



A F A 1 9 9 6 N A T I O N A L
CONVENTION ▶

Attracting more than 8,300 visitors and 374 delegates, the 1996 AFA National Convention and Aerospace Technology Exposition saluted AFA's fiftieth anniversary. Here, outgoing National President Gene Smith addresses the Convention. To his right are Chairman of the Board James M. McCoy and National Treasurer Charles H. Church, Jr.

CHARLES H. CHURCH

AFA Recalls the First Fifty Years

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Photo by Susan Kennedy



John R. Alison (left), former National President and Chairman of the Board, accepts congratulations from William D. Croom, Jr., winner of a 1996 Presidential Citation, on his keynote speech at the Convention. Opposite: thirteen current and former national officers gathered for a group portrait: (top row, left to right) Gene Smith, George Douglas, O. R. Crawford, Martin Harris, Joe Shosid, James McCoy, and (seated, left to right) Victor Kregel, Mr. Alison, Harold Stuart, James Trail, Gerald Hasler, John Henebry, and David Blankenship, all of whom served as Board Chairman and President, except for Mr. Trail, who was Board Chairman in 1958–59.

AFA's 1996 National Convention, held September 16–18 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D. C., celebrated the theme of AFA's fiftieth anniversary with an array of speeches, ceremonies, and other festivities.

The keynote speaker was Maj. Gen. John R. Alison, USAF (Ret.), Fourteenth Air Force "Flying Tigers" ace and AFA President and Chairman of the Board in the 1950s. Last year, when the Convention theme was the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, General Alison accepted the Association's H. H. Arnold Award on behalf of his fellow World War II Army Air Forces veterans.

It is fitting, General Alison said, that World War II and AFA anniversaries merged into each other and

overlap with the fiftieth anniversary of the US Air Force, coming up next year.

"AFA was born out of World War II," he continued. "Going into the war, airpower was very much a junior partner in the armed forces." By the end of the war, "we had seen what airpower could do when put to the test, and we had visions of what airpower could contribute for the future security of our nation." The campaign to make the Air Force a separate service "was the first thing the brand-new Air Force Association would take on" after it was established in 1946.

"In this anniversary year, we look back—but as AFA has always done—we also look ahead," he said. "The World War II generation knew what it was like to go to war unprepared.

Partly because of that, AFA has from the very beginning put priority, in its programs and in its policy positions, on military preparedness and force modernization."

Before the opening gavel on Monday of Convention week, many of the delegates went by bus to Arlington National Cemetery where Air Force leaders laid wreaths at the grave of Gen. H. H. "Hap" Arnold, wartime commander of the Army Air Forces, as the inaugural event in the Air Force Fiftieth Anniversary commemoration. Joining Miss Jane Fogleman, wife of USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, in placing a floral tribute on the grave of Mrs. Arnold was Kathy McCoy, wife of AFA's Chairman of the Board, James M. McCoy.

The Air Force Association saluted its fiftieth anniversary and that of



the Air Force during the Anniversary Dinner on September 17. Festivities included an interactive, multimedia presentation by various elements of the US Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants, conducted by Lt. Col. Lowell Graham. It honored the late Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and the founding of the Air Force Association.

Fifteen AFA past presidents and chairmen of the board gathered on stage and received special recognition for their substantial contributions to the Association.

The Convention was the scene of major addresses by the Secretary of the Air Force, Sheila E. Widnall, and General Fogleman. USAF Vice

Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., and CMSAF David J. Campanale spoke at the Outstanding Airmen of the Year dinner. The three-day Aerospace Technology Exposition featured nearly seventy exhibiting companies.

Election of Officers

Doyle E. Larson of Burnsville, Minn., was elected National President of the Air Force Association for a first term. Gene Smith of West Point, Miss., was elected Chairman of the Board for a first term. Mary Anne Thompson of Oakton, Va., was elected National Secretary for a third term, and Charles H. Church, Jr., of Lenexa, Kan., was elected National Treasurer for a second term.

More than 8,300 people took part in one or more of the Convention-related activities. The 374 registered delegates, representing forty-six states and the District of Columbia, were joined by senior military and government officials for the Aerospace Technology Exposition, featured speeches, and social events. On hand to cover the Convention were 111 reporters and other representatives of the news media.

Meeting concurrently with the



Members of the New Jersey delegation sport the colorful ribbons that help identify Convention-goers. Red is for official delegates; green is for Association charter members; and yellow is for members of high-performing chapters.



Newly elected National President Doyle E. Larson addressed the Convention. President Larson, a retired USAF major general, flew seventy-one combat support missions during the Vietnam War and was the first commander of Electronic Security Command.

