



The Alamo AFA

DEFENDER

The Newsletter
of the Alamo AFA
Chapter 234

San Antonio, Texas • The Largest Chapter in the World

www.alamoafa.org • April-June 2003 • Vol. 4, No. 2

Downtown Baghdad?

Nope - try San Antonio

No, downtown San Antonio at Fiesta Flambeau, the world's largest illuminated night time parade, viewed by more than a half million spectators and television watchers.

A security forces member alights from one of three Alamo AFA-sponsored Humvees in the vanguard of the parade, which also included a Civil Air Patrol color guard, marching units from three CAP squadrons, the University of Texas at San Antonio Air Force ROTC detachment and members of the Coast Guard.

This 56th-annual event culminates a week long celebration in Military City USA.

Our participation was planned and organized by Alamo AFA members Eric Renth and Staff Sgt. Michelle Jordan, and was recognized by King Antonio Rob Eversberg, as one the most diverse and interesting entries in the massive three-hour-long parade.



Newsbriefs

Calendar of events

AFA Texas Convention
July 25-28, 2003 in Austin

**Air Force
Birthday Ball**
Sept. 20, 2003

Civilian Awards Banquet
Oct. 16, 2003

**Celebrate America's Mil-
itary Events**
Nov. 1-11, 2003

**Executive Council Meet-
ings**
Every second Tuesday

**Community Partner
Quarterly Breakfasts**
To be announced

Alamo AFA spotlights education programs

Five scholarships valued at \$3,500 were presented to outstanding cadets at the University of Texas at San Antonio Air Force ROTC detachment by Alamo AFA Vice President for Aerospace Education, Maj. Jay Schatz.

Seventeen scholarships valued at \$4,250 were presented to Air Force junior ROTC cadet recipients of the AFA Bronze Medal at southwest Texas high schools.

Alamo AFA sponsored the Aerospace Education Foundation/USA Today Visions of Exploration program in 80 area middle school classrooms. This program provides 30 copies of USA Today per classroom for 19 weeks as well as explorer guides for

each student and resource materials for the teachers, as well as extensive on-line support. The Alamo AFA contribution to this program is valued at \$7,210.

A final program is the Individual AFA Member/Immediate Family Member Scholarship Program. Details and an application form are located on Page 3.

Funding for all of these programs is made possible by the corporate contributions of many of the community partners listed of the back of this newsletter, in support of the annual U.S. Air Force Birthday Ball which will be held Sept. 20 in Hangar 4 at Randolph Air Force Base.

President's Page

Alamo AFA events abound last quarter

Dan O'Neal

Alamo AFA President

Last quarter went by fast.

We participated in the Joint Service Commemoration Ceremony, which honored members of all services who fought in the Korean Conflict.

We also held our annual Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet and got to honor a lot of great men and women in blue.

The Randolph Centennial of Flight Tattoo Celebration was incredible. All who went said it was something to remember.

Another fun event was the Fiesta Parade. The Alamo Chapter, along with others, rode in the vanguard of the parade and had a great time. There is more information about this event in this newsletter.

This next quarter will not be as interesting as we don't have much lined up. We will use this time to conduct our annual membership drive, work on getting continued support from our great community partners, and working on the annual Air Force Birthday Ball and Loos Awards Banquet.

The last paragraph brings up a reminder of a recent and unfortunate event.



O'Neal

On the 4th of April, we lost one of our long-time AFA family members. Charlotte Loos (yes, our civilian awards banquet is named after her and her husband) passed away. I usually would not include information of this nature in a newsletter, but Charlotte was anything but ordinary. Her support spanned more than thirty years and she almost single-handedly ran the AFA state office most of that time. We will surely miss Charlotte.

Please remember my challenge to get new members and lets see the AFA grow so we can continue supporting the world's best military force. If you would like to get involved or have comments or ideas you would like to share, please e-mail me at doneall@satx.rr.com.

Lesser known information on awards and decorations

By Frank Kapp

Civil War - North: Civil War Campaign medals for the North were authorized, in 1905, for Army, Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the Civil War. The Navy and Marine Corps medals have a Monitor and Merrimac battle scene on the medallion's front and either "United States Navy - for Service" or "United States Marine Corps - for Service" on the medallion's obverse. The ribbon, or drape material is blue and gray. The Army medal's medallion has Abraham Lincoln on the front and "Civil War 1861 - 1865" on the obverse. The Army's ribbon material was originally red, white and blue, but was changed in 1913, to the blue and grey colors used by the Navy and Marines. (source: "The Call of Duty," Strandberg and Bender).

