



"Kittyhawk Flyer"



Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751

Issue No. 58

August 2008

Golf Classic a Success for Chapter & Fisher House

by TSgt Angela Gibson, Chapter Trustee

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 is a longtime and avid supporter of the Wright-Patterson Fisher and Nightingale Houses, compassionate care facilities for service members, veterans and families undergoing long-term treatment at military medical facilities. So, when we heard a NEW Fisher House was coming to WPAFB, Chapter 751 quickly jumped up to the plate, or in this case the green, to assist.

We asked ourselves how best to raise money while at the same time further enhance the esprit de corps of our community; of course being in a room with several retired Chiefs, the logical answer was golf. Being the self-proclaimed *Miniature Golf Master* that I am, I accepted the challenge...after all, how complex can *real* golf be? OK, so I was a bit naïve in the beginning and quickly learned there is more to it than plaid knicker-clad men chasing a little ball! However, rather than focus on all the jokes at my expense as I got down the appropriate lingo (though I remain convinced there are A LOT of people that have no idea what "follow the fairway"



A golfer takes aim on the green while her teammates look on with equal concentration. A great time was had by all.

means nor that there's a significant difference between a "closest to the tee" versus a "closest to the pin" contest), I WOULD like to say that the event was a great success!

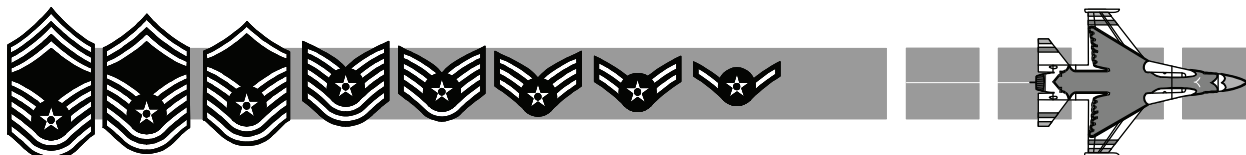
On August 15th, 72 golfers from across the base and local community gathered to enjoy a day of golf, food & beverage, camaraderie, prizes and beautiful weather at the Chapter's Inaugural Golf Classic. Better yet, over \$3,100 was raised for the Fisher House Capital Fund.

The new House will replace the original Nightingale House, enabling not only a significant increase of available occupancy, but a more comfortable, homelike environment more conducive to medical needs (i.e. handicap accessibility, private bathrooms, etc). For more information about Fisher/Nightingale House, Inc. or the Capital Campaign, check out www.fnhi.org.

Moreover, it was such a great time, plans are already in the works for next year's 2nd Annual Golf Classic!



Fisher Nightingale Houses Inc. Executive Director, SMSgt (Ret) Chris Stanley (far left), assists with registration.



A word from the President...

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President



People ask how I do it. How can I give so much time to this chapter? Why do I do it? Well...

I love the Air Force. Everything I am and everything I have, I can thank the Air Force for. I was 17 when I made the decision to enlist and to this day I still ask: how lucky was I to have taken that path? I made a great decision at that young age that allows me to hold my head high today as I introduce myself as an Air Force veteran. When strangers ask about my background, it is with immense pride that I tell them I served in the United States Air Force. My career with the Air Force bestows on me an honor respected by most Americans: the title of Airman.

Yes, I love the Air Force but I love Airmen even more. Enlisted Airmen to be more specific. No, not in a weird stalker way; but rather, it's an admiration for Airmen that make (or made) our Air Force what it is today. Perhaps this is a sentimental feeling that comes with age; maybe it's a retiree's perspective. It could also stem from my role as the Chapter President and the interaction I have daily with those wearing the stripes today. Regardless of the source, my love for Airmen, past and present, is true.

Airmen do their jobs so well they make it look easy. They balance their days between their primary duties, fitness activities, training, deployments and those dreaded additional duties. They study for promotion, go to college, and take care of their families. Our citizen Airmen from the Guard and Reserves do this too in both military and civilian life. Our families are Air Force families, struggling with the pressures of a military at war and telling their Airman that they understand their devotion to the mission...even if they don't.

Everything Airmen accomplish is wrapped in integrity, service and excellence. These are values passed down by generations of Airmen. They've given the flag to today's

warriors with full confidence that their Air Force will be in good hands. These vets have done their job well and I thank them every chance I get.

