



# "Kittyhawk Flyer"



*Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751*

**AFSA Chapter Newsletter of the Year**

**Issue No. 55**

**November 2007**

## ***Call to Action!!***

### ***Exempt Military Retirement Pay from Ohio Tax***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President and SMSgt (Ret) Richard Jones, Chapter Member*

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 is asking its members who are Ohio residents to contact the Ohio Senate to request their support of House Bill (HB) 372 before Tuesday, December 11.

The Chapter has been tracking the progress of Senate Bill (SB) 19, which exempted military retired pay from Ohio's personal income tax. While SB 19 languished in the Senate, HB 372 was put on a fast track through the House and passed with a vote of 96 to 1 on November 7.

Like SB 19, HB 372 would also exempt military retired pay from Ohio's personal income tax AND it would provide other benefits to Ohioans who serve(d):

1. Exempt estates of armed forces members who died while serving in a combat zone from probate fees
2. Provide that reservists and National Guard members may renew their professional licenses within six months after active duty service
3. Extend continuing education reporting periods for National Guard members ordered to duty by the Governor
4. Provide that standard "Purple Heart" license plates be issued without charge
5. Prohibit discrimination under the Ohio Civil Rights Commission Law and certain other laws on the basis of military status

6. Require the Attorney General to appoint a staff member of the Consumer Protection Division to expedite certain cases or issues raised by a person, or the person's immediate family, who is deployed on active duty, and
7. Require relevant military experience to be considered in continuing education determinations.

HB 372 was reviewed at a hearing by the Ohio Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee on November 14. The hearing was not finalized, however, due to the unavailability of some fiscal data. Senator Bill Harris asked for a delay on the vote until December 11 to discuss this data. A final vote will then be taken, pending no further hearings or discussions.

Now is the time for your voice to be heard. A copy of HB 372 is posted on the Chapter webpage for your review at [www.hcst.net/afsa751](http://www.hcst.net/afsa751). I encourage you to email your Ohio Senator (not U.S. Senator) and ask for support of this bill. You can find out who your Senator is at [www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/SenateZipSearch.html](http://www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/SenateZipSearch.html).

UPDATE: The Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee will hold hearings on both bills on Dec 5.



## *A word from the President...*

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*



Sometimes I have the worst memory when it comes to names or faces. Once, when I was stationed overseas, there was this kind lady who stopped me at the BX to ask how I was doing. She then asked about my family by name. I carefully continued the conversation not knowing if she was married or had children. Was she a neighbor or a colleague's wife? I figured I could play it off because I wouldn't see her again. Wrong! I saw her many times...for many years. I soon got to the point where I was too embarrassed to ask her who she was. Too much time, too many conversations, had passed for me to admit I didn't know her.

I share that story because I often meet people who tell me they are Chapter members but are reluctant to show up for an AFSA meeting or event because "too much time has passed." Here are a few examples:

*"I've wanted to go to a meeting as soon as I PCS'd here but now I've been here a year..."*

*"I use to go to meetings when I was on active duty, but I've been out of it for too long..."*

*"I'm a long-time member but I've never been to a meeting and I wouldn't know anyone..."*

If this sounds like you, please don't stay away. We want you at our meetings. We appreciate your membership and we don't care how long you've been away or if you've never attended a meeting.

Although we average around 30 people at each general membership meeting, the truth is a lot of these attendees are not "regulars." The busy work schedules of our members keeps many from attending each

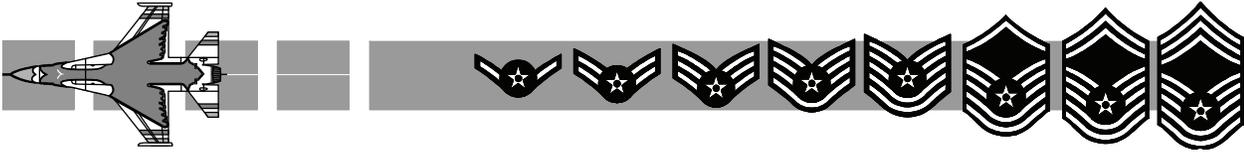
meeting. Many squadrons send out one representative to the meeting to bring back notes to their coworkers and we may not see that individual again for months. Yet each month different members show up and we always get an opportunity to welcome folks that are attending for the first time or coming back after a long hiatus.