Civil War - South: The only medal given to all Civil War veterans of the South was the Southern Cross of Honor. It was given to Confederate veterans, or their families, by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, well after the war was over. The medal is a bronze Maltese - type cross, suspended from a bronze, engraveable bar. (source: Medals Of America).

All four Civil War medals are available today for families who want to honor ancestors with a display of their service to the North or South. If you would like more information, contact Frank Kapp at 507-4061.

World War I, Purple Heart: The Purple Heart did not exist in WWI; wounded veterans were awarded a wound stripe to wear on their uniform sleeve and a Meritorious Service Citation, signed by the President of the United States. When the War Department brought out the Purple Heart in 1932, it was made retroactive for WWI Army veterans, who could exchange their Citation for a Purple Heart Medal. President Truman extended eligibility, for the Purple Heart, to Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members to 5 Apr 1917, to cover all WWI veterans. (sources: National Geographic, Dec 1919, and "The Voice," Aug 2002). If you would like more information, contact Frank Kapp at 507-4061.

Alamo AFA Member/Immediate Family Member Scholarship Application

Three \$500 scholarships to be awarded in early September

Application postmark deadline: July 31, 2003

Please type or print clearly the following information. This application and supporting documents must be postmarked to the Alamo Chapter AFA, 8406 Cadmus, San Antonio, TX 78214-3001 by July 31. Please read through the entire document before beginning.

Name:

Last: _____ First: _____ M.I. _____

Relationship to sponsor: _____

Mailing address:

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

I certify that I or my sponsor is an Air Force active-duty, full-time Air Force Guard or Reserve member, and an Air Force Associate member and if awarded this scholarship, I or my sponsor will continue to be on active duty and continue membership in the Air Force Association for at least the duration of the scholarship.

AFA Membership/Sponsor Membership Number: _____

When submitting this application, please attach the following documents in the order listed:

- Completed application.
- Proof of acceptance into an accredited program.
- Two letters of recommendation: One from Air Force supervisor, one from an AFA official.
- Proof of a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average.
- A two-page, double-spaced personal statement including your academic goals, your community or AFA involvement, your past academic accomplishments and other information to warrant your selection.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners assist the Alamo Chapter in a number of valuable areas.

- Air Force Credit Union
- Air Force Village
- Airport Hilton
- Anteon Corp.
- Apollo Gate Operators, Inc.
- ARINC
- Army-Air Force Exchange Service
- ATT Government Solutions
- Bank of America - Fort Sam Houston Branch
- Bearing Point
- Beldon Roofing Company
- The Biggar Advantage
- Bill Miller Barbecue
- Boeing Autometric
- The Boeing Company
- Booz, Allen and Hamilton
- Brite Blinds of Texas
- Carrera Optical
- City Public Service
- Clear Channel Communications, Inc.
- Desktop Consultants
- EG&G Management Services of San Antonio
- Eisenhower National Bank
- Fisher House, Inc.
- Frost Bank
- GCR Truck Tire Center

- Goodyear # 4762
- Goodyear Auto Service Center
- GPM Life
- Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- GSA/Federal Technology Service
- Guardsmark, Inc.
- H.B. Zachry Company
- The Holt Companies
- Institute for Job and Occupational Analysis
- Jack Winkler Motors
- Karta Technologies, Inc.
- KB Homes
- KPMG
- Lear Siegler Services, Inc.
- Main Street Garage
- Medallion Homes
- Military Medals& Displays
- Onboard Software, Inc.
- Orbis Online, Inc
- Pentagon Federal Credit Union
- Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union
- Red McCombs Enterprises
- The Republic of Texas Restaurant
- Robinson Financial Concepts
- San Antonio Credit Union
- San Antonio Lighthouse
- SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation)

Care to Join Us?

Would you like to join the list of outstanding businesses listed here?

As a community partner you will receive a copy of the Air Force Magazine each month, have your company name included here and on programs at our events throughout the year and on our Web page.

You will be invited to quarterly breakfasts conducted by Air Force organizations and to all of our events. All for just \$75.00 per year or \$150.00 for two memberships.

For more information, contact Tom Peterson at 379-3711, or Jim Garrett at 349-9494.

- SATYA Tech
- Security Service Federal Credit Union
- Sell Your Home in 9 Days.com
- Southwest Business Corporation
- Straus-Frank Company
- Texace Corporation
- Texas Computer Help
- Texcorp Mortgage Bankers
- USAA
- X Technologies Inc.

The Alamo Chapter
Air Force Association
Historic Stinson Field
8406 Cadmus
San Antonio, Texas 78214-3001

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