



Winter 2024 Newsletter

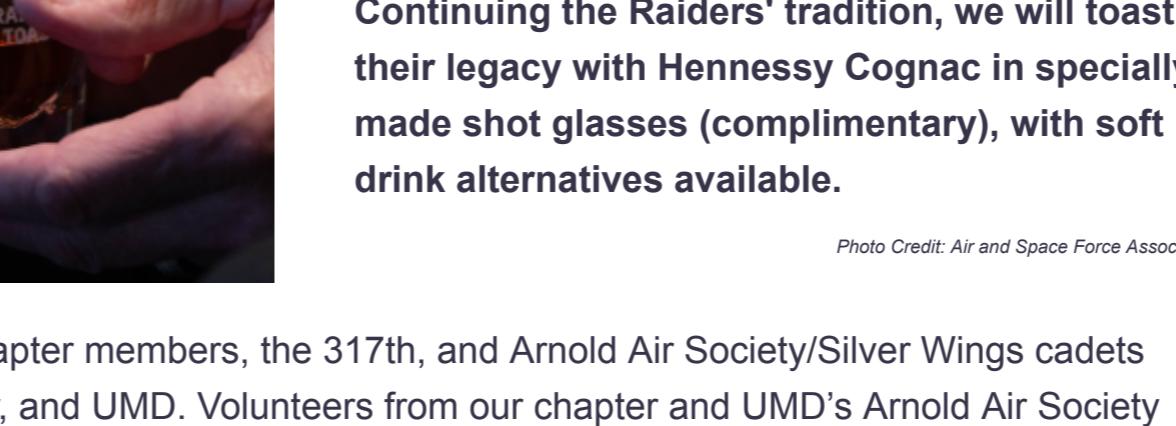
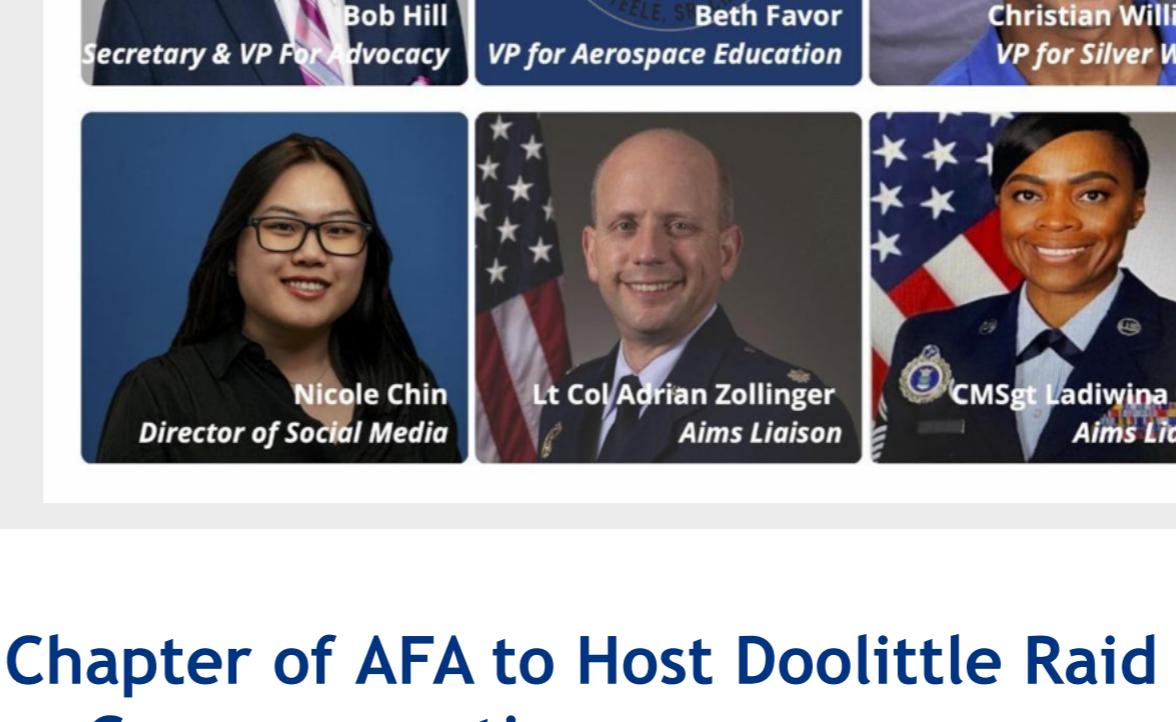
Join Us Online: AFA's Social Media Relaunch

We're excited to announce the relaunch of our social media accounts! Stay connected as an AFA member by following us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook.

