



FALL ISSUE · NOVEMBER 2022  
**MILE HIGH FLYER**  
THE LATEST NEWS FOR MILE HIGH CHAPTER MEMBERS

## President's Corner

CLIFF KLEIN

The Mile High Chapter continues to thrive! We've been very busy over the past few months. Several of us attended the Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight's Air Force 75th Anniversary celebration, which was an amazing event! Many of us attended Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Veterans Salute...they did a fantastic job of honoring local veterans. We set up and manned an Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) info table at the Buckley SFB Community Resource Fair to help spread the good word of the AFA. Our Chapter Executive Vice President presented the Pitsenbarger Award at the Fall BSFB CCAF graduation. A couple of us attended the Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings Region 8 Conclave and dinner. Our VP of Airman & Family Programs spent some time with DET 90 ROTC members prior to graduation giving insight to what an AF career could look like. We've also been attending the monthly Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight fly-ins where we meet potential AFA members and spread the good word of AFA STEM programs and the Mile High Chapter. To find out more about Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight and the breakfast fly-ins at the Centennial Airport you can visit their website: <https://explorationofflight.org/>. We met with and made a great connection with the Buckley Benefitting Family Foundation. Our plan is to continue the dialog to help us connect with the other private organization on BSFB and help out where we can. We are still in need of a secretary! The chapter secretary is one of only four elected leadership positions. If this is something you'd be interested in, please contact me at [co127.milehigh.president@afa.org](mailto:co127.milehigh.president@afa.org). I should mention we were the 2020 DW Steel AFA Chapter of the Year, so we are an organization getting things done! Lastly, I'd like to invite everyone to visit our website (<https://milehigh.afa.org>) and join us at our monthly meetings held each 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce (3rd floor of the Westerra Credit Union Bldg). I hope to see some new faces in December!

## This issue:

Arnold Air Society and  
Silver Wings Conclave

PAGE 02

Aurora Veterans Salute

PAGE 03

State Awards Banquet:  
The Future is Now

PAGE 04-05

News

PAGE 06

**Register for the Mile High Amazon Smile! Click here to get setup! (only accessible through digital copy)**



## 2022 Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Region 8 Conclave

Recently the Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings held their annual Area Conclave, this year dubbed affectionately as ColorCon. At this annual event members from both organizations join together to professionally develop and hold business discussions; each year significant decisions are made as a result of these discussions, often acting as the first experience for many of these young adults to collaborate in a professionally governed atmosphere. For those that are unable to attend the National Conclave, this event stands as the culmination of their hard work, allowing many to exercise leadership and management skills on a much grander scale. Representing the Mile High Chapter and the State of Colorado, Cliff Klein, State and Chapter President was in attendance where he spoke about opportunities with the Colorado AFA.



## ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY & SILVER WINGS LEGACY

The Arnold Air Society (AAS) was first proposed by ROTC Cadets as an idea for an extracurricular activity at the University of Cincinnati in 1947. Whereas Silver Wings dates back to 1951 at the University of Omaha where it was originally founded as an all-female auxiliary organization under the name Angel Flight. This name change signified the co-ed diversity, and realignment of the organization's purpose from solely AAS/military support to functioning as a civilian organization focused on community service, leadership, and professional development. Similar but different, the focus of AAS is to build strong officers for the Air Force, promote cohesion within the officer corps, and to provide more opportunities for officer candidates to exercise leadership, management, and public relations skills.



# CITY OF AURORA ANNUAL VETERANS SALUTE



## Past Aurora Veterans Salute

Each year the community comes together to honor veterans. At this event, distinguished community leaders, including the Mile High Chapter, pay their respects to those who have served our country honorably. Buckley Space Force base is at the heart of Aurora with a long history dating back to 1938 when the US Army Air Corps established it as a Demolition Bombing Range. This history is built into the fabric of what makes up Aurora, Colorado.



## Veterans Day Facts

Veterans Day honors all Americans who have served honorably (living and deceased), while Memorial Day honors those who gave their life in the line of duty.

Veterans Day does not have an apostrophe. The day does not belong to veterans, rather it is a day to *honor* veterans.

Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day honoring the end of WWII. The armistice went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Canada, Australia, France, and Belgium also honor the end of WWII, though they refer to it as Remembrance Day.



# AFA COLORADO STATE AWARDS BANQUET: THE FUTURE IS NOW

LINDA ALDRICH

The State Banquet kicked off in full swing with the outstanding Gypsy Jazz music of Aulternate Reality, a trio led by AF veteran Dan Ault. Then the entertainment really attracted everyone's attention when active duty Capt Robert Scott, who had volunteered his time to play the National Anthem with his trumpet, showed off his professional musician skills by joining Aulternate Reality for several numbers. They were so entertaining that we're not sure if our guests really wanted to interrupt them to start the actual program for the evening! And all this was taking place from the top level convention room of Weidner Field, the Switchbacks soccer field in Colorado Springs, providing a glorious view of the front range as the sun was setting.

