



The Red Tail

News about the Air and Space Forces Association



Report

Volume 15 Number

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136

October thru December 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is the holiday season and not too late to wish everyone Happy Holidays and especially Happy New Year. We hope that 2026 will be a great year for you and your families. Our chapter celebrated the season with a small get-together at the home of yours truly instead of a regular December meeting. It was truly satisfying to be together and socialize.

The chapter had a good year. Notably, once again **Steve Hughes** spearheaded a golf tournament in March that raised \$4555.93 for the Air and Space Force Association's Wounded Airmen and Guardian Program. This was a gigantic effort by Steve and his wife, Deborah. It produced results for the chapter and the AFA. Great work, Steve and Deborah. On behalf of the chapter, thank you. Which leads us to the next subject.

Prominent on the **chapter's new website** is a reference to the 2026 chapter golf tournament. It will be held at the Inverness Golf and Country Club on March 28. Note that we referred to the chapter's "new website." Kudos and congratulations to **Corey Fossbender**, one of our newest active members. He created the website! Please go to <https://share.google/CP1Xz9y0bBauwUDUH> and see for yourself. It is brand new, so we will be looking for ways to add information that's useful to chapter members and the public. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

Our chapter membership is holding steady at around 400 members. This is good, particularly in this day and age when "joining" is less common than it was back in the 1980s when membership peaked at well over 230,000. (In September 2024, it was 123,292) New members are always welcome, of course. And particularly welcome are members who join our chapter's solid core of regulars at meetings on the third Thursday of each month. We have a beautiful meeting place, thanks to the City of Ocala and the Ocala Airport manager. This also is a time to say thank you to the officers and members who regularly attend meetings and support our activities.

It is time to look forward to a new year and an energized agenda. In our last President's Message, we said: "You can look forward to a message from a new chapter president in the final issue of the calendar year." This is the final issue of the calendar year, and there is no new chapter president. Members at the October meeting re-elected the then-current board to new two-year terms. We will press on, warmly welcoming new participants and doing our best to educate, advocate and support the Air & Space Forces and their families.

Happy Holidays!

Aim High!

Ben Langer

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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.

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 Advenhyt Health – 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.



ELECTION RESULTS

The current slate of officers ran unopposed; The secretary cast one vote for the slate at the October meeting.

VETERAN BOOT CAMP

Veteran Boot Camp – An unclassified intelligence briefing revealing all of the great veteran and civilian benefits available to veterans and their families in Ocala and Marion County.

A Veteran Boot Camp is held every 4th Saturday from 9 – 11 AM at the Elliott Center, 3231 SW 34th Avenue, Ocala, FL.

Lots of important information for whether you are new to Florida or have been living here a long time. This is your chance to learn the ins and outs of Ocala and Marion County and the great benefits of living here - both as a veteran and a resident.

All of your **What When Where and How** questions will be answered and the many free veteran benefits explained. Spouses should attend – the available family benefits are part of the information. Many are hard to find, and most are free!

Veteran Boot Camp is presented by the Vet Resource Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity working for our vets.

☎ 352-433-7290

👤 VeteranBootCamp.org

✉ info@VeteranBootCamp.org

Veteran Boot Camp Meeting Dates

**Elliott Center
3231 SW 34th Avenue
Ocala, FL.**

~~September 27, 2025~~

~~October 25, 2025~~

~~November 22, 2025~~

No Meeting in December

January 24, 2026

February 28, 2026

March 28, 2026

April 25, 2026

May 23, 2026

June 27, 2026

July 25, 2026

August 22, 2026

September 26, 2026

☎ 352-433-7290

👤 VeteranBootCamp.org

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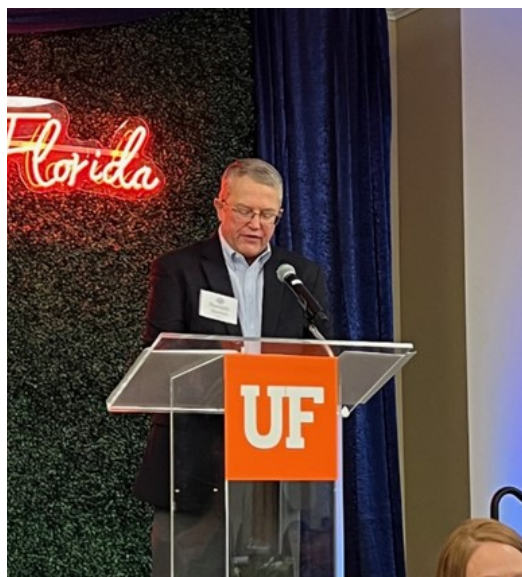