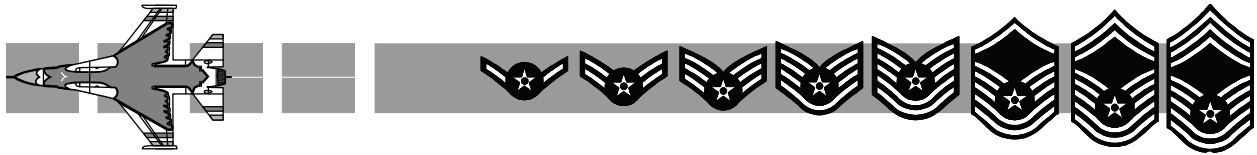
So it is with a sense of gratitude that I serve this Chapter. Part of it is that I owe it to today's Airman to let them know there is an organization fighting for their quality of life. AFSA has fantastic leadership in Washington advocating the concerns of Airmen, but their voice on Capitol Hill is only as strong as the number of members it has. I pray that I find a way to show Airmen that it is in THEIR best interest to join AFSA. Imagine what we could do if every eligible person was a member. If you're reading this as an AFSA member, I hope you will help me get the word out to someone who should be a member. It's all about helping Airmen.

The other part of why I give it my all for this Chapter is the great people I have the honor to serve. AFSA has given me an opportunity to stay involved with my beloved Airmen. With all the things going on in their lives, they still come out to support the Chapter. They volunteer to grill burgers, give briefings, pick-up trash, move equipment, prevent DUI's, print out flyers and countless other activities. And in the process, I get to hear their stories; where they're from, why they enlisted. And with greater frequency, when I ask them what they do, they respond, "I am an American Airman."

How can you not love and serve someone like that?

Upcoming Chapter Events

Sep 20	- USAF Marathon Aid Station
Oct 7	- General Membership Meeting
Oct 11	- Yellow Springs Street Festival
Oct 29	- Base Retiree Appreciation Day
Nov 4	- General Membership Meeting
Nov 22	- Thanksgiving Basket Assembly
Dec 2	- General Membership Meeting
Dec 6	- VA Holiday Party
Jan 24	- Chapter Awards Banquet



A word from the Auxiliary President...

By Mrs. Julie Durkee, Chapter Auxiliary President

Having recently returned from the AFSA 2008 Professional Airmen's Conference, there are a few items I would like to make you aware of.

Let's start with the election of Auxiliary officers. Newly elected members are: Marie McDowell, President; Debby Oesterreich, Vice President; Ruth Larr, 1st Trustee; Helen Free, 2nd Trustee; and Cari Mansfield, 3rd Trustee.

That leads me right into membership; the more members we have, the higher the voting strength. That's not only true for elections; that also includes our strength on Capitol Hill.

The Auxiliary accepts membership of all family members regardless of age. So think of your children, grandchildren and even your parents when you think about renewing or joining. Membership includes three issues of SERGEANTS magazine with information regarding legislation and other issues. It also gives you access to the AFSA website which has an array of discounts through the Services section to include 15% discount from FTD, special pricing on cell phones, computers and insurance, just to name a few.

If you are due to renew soon, or have a new member to register, please do it through the Chapter so we know who you are and we can continue to provide direct service to you.

Call or email me with any questions or concerns, (937) 360-5178, julesafsa@gmail.com. Thanks for your support of the AFSA Auxiliary.



A tribute to my friend Alberta...

By Josie Garcia, Chapter A751 Treasurer and Trustee

Editor's note: Alberta Schell, a long-time member of Auxiliary Chapter A751, passed away on July 26. She is survived by her husband, Charter Chief CMSgt (Ret) Ralph Schell, and their entire AFSA family.

In the many years I've known Alberta, I always saw her smiling. Never a complaint; forever smiling at me. And when she would give me a hug, I felt so good. I always felt protected. Everywhere I saw her; at my work, at a Chiefs' party or at AFSA functions; I would rush to hug her. I loved her as if she was my mother and she made me feel loved.

She always had a kind word for me too. I remember one Chiefs' Dinner where she made a point to tell my husband how nice I looked that night. She would also tell me my hands were cold and would hold them to warm them up. It's wonderful to have a friend who worries about you.



Josie Garcia (left) and Alberta Schell strike a pose during the 2007 Division 7 Awards Banquet at the Wright Patterson Club.