Colorado State President Linda Aldrich welcomed our guests and thanked the Lance P. Sijan Chapter for being the host Chapter, then introduced our emcee for the evening, Ms. Caty Rozema. Caty is the Director-Client Executive for AT&T Public Sector and an extremely devoted volunteer for AFA. She is currently our State AFA Aerospace Education Vice President, is on the National Aerospace Education Committee, and is a National AF Emerging Leader. In addition to her AFA expertise, Caty was extremely witty as our emcee, bad jokes included, and kept the evening moving at a fun and efficient pace. She shared a brief history of the Air and Space Forces Association before explain the theme for the evening, "The Future is Now" focusing on all the talented and extraordinary individuals who are on active duty right now and those who soon will be on active duty after finishing their education.

The very professional cadets from the District 20 Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard under the command of Cadet Second Lieutenant Sam Wilhelm showed us a look at the bright hopes for our future, accompanied by Capt Robert Scott playing the National Anthem. Then it was time for a special moment of remembrance, again with the professionalism of the AFJROTC Color Guard, honoring our Prisoners of War and our Missing in Action with a solemn observance and the reminder to never forget their sacrifice and the hope to bring them home. VIP introductions included Chapter Presidents Cliff Klein (Mile High), Paul Bailey (Sijan), Mike Sumida (Mel Harmon) and Rick Peterson (RE Huyser), plus Region President Linda Aldrich, National Officer Stephen Gourley, new-elected State President Cliff Klein and Space Force Association Representative Greg Sears. With the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation, the formalities were completed, so everyone headed for the buffet line while Aulternate Reality provided the music that kept our feet dancing under the table all through dinner.

After dinner, Caty welcomed our guest speakers for the evening who are current student and ROTC leaders—and the future leaders in the United States Air Force—Cadet Lauren Weber from Arnold Air Society and Cadet Ashlynn Lutz from Silver Wings. Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings are national sister organizations, working together to develop future leaders through community service, professional development and education about our national defense. These are nation-wide organizations and all the members are also members of the Air and Space Forces Association. Cadet Lauren Weber is a rising senior at Colorado State University studying civil engineering. While at CSU, she has been an inspiring leader within the AFROTC program at Detachment 90 and within AAS at the Mark Giles Danielson Squadron. Her interest in joining the Air Force stems from her parents and her dream to be a B-52 pilot like her father and to gain life experiences within the military, hopefully, stationed overseas, like her mother. Her genuine leadership, dedication to serve, and innovative thinking are strong characteristics that recognize Lauren as a great example of a future Air Force officer.



## AFA COLORADO STATE AWARDS BANQUET: THE FUTURE IS NOW (CONT'D)

Cadet Ashlynn Lutz is the Vice President of Silver Wings for the Columbine Chapter in Region 8 for Silver Wings nationally. She attends Colorado State University and is receiving her major in biological science with a minor in chemistry. She is currently in Air Force ROTC with the hope of becoming a military doctor.

Following the amazing vision of the future provided by the cadets, which definitely made us all thankful for the generation that is coming along to carry on the mission of the US Air Force, it was time to recognize all the selfless volunteers that make the Air and Space Forces Association such a vital part of the Colorado communities. Colorado had multiple National Award winners this year, and those awards were to be presented at the National AFA Convention in September or distributed to individuals after the Convention. Congratulations to these individuals and Chapters for their outstanding contributions to the mission of AFA.

### MILE HIGH AWARDS

#### AEROSPACE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT

#### EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD (AIRMEN & FAMILY PROGRAMS)

#### MEDAL OF MERIT - CLIFF KLEIN

#### STATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR - KENN BOWENS



Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, Stephen Gourley, announced that our 2021 State Teacher of the Year, Mr. Robbie Ferguson, was recognized in the National Teacher of the Year (ToY) competition. The National Teacher of the Year award is presented to a dedicated K-12 educator and AFA State Teacher of the Year winner. This honor recognizes Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math (STEM) educators for their outstanding classroom performance, collaborative initiatives, educational outreach, leadership, and significant impact in the school and community. To be eligible the candidate must be submitted by their respective AFA State leaders. The candidate must be a former AFA State Teacher of the Year selected during the most recent past two years. When we spent time with Robbie Ferguson last year we knew we had met someone absolutely extraordinary. This year we submitted Robbie to compete against AFA State Teachers of the Year from across the National and overseas chapters. In this unbelievably tough competition with nominees who have devoted their careers to STEM education, we are so proud to announce Robbie as the Second Place Winner for the Air & Space Forces Association/Rolls-Royce National/STEM Teacher of the Year. Robbie was presented with a certificate and a \$2000 check in honor of his accomplishments.

Robbie then jointed Stephen to recognize our 2022 Chapter Teachers of the Year. As an independent, non-profit, education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation, the AFA mission includes the promotion of teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in K-12 classrooms throughout the country. Each Chapter may select a Chapter Teacher of the Year and recognize all they contribute to encouraging students in the STEM programs. Each of our Chapter ToYs received a Certificate of Excellence, a check for \$250, an AFA Padfolio and a Chapter Teacher of the Year pin, plus a very special gift - a book of Medal of Honor recipients' quotes and each one was personally autographed by Medal of Honor recipient Drew Dix. Congratulations to these amazing educators.