Convention were trustees of the Aerospace Education Foundation and the Senior Enlisted Advisors of the USAF major commands as well as AFA's Air National Guard Council, the Civilian Advisory Council, Enlisted Council, Junior Officer Advisory Council, Reserve Council, Veterans/Retiree Council, and the Board of Trustees of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

There was also a joint meeting of the National Executive Boards of the Arnold Air Society and the Angel Flight/Silver Wings Society.

Resolutions and Changes

The delegates amended AFA's Constitution and bylaws to modify the authority and responsibilities of the President and Chairman of the Board in appointing and chairing committees of the Association, and they approved the creation of an Operations and Procedures Manual.

Congressional Activity

Thirty-six state delegations sponsored twenty-one Congressional breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday of Convention week. Forty-five members of Congress participated. Among them were Senate Armed Services Committee members, including Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.), James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.), J. James Exon (D-Neb.), Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), and Richard H. Bryan (D-Nev.). Others who attended included Sens. Ben Nighthorse

Campbell (R-Colo.), who is on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who is on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Also participating in the AFA breakfast meetings were several members of the House National Security Committee, including Reps. Herbert H. Bateman (R-Va.), Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), J. C. Watts, Jr. (R-Okla.), Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Walter B. Jones, Jr. (R-N.C.), G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), Ike Skelton (D-Mo.),

John S. Tanner (D-Tenn.), Gene Taylor (D-Miss.), Martin T. Meehan (D-Mass.), and Norman Sisisky (D-Va.). Rep. Martin O. Sabo (D-Minn.), member of the House Appropriations National Security Subcommittee, also joined in the morning gatherings. Rep. Ron Packard (R-Calif.), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also participated.

Visits by New Jersey Republican Reps. Bob Franks, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Frank A. LoBiondo, Bill Martini, and Richard A. Zimmer highlighted the New Jersey delegation's breakfast.

During a visit to Capitol Hill, AFA's South Carolina delegation presented an award for a lifetime of service to Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The Florida delegation presented an AFA appreciation award to Rep. Sam M. Gibbons (D-Fla.).

Secretary Widnall and General Fogleman took part in several of the Congressional breakfasts. Secretary Widnall visited breakfasts hosted by the South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Oklahoma, and Massachusetts delegations. General Fogleman visited the morning gatherings of groups from the South Central and Northwest Regions. He also appeared at many individual breakfasts, including those held by North Carolina, Utah, Georgia, California, and Florida. Visits by General



Miss Jane Fogleman (kneeling), wife of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, and Kathy McCoy, wife of AFA Chairman of the Board James M. McCoy, lay a wreath at the grave of Eleanor "Bee" Arnold, wife of USAF founding father Gen. "Hap" Arnold during ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery.

Moorman and the deputy chief of staff for Plans and Operations, Lt. Gen. John P. Jumper, highlighted the Texas delegation breakfast. Other senior Air Force officials also participated in the various delegation breakfasts.

Other Elections

Seven new National Vice Presi-

Aerospace Education Foundation

A video on "Meeting the AFJROTC Mission" won the Foundation's annual contest for presentations by AFJROTC cadets. For the third straight year, the winning entry was from Unit CA-863 at Del Campo High School in Fair Oaks, Calif. The cadets demonstrated how they fulfilled the AF-

Susan L. Roche, nominated by the Highpoint (N. J.) Chapter, won the Christa McAuliffe Memorial Award as the year's outstanding aerospace science, mathematics, and computer science teacher. The General E. W. Rawlings (Minn.) Chapter received the Sam E. Keith, Jr., Aerospace Education Award of Excellence. The award is named in honor of the late AFA leader and former National President and Board Chairman from Fort Worth, Tex.

Acknowledgments

Parliamentarian for the AFA National Convention was Martin H. Harris. David L. Blankenship was Sergeant at Arms. Inspectors of Elections were Dr. Phillip J. Sleeman (Chairman), R. Donald Anderson, and William D. Croom, Jr. Robert J. Cantu chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Harold F. Henneke and Cheryl L. Waller.

The Association is particularly grateful to a corps of volunteers who assisted the staff in Convention support: Tammy Baker, Cecil Brendle, Jimmy Canlas, Evie Dunn, Noel Garcia, Charles and Mary Lucas, Jenifer and Julie Petrina, Glenda R. Shepela, Debbie Snyder, Daren Soren-

Photo by Paul Kennedy



AFA National Secretary Mary Anne Thompson (right) pauses for refreshments during the Convention with former President Stuart (left) and his wife, Frances Langford Stuart (center), and former President Blankenship and his wife, Joan.

dents were