

Air Force Association Chapter 335

# Tennessee Valley Flyer 1st Quarter 2016

[www.afa-huntsville.org](http://www.afa-huntsville.org)



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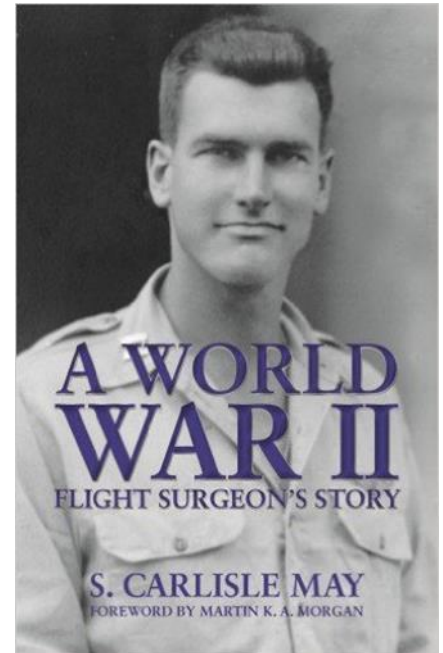
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## Through a Flight Surgeon's Eyes

by Russ Lewey

On Thursday, 3 March at the Redstone Federal Credit Union, AFA Chapter members and the public will get to experience what it was like for a Flight Surgeon in WW II. Ms. S. Carlisle May, the niece of Dr. Lamb Myhr, will talk about her uncle who served from Morocco to Germany and witnessed historic moments, including Generals Clark, Patton, and Eisenhower meeting to plan the invasion of Sicily. In her book, "A World War II Flight Surgeon's Story", Ms. May describes the challenges as pilots and crew battled fatigue, extreme conditions, and devastating losses. She also illuminates the culture and community of an Army Air Corps base.

Ms. S. Carlisle May is a prolific writer and the great-niece of Dr. Lamb Myhr. A graduate of Auburn University, she has written articles for USAA Magazine, Auburn magazine, Transplant Chronicles, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Through the National WWII Museum's travel program, Ms. May followed the path of American and Allied forces from England to Normandy and into Germany. She also retraced the campaigns of the Allies in Malta and Sicily, Italy. A lifelong history enthusiast, Ms. May lives near Atlanta, Georgia with her family. Autographed copies of her book will be available following her talk.



This luncheon will be in the Atrium at the Redstone Federal Credit Union, 220 Wynn Dr. Doors open at 11 am and lunch will be served starting at 11:30. Tickets are just \$15 for AFA members and students and \$20 for non-members. Your ticket includes lunch, drink, and dessert. **The deadline to register is 24 February.** To reserve your seat for this fascinating talk contact Russ Lewey at [LeweyRV@yahoo.com](mailto:LeweyRV@yahoo.com) or by phone, 256-425-8791.

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## Two Area High Schools are Out of This World

by Russ Lewey

Huntsville and James Clemens High Schools are competing in the second season of the AFA's newest school competition, StellarXplorers. Drawing upon the success of CyberPatriot, in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force, the Air Force Academy, and the Air Force Association, StellarXplorers was created to inspire students to pursue space studies and future careers.

The first of three rounds took place in early January, to be followed by Rounds 2 and 3 in February and March, respectively. The teams qualifying for the finals are provided an all-expense paid trip to Colorado Springs in April. In spite of going up against schools that have competed before, Huntsville High made a strong showing, placing 7<sup>th</sup> overall. With two more rounds to go before the finals, we have high hopes that they will be packing their bags for Colorado come April.



## AFA Galaxy of Lights 2015

By Rod Fried

Tennessee Valley AFA victory! The chapter challenged itself to take on a “busy” night at the Galaxy of Lights...and WON! We facilitated almost 1,100 vehicles through the gates with just over 20 volunteers. A special thanks to the family members who supported the event: Sandy and Kristen Hovde, April Kemmet, Bidly Royster, Billy Ondrusek’s sons, Barb Carpenter, and Eric Silkowski’s daughter. The camaraderie and festive spirit was in full force, and the weather turned out great. The team had a great time and enjoyed the busier night. I heard “Let’s do that again” echoed from several team members after the gates closed, and they prepared their departure. We will see if our Christmas wish will come true.