The point is we value your membership and it doesn't matter to us that you've been fostering this relationship with AFSA for many years but you don't know us personally. It's never too late to introduce yourself to the Chapter and we'll understand if you can't make every meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

On another note, the end of the year is upon us and that means the Chapter is preparing for the annual awards banquet. This AFSA extravaganza is scheduled for January 26 at the Wright Patt Club and I invite you to join us for a fun-filled evening. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our Chapter members and to meet AFSA leaders. Contact the Chapter or visit our website for more information.

Finally, I'd like to wish you a very happy holiday season. The year has passed quickly and I've enjoyed serving you as president of this Chapter. Many great things were accomplished in 2007 and we are blessed to have so many outstanding people to help us achieve our goals despite the war-fighting pace they undergo at their jobs or the responsibilities they bear at home.

Unfortunately, there are many Chapter members deployed at this time and I ask that you take the time to remember them and their families. Moving into 2008, I pray we all receive the gift of "peace on earth" and that this Chapter continues its success of providing "goodwill toward men."



## ***A word from the Auxiliary President...***

*By Mrs. Julie Durkee, Chapter Auxiliary President*



Bring us your gifts...and let us wrap them for you! On December 15, 16, 23 and 24, Kittyhawk Chapter 751 will be sponsoring the gift wrapping booth in the lobby of the BX. For your gracious donation, our volunteers will wrap your gifts for you. Your items don't have to be purchased from AAFES; you can bring them in from anywhere you love to shop. We will have boxes and bows if you so desire and name tags that you can complete as you wait and attach to your gifts before you leave.

Saturday hours will be from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday hours are from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

All contributions will be donated to the Wright-Patterson Fisher/Nightingale Houses. Please check out their website at [www.fnhi.org](http://www.fnhi.org).

## ***ALS & Donors Help Chapter Provide Thanksgiving Feasts***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia,  
Chapter President*

While many around Wright Patt were gearing up for the Ohio State-Michigan game on November 17, Kittyhawk Chapter 751 continued with another time honored tradition: the Thanksgiving Basket Project.

Led by Chapter Trustee TSgt Stacie Parsons, the Airman Leadership School students and staff returned this year to form an assembly line that was producing baskets at a rate Henry Ford would be proud of.

Other volunteers also shared in the work of moving the boxes from the assembly point to the loading dock pick-up area.



Great teamwork behind the commissary produces Thanksgiving baskets in record time.



Volunteers load a vehicle with boxes of Thanksgiving food for needy Wright Patt families

The Chapter received fewer food donations from commissary vendors, so cash donations were especially critical this year. A total of 227 baskets were provided thanks to the donations from the Wright Patt Credit Union, Officers' Wives' Club, 88th Medical Group Top 3, Wright Patt Top 3, Wright Patt Chiefs' Group, 445th Airlift Wing personnel, AFSA Chapter A751, and other private donors. The Chapter budgets \$500 annually for this project and had \$588 in reserve from last year's donations. Still, an additional \$500 was needed from the Chapter coffers to pay the commissary bill.



## ***Air Force Marathon Delivers Thrills and Spills***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*

A pre-dawn raid on the officers' "brick quarters" was skillfully coordinated by Kittyhawk Chapter 751 on the morning of September 15. No...this wasn't an enlisted takeover. It was the rendezvous of over 50 volunteers massing on Aid Station #8 in preparation for the Air Force Marathon.

The hardest part of the day was getting to the aid station by the 0600 show time. The race had been altered from previous years by making part of the course run through downtown Fairborn. The roadblocks in the city went up sooner than advertised and many volunteers scrambled to find detours to the base. Luckily the snack truck arrived with no problems and dropped donuts on target for the volunteers gathered in front of Dodge Gym.



A patriotic Julie Durkee delivers a refreshing cup of water to a runner during the Air Force Marathon.

Meanwhile, near the starting line, the Team AFSA relay team was gathering at the pre-designated coordinates. This year's team was made up CMSgt (Ret) Greg Humphrey, CMSgt Craig Sloan, MSgt Brian Tobin and MSgt James "Fig" Fuenfgeld. Traffic issues were proving to be a challenge for the team as well. Three of the four racers eventually made it, but Chief Humphrey was caught in stand-still traffic. As time neared for the start of the race, and after several roll calls, it became apparent that Team AFSA was going to run in a missing man formation. Chief Sloan showed valor above and beyond the call of duty by volunteering to run the first two legs of the race.