Although English is not my primary language, Alberta and I never had any barriers in communicating. We understood each other perfectly, sometimes without saying a word, as if she were my soul mate.

The day we celebrated her life at the funeral home was the day of my 23rd wedding anniversary. When Ruben and I went out to dinner later, somehow I felt Alberta was celebrating with us.

She was loved by many because she was a marvelous lady with a heart of gold, and I will miss her dearly.

Thank you Alberta!



Chapter 751 Sets the Bar Higher in San Antonio

By TSgt Stacie Parsons, Chapter Vice President



From left to right: Josie Garcia, SrA Angela Reffett and TSgt Stacie Parsons show off their moves on the dance floor.

AFSA held its Professional Airmen's Conference and Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas on August 23-27. It was hot down there and delegates from Chapter 751 made it even hotter.

The week started with a Fiesta themed party. For those unable to attend, let me reassure you: we represented you well on the dance floor! We shook our "groove thing" so much, we won't need to go to PT for a month. Just kidding, First Sergeant!

We made many new friends, and the convention also served as a reunion of past Chapter 751 members. Among them, we were happy to see MSgt Jesus Valdez, SSgt Rich Striggow and our Chapter Member of the Year, SrA Jacquelyn Gannon.

After that first night of "caucusing," the morning came awfully quick for the welcoming breakfast. We were treated to a motivational speaker where we learned, among other things, who in the group were intelligent and who were sexy.

Which leads me to SSgt Striggow's performance at the annual fundraising Parade of

Continued Page 5, **Convention**

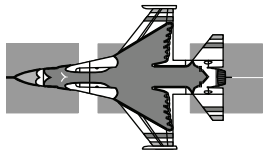
From left to right: SMSgt Raymond Munger, SMSgt Lisa Rodriguez and CMSgt (Ret) "Duke" Earl at the President's Dinner.



From left to right: Antonella Moore, CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia and Julie Durkee dress to impress.



SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski continues a week-long birthday celebration at Dick's Last Resort... even if it wasn't his birthday.



Convention

Continued from page 4

Checks dressed as Marilyn Monroe. This was similar to his antics at the Division 7 conventions, but he took it to a higher level that will unfortunately (for him) not be forgotten any time soon.

The highlight of the week was the Chapter's award of the Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence. While the Chapter has a history of winning many awards at AFSA conventions, this was the first time the Chapter walked away with this prestigious prize. The special award is named after one of the AFSA founders and recognizes the Chapter's contribution in the areas of recruitment, retention, management and community service.

Other highlights of the convention included several briefings from Air Force senior leaders to include Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton A. Schwartz and CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley, testimony from Airmen engaged in combat and a question and answer period with a panel of former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force. CMSgt (Ret) "Doc" McCauslin was also re-elected as International President.

Of course Chapter delegates also took time to enjoy the hospitality room and San Antonio's Riverwalk. I had more fun than a circus seal! (Inside joke.)

All in all, a great time was had by all and we look forward to attending the 2009 convention in Atlanta, Georgia.



SrA Angela Reffett, Division 7 First Term Airman of the Year & a Chapter 751 Airman Activity Coordinator, hangs out with friends.



From left to right: Auxiliary International Vice President Debby Oesterreich, Antonella Moore, Julie Durkee and Josie Garcia ham it up for the camera during the Auxiliary Breakfast.

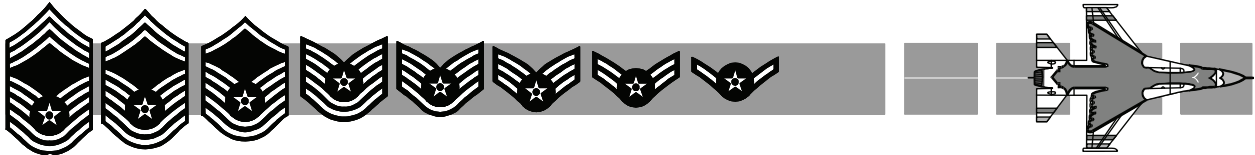
Chapter Volunteers Shine at the AFMC Tattoo

By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Chapter Senior Advisor

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 provided 20 volunteers to Cox's Concessions to help operate the food concessions at the 2008 AFMC Tattoo on June 27 in the area behind the Air Force Museum. Over 60,000 base and community members attended the Tattoo to enjoy flyovers, fireworks, food and the music of the Charlie Daniels Band.

