



The Red Tail Report



News about the Air Force Association

Volume 11, Number 3 Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Ocala, Florida July-September 2021

President's Message



It was my pleasure to represent Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 at the 2021 AFA Florida state convention in Jacksonville July 23-24. At the risk of repeating information sent to most of you by email, here are my takes from the convention. First, and most important, congratulations to Kristy Katz, our Chapter 136 Member of the Year. The award was presented by the state president during the convention. Kristy solicited schools, selected and did all the paperwork necessary for naming our Teacher of the Year, Nic Ward of Ocala. That alone was a big job. She also is our chapter secretary. Likewise, congratulations again to Dale Katz and the Civil Air Patrol's Marion County Composite Squadron CyberPatriot team; they received the plaque during the state convention banquet recognizing them for placing first in their category in last year's CyberPatriot competition. Dale now is mentoring a new coach, Nic Ward, for the team. Needless to say, both Dale and Kristy are particularly proud of these achievements and because their son, Christopher, is a Cadet First Class at the Air Force Academy and will graduate in spring.

Moving on, as a chapter, we took on a formidable job. Our chapter will host the July 2023 Florida State AFA Convention in Ocala. This means we assumed responsibility for lodging, feeding, and supporting a cadre of 50-75 AFA national, state and chapter leaders in an Ocala hotel that we have yet to contract. We will welcome your help in supporting this adventure. (The 2022 convention will be in Tallahassee hosted by Eglin, Hurlburt and Tallahassee chapters. Attendance at these conventions is open to all members, not just chapter board members.)

Todd Freece of the Orlando Chapter was elected to be the new AFA Florida state president, replacing Mark Chapman of Navarre (Hurlburt Chapter). Todd will assume office on October 1, 2021. We extend our congratulations, best wishes and gratitude to him for taking on this responsibility.

(cont.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21 – Chapter 136 monthly meeting, Ocala Airport Terminal, 1900

October 23 – Quarterly Memorial Reading, Marion County Veterans Park, 1000

October 30-November 11– Veterans Appreciation Week activities, Citrus County (varied locations/times)

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Marion County Veterans Park, 1100

November 18 – Chapter 136 monthly meeting, Ocala Airport Terminal, 1900

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Marion County Veterans Park, 1000

December 18 – Wreaths Across America, Highland Memorial Park, 1200

True to our forecast earlier, it is unlikely that support payments from national to chapters will resume. In the past, these support payments, a fraction of chapter membership dues, were our primary source of revenue. We now have to generate our own income. A likely source is community partners, 50 percent of whose dues are returned to the chapter. Right now, Chapter 136 has six community partners and is always looking for more. Talk to Howard Burke [(352) 861-0886] if you've got one in mind. In this context, you should know that AFA Florida and our chapter are financially okay. A state budget for next fiscal year was approved at the convention. Our chapter financial plan is drafted and submitted to state and national for approval each December.

Recall that "AFA governance" was on the AFA state and national conventions agenda. This proposal, offered by the national board as a set of new AFA bylaws, was taken off the table at the national convention. It awaits further discussion. The proposed revision would have taken state/region delegates out of the game, giving voting rights to all members and empowering the national board of directors.

Speaking of governance, we welcomed a new Government Affairs director to our Chapter 136 board. He is Bruce Gillett, a retired Air Force colonel and, from his days in USAFE headquarters (standardization) at Ramstein AB, an acquaintance of John Boyd. Bruce is a fighter pilot who flew two tours during the Vietnam War, the first in the F-105 and the second in F-4s. He completed 325 combat missions (not a typo) and logged 750 hours of combat time. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with an oak leaf cluster and the Air Medal with 23 Oak Leaf Clusters. We treasure his membership, his joining our leadership team, and work on behalf of the Air Force and Space Force in defense of the United States of America.

Aim High!

Ben Langer

UPDATE



This is the almost finished new Ocala VA Health Clinic on September 29. It is projected to open in December 2021. It will include Primary Care, Mental Health, Optometry, Audiology, Podiatry, Clinical Pharmacist, Social Work, and Telehealth. It is behind the RaceTrac gas station on SW Hwy 200, 1.4 miles from I-75. (See page 6)

CYBERPATRIOT XIV

CyberPatriot has started up again with 3,754 total teams registered so far. Chapter member Dale Katz is a mentor this time for the First Assembly Christian School team in the Open division. There are also two All Service teams (NJROTC) from Vanguard High School. The national finals are scheduled for next March in Bethesda, MD. More updates will be reported.



