



SPRING ISSUE · MAY 2022  
**MILE HIGH FLYER**  
THE LATEST NEWS FOR MILE HIGH CHAPTER MEMBERS

## President's Corner

CLIFF KLEIN

This spring finds the Mile High Chapter alive and well! Our team has been very busy presenting at ROTC and JROTC annual awards ceremonies. Our 17th Annual Charity Golf tournament is fast approaching (June 24th) and we are looking forward to another amazing sold-out tournament! We continue to support and attend The Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight monthly fly-ins where we meet potential AFA members and spread the good word STEM and AFA. If you're not aware, Exploration of Flight hosts a breakfast fly-in at the Centennial Airport the first Saturday of each month. If this sort of thing interests you, please check out their website [here](#). Congratulations goes out 2LT Emily Murray who was recently selected in to the AFA Emerging Leader Program! I would also like to give thanks and say goodbye to our chapter secretary, SSgt Pauline Robinson who is PCSing and off to new and exciting challenges! With that said, we are in need of a secretary, which is one of only four elected leadership positions. If that 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 all 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).



# This issue:

- New Name for AFA  
PAGE 02
- Memorial Day  
PAGE 03
- Golf Tournament  
PAGE 04
- Teacher of the Year  
PAGE 06
- News  
PAGE 06

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Register for the Mile High Amazon Smile! Click [here](#) to get setup!

# AFA - A New Name Ushers in a New Era

More than 76 years after its creation, the AFA updates its name to the Air & Space Forces Association, a force truly representative of what the AFA upholds and supports. Born in 1946, over a year before the creation of the Air Force, the AFA has always stood behind the Air Force and promoted Airpower. Now, 76 years later history repeats itself; the AFA stands behind our newly-formed Space Force and champions the defense and protection of the space domain. The AFA's acronym stays the same but the new name and symbol redefine what those letters stand for. The updated star-delta logo preserves our heritage and embraces our Space Force. The "star" is derived from the original Hap Arnold Army Air Corps logo and the "delta" and "polaris" are derived from the Space Force's logo.



Former AFA Logo

**Placement of the letters showcases the acronym**

**Star derived from Hap Arnold Army Air Corps Logo**

**Delta and Polaris drawn from the USSF logo**

**AFA AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION**

**New logo for the Air & Space Forces Association**

## How the AFA supports our Air and Space Forces:

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT AEROSPACE POWER

ADVOCATE AND PROMOTE AEROSPACE POWER

SUPPORT AIRMEN AND GUARDIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SCHOLARSHIPS, BENEFITS, AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS





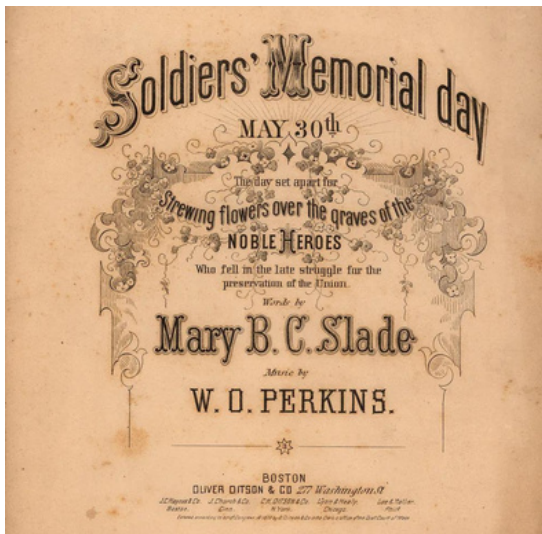
# Memorial Day Remembering who we lost

Memorial Day means many things to different people around the world. For some, it is a chance to spend a little time with the family. For others, it may be a chance to celebrate the coming of summer and the end of the school season. However, for anyone who has ever served or has known someone who has served, Memorial Day takes on a somber meaning. "We all gave some, but some gave all". Unlike Veteran's Day, Memorial Day honors servicemembers who died while serving the United States.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May; it was initially known as Decoration Day before it became an official holiday in 1971. Three years after the Civil War ended an organization comprised of Union veterans established Decoration Day to decorate the graves of soldiers who died during the war. It was originally observed on May 30 which was thought to be a time when all of the flowers across the U.S. would be in bloom.