One for you, 10 for me... Chapter members (L to R) Jay Carlson and John Phillip tally the night's proceeds.

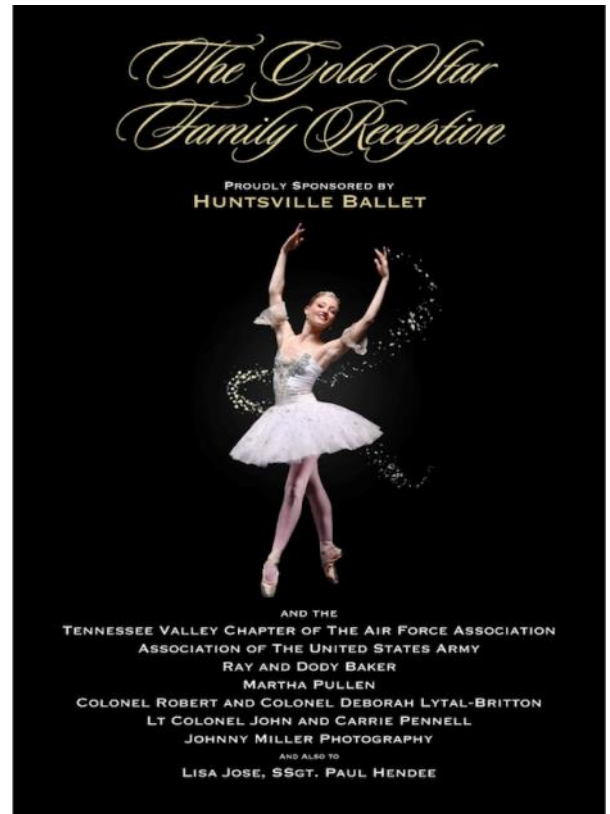


Chapter member Russ Lewey directs visitors as they begin their journey in the Galaxy of Lights.

## Air Force Association Sponsors VIP Reception For Area Gold Star Families

by John Pennell

Every year, Huntsville Ballet presents a special Thursday night performance of the classic Nutcracker Ballet and invites the military community to attend free of charge as a salute to their service and to build good will with local military families. The event, which kicks off the holiday season, is always full, with nearly 2,000 in attendance. As a special addition this year, the Huntsville Ballet sponsored a VIP reception for the Tennessee Valley Gold Star Families. This was done to salute the more than 35 families who not only feel the loss of their service member, but may feel disconnected from their military family.



Carrie Pennell, the wife of the Chapter's Vice President, Lt Col John Pennell, USAF (retired), was this year's chairperson of the Ballet's Military Night performance, and pitched the idea for the Gold Star Reception to the Huntsville Ballet Association Board, where it was unanimously approved. To provide this special night for the Gold Star Families, Carrie approached the local military associations to help fund the event. The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the AFA responded by asking members to donate directly and the members responded with unmatched generosity. AFA members pooled their gifts and donated \$1,150, 43% of the total cost, making us by far the largest contributor to the event.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*("Gold Star Reception" Continued from page 4)*

Seventy-six Gold Star family members attended the reception, where they met senior military leaders and costumed characters from the Nutcracker. Many of the children in attendance were able to have pictures taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier, as well as other characters, and enjoyed cookies and other sweets before being escorted to their special reserved seats for this memorable performance of the Nutcracker.

Everyone in attendance thanked the Huntsville Ballet and recognized everyone involved for making this night special for these families who sacrificed so much. It could not have been possible without the generous support of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association.



## St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Rick Driesbach

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Chapter will participate in the annual Huntsville St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, 12 March, beginning at 11:30 AM. Chapter representation will consist of multiple vehicles with USAF/AFA banners, door magnets, an Irish Pennant, and USAF song & Irish jig playing from the sound system.