Program from Banquet

By Chappie Kitchens

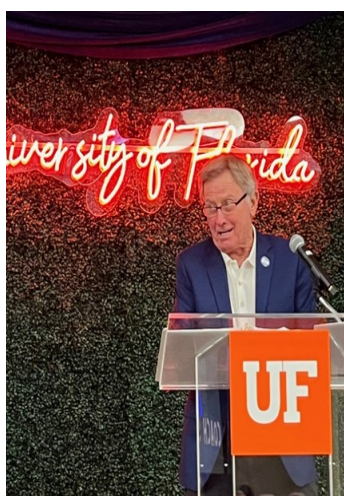
The University of Florida Military Alumni Associations' Gator Awards Banquet was supported by the AFROTC Det 150 UF cadets, Arnold Air Society and Billy Mitchell Drill Team and AFA Redtail Memorial Chapter 136. The evening focused on UF military alumni and their contributions to service and community. AFROTC Det 150 cadets supported this event through leadership service, Arnold Air Society service and the Billy Mitchell Drill Team's amazing precision performance of solemn and sacred duty. AFA Redtail Memorial Chapter 136's Chaplain, Chappie Kitchens, provided the invocation with Coach Steve Spurrier as the keynote speaker. The AFROTC Cadets represented their core well as noted by attending alumni highlighting their professional service, commitment and devotion. Well done AFROTC Det 150 cadets in representing our Air Force!



Chappie Kitchens
delivers the invocation



Cadet Wing Commander
Ogletree delivers remarks



Coach Steve Spurrier
delivers keynote
address

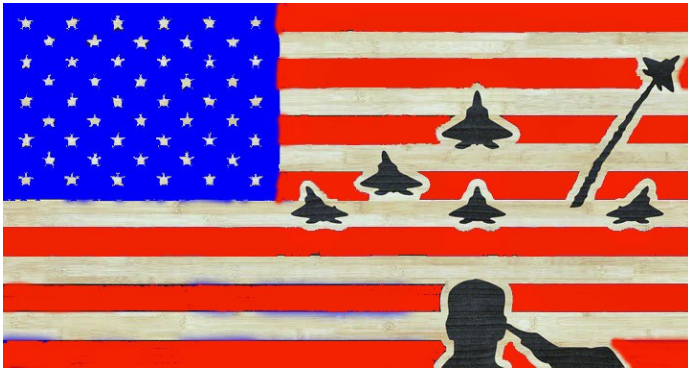


AFROTC Det 150 Cadets with Chappie Kitchens



Billy Mitchell Drill Team
highlighting the POW-MIA
Table.





LAST FLIGHT

No Deaths to Report



1. When was the AFA formed and who was the first President?
2. What does the letter P stand for on an aircraft designation (example P51)?

2 Patrol

1. February 4, 1946; General Jimmy Doolittle

NEW MEMBERS

- ♦ Lance O Dix
 - ♦ Mark A. Whitman
 - ♦ Robert T. Jones
 - ♦ Brian Bailey
 - ♦ Burgess Grubbs
 - ♦ Constance Samples
 - ♦ Darrell T. Kopcho
 - ♦ James P. Coleman
- ♦ James R. Chambers
 - ♦ Kimberly Archer
 - ♦ Linda L. Willis
 - ♦ Michael Petring
 - ♦ Robert Eisenhower
 - ♦ Stafford Rogers
 - ♦ Tony Jenkins



1900 HOURS

January 15, 2026

February 19, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

Subject to Change

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

**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 SPONSORS WELCOME

Website: www.wagpgolf.org

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