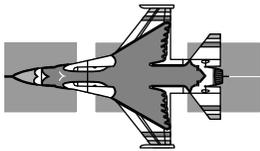
Back at the aid station, volunteers began to fill hundreds of cups of water and pre-positioned protein goo. Messages of encouragement were written on the road with chalk and more donuts were eaten.

Soon the race began and Team AFSA was on its way to glory. Sloan ran so fast he was unseen at the AFSA aid station but he set the pace that would provide the team with a time of 3:28:02. That placed the team 8th in the Male Team category and 34th overall out of 277 teams. Trustee TSgt Stacie Parsons did a great job also by running a full marathon in 5:52:38.

Aid station volunteers had a great time cheering on the runners and when the last person went by...the focus turned to more eating. The Chapter provided sandwiches and soft drinks to all that helped. It was a great team effort. However the drama was not over.

As the volunteers started to leave, one lady tripped over a raised seam in the sidewalk and crashed to the ground. While other volunteers kept her comfortable as she laid on the ground, medical personnel from the neighboring medical station ensured she was not seriously injured. Soon she was on her feet and she was provided another sandwich for her troubles.

AFSA continued to demonstrate its volunteer spirit as Auxiliary President Julie Durkee started to pick-up stranded young sailors in Areas A & C who were still detailed at various street corners to keep runners on course...long after the last runner had passed. Appropriate kudos were given to Ms. Durkee for her unselfish humanitarian efforts.



## *New Chapter VAVS Representatives Needed*

*By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Chapter VAVS  
Representative*

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 is currently in the process of selecting two new members to serve as Chapter representatives on the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Advisory Committee.

The VAVS was founded in 1946 to provide for our nation's veterans while they are cared for by VA health care facilities. It is one of the largest centralized volunteer programs in the Federal government. Over 350 organizations support the VAVS. Volunteers have provided over 676 million hours of service since 1946. VAVS volunteers assist veteran patients by augmenting staff with end of life care programs, foster care, community-based volunteer programs, hospital wards, nursing homes, and veteran outreach centers. Annual contributions are over \$50 million in gifts and donations. Volunteers contributed more than 13 million hours of service to veterans in 2006. VAVS volunteers are a priceless asset to America's veterans and to the VA.

Chapter Kittyhawk 751 serves on the Dayton VAVS Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly at the Dayton VA Medical Center. The committee is briefed on current VA issues and programs and takes back information to their respective organization so their membership can decide on how to best participate in service to our veterans at the VA.

If you are interested in becoming a Chapter representative on the committee, please contact me, Chuck Worm, at (937) 237-1792 or at [chiefcootie@aol.com](mailto:chiefcootie@aol.com).

### ***Mark your Calendar!!***

The General Membership meeting in January will take place on January 8 due to the New Years Day holiday.

## *Chapter Shorts*



Chapter members are all smiles and ready for transport after finishing a highway clean-up of SR 444 on September 29.



A1C Carol Walker shows a completed membership application after recruiting CMSgt Lyle Brown at the Unaccompanied Airman's Picnic.



Chapter Vice President SMSgt George Broome meets Brigadier General (Ret) Chuck Yeager at the Army Air Corp Enlisted Pilots' Reunion.



## ***Chapter Seeks Volunteers for Appointed Positions***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*

Chapter 751 would like to hear from members interested in any of these roles:

Secretary - Takes notes at General Membership and Executive Council meetings; provides the president with meeting minutes and creates agendas for upcoming meetings

Treasurer - Manages all financial records for the Chapter; creates monthly reports and briefs them at the General Membership and Executive Council meetings; creates quarterly reports that go to the Division 7 president; creates annual budget

Airmen Activities Coordinator - The AAC (E-5 or below) focuses on events and concerns of junior ranking Airmen; ensures AFSA briefings are given at all Airman Leadership School and First-Term Airmen Center classes

Membership Chairman - Focuses on keeping recruiting and retaining efforts active; coordinates activities among unit AFSA members

Chaplain - Provides invocation at General Membership meetings and other events

Communications Director - Oversees public affairs, newsletter and website activities

Public Affairs Chairman - Works with local media to publicize Chapter events

Newsletter Chairman - Publishes Chapter newsletter on a quarterly basis

Webmaster - Maintains and updates Chapter website

Legislative Chairman - Stays abreast of AFSA legislative platform issues and briefs Chapter

## ***Fun Times at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*

Chapter 751 held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on September 22 in the Kittyhawk Center on Wright Patterson AFB. Every year the Chapter offers free food and drink to all the volunteers (and their families) who helped out at any AFSA event during the past year.