General Ulysses S. Grant presided over the first large observance of Decoration Day. The orphaned children of servicemembers killed during the Civil War decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate servicemembers.

Many organizations hold springtime tributes for the fallen through ceremonies, parades, and of course going back to its roots, laying flowers beside the graves of fallen soldiers.



Soldiers' Memorial Day Flyer



**1.** 260K graves are decorated at Arlington National Ceremony

The flag is flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon

**2.**

**3.** Traditionally the President lays a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier

Nearly 50M servicemembers have served in the military during wartime

**4.**

**5.** Roughly 1.4M servicemembers have lost their lives in conflict



# 17th Annual Golf Tournament

On Friday June 24th, your Mile High Chapter will be hosting our 17th annual charity golf tournament. Proceeds will benefit team Buckley and the Wounded Airmen/Guardian Program. The tournament will be sponsored by LITEYE, once more. The event will include opportunities to play games and compete to win phenomenal prizes, including the chance to win \$20K for a hole-in-one. This is an event you do not want to miss. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or maybe coming by with your buddies for a day of golf please view more info here or <https://defensetournament.golfreg.com/>



**Enjoy a day of golf at the Spring Valley Golf Club in Elizabeth, CO. Breakfast, Lunch, and the best part is the company that will be with you**

**Funds will be donated to the Wounded Airmen/Guardian Program and to Team Buckley to support the Air and Space Forces and their families**





## Aurora Central Award Winner!

Cadet Commander Sar Jan Bee (CO-21 AFJROTC) is currently a senior at Aurora Central High School. As a 4-year JROTC cadet, Sar Jan stratified herself as both a top JROTC and high school student. At the last CO-21 Awards Ceremony, Cadet Bee was just recently bestowed the Air & Space Forces Association and the Daughters of 1812 awards for her academic excellence, character, and leadership abilities. In addition, Cadet Bee earned the distinction as the class of 2022's Salutatorian (#3 out of 522). Sar Jan has been active in numerous extracurricular activities including: Rugby, Color Guard, Drill Team, and soccer. She has also dedicated numerous hours of community service as well as serving as an intern for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Upon graduation Cadet Bee will be attending Colorado School of Mines where she will pursue a Computer Science Degree and a commission into the US Air Force where she hopes to be able to fly. Cadet Bee was also accepted into Stanford and Princeton along with several other prestigious universities.



Cadet Bee with Mile High Treasurer Kenn Bowers



## Are you our new chapter Secretary?

We say goodbye to our current Secretary SSgt Pauline Robinson as she departs for her new duty station. Congrats Pauline!! With her departure, we find ourselves in need of a new Secretary. Anyone that has ever served as a Secretary can tell you what an integral part it is of running a chapter or organization. The Secretary is essentially the records custodian, they record all minutes during official meetings and maintain chapter records. If you are interested, please contact the Chapter President at: [CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org](mailto:CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org)

## 2022 Mile High Chapter Teacher of the Year!!

Congratulations to Mr. Alan Godman, the 2022 Mile High Chapter Teacher of the Year! Mr. Godman has worked at Legacy High School in Broomfield, Colorado for the past 21 years. During this time he has taught various science course. He established the Aeronautics course at Legacy which provides students with an in-depth understanding of aviation modeling, commercial airlines, and military aviation. Throughout the pandemic, Mr. Godman ensured his students attending remotely would have the same level of learning; he worked tirelessly to get laptops outfitted with flight simulators and joysticks to his students. Mr. Godman is passionate in everything he does and deserves this recognition. Congratulations!



