFA AFJROTC Cadet of the Year Award at their annual Awards Ceremonies held in the spring. Each year, Dennis Foley presented at Springstead and Hernando High Schools and Greg Moyle has presented at Sickles High School, although not this past year. If you would like to present an award at one of the other high schools, please contact Bill Yucuis at [fl316.waterman@afa.org](mailto:fl316.waterman@afa.org).

Plant City: Durant HS

Brandon: Bloomingdale HS

Tampa: Middleton HS, Blake HS, H.B. Plant HS, Jefferson HS, Sickles HS

Port Richey: River Ridge HS

Spring Hill: Springstead HS

Brooksville: Hernando HS



Springstead HS  
AFJROTC Award



Hernando HS AFJROTC Award

# Honor Flight



Honor Flight (HF) of West Central Florida is a 501c(3), national organization in 46 states and has over 120 hubs/chapters. Their mission is to identify veterans and transport them to Washington, D.C. to see the Memorials built in their honor and to give them the welcome home many never received. The one day trip is FREE. Flights leave from Clearwater/St. Petersburg (PIE) Airport at 4 AM and fly to Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport. Veterans (approximately 70) and a like number of guardians/escorts (each veteran has a guardian/escort) are transported from BWI by three commercial buses to the Air Force, Lincoln, Korean, Vietnam and WW II Memorials. Veterans return to PIE approximately 8:30 PM the same day. Since the local hub's inception in 2010, 2,800 veterans from the Tampa Bay area have participated in the flights. Two flights were flown this spring and two more are scheduled this fall - Sept 10 and Oct 22. Veterans can retrieve an application via the HF's web site: [Honorflightwcf.org](http://Honorflightwcf.org) and mail it to the P. O. Box identified on the application. It's an indescribable experience. Questions can be directed to 727-498-6079

The chapter has supported the Honor Flight Program with \$500/year and we would like to increase your support. If you would like to give a Chapter donation designated specifically for Honor Flight, please send it to your Chapter Treasurer at:

Gary Gilchrist  
3982 Presidential Dr.  
Palm Harbor, FL 34685



## USF AFROTC

Each year, a Chapter representative attends USF AFROTC Fall and Spring Awards events. At the Spring Awards, the Chapter presented the AFA Cadet Leadership Award Cadet Michael Brown, which includes a sabre.



# 2018 MacDill AFB AirFest



As always, AirFest was great; we had a good crowd and gave away digital memberships to 15 people. It's a great opportunity to spread the word about our organization.



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**Tricare Update:**

Beginning with the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season (11/12-12/10) beneficiaries enrolled in a Tricare health plan will be eligible to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental & Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Coverage will start Jan 1, 2019.

Beneficiaries enrolled in or eligible for the Tricare Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will also be able to enroll in one of the FEDVIP dental options for 2019 coverage. TRDP will end 12/31. If you are currently enrolled in the TRDP plan, you will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019.

Visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) for more information on your plan options.