All of the volunteers pitched in with enthusiasm and did a great job. The concession contractor was very pleased with our performance and indicated they would likely seek our support next year. The Chapter was paid for each volunteer provided and we also operated a small merchandise concession selling hero bears and patriotic souvenirs.

Over \$1,300 was raised to help support Wright-Patt enlisted programs and community activities. Thanks to all the volunteers for sacrificing their time to help the Chapter.



Reservists Triumph Over Active Duty in Softball Challenge

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

On a beautiful, unseasonably mild August day, Kittyhawk Chapter 751 hosted the First Annual AFSA Softball Challenge between the Active Duty of Wright Patterson and the Reservists of the 445th Airlift Wing. The Chapter initiated this event in hopes of bringing Airmen from both ends of the base together for a good-hearted rivalry. With that objective in mind, the event was a great success.

Teamwork off the field proved to be just as important as the teamwork on the field. Chapter volunteers coordinated their efforts to provide free hot dogs, popcorn, chips and drinks to the fans and players. TSgt George Balderrama and SSgt Chris Falloon were managers for the Active Duty and Reserve teams, respectively.

Two games were played with the first game being a fun exhibition game. The second game was for the bragging rights. Active Duty Airmen from various organizations came together to make up their team while the Reservists brought their "Crew Dawgs" team. The experience of the Reservists playing together showed as they defeated the Active Duty 29-14.

CMSgt Aaron Mouser, 445th Command Chief, thanked everyone who supported this event. All involved look forward to doing it again next year.



CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia presents SSgt Chris Falloon with a plaque that will be displayed at the 445th Airlift Wing for a year.

Chapter 751 Fund Raiser nets over \$3,000!

By SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski, Chapter Member

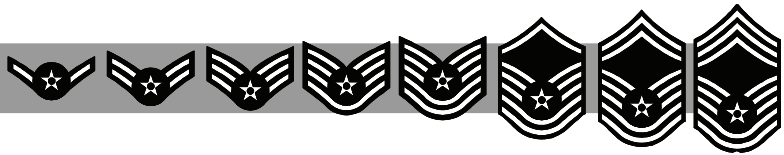
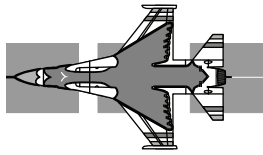


Once again, the Dayton Air Show has come and gone. This year's air show did not have a major headliner such as the Thunderbirds or Blue Angels which resulted in lower than normal attendance. Without those aerial demonstration teams, it was up to Chapter 751 to please the crowd.

The Chapter had 141 volunteers who stepped forward to work the beer booths and raised \$3,307 during the two day event. The public also donated \$494 to the AFSA cause, which gave us a total of \$3,801 to add to the chapter account.

I want to thank each and every one of the volunteers who worked. Special thanks to Mrs. Julie Durkee who did a tremendous job as the backup for this fund raising project.

From left to right: Antonella Moore, Jules Durkee and CMSgt (Ret) Randy Durkee enjoy the calm before the storm as they get ready to serve thousands of Air Show attendees.



A word from the Airman Activity Coordinators...

By SrA Angela Reffett and SrA Crystal Dean, Airmen Activities Coordinators



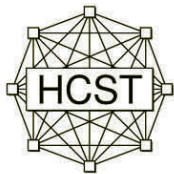
Hello Fellow Airmen!
We have had a busy, but fun last quarter. At the June 13 dorm pizza party we had over thirty Airmen come out to relax and enjoy hot pizza

donated from Pizza Hut, Marco's Pizza, Giovanni's, Cassano's and Flying Pizza. We also had 18 volunteers and 5 saves during our Airmen Against Drunk Driving weekend. Coming up is our next quarterly Highway Clean up, and the Unaccompanied Airmen's Picnic on the September 12 in which we are looking forward to having a great time. You have also made our Highway Clean-Ups a success and for that we thank you. If you

have any ideas about activities you would like for us to organize, please email us at Crystal.Dean@wpafb.af.mil or Angela.Reffett@wpafb.af.mil.



Scenes from a dorm pizza party hosted by Kittyhawk Chapter 751



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**Visit the AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751
web page, www.hcst.net/afsa751, to learn
more about Chapter activities.**

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