

FOCAL POINT



FORT WORTH CHAPTER 272 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2008

Fort Worth Chapter's Annual Spring Event



Brig. Gen. Craig N. Gourley

Brig. Gen. Craig N. Gourley, U.S. Air Force, is guest speaker for the Fort Worth Chapter's annual spring meeting on Saturday, May 3, at 6 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 6701 Lake Worth Blvd. (at Telephone Rd. intersection) in Lake Worth, Texas 76135. Dress is business casual or service dress. The theme of this year's event is aerospace education.

It is also our opportunity to present the annual scholarships to local high school seniors.

Brig. Gen. Gourley is the mobilization assistant to the director, Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

After receiving his commission in 1978 as a

graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., with a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering, he entered pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., and was selected for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Aggressor program and also for the Stealth fighter program. Transferring to the Air Force Reserve in 1989, he flew F-16s and held assignments ranging from squadron commander to vice commander of 10th Air Force. He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4D/E, F-5E, A-7D, F-117A, F-16A and F-16C and has flown combat missions in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. Gourley has received the Legion of Merit award, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass and three "M" devices.

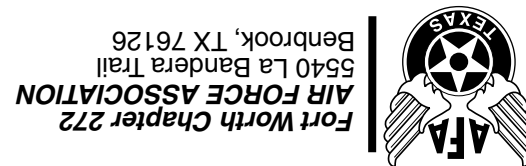
Bell Named AFA Civilian Organization of the Year

Bell Helicopter has received the Air Force Association's "Civilian Organization of the Year" award. The Fort Worth chapter nominated Bell for the award, citing the company's increased support for the AFA. Bell helps with the annual black-tie event "An Evening in Fort Worth," designing and printing the programs and signs, such as the table arrangements and seating charts.



Bell has also supported several AFA Texas state conventions by donating models of the Air Force CV-22 for the silent auction, as well as many related items that were used for prizes in a recent golf tournament.

AFA also noted Bell's long history with the Air Force. The first production Air Force jet aircraft (the P-59 Airacomet) was designed and built by Bell Aircraft, as was the Glamorous Glennis, the aircraft that propelled Capt. Chuck Yeager to break the sound barrier for the first time.



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Publication support provided by
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Graphic and Editorial Communications

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Military Deputy for Air Force Acquisitions Addresses Black Tie

As a mild Texas spring evening was winding to a close, Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman, military deputy for the assistant secretary of the Air Force on acquisitions, addressed a favorable crowd at the annual Fort Worth AFA Chapter 272 gala event, "An Evening in Fort Worth." Unlike last year, the distinct din of race cars circling the track was not evident. Instead, the chapter relied on Dallas NBC5 TV anchor Mike Snyder to set the tone as master of ceremonies. Additionally, Chapter President Ross Wood provided his steady influence to keep the events flowing.



MSgt. Ross Wood and Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman



Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman

AFA State President Dave Dietsch and Regional President Terry Cox attended. The TCU ROTC special teams unit presented the colors, and the 301st Fighter Wing Honor Guard performed the POW/MIA ceremony. Sumptuous pork shank and braised ribs were provided. Following his presentation, the guest speaker conducted an in-depth question and answer session, which the audience thoroughly enjoyed. The Richland High School Jazz Band presented the music, followed by dancing and socializing. The fundraiser black-tie event has been a Fort Worth chapter staple for more than a decade – and tonight was just one more success story for the archives.



l to r, Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman, Col. Kevin Pottinger - 301FW/CC, MSgt. Ross Wood, and Col. Tim Malone, VP Fort Worth AFA



Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman and Col. Kevin Pottinger

I N M E M O R I A M

Honoring One of Our Past Fort Worth AFA Presidents

C. Wayne Calhoun, 78, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, passed away Friday, Feb. 15, 2008, in Fort Worth, Texas. Colonel Calhoun was born in Mattoon, Ill., Dec. 29, 1929. He was a graduate of Mattoon High School, Eastern New Mexico University and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1950 and served until 1978, achieving the rank of colonel.

Calhoun served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was a wing commander of the 307th Strategic Wing at U-Tapao and 68th Bomb Wing at Seymour Johnson. He completed 108 combat missions and received the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal five times, Meritorious Service Medal two times, Accommodation Service Medal and 10 other service medals.



C. Wayne Calhoun

Retiring in 1978, Calhoun moved to Azle, where he lived until 1995, when he moved to Fort Worth. He worked for American Airlines as DC-10 systems instructor and served as senior director of training for the American Airlines Training Corps. He owned and operated American Air Academy at Meacham International Airport and later worked for McDonnell Douglas in military marketing. He was a past president of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Air Force Association and a member of the Order of Daedalians.

Pancake Breakfast



A huge thank-you goes to the following people for making the Pancake Breakfast a success – General Lawsson, Colonel Heth, Joe Ramsey, Udrika Baldwin, Ed Walden, Scott Wedel and Elizabeth Gilbert. These members donated their personal time and were out at 0615 – the 136th services folks were out even earlier – and all did an outstanding job preparing the breakfast!

The event fed over 30 members and their families that were deploying in support of our AEF commitment to the war on terror. It was greatly appreciated by all who participated.