New for the parade this year, will be a model of an F-35 fighter in the back of one of our pick-up trucks. The model is on-loan from the Dallas Ft. Worth Division of Lockheed Martin.

If you would like to put on some AF blue with a touch of green and be in your chapter's AFA parade contingent (walking or riding), please contact Rick Driesbach NLT 8 March at [rick.driesbach@gmail.com](mailto:rick.driesbach@gmail.com).



## Community Partner Spotlight

### Linda Morgan - Rise Real Estate, Inc.

Linda Morgan has been a Realtor in North Alabama for over 10 years. She was born and grew up San Diego, California. Linda has been married to her husband Rick for 27 years, and they have 3 children.

Linda feels that it's important to be involved in her community. She has volunteered with Salvation Army for over 5 years. She also volunteers with her local food pantry at her church, Crosswinds UMC in Madison and as a Spanish language translator for the Make A Wish Foundation.

Linda has always been passionate about helping people. She knows how daunting the process of buying a home can be and does everything to make that experience a great one. From first time Homebuyers to the seasoned homeowner relocating to Huntsville, Linda knows first hand how important it is to be well informed as you make this very important decision.

Moving to Huntsville in 2004 from Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands was an exciting transition. As she was moving here with her family, Linda needed information to help her and her family transition to a new town, school, work and new friends. She will make every effort to not only help you on your home buying process but help you transition with information you need to be well informed about your community.

I look forward to assisting you in your home buying process.

Linda Morgan  
Rise Real Estate  
[256-468-1674](tel:256-468-1674)  
[Buyhomesinhuntsville.com](http://Buyhomesinhuntsville.com)



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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# Community Partner Spotlight

## Landers McLarty **NISSAN**

Landers McLarty Nissan, serving Huntsville, Albertville, Decatur, Florence and Fayetteville, TN, is proud to be an automotive leader in our community. Since opening our doors, Landers McLarty Nissan has maintained a solid commitment to you, our customers, offering the widest selection of new and used Nissan vehicles and ease of purchase.

Whether you are in the market for a new Nissan model in northern Alabama or a used car, or if you need financing options, we'll help you find a car loan that works for you! Even if you have bad credit or are a first-time car buyer, you can trust that Landers McLarty Nissan will get you into the Nissan Murano, Versa, Altima, Pathfinder or Titan of your choice.

We know that, when it comes to choosing your next vehicle, it is important to purchase from a dealership that will continue to take care of you long after you drive off the lot. Landers McLarty Nissan's professionally managed parts and service centers are open during extended hours to accommodate our customers' busy schedules. Plus, we offer competitive pricing for all your automotive maintenance needs.

**Here are just a few of the reasons you can trust [Landers McLarty Nissan Huntsville](#):**

- We are the #1 Volume Nissan Dealer in Alabama 3 Years Straight
- In business for 24 years - locally owned and operated.
- We care about our community and fund annual scholarship awards.
- Known for great after-sales service.
- Huge selection - over 400 new and pre-owned vehicles.
- Nissan Internet Certified.
- 70-point inspection on pre-owned vehicles.
- Saturday service hours to accommodate your busy schedule.
- Sell and install genuine Nissan Accessories - the accessories that were designed for your Nissan to meet federal safety guidelines.
- Excellent employee-to-customer ratio for improved service.
- Referral program rewarding you handsomely for each referral.

These are just a few of the ways Landers McLarty Nissan Huntsville can help you get the right vehicle at the right price and take care of you as long as you own it. Please feel free to contact us at (855) 346-8521 if you have any questions, or stop by our location at 6520 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL.



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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# COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

## Northington Consulting

Retired Maj Gen Larry Northington displays his AFA Community Partner Plaque and renewal medallion.



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## Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation



Tonya Maurice, Director of Corporate Relations, IRTC, accepts the Community Partner Wingman Plaque from Jay Carson, Chapter VP for Aerospace Education.

# COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

## Quantech Services



Mr. Doug Railey, Director, Huntsville/MiDAESS Program Manager and Ms. Linda Aycock, proudly show their renewal letter and fifth Community Partner button for Quantech Services.

