



# The Red Tail Report



News about the Air Force Association

Volume 11, Number 1 Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Ocala, Florida January-March 2021

## President's Message



Thank you for your confidence in electing me as the new president of AFA Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136. I am humbled. I will do my best to serve well.

Before another word, a shout-out and hearty congratulations to the Marion County Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron. Its CyberPatriot team, led by our own Dale Katz, took first place in this year's CAP and All Services CyberPatriot categories. They will likely be invited to more applause as luncheon guests at the 2021 AFA Florida State Convention in July in Jacksonville.

We also need to enthusiastically applaud past President Howard Burke. As 2020 ended, he saw a rough row ahead health-wise for both himself and his AFA-member wife, Lucy, so he resigned from his post as President. Thank you, Howard and Lucy.

Howard pulled the chapter together after Mike Emig died unexpectedly on Thanksgiving Day in 2014. At the time, there was no plan for succession, but Howard got us working together. He called in AFA Florida's then-President Dann Matizza for a meeting and advice, gathered up what records he could, and moved on. In the seven years since then, Howard managed two exceptionally successful Florida State AFA conventions in Ocala and numerous other chapter activities. On short notice, he successfully fulfilled Mike's commitment to host the 2015 state convention. He had the meagerest of historical records, little money in the chapter treasury, but full confidence in the abilities of the chapter and the Ocala community.

The state of the chapter now is good. The outlook for sustaining AFA Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 into the future is satisfactory. Our finances are sufficient. Chapter membership, although declining, hovers at just under 400. Meeting attendance is comparatively good -- 10 very loyal members attended our March meeting. We've fulfilled AFA national's 2020 report requirements. This means that we have in place a full slate of elected officers and have completed all reports necessary to be eligible this year for full subsidy payments (based on membership) from AFA National.

Thanks to the City of Ocala, we have an excellent meeting place -- a comfortable conference room in the new Ocala Airport terminal building.

(cont.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15 -- Chapter 136 monthly meeting, Ocala Airport Terminal, 1900

May 31 -- Memorial Day, Marion County Veterans Park, 1030

June 14 -- Flag Retirement, Marion County Veterans Park, 1500

Thanks also to our Vice President Steve Spires, we have an excellent newsletter produced reliably every quarter. It's an opportunity to educate readers about the Air Force Association and recognize members who have done good things on behalf of the AFA. Thank you, Steve, for your continuing commitment.

Where do we go from here? We face three issues: COVID-19, membership, and continuity. Some of our planned activities for the time being are questionable because of pandemic restrictions. For example, Christy Katz is soliciting nominees for Chapter Teacher of the Year, but we don't know where that will take us. Classrooms have been virtual. The 2021 AFA Florida AFJROTC drill meet is cancelled, and so on. Information tables from which we spoke to people about Aerospace Power have fallen silent.

Membership is a perennial issue. Members in the Air Force Association now number under 100,000; we are fewer than one-half of our number at the AFA's peak. We welcome new members, especially men and women who can get involved in leadership and in our activities. Our vision must expand to include both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. We would like to see more veterans, AFROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and AFJROTC as members and involved.

Finally, there's continuity. Members who join us for meetings become targets for mentoring. We want a continuous flow of new leaders to take the reins at the chapter, state, and national AFA levels. AFA Florida has an especially glorious history of being the first and best in the nation. We want to contribute to that tradition.

Aim High,

*Ben Langer*

## LOCAL NEWS



Update: This is the construction site of the new Ocala VA Health Clinic on March 27. It is projected to open in September 2021. It will include Primary Care, Mental Health, Optometry, Audiology, Podiatry, Clinical Pharmacist, Social Work, and Telehealth along with 350 parking spaces. The location is behind the RaceTrac gas station on SW Hwy 200, 1.4 miles from I-75.

## CYBERPATRIOT XIII



CyberPatriot is the AFA STEM education program that manages the nation’s largest cyber defense competition. There were 4801 teams entered in CyberPatriot this year. Congratulations go to the Marion County Composite Squadron for taking first place out of the state’s All Service teams. They will be invited to the state AFA convention this summer for award presentations. This is the second time they have finished first in the state. Chapter member Dale Katz is the coach.