MSgt Scotty Cruz and Chapter Trustee MSgt Brian Tobin prove they are grill sergeants extraordinaire.

Although hundreds of people could have attended, only 40 took the Chapter up on its offer. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all. There was enough barbeque chicken to feed an army (I mean an air force) and nobody went home hungry. The volleyball game demonstrated a wide range of athletic prowess that provided many laughs.

We hope to see more folks out there next year. You, our volunteers, deserve it.



## ***Chapter Participates at Retiree Appreciation Day***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Chapter Senior Advisor*

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 manned an information table during Retiree Appreciation Day on October 25, in the Wright Patt Club ballroom.

The annual event is put together by the Retiree Activities Office to provide information and assistance to the retiree community. This year over 40 information booths from base and community organizations participated. AFSA volunteers at the table provided membership, organizational, and benefit information to potential and current AFSA members throughout the day.

Thanks to all that came out to help and to those who came by for a visit.



CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm and Dian Anderson proudly represent AFSA at Retiree Appreciation Day.

## ***AFSA Stuffs Shoppers with Hot Dogs and Hamburgers***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*

AFSA returned to the treacherous no-holds-barred event known as the Commissary Case Lot Sale on September 28-30. The Chapter's 3-day mission was to tame the hungry sales-seeking shoppers with the finest cuisine a dollar could buy. Dozens of volunteers came out in shifts to take their turn at this fundraiser. In the end, over \$400 was raised. Thanks to all those who helped out or bought some food!

### **General Membership Meetings**

1st Tue of every month, 11:30 am, Wright Patt Club

### **Executive Council Meetings**

3rd Tue of every month, 5:30 pm, Wright Patt Club

### **Auxiliary General Membership Meeting**

Dec 18 - Wright Patt Club, 6:30 pm

### **Upcoming Chapter Events**

Dec 4 - Chapter Elections, General Membership Meeting, Wright Patt Club

Dec 8 - VA Christmas Party, Dayton VA Medical Center

Dec 15-16, 23-24 - BX Gift Wrap Fundraiser, Main Exchange lobby

Jan 8 - General Membership Meeting

Jan 25 - Membership Drive Kick-off Luncheon, Wright Patt Club

Jan 26 - Annual Awards Banquet

***If you would like more information or would like to donate time or money, please email us at [AFSA751@yahoo.com](mailto:AFSA751@yahoo.com).***



MSgt (Ret) Norbert Lannan greets Chapter President CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia at the Commissary Case Lot Sale. Norbert is AFSA Charter Life Member #24.



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### ***Chapter 751 Officers***

#### **President**

CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia

#### **Vice President**

SMSgt George Broome

#### **Secretary**

MSgt Chetan Sawhney

#### **Treasurer**

MSgt (Ret) Geoffrey Oliver

#### **Trustees**

- 1) MSgt Rolando Pabon
- 2) MSgt Brian Tobin
- 3) TSgt (Ret) Jeff Stepanek
- 4) MSgt (Ret) Rodney Hromada
- 5) TSgt Stacie Parsons

#### **Senior Advisor**

CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm

#### **Airman Activities Coordinators**

SrA Jacquelyn Gannon

SrA Rebecca Amusa

#### **Membership Chairman**

MSgt (Ret) Rodney Hromada

#### **Communications Chairman**

MSgt Rolando Pabon

#### **Legislative Chairman**

SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski

#### **Chaplain**

MSgt (Ret) Scott Porter

### ***Chapter A751 Officers***

#### **President**

Ms. Julie Durkee

#### **Vice President/Secretary**

Ms. Carol VanHoose

#### **Treasurer**

Ms. Celesta Merryman

#### **Trustees**

- 1) Ms. April Jeffs (Chaplain)
- 2) Ms. Karol Worm
- 3) Ms. Dian Anderson (Chaplain)

#### **Senior Advisor**

Ms. Dian Anderson



Visit the AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751 web page, [www.hcst.net/afsa751](http://www.hcst.net/afsa751), to learn more about Chapter activities.

The *Kittyhawk Flyer* is a publication of:  
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