The evening wrapped up with special thanks for Cliff Klein, Stephen Gourley and Caty Rozema for their many contributions. These individuals have already received numerous Chapter, State and National Awards, so they were recognized for their special contributions over a long period of time. There is no doubt that the evening was a huge success from beginning to end—great entertainment, dinner, recognition for so many outstanding individuals and lots of good camaraderie and networking. We'll look forward to another great year of contributions from our AFA Chapters and continuing support of the Air and Space Forces mission to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.



## New Space Force Leader: Saltzman Formally Succeeds Raymond as CSO

GREG HADLEY

Leadership of the Space Force changed hands Nov. 2, as Gen. B. Chance Saltzman succeeded Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond as Chief of Space Operations in a pageantry-filled ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., attended by top Pentagon officials, lawmakers, and industry leaders. “We are here in this hangar at Andrews, literally witnessing history,” Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley said. “It might as well be 1947 as it is today—that is what you are witnessing. You are witnessing the divorce of the Air Force from the Army, and now you’re witnessing the divorce of the Space Force from the Air Force.” Still less than three years old, the Space Force now has its second-ever leader in Saltzman, who takes on the CSO job after spending the last two years as deputy chief of space operations for operations, cyber, and nuclear.

## Air Force Drops BEAST Week From Boot Camp in Favor of ACE Exercise

GREG HADLEY

For more than a decade and a half, future Airmen in Basic Military Training have undergone Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, a four-day-long exercise meant to simulate deployments, particularly those in the Middle East that defined military service throughout the early 2000s. But with the Air Force increasingly focusing on competition with China and the operational concept of agile combat employment, BMT leaders decided an overhaul was needed. Now, the service is implementing a new training exercise, dubbed Primary Agile Combat Employment Range, Forward Operations Readiness Generation Exercise, or PACER FORGE. Instead of four days, the exercise will last 36 hours, and trainees will be split into smaller, dispersed teams that are tested with scenarios.

## The Air Force's Legends of Yesterday Meet the Legends of Tomorrow

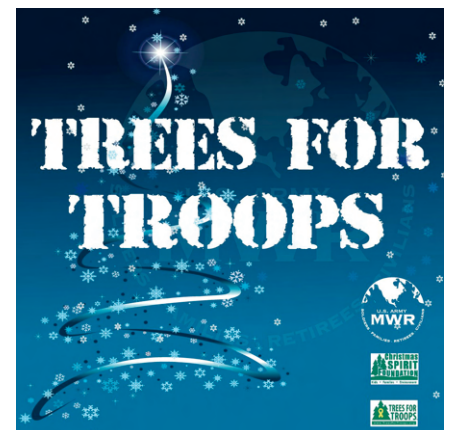
PATRICK REARDON

To celebrate the Air Force’s 75th anniversary, the Air & Space Forces Association set out to connect 11 “living legends” from Air Force history with Airmen and Guardians in the force today. The Legends—six retired four-star generals, one retired two-star general, two former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force, and two retired chief master sergeants—visited eight Air Force and Space Force bases between July and August [including Buckley SFB], crisscrossing the country to share their stories and experiences with some 3,500 Airmen and Guardians. Their visits opened an intergenerational dialogue between the legends of yesterday and tomorrow. They wanted to create a way to connect Active-duty Airmen and Guardians with the wisdom and knowledge of retired senior leaders.

## Fort Carson to host Trees for Troops event, giving away free Christmas trees

ANISSA CONNELL

Fort Carson will be giving away a free Christmas Tree to every family during its Trees for Troops event. The event takes place on Dec. 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Building 1930. Only one tree will be given out per family on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Trees for Troops event is only open to DoD cardholders.



# Our Community Partners

## THE MILE HIGH CHAPTER THANKS YOU!



YOUR SUPPORT IS  
INVALUABLE TO  
OUR MISSION!



Neil Burroughs  
HomeSmart  
burneil@aol.com  
P: (720) 299-4867 / O: (303) 858-8100





## Chapter Officers

- President: Cliff Klein
- Executive VP, Community Partners: Neil Burroughs
- Secretary: Vacant, please contact us to apply!
- Treasurer: Kenn Bowens
- VP Aerospace Education and Veteran Affairs: Stephen Gourley
- VP Communications: TSgt Damita Stevens
- VP Airman, Guardian & Family Programs: 1st Lt Emily Sawicki

## Contact Us

- Email Us: [CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org](mailto:CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org)
- Check out our website: <https://milehigh.afa.org/>
- Find us on Facebook: AFA Mile High Chapter 127 or <https://www.facebook.com/afamilehighchapter/>

## AFA Mission

**Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.**

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4pm at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and also on Zoom! All members are welcome. Contact us for Zoom details.

**DECEMBER 20, 2022  
(ZOOM ONLY)**



**JANUARY 17  
2023**



**FEBRUARY 21  
2023**

## Return Address

Air and Space Forces Association Chapter 127  
21699 E. Quincy Avenue Unit F, Box 161  
Aurora, CO 80015