LOCAL NEWS



Ben Langer presented the CyberPatriot XIII All Service Florida plaque to Dale Katz at the chapter's August meeting.



Ben Langer presented the Chapter Member of the Year plaque to Christy Katz on August 19.

Cyber Security Question

Which is an example of a good password?

- A. password
- B. 123456
- C. abc123
- D. letmein
- E. IamGr00t!!!
- F. JohnSmith

Answer on page 9.

2021 AIR SPACE & CYBER CONFERENCE

AFA's Air Space and Cyber Conference was held on September 20-22, in National Harbor, MD. The National Convention was held the two days prior, September 18-19. This year returned to an in-person event with 12,500 total attendance, 150 exhibitors, and many famous guest speakers.

(All photos by Mike Tsukamoto)





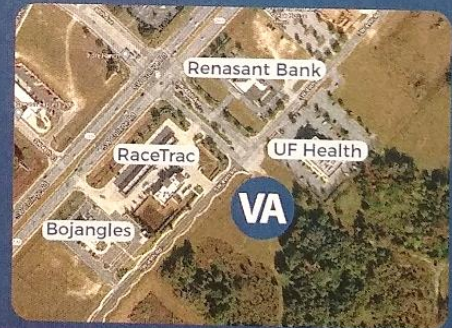
Growing Veteran health care under one roof.

The New Ocala VA Clinic

COMING FALL 2021



The 45,499 square-foot clinic will be located at 4826 SW 49th Road, Ocala, 34474. This location provides convenient and easy access from the major traffic corridors and main highways serving the city.



The Ocala VA Clinic is fully upgraded and modernized to care for over 10,000 Veterans. The clinic will offer patient aligned care teams to increase efficiency and deliver streamlined services. There will be a dedicated telehealth space and the new clinic has properly sized rooms that are fully equipped for Veterans and laboratory functions.

The clinic will merge the main Ocala Clinic and the Ocala West locations. All services will be co-located under one roof making patient experience that much better. These services include Primary Care, Mental Health, Audiology, Eye Clinic, Podiatry, Specimen Collection, and Telehealth.

Veterans may enroll for comprehensive health care services by contacting our Enrollment Office at 352-369-1328. Online registration is also available at www.va.gov which includes information regarding benefits.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

4826 SW 49th Road, Ocala, FL 34474

FOLLOW US ON SEARCH: VANFSG



Ocala VA Clinic Progress Photos

Open your camera and point the device at the QR code. Wait for camera to recognize and scan QR code. Click banner or notification when it appears on your screen and you will be directed to our web page!

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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, president, 4005 N Hatchet Cir, Beverly Hills FL 34465, 352-527-2729; Stephen Spires, editor, 5800 SW 89th Pl, Ocala, FL 34476, 352-873-6159. The Red Tail Report is distributed electronically and upon request on paper via USPS.



Power Points

- **Next Membership Meeting**
 October 21 Ocala Airport Terminal conference room. Members are urged to attend. Guests are always welcome.
- **Membership**
 As of September 16, the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 had 410 members. Howard Burke, 352-861-0886, is the chapter's membership director.

Happy 74th Birthday to the U.S. Air Force on September 18, 2021.



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 local businesses.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Rob’s Hobby World 8602 SW Highway 200 Ocala, FL 352-854-2799</p> | <p>Grand Living 850 W Norvell Bryant Hwy Hernando, FL 352-263-9404</p> |
| <p>Unique Auto Repairs 3171 SW 143rd PI Rd Ocala, FL 352-245-6976</p> | <p>Nature Health Associates Dr. Bhadresh Patel 3775 N Lecanto Hwy Beverly Hills, FL</p> |
| <p>Dr. Anwar Khan 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>Central Florida Eye Institute Dr. Thomas Croley 3133 SW 32nd Avenue, Ocala, FL 352-237-8400</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> | |

Cyber Security Answer

E. lamGr00t!!!

This password is at least 10 characters using upper case, lower case, numbers, and symbols.



Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136
Air Force Association
12550 SW 43rd St Road
Ocala, FL 34481

*U.S. postage
required*