# CYBERPATRIOT XIII AWARDS

State Award	Tier Award	Tier	Division	Category	Location	Organization	Team Nickname
1st Place Award		Platinum	All Service	Civil Air Patrol	FL	Marion County Composite Squadron	Them Apples
2nd Place Award		Platinum	All Service	Civil Air Patrol	FL	SER FL 173 St Augustine Compos	
3rd Place Award		Platinum	All Service	Naval Sea Cadet Corps	FL	Centurion Battalion	Netrunners
	1st Place Tier Award	Gold	All Service	Navy JROTC	FL	Bishop Kenny High School	BK CRUSADERS TEAM B
	2nd Place Tier Award	Gold	All Service	Civil Air Patrol	FL	Eglin Composite Squadron FL423	Team 2
	3rd Place Tier Award	Gold	All Service	Civil Air Patrol	FL	FL 142 Gainesville Composite Squ	GCS 1
	1st Place Tier Award	Silver	All Service	Army JROTC	FL	South Fort Myers High School	Wolfpack
	2nd Place Tier Award	Silver	All Service	Army JROTC	FL	Newsome HS	Root Defenders
	3rd Place Tier Award	Silver	All Service	Civil Air Patrol	FL	Tallahassee Composite Squadron	Thunderbolts
1st Place Award			Middle School		FL	Contemporary Chinese School of S	CyberGator
2nd Place Award			Middle School		FL	Deltona Middle School	Null 1
3rd Place Award			Middle School		FL	Ascension Catholic School	Eagles Team Alpha
1st Place Award		Platinum	Open		FL	Creekside High School	The PLUG
2nd Place Award		Platinum	Open		FL	Dunbar High School	Trial and Error
3rd Place Award		Platinum	Open		FL	North Broward Preparatory School	Cyber Eagles Flight 1
	1st Place Tier Award	Gold	Open		FL	Winter Springs High School	Cyber Pastries
	2nd Place Tier Award	Gold	Open		FL	Ridgeview High School	Team 1
	3rd Place Tier Award	Gold	Open		FL	Winter Springs High	CyberTron
	1st Place Tier Award	Silver	Open		FL	Creekside High School	Hagnot
	2nd Place Tier Award	Silver	Open		FL	Creekside High School	Lucky Charms
	3rd Place Tier Award	Silver	Open		FL	Pine Forest High School	Eagle 1

## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

March 29 was Vietnam War Veterans Day. President Obama established the date by proclamation in 2012. President Trump signed it into law in 2017. Many local events were cancelled this year due to Covid restrictions. Vietnam Veteran lapel pins are now available by mail through an email to [whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil](mailto:whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil). Please include a good mailing address including your city and state.



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin (Front)



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin (Back)



Howard Burke maintained B-52s in Guam during the Vietnam War. In his pictures from 1968, his maintenance team replaces an engine (left). He clears an engine start problem (below) before the aircraft's next mission over North Vietnam.





# MAJOR U.S. AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



1. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), 1965–1976, Hawaii
2. Seventh Air Force, 1966–1975, Tan Son Nhut Air Field, RVN and Nakhon Phanom AFB, Thailand
3. Thirteenth Air Force, 1964–1975, Clark Air Base, Philippines
4. Eighth Air Force, 1970–1975, Andersen AFB, Guam
5. 2d Air Division, 1962–1966, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
6. 834th Air Division, 1966–1971, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
7. 3d Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965–1970, Bien Hoa AB, RVN
8. 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965–1974, Ubon RTAFB, Thailand
9. 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965–1971, Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN and Phu Cat AB, RVN
10. 14th Air Commando (Later 14th Special Operations) Wing, 1966–1971, Nha Trang AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN

11. 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966–1970, Tuy Hoa AB, RVN
12. 34th Training Wing, 1963–1965, Bien Hoa AB, RVN
13. 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966–1971, Da Nang AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN
14. 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1967–1975, Phanom RTAFB, Thailand
15. 43d Strategic Wing, 1970–Present, Andersen AFB, Guam
16. 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations) Wing, 1967–1975, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand
17. 307th Strategic Wing, 1970–1975, U-Tapao AB, Thailand
18. 315th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1966–1972, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN
19. 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965–1972, Takhlhi RTAFB, Thailand
20. 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966–1972, Phan Rang AB, RVN, Da Nang AB, RVN, Takhlhi RTAFB, Thailand



21. 374th Troop Carrier (later, 374th Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1966–1973, Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan
22. 376th Strategic Wing, 1970–1991, Kadena AB, Japan
23. 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966–1975, Korat RTAFB, Thailand
24. 405th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1959–1974, Clark AB, Philippines
25. 432d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1966–1975, Udorn RTAFB, Thailand
26. 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1966–1971, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
27. 463d Troop Carrier (later, Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1965–1971, Mactan Isle Airfield, Philippines and Clark AB, Philippines