## Space Force to Add Three Intelligence Squadrons

AMANDA MILLER

The Space Force plans to add three new intelligence squadrons in the next two years, said Lt. Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, commander of the service's Space Operations Command. The additions would double the number of squadrons in Space Delta 7, whose intel Guardians already work on missile warning and defense, electronic warfare, and research and development. The new squadrons will include a threat analysis squadron, a targeting squadron, and a PED squadron, short for processing, exploitation, and dissemination.

## US Troops Return to Somalia as Al-Shabab Threat Increases

ABRAHAM MAHSHIE

President Joe Biden approved a Defense Department request to return "under 500" American forces to Somalia, where the al-Shabab terrorist group has grown in wealth and influence and increased the tempo of its attacks since American troops pulled out in January 2021. A senior administration official told members of the press May 16 that al-Shabab posed a danger to the American homeland and to U.S. interests in East Africa. Al-Shabab has killed a dozen Americans in East Africa, including three in a January 2020 cross-border attack on a U.S. position in Manda Bay, Kenya. In his April 14, 2021 speech announcing the U.S. withdraw from Afghanistan, President Biden said the U.S. would target growing terrorist affiliates expanding safe havens in places such as Africa.

## Mitchell Institute's New UAV Study Center Looks at Drones in a China Fight

ABRAHAM MAHSHIE

Unmanned aerial vehicles and autonomous aircraft may provide a solution to operating in heavily contested domains such as the Taiwan Straits, according to a panel of expert who suggested operationalizing artificial intelligence for such purposes sooner rather than later. The group gathered virtually May 12 to help launch the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies' new Center for UAV and Autonomy Studies (MI-UAS). The Mitchell Institute is part of AFA. "China, in particular, has developed networks of very long-range missiles, electronic warfare systems, and other power projection capabilities that could severely limit or even prevent the ability of the U.S. to defend its interests in the Indo-Pacific," said Caitlin Lee, Mitchell Institute senior fellow for UAV and Autonomy Studies and head of the new center. "UAVs may have an important role to play in this fight," Lee added.

## Colorado Introduces New Suicide Prevention Program for Military Veterans

KYLE COOKE

Operation Veteran Strong is a suicide prevention program recently launched. It is free and confidential—available 24/7— and allows veterans to connect with national and local resources designed to prevent mental health crises. Veterans make up about 10% of Colorado's population, yet 17% of all suicides in Colorado are veterans, according to CDPHE. Moreover, "the suicide rate among veterans is more than double the rate of non-veterans," said Sarah Brummett, director of the Office of the Suicide Prevention at CDPHE, in a news release. The agencies behind Operation Veteran Strong hope they can be part of the solution. Operation Veteran Strong is the result of Colorado's participation in the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, which was convened in 2018. Check out this free resource [here](https://www.operationveteranstrong.org/) or at <https://www.operationveteranstrong.org/>.

# Our Community Partners

## THE MILE HIGH CHAPTER THANKS YOU!



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





## Primary Business Address

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

## Chapter Officers

- President: Cliff Klein
- Executive VP, Community Partners: Neil Burroughs
- Secretary: SSgt Pauline Robinson
- Treasurer: Kenn Bowens
- VP Aerospace Education and Veteran Affairs: Stephen Gourley
- VP Communications: TSgt Damita Stevens
- VP Airman, Guardian & Family Programs: 2d Lt Emily Murray

## 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.**

To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security;
  - ADVOCATE and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world;
- SUPPORT Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

## 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/>

## 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.

- June 21, 2022
- July 19, 2022
- August 16, 2022



Newsletter Editor: TSgt Damita Stevens is an Active Duty Guardian serving on Buckley Space Force Base. She has been with the Mile High AFA for three years and was elected as VP of Communications in 2021, she also serves as the Colorado State AFA Secretary. Recently, she was one of seven members accepted to the National-Level AFA Emerging Leader Program. Damita uses her intimate knowledge of information systems to build the Mile High Website and create the Quarterly Newsletters. Damita is happily married, has one rambunctious Akita named Kana, and loves to cook.