## Linda Morgan Rise Real Estate



Linda Morgan of Rise Real Estate proudly shows off her Community Partner and Wingman plaques. She is the Chapter's newest Wingman Community Partner.

## Linc Research



Linc Research is in the second year as a Community Partner – Ms. Ashton Colón takes pride in placing the 2015-2016 button on their Community Partner plaque.

## Lamar Advertising



Lamar Advertising continues to support the Air Force and Air Force Association through our Community Partnership. Jeff Handley, Lamar Huntsville Manager, leads a great team!

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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# Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 is proud of its Community Partners:

Aero Thermo Technology  
[www.aerothermo.com](http://www.aerothermo.com)

Aerotek  
[www.aerotek.com](http://www.aerotek.com)

Aleta Technologies  
[www.aletatechnologies.com](http://www.aletatechnologies.com)

Bevilacqua Research Corp  
[www.brc2.com](http://www.brc2.com)

Dr. Rebecca Howell (Dentist)  
[www.rebeccahowelldmd.com](http://www.rebeccahowelldmd.com)

Davis Strategic  
Innovations, Inc. (WINGMAN)  
[www.davisdsi.com](http://www.davisdsi.com)

Delta Research, Inc.  
[www.dr-inc.com](http://www.dr-inc.com)

Ducommun-Miltec  
[www.ducommun.com/miltec/](http://www.ducommun.com/miltec/)

Edward-Jones (Brenda Armstrong)  
FlyQuest, Inc.  
[www.FlyQuest.net](http://www.FlyQuest.net)

GATR Technologies (WINGMAN)  
[www.gatr.com](http://www.gatr.com)

Intuitive Research and  
Technology (WINGMAN)  
[www.irtc-hq.com/](http://www.irtc-hq.com/)

Irrigation Maintenance  
Services, Inc.; 256-755-1524  
Jackson Center  
[www.jacksoncenter.net/](http://www.jacksoncenter.net/)

Lamar Advertising  
[www.lamar.com](http://www.lamar.com)  
Landers McLarty Nissan  
[www.rljmclartylanders.com/](http://www.rljmclartylanders.com/)

Linc Research Inc.  
[www.lincresearchinc.com](http://www.lincresearchinc.com)

Linda Morgan - Rise Real Estate  
(WINGMAN)  
<http://linda-morgan3.homesandland.com/>

Mary's Grocery: (WINGMAN)  
Hwy 431 South, Brownsboro, AL  
ManTech International  
[www.mantech.com](http://www.mantech.com)

Northington Consulting  
[www.northconllc.com](http://www.northconllc.com)

Parsons—SPARTA  
[www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx](http://www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx)

PeopleTec  
[www.people-tec.com](http://www.people-tec.com)

Qualis  
[www.qualis-corp.com](http://www.qualis-corp.com)

Quantech Services  
[www.quantechserv.com](http://www.quantechserv.com)

Radiance Technologies (ACE)  
[www.radiancetech.com/](http://www.radiancetech.com/)

Redstone Federal Credit  
Union  
[www.redfcu.org](http://www.redfcu.org)

R-Squared Consulting, LLC (ACE)  
Rob Robertson

U.S. Space & Rocket Center  
[www.spacecamp.com/museum](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum)

Woody Anderson Ford  
[www.woodyanderson.com](http://www.woodyanderson.com)

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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Want to become a Community Partner, Wingman, or Ace? Contact George Krym at [george.krym@yahoo.com](mailto:george.krym@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Events

Mar 3rd—AFA Chapter Luncheon ([page 2](#))  
Mar 12th—St. Patrick's Day Parade ([page 6](#))  
Mar 17th—Executive Council Meeting

Apr 21st—Executive Council Meeting  
May 19th—Executive Council Meeting

CHAPTER 335 OFFICERS	
<p><b><u>President</u></b> Rick Driesbach Rick.driesbach@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Vice President</u></b> John Pennell johnpennelljr@aol.com</p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Jack Royster</p>	<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b> Ken Philippart</p>