28. 483d Tactical Airlift Wing, 1966–1972, Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN
29. 553d Reconnaissance Wing, 1967–1970, Korat RTAFB, Thailand
30. 633d Special Operations Wing, 1968–1970, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand
31. 3960th Strategic Wing, 1955–1970, Andersen AFB, Guam
32. 4133d Bombardment Wing, 1966–1970, Andersen AFB, Guam
33. 4252d Strategic Wing, 1965–1970, Kadena AB, Okinawa
34. 4258th Strategic Wing, 1966–1970, U-Tapao AB, Thailand
35. 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing (13th Air Force), 1965–1966, Korat RTAFB, Thailand
36. 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing (7th Air Force), 1965–1966, Bien Hoa AB, RVN
37. 6252d Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965–1966, Da Nang AB, RVN
38. 3d Aero Rescue & Recovery Group (redesignated 563d Rescue Group), 1966–1973, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN

39. 315th Troop Carrier Group (replaced by 315th Tactical Airlift Wing), 1962–1966, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN
  40. 504th Tactical Air Support Group (Redesignated Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group), 1966–1972, Bien Hoa, Cam Ranh Bay AB, and Phan Rang AB, RVN
  41. 505th Tactical Control Group, 1965–1973, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
  42. 552d Airborne Early Warning Task Force, 1965–1974, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
  43. 1964th Communications Group, 1962–1973, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
  44. 1974th Communications Group, 1965–1976, Korat RTAFB, Thailand and Udorn RTAFB, Thailand
- \* SAC subordinate units frequently deployed bomber and tanker resources [these deployments were temporary provisional units that ceased to exist upon inactivation]. Provisional units are not authorized emblems, not even the emblems of their permanent counterparts. Therefore, none have been included on this poster.
- \*\* 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing and 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing have no official emblems on file at the AFHRA

# Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Officers

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### **The Air Force Association Mission**

1. *Educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation.*
2. *Advocate aerospace power and a strong national defense.*
3. *Support the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.*

**It's a Fact:** Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 draws members from eight counties: Citrus, Alachua, Marion, Sumter, Dixie, Levy and parts of Lake and Putnam. It is not necessary to be an Air Force veteran. Tell your friends to contact Howard Burke, 352-861-0886 for information about joining.

*The Red Tail Report is a quarterly newsletter published by the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association; Ben Langer, 4005 N Hatchet Cir, Beverly Hills FL 34465, 352-527-2729, president; Stephen Spires, 5800 SW 89<sup>th</sup> Pl. Ocala, FL 34476, 352-873-6159, editor. The Red Tail Report is distributed electronically and upon request on paper via USPS.*

## Power Points

- **Next Membership Meeting**  
April 15 Ocala Airport Terminal conference room. Members are urged to attend. Guests are always welcome.
- **Membership**  
As of March 18, the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 had 390 members. Howard Burke, 352-861-0886, is the chapter's membership director.



Photo by SSgt Rusty Frank



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 salutes its Community Partners. The Air Force Association enjoys a warm relationship with the following businesses through its Community Partners program. Please support these Community Partner businesses.

<p><b>Rob's Hobby World</b> 8602 SW Highway 200 Ocala FL 34481 352-854-2799</p>	<p><b>DeLuca Toyota</b> 1719 SW College Rd Ocala, FL 34471 352-732-0770</p>
<p><b>Unique Auto Repairs</b> 3171 SW 143rd PI Rd Ocala, FL 34473 352-245-6976</p>	<p><b>Chiropractic USA of Jasmine Square</b> Dr. Renny Edelson 7668 SW 60th Ave #500, Ocala, FL 352-346-2523</p>
<p><b>Dr. Anwar Khan</b> Alliance Medical Associates Board Certified Internal Medicine 1800 SE 17th St                      10969 SE 175th Place Bldg. 800, Ocala, FL                Suite 200, Summerfield, FL 352 622-7268</p>	<p><b>Grand Living</b> 850 W Norvell Bryant Hwy Hernando, FL 34442 352-263-9404</p>
<p><b>Nature Health Associates</b> Dr. Bhadresh Patel 3775 N Lecanto Hwy Beverly Hills, FL</p>	<p><i>Would you like to become an Air Force Association member or community partner? You will be supporting an association that supports airpower, the U.S. Air Force, its mission and personnel worldwide. If you or your business would like to become a member of the AFA or community partner, contact Howard Burke, 352-861-0886.</i></p>





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*U.S. postage  
required*

