



Fort Worth Chapter 272
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
5540 La Bandera Trail
Benbrook, TX 76126

For information
Ross Wood, 817-782-3849
www.fortworthafa.org

Publication support provided by
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Graphic and Editorial Communications

Changes of address or removal from the Chapter's mailing list **must** be done through AFA National by calling (toll-free) 800-727-3337 or visiting the AFA National Web site at www.afa.org.

OFFICERS

President – **Ross Wood**
Executive VP – **Tim Malone**
VP Aerospace Education –
VP Awards –
VP Communications – **Bill Goben**
VP Membership – **Russ Gibson**
VP ROTC – **Baylor Cadet Open**
VP ROTC – **TCU Cadet Open**
Secretary – **Clay Church**
Treasurer – **Rich Walker**

FOCAL POINT



FORT WORTH CHAPTER 272 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2007

Racing With the Chairman and Commander in One Weekend

With the roar of race cars muffled in the background, months of planning, sweat, blood and tears (ok, maybe not blood) were triumphantly rewarded for Fort Worth AFA Chapter 272. On a beautiful spring evening in March at The Speedway Club, Texas Motor Speedway, the chapter hosted another successful "Evening in Fort Worth." Although the chapter has hosted the annual fundraiser black tie event for over a decade, it is really a weekend-long event. This year was no exception. Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, was the keynote speaker. The chapter was also honored to have AFA Chairman of the Board Bob Largent attend.

Dan Heth, former National Director, arranged meetings with top Air Force leaders based at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth for Friday during the day. Maj. Gen. Craig Collins, commander of the 10th Air Force (AFRC); Col. David McMinn, commander of the 136th Airlift Wing (ANG); and Col. Kevin Pottinger, commander of the 301st Fighter Wing (AFRC), presented mission briefings. Following the briefings, General Collins and Colonel Pottinger provided a flight line tour of the 301st Fighter Wing's F-16 aircraft, and aircrew and maintenance members shared experiences from their recent deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chairman Largent hosted a casual dinner later. Officers from both the Fort Worth and Dallas chapters attended, as well as former National officers Dan Heth and Tom Kemp and State Executive Vice President Dave Dietsch. This smaller group was able to interact with the chairman, who gave a "State of AFA" report and discussed current activities and interests at the national level.

Saturday was a full day with the arrival of General and Mrs. Carlson and a tour of the OV-10 Bronco Association/Forward Air Controller and Vintage Flying Museums at Meacham Field in Fort Worth. Of course, the big event was the black tie and mess dress function that evening. Almost 200 military, civic leaders, community partners and ROTC cadets attended.

With Dallas NBC5 TV news anchor Mike Snyder as master of ceremonies and Chapter President Ross Wood at the podium, the evening's events were kept running as well as the cars on the track. The muffled sounds of race cars practicing around the track was like a smooth melody not an annoyance.

Continued on Pg. 2



Continued from Pg. 1

By the time supper was completed, awards presented and General Carlson had given an update about Materiel Command, the sound of jazz music by the Crosswinds Jazz Band had replaced the sound of race cars. Dancing and socializing concluded the weekend's events. Comments were overheard about the elegance of The Speedway Club and the pleasant change in venue from past years.



Presentation of NCO OTY award from FW AFA chapter 272; recipient is MSgt. Jose Munoz, 301st FW/SFS.



Gen. Bruce Carlson receiving gift from FW AFA chapter 272 President MSgt. Ross Wood



Presentation of Amn OTY award from FW AFA chapter 272; recipient is SrA William Hudson, 136th ANG.



Chapter 272 President, MSgt. Ross Wood; 301st FW/CC Col. Kevin Pottinger; and AFMC/CC Gen. Bruce Carlson

AFA Members Step In To Replace WWII Vet's Flag

*By Norm King
Vice President Communications
AFA Texas*

BENBROOK, Texas -- On Sunday morning, May 6, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Marvin "Sparky" Adams, Fort Worth AFA Chapter member, went out to get the morning paper. The World War II veteran had been flying the U.S. flag in support of the troops since the war in Iraq started four years ago, but someone had stolen the flag from in front of his Benbrook home.

He wondered at first if a bad storm had blown it away. "But when the pole and flag were gone, this bothered me real bad," Adams said.

Adams' active duty began in World War II. He flew reconnaissance aircraft in the Cold War. "And I flew it for 9½ years." He also supervised Vietnam aircraft maintenance in Thailand.

Adams said about the theft, "It makes me more than mad, disappointed."

The theft caused an uproar from fellow AFA and Order of Daedalians members and vets in general. Marsha Krotky, AFA NE Chapter president, got a WWII medallion from the Non Commissioned Officers Association, and Rich Walker of Fort Worth suggested a flag replacement. Walker said, "I had the pleasure of presenting Col. Adams with a flag and the medallion on Saturday, 12 May."

AFA Texas State President Bob Slaughter said, "I can't believe the response. On a day when life was not the

best, something OUTSTANDING HAPPENED with your support and generosity to a fellow Air Force retiree and World War II veteran. It was hard to believe that someone would take an American flag from someone that had devoted his life in support of this great nation. He knew the odds for survival when he elected to enter the service, but the overwhelming desire to defend this great country came first. As an American, Air Force retiree and AFA member, I cannot THANK you enough for your support and devotion. I know that Col. Sparky Adams feels the same way. You have made a difference."

After being presented the flag, Adams said, "It's going to stay there until [the war is] over."



Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Marvin "Sparky" Adams replaces his stolen flag. (Photo by NBC5 Fort Worth)

It's time for the chapter to vote again on their officers. Please see below for voter registration card.

Please cast your vote for the 2007-08 slate of officers:

President: Ross Wood

Write-In: _____

Executive Vice President: Tim Malone

Write-In: _____

Secretary: Clay Church

Write-In: _____

Treasurer: Joe Ramsey

Write-In: _____

Mail to: Fort Worth Chapter 272

Air Force Association

5540 La Bandera Trail

Benbrook, TX 76126

