



Steele Chapter at the AFA Convention: A Strong Presence!

The Steele Chapter made a significant impact at the AFA Convention held from September 14 - 15 at the Gaylord National Hotel.

Our chapter had the largest delegation in attendance, proudly representing our 6,000 members. We actively participated in discussions on association business and future initiatives.

Mark your calendars for next year's AFA Convention on September 20-21! Your ideas and input are invaluable, and we want to ensure your voice is heard.



L-R: Bob Hill, Beth Favor, Jim Lauducci, Jim Hannam, Mike Maxwell, Lloyd Swede, Tyler Johnson

LEARN MORE

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Steele Chapter Hosts Annual Salute to Arnold Air and Silver Wings

The Steele Chapter's annual Salute to Arnold Air and Silver Wings event, held on November 20th, was a resounding success, brimming with excitement and energy. Cadets and Silver Wings members from Howard University, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland gathered with Steele Chapter members to celebrate the occasion. More than 30 cadets participated in the event, which featured a keynote presentation by Col. (Ret.) Patrick Donley, Director of AFA's Doolittle Leadership Center.



Photo: Col (Ret) Patrick Donley, Director of AFA's Doolittle Leadership Center speaking with cadets

Col. Donley's talk, titled "Leading in the Age of Great Power Competition," offered valuable insights on navigating leadership challenges in today's complex global environment. He emphasized to the cadets that they must be prepared for situations the Air Force hasn't encountered since World War II. "All Americans will be counting on you to defend the nation," Col. Donley remarked.

The event was held at Blackhawk Pizza in Arlington, one of the Steele Chapter's most loyal Community Partners. Nighthawk generously donated refreshments to the event for more than 50 attendees.

AFA Steele Chapter and Recruiters Celebrate AIMS Partnership Milestone

The D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter and the 317th Recruiting Squadron marked a significant milestone in their collaboration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the squadron's new office in Alexandria, VA, on November 14. The event, held in partnership with the Mount Vernon-Springfield Chamber of Commerce, underscored ongoing efforts to strengthen Air Force recruiting initiatives in the region.

Key attendees included Maj Gen (Ret) Doug Raaberg, Executive Vice President of the AFA, who spoke about the importance of supporting Air Force recruitment and inspiring the next generation of military leaders. "The AFA's advocacy for the Air Force and its recruiting service is vital to ensuring the continued success of our nation's defense," said General Raaberg. "The Advocates Inspiring Military Service (AIMS) initiative plays a pivotal role in attracting the nation's best and brightest to serve in the Air Force."

CMSgt Ladiwina Gilly, Senior Enlisted Leader of the 317th, accepted the chamber membership plaque, symbolizing the squadron's growing commitment to the local community. She then led the squadron in the "Recruiters' Chant." The event concluded with cutting the ceremonial ribbon, marking the official opening of the new recruiting office. Attendees were invited to tour the facility and enjoy refreshments as they celebrated this exciting new chapter in Air Force recruiting.



Looking ahead, the Steele Chapter and the 317th have ambitious plans to continue promoting Air Force recruitment in Northern Virginia. "We're incredibly excited to be part of the 317th's efforts and remain committed to building on this important partnership," Swede said.

Celebrating Hard Work, Achievement, and Emerging Leadership at the Air, Space & Cyber Conference

At the AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference in September, Steele Chapter President Lloyd Swede and Executive VP Mike Maxwell received the prestigious AFA Medals of Merit for their outstanding contributions to the association. Their efforts included engaging with local high school robotics and CubeSat programs, mentoring Junior ROTC cadets, and providing scholarships to Airmen.



Photo: L - R: Mark "Buster" Douglas, VA AFA President, Lloyd Swede, Mike Maxwell, Linda McMahon, Central-East Region Director

Mike Maxwell was also honored as one of the AFA's National Emerging Leaders, recognizing his leadership and impact on the chapter. Recently appointed President of the Virginia AFA, Mike's dedication is a great example of the leadership potential within our chapter.



A highlight of the conference was the recognition of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, celebrated in a formal ceremony. Following the conference, the D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter hosted a "Salute to Service" reception on September 16 at the Gaylord National Hotel.

This event, supported by nearly two dozen generous Community Partners, allowed Airmen and guests to connect with senior Air Force and AFA leaders. Funds raised will support STEM activities in Northern Virginia schools, as well as Civil Air Patrol and JROTC units.

"This Salute was our way of recognizing the accomplishments of these outstanding Airmen, who embody the professionalism of our entire enlisted force," said Lloyd Swede. CMSgt Kathleen McCool, PACAF Command Chief, praised the event, calling it one to "repeat."



IT'S YOUR TURN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

There are countless opportunities to promote advocacy, support STEM education, and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their families. The best part?

You get to choose how you want to get involved. Consider starting a new initiative to make an immediate impact. Let's all be part of the solution!

Click here to email us about opportunities!

Chapter Activities

AFA Steele Chapter Expands Opportunities for Local Space Force JROTC Cadets



AFA's Steele Chapter arranged for eight cadets to participate in a hands-on event, where they had the chance to fly simulators, explore cutting-edge aviation and space technology, and met Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force John Bentivegna.

The JROTC unit at the Arlington Career Center currently has 82 cadets who are learning essential life skills, discipline, and teamwork that will benefit them throughout their lives. It is one of 10 Space Force JROTC units in the U.S.

CONTINUE READING HERE

Steele Chapter Forges Partnership with 317th Recruiting Squadron



Bob Hill, Chapter Secretary of AFA's D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter, connected with some 100 Air Force recruiters from the 317th Recruiting Squadron in Williamsburg, Va., on October 23 to update them on one of AFA's newest initiatives: Advocates to Inspire Military Service (AIMS).

Hill outlined the rationale behind the partnership between AFA and the Air Force Recruiting Service, highlighting the progress made by both the local recruiting squadron and the chapter over recent months.

CONTINUE READING HERE



AFA Virginia Honors Virginia State Teacher of the Year

Through developing pace-setting STEM programs that are inclusive and fun, Nathan Sekinger, has introduced numerous activities and opportunities designed to promote exploration. These include 3-D printing, growing plants in the on-campus garden, learning how to fly drones, and a Girls Who Code club.

Read Article



Steele Chapter Engages with Future Leaders at Howard University

This semester, 30 candidates are eager to join the Arnold Air Society, with current squadron members leading the training sessions. Notably, three candidates have expressed their intention to pursue careers in the Space Force, while the rest will join the Air Force.

Read Article



AFA Chapter, Mitchell Institute Dean Connect with Virginia Commonwealth EXCOM, AFROTC Cadets

AFA's D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter hosted the Virginia Commonwealth Executive Committee for their quarterly meeting in Arlington, Va. The event featured a delegate dinner at the Patton Club at Fort Myer, which included an engaging evening for delegates, their spouses, and special guests.

Read Article

Steele Chapter and F2 Stir Up Spooky Thrills!

The D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter conjured up some Halloween magic by teaming up with the 11th Civil Engineer Squadron and AFA's Chapter Forces & Families (F2) for Bolling AFB's first-ever on-base haunted house!

Under the leadership of President Lloyd Swede, the chapter welcomed hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, and other spooky creatures each weekend in October. These trick-or-treaters experienced spine-tingling thrills and chills while enjoying complimentary funnel cakes and soft drinks, generously provided by the Steele Chapter, thanks to an AFA F2 grant. This Halloween initiative perfectly aligned with F2's mission of uniting forces and families and enhancing the quality of life for our Air and Space communities.



Our Community Partners



Our Wingmen

Click Here or Scan Below to Become a Community Partner