Chapter 335 Special Vice Presidents
<p><b>Aerospace Education:</b> Jay Carlson <b>Community Partners:</b> George Krym <b>CyberPatriot:</b> Bob Hovde <b>Membership:</b> John Pennell <b>Programs:</b> Brenda Armstrong <b>Public Relations/Newsletter:</b> Lee Alford</p>

**Your AFA chapter is a 501-3C organization, and is always receptive of donations to further chapter Aerospace Education objectives. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please mail a check (made out to AFA Chapter 335) to Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806.**

## Loss of Local Air Force Warrior

By Rick Driesbach

Wilton Edward Burwell passed away on 2 February 2016 in his home in Madison, Alabama. Wilt was a retired Air Force Lt Col who had served as a B-52 navigator and had participated on multiple Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) inspections into the former Soviet Union. Wilt was 64 years old, and the photo at right was taken when he spoke to the Tennessee Valley Chapter in 2009 on his START inspector experiences in the Soviet Union. Wilt will be missed in the USAF community here in the Tennessee Valley.



Tennessee Valley Flyer—1st Quarter 2016  
A Message from the AFA President

By Larry Spencer

**Let's Go!**

Your Air Force Association is on the move. 2016 is a year of action for AFA. Our financial health is improving. You will soon see a new look on our website. We have expanded our communications outreach. We are expanding the reach and feel of *Air Force Magazine*. Our marketing efforts are reaching more potential donors through more venues than ever before. We recently started a new monthly newsletter that has garnered very positive feedback. CyberPatriot and the Mitchell Institute are world class and continue to grow in impact and financial backing. StellarXplorers has lifted off the launch pad and is gaining altitude. We're exceeding our metrics for the Air Warfare Symposium and we are excited about making this year's Air & Space Professional Development Conference larger and more expansive than ever. Even one of our more stubborn challenges, membership, is trending in the right direction, which is what I want to discuss today.

In 2011, AFA brought in 2,665 new members. In 2012, the number was 3,857. Fast forward to 2015 and 9,317 new members joined AFA. That's the best we've done in a decade! However, we can and need to do more. Here's something that really bothers me. Only 15% of our members are active duty! Guard and Reserve membership combined is less than 5%! Air Force civilian membership is less than 1%! That means we are not reaching the primary audience that we are here to support! So, while the 2015 stats are encouraging, it is only the tip of the iceberg. Said another way, we have taxied onto the runway, but it's time to push the throttles forward to take-off speed so we can rotate this effort and begin to soar!

In addition to the myriad of activities AFA provides every day to promote a dominant Air Force, AFA is the professional development organization for Airmen. We provide a world class magazine, a very informative Daily Report and two of the best professional development symposiums available. Let's be honest. Can you think of a better opportunity for Airmen to gain direct professional development and get to hear directly from Air Force leadership than our two symposiums? I sure can't. I've studied our membership challenge intensely. In doing so, I have concluded that what's missing is communicating our value to prospective members. There is no question in my mind that AFA provides tremendous value. The problem is, it is not widely known or understood. I can't tell you the number of people I have spoken with who had no idea how hard AFA was working to assist Airmen and their families. And in most cases, once informed, those people became members. Not because I asked them to do so, but because they understood being an AFA member provided value to them and the Air Force—and that's where you come in.

I need you to help me spread the gospel of AFA. I need you to engage with Airmen (active, Reserve, Guard, civilians, retirees, those about to retire, CAP, cadets, students, parents of AF members) at every opportunity. I need you to encourage Airmen to attend our Air & Space Symposium in September. I need you to spread the word about our great magazine and Daily Report. I need you to encourage Airmen to attend Mitchell Institute, CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers events. Above all, I need you to help Airmen everywhere understand that AFA is the "Force behind the Force."

I am convinced that if we do this together, Airmen will run to join our crusade. If we do this together, I'm confident we can double or triple our numbers from 2015. Are you with me? If so, let's go!

Sincerely,

Larry O. Spencer