Our latest campaign, "Meeting the Officers," introduces the chapter leadership team, so you can get to know the individuals guiding our efforts.

Click below stay updated on all things D.W. Steele!

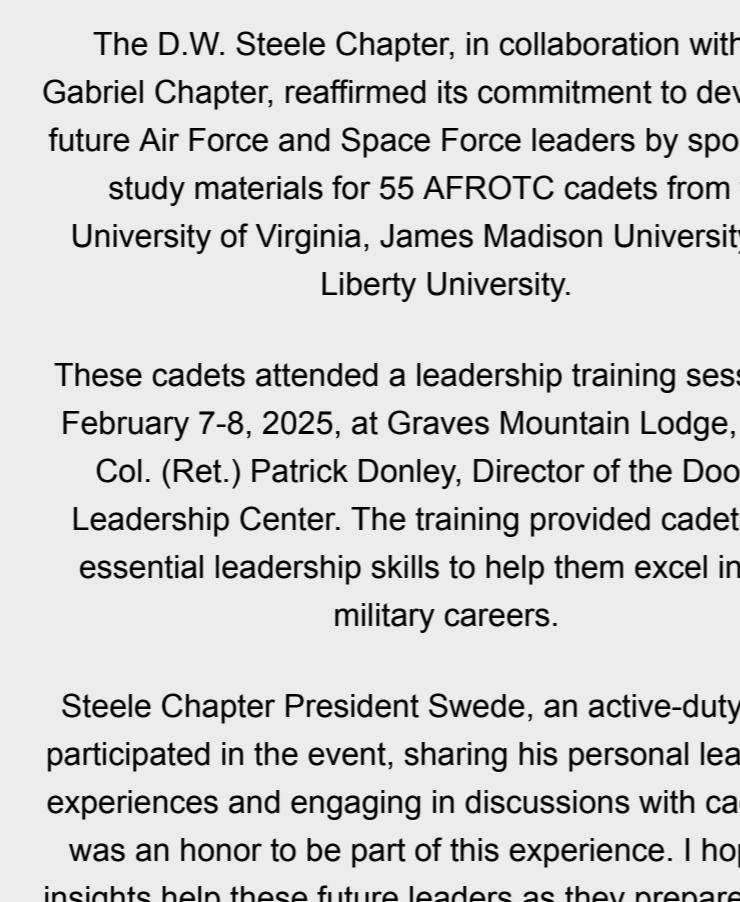
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D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter of AFA to Host Doolittle Raid Commemoration

The D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter of the AFA will honor the Doolittle Raid with a commemoration on Thursday, April 17, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Nighthawk Pizza in Arlington, VA. This venue, located in Pentagon Row, offers convenient metro access and ample parking. **FREE**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



Attendees will enjoy complimentary pizza and soft drinks while watching a livestream of the national AFA commemoration from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

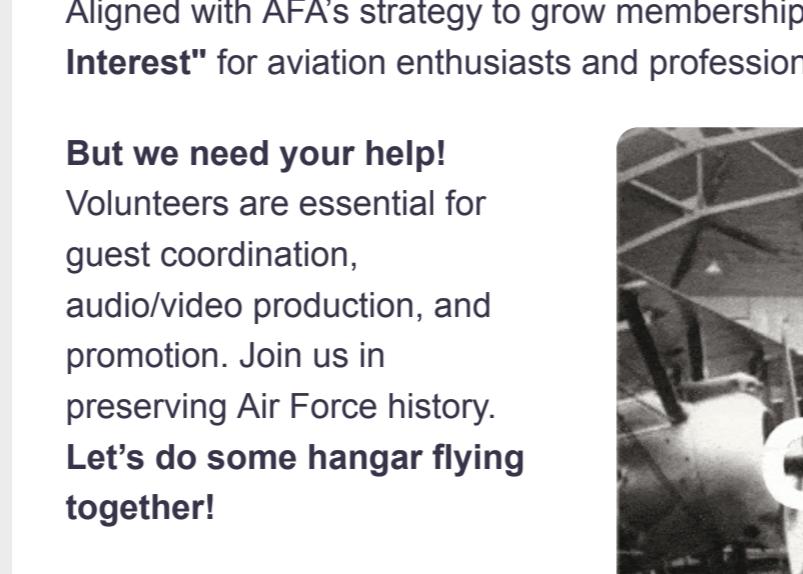
Continuing the Raiders' tradition, we will toast their legacy with Hennessy Cognac in specially made shot glasses (complimentary), with soft drink alternatives available.

Photo Credit: Air and Space Force Association

Invited guests include AFA chapter members, the 317th, and Arnold Air Society/Silver Wings cadets from GWU, Howard University, and UMD. Volunteers from our chapter and UMD's Arnold Air Society have already joined the planning efforts. Spouses, enlistees, and candidates are also welcome.

While our event takes place at Nighthawk Pizza, the national AFA event will be held directly above in the AFA Ops Center. We hope to welcome distinguished visitors from the national event to our gathering, as past attendees have included senior general officers and NCOs. We encourage all Airmen to participate in this important commemoration of history and heritage.

[REGISTER HERE FOR FREE! \(Required\)](#)



Steele Chapter Supports AFROTC Cadet Leadership Training

The D.W. Steele Chapter, in collaboration with the Gabriel Chapter, reaffirmed its commitment to developing future Air Force and Space Force leaders by sponsoring study materials for 55 AFROTC cadets from the University of Virginia, James Madison University, and Liberty University.

These cadets attended a leadership training session on February 7-8, 2025, at Graves Mountain Lodge, led by Col. (Ret) Patrick Donley, Director of the Doolittle Leadership Center. The training provided cadets with essential leadership skills to help them excel in their military careers.

Steele Chapter President Swede, an active-duty NCO, participated in the event, sharing his personal leadership experiences and engaging in discussions with cadets. "It was an honor to be part of this experience. I hope my insights help these future leaders as they prepare to take on greater responsibilities."

Col. Donley expressed his appreciation for the chapter's support, emphasizing the long-term impact of investing in young leaders. "This training is a generational gift—that will continue to benefit the Air Force and Space Force for years to come."

Through partnerships like this, the Steele Chapter continues its mission of mentoring and shaping the next generation of military leaders, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve.

Photo Credit: Patrick Donley

On February 17, 2025, Steele Chapter President Lloyd Swede took a moment to recognize a Vietnam veteran while dining at Mission BBQ in Fredericksburg, VA.

When Swede noticed the veteran entering the restaurant with his son, a Marine Corps veteran, he stepped outside to retrieve a Vietnam Service lapel pin from his car. Returning inside, he approached the older veteran, presented the pin, and personally thanked him for his service.

The veteran's son was deeply moved by the gesture, expressing gratitude for Swede's recognition of his father's sacrifice. "So many of our older veterans came home without a proper thank you," Swede said. "This small act of appreciation was the least I could do."

AFA and the Steele Chapter remain committed to honoring those who have served, preserving military heritage, and fostering connections between past, present, and future generations.

As part of this mission, the chapter is planning upcoming events, including a gathering to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Doolittle Raid and participation in the Air Force Memorial History Series.

These efforts ensure that the legacy of service members remains alive in the hearts and minds of all who support the AFA mission.

Photo Credit: Bob Hill

Hangar Flying with Legends and Leaders

Ever heard of **hangar flying**? It's not about buildings flying—it's about aviators sharing stories. Since the early days of aviation, pilots have gathered to swap lessons, experiences, and insights.

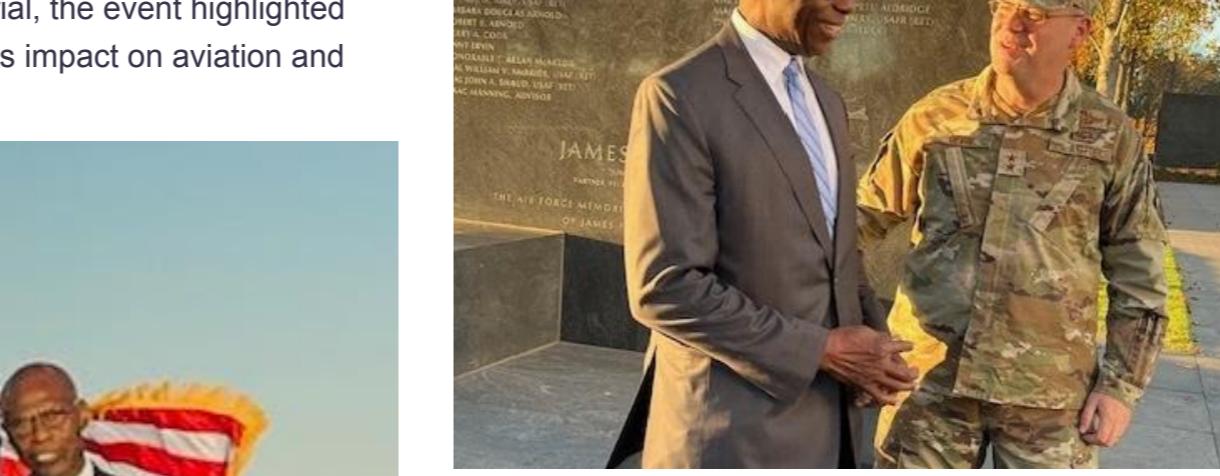
The D.W. Steele Sr. Chapter is keeping this tradition alive with a new video and podcast series, **Hangar Flying with Legends and Leaders**. This series will feature past, present, and future Air Force leaders, sharing their experiences and lessons learned through the lens of **Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do**.

Aligned with AFA's strategy to grow membership and engagement, this series will create a "Community of Interest" for aviation enthusiasts and professionals.

But we need your help!

Volunteers are essential for guest coordination, audio/video production, and promotion. Join us in preserving Air Force history. Let's do some hangar flying together!

Interested? Contact Steele Chapter Secretary Bob Hill via email below or call 703-801-8894.



[Click Here to Email Steele Chapter Secretary Bob Hill](#)

Join Us for the 2025 Air Force Memorial History Lecture Series

The 2025 Air Force Memorial History Lecture Series begins March 25, and we invite all chapter members and aviation enthusiasts to join. As part of our mission to advocate, educate, and honor Air Force heritage, we proudly support this series.

Held at the US Air Force Memorial, a tribute to Air Force service and sacrifice, the series features senior leaders and experts discussing airpower's evolution and national defense impact. Monthly lectures run throughout 2025, offering valuable insights.

Admission is free—don't miss this chance to engage with Air Force leaders and celebrate our history!

MARCH 25 1300 at AFM. "Medal of Honor Recipients," Lt. Gen (Ret) Bruce "Orville" Wright, former AFA President and CEO

APRIL 3 1300 at AFM. "1st Chief Master Sergeant of the AF in place on April 3, 1967," CMSgt David A. Flosi

MAY 20 1000 at AFM. "Berlin Airlift, May 12, 1949," Smithsonian Curator/Historian

Steele Chapter Celebrates Air Force Heritage

The Steele Chapter recently participated in the Air Force District of Washington's (AFDW) History Lecture Series, marking the end of National Aviation Week on November 12. Held at the Air Force Memorial, the event highlighted the Air Force's rich legacy and its impact on aviation and defense.

Hosted by AF DW and the 11th Wing at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, the event culminated with the Steele Chapter's annual Honor Flight ceremony. Airmen and their families gathered to honor the veterans and their families from Sioux Falls, SD, making the tribute even more meaningful.

The event honored the Air Force's history and reinforced the legacy of sacrifice, resilience, and impact on all who attended, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.

Photo Credit: Gail Hill

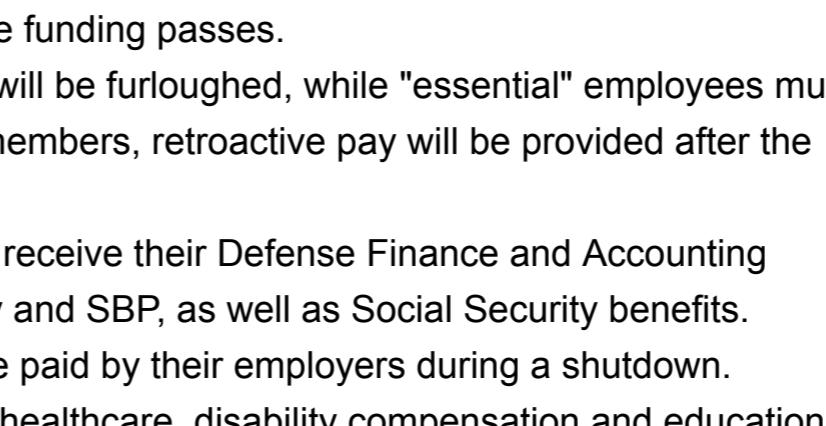


Photo: Col (Ret) Cardell Richardson and Maj Gen Darren A. DeLoach, AFA Steele Chapter.

Colonel (Ret) Cardell Richardson, a Howard University graduate and 30-year Air Force Veteran, traced the Air Force's evolution from Fort Myer, early military aviation, and defense to today's achievements. Fort Myer, early military aviation, and defense to today's achievements.

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Howard University Cadets Visit Veterans at VA Medical Center

On February 16, eleven (11) cadets from the Howard University's Arnold Air Society Chapter visited the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Bringing pizzas and drinks, they spent the afternoon engaging in camaraderie and playing board games with the Medical Center's veterans.

The Steele Chapter coordinated the visit with the Medical Center's volunteer Director, T.J. Graulich. The veterans and cadets connected on a deeper level.

Encouraged by the success of this visit, the Turner Squadron plans to return with even more cadets and Silver Wings members in the coming weeks.

Photo Credit: Gail Hill

Photo: Col (Ret) Cardell Richardson and Maj Gen Darren A. DeLoach, AFA Steele Chapter.

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