



The Red Tail

News about the Air and Space Forces Association



Volume 15 Number 3

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136

July thru September 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We are rolling now. We celebrated the 78th anniversary of the Air Force on Sept. 18 by raising our cokes, beers, wine and waters to the continued strength of the U.S. Air Force in Elevation 89, the restaurant adjacent to our meeting room in the Ocala International Airport.

However, we were a few short later for a quorum of members attending the meeting that followed, so we postponed the election of officers until the October meeting. Typically, according to our bylaws, elections should take place in the final quarter of the operating year. Why am I explaining this? Because that leaves yours truly still the chapter president as this issue of the Red Tail Report goes to press. You can look forward to a message from a new chapter president in the final issue of the calendar year.

We applauded Terry Dickensheet at the meeting. He is the 2025 Chapter Member of the Year and thus received a trophy for his good work. Terry pulled out all the stops to identify and complete the paperwork to select the Red Tail Chapter 136 Teacher of the Year (Bruce Toney, robotics, Belleview High School) - and then guide us to the impressive classroom where we presented the award. Terry also personally presented AFJROTC Cadet of the Year Awards at four area high schools: Belleview, Citrus, Forrest and North Marion High Schools. You can see that he put on many miles on behalf of the Air Force Association and our chapter. Once again, thank you, Terry - and for sure, his spouse, Dru.

The August monthly meeting got a big boost with the presence of three AFROTC cadets from the University of Florida Gainesville: Cadet Major Carson Wade, the Arnold Air Society Squadron Commander, and Cadets Cody DeMayo and Savanah Ogletree. It is clear that the future of the Air Force and Space Force is in good hands! We look forward to building on the relationship established last year with the AFROTC detachment in Gainesville, much of it again attributed to Terry Dickensheet, our vice president for aerospace education. In fact, we are talking about conducting one of our upcoming meetings there in Gainesville.

Finally, a word about the recent Florida AFA State Convention. The star was Burt Field, president and CEO of the Air & Space Forces Association and retired Air Force three-star general. He took a tough look at readiness which is negatively affected by aging aircraft and equipment, logistical miracles required to fix old aircraft, and the severe impact on training.

We look forward to better times, new aircraft and blue skies. Please join us at our monthly meetings. All are welcome.

Aim High!

Ben Langer

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Officers

President

Ben Langer
4005 N Hatchet Cir
Lecanto, FL 34465
571-344-5100
BenLanger@gmail.com



Executive Vice President

Bruce Gillett
8947 SW 104th Cir
Ocala, FL 34481
407-566-8486
bdgretired@gmail.com



Treasurer

Jerry E. Deese
6409 SW 89th Loop
Ocala FL 34476
352-208-1510
jdeese04@gmail.com



Secretary

Randall E. Kitchens
10335 Addison Shore Way
Oxford, FL 34484
850-257-4916
randallekitchens@gmail.com



The Air Force & Space Forces 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 United States Air Force, United States Space Force, their families, and AeroSpace education.

Appointed Vice Presidents

AeroSpace Education

Terry Dickensheet
4217 103rd Ln
Bellevue, FL 34420
386-523-4154
tldickensheet@gmail.com

Community Partners

Vacant
Government Affairs
Bruce Gillett
8947 SW 104th Cir
Ocala, FL 34481
407-566-8486
bdgretired@gmail.com

Communication

Ben Langer
4005 N Hatchet Cir
Lecanto, FL 34465
571-344-5100
BenALanger@aol.com

Veterans Affairs

Bruce Gillett
8947 SW 104th Cir
Ocala, FL 34481
407-566-8486
bdgretired@gmail.com

Membership

Ben Langer
4005 N Hatchet Cir
Lecanto, FL 34465
571-344-5100
BenALanger@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Robert Price
Flyby@embarqmail.com

Civil Air Patrol

Vacant

AFA Florida State Officers

President: Dwyer Dennis

mmgen83@gmail.com

Executive VP: Mac MacAloon

MMacAloon.EBOD@afa.org

Secretary: Tom Carney

tscarney58@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Branch

branchafa@gmail.com



AFA
AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

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.

The Red Tail Report is a quarterly newsletter published by Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association, Ben Langer, 4005 N Hatchet Cir, Lecanto, FL 34465, president; Rob Price, editor. The Red Tail Report is distributed quarterly electronically and upon request on paper via USPS.

ORIOS - Oncology Risk In Overseas Service

Free \$949.00 Galleri

Early warning Cancer detection test for any Marion County Veteran!

Available for all First Responders, EMTs and their spouses at a deep discount of \$649.

The Galleri Muti-Cancer Early Detection Test (1 Blood Draw) is sponsored by Vets Helping Vets, the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, a \$300,000 grant from the Marion County Hospital District, a \$50,000 HUD Community Service Block Grant provided by the Marion County Commissioners, and a \$50,000 Donation from AdventHealth – Ocala. Administered by Vet Resource Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Charity

You qualify if you have a DD214 or other discharge document that shows you were Honorably Discharged and live in Marion County.

If you already have cancer, please register, we can help with treatment, direct you to experienced help for your VA Ratings and provide you with quality-of-life support.

Website: <https://orios.org/>

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 salutes its Community Partners. The Air & Space Forces Association enjoys a warm relationship with the following businesses through its Community Partners Program. Please support these local businesses.



AFA FLORIDA

STATE CONVENTION

The Florida State Convention was held at MacDill AFB on Saturday, July 18-19, hosted by Tampa's Waterman-Twining Chapter 316.

The guest speaker was retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Burt Field, President and CEO of the Air and Space Forces Association. (He is pictured on the right with Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 vice president Bruce Gillett.)

President Field stressed that the age of Air Force aircraft negatively affected not only readinesss but the ability to keep aircraft flying, flying training and flying hours. Logistically, it is more and more difficult to repair old aircraft and equipment simply becausse parts are unavailable and sometimes need to be recreated.

Members at the convention passed a resolution enabling the Florida State AFA organization to contribute \$250 to the \$250 already being provided by the National organization to chapter Teachers of the Year.



AFA President and CEO Burt Field (l-r) and Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Vice President Bruce Gillett.



AFA Florida State President Dwyer Dennis (l-r) with the State Teacher of the Year Brian and Mrs. Noe. Mr. Noe is the senior aerospace science instructor (AFJROTC) at West Orange High School in Winter Garden.



2025 AFA Florida State Convention Participants sat for some fine dining at a Tampa restaurant after the convention meetings.





Participants in the 2025 AFA Florida State Convention sat for a group photo after the convention meetings.

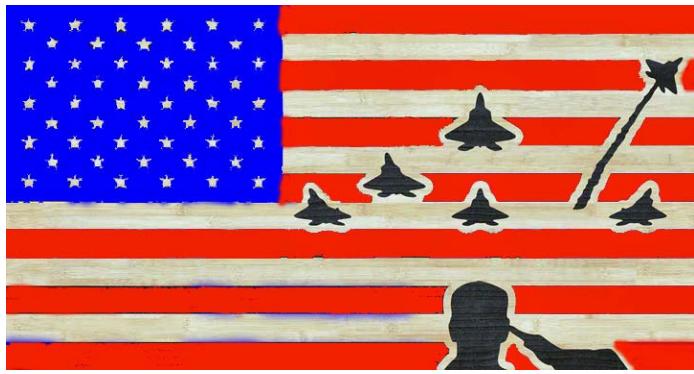


The Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 Member of the Year, Terry Dickensheet, was recognised at the state convention. In his absence, Chapter President Ben Langer (right) accepted the Chapter Member of the Year trophy from AFA Florida State President Dwyer Dennis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 AFA Warfare Symposium	February 23 to 25, 2026	Virtual and In-Person Event
3rd Annual AFA Chapter 136 Charity Golf Tournament	March 28, 2026	In-Person Event
2026 National Convention	September 12 to 13, 2026	Virtual and In-Person Event
2026 Air, Space & Cyber Conference	September 14 to 16, 2026	Virtual and In-Person Event





LAST FLIGHT

Howard Burke , July 20, 2025
Past President

NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ **Allison Connolly**
- ◆ **Ava McGoorty**
- ◆ **Carson Wade**
- ◆ **Carter Wolchok**
- ◆ **Cody DeMayo**
- ◆ **Connor Carroll**
- ◆ **Dalilah Josinvil**
- ◆ **Darren Ritch**
- ◆ **Eric Ledge**
- ◆ **Gianna Villalobos**
- ◆ **Jackson Mallick**
- ◆ **John H. Barr**
- ◆ **Jonah Sickles**
- ◆ **Kayla Cabtrea**
- ◆ **Kyler Pudelski**
- ◆ **Michael Aclin**
- ◆ **Nikolas Vargas**
- ◆ **Siena de la Torre**
- ◆ **Abigail Fisher**
- ◆ **Charles Savage**
- ◆ **Kenneth Schartz**



MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2025

TERRY DICKENSHEET



Pictured Top (Red Tail Memorial Chapter President Ben Langer presents the Member of the Year Crystal Trophy to Terry Dickensheet)

Pictured bottom (Terry and his wife Dru)



1900 HOURS

October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

December 18, 2025

Subject to Change

**3rd Annual Air & Space Force
Charity Golf Tournament
to benefit the
“Wounded Airmen & Guardians Program”**

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Inverness Golf & Country Club, Inverness, FL

\$80 per Golfer (\$60 for inverness club members)

\$300 per 4 Person Team



**18 hole, Cart, Lunch, raffle items, door prizes
hole in one contest, putting contest, longest drive
Great Prizes; golf bags and more**

**GOLFER AND HOLE SPONSERS WELCOME
Website: www.wagpgolf.org**

For Additional Info Contact:

Steve Hughes bicyclesteve58@gmail.com



Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136
Air & Space Forces Association
4005 N Hatchet Cir
Beverly Hills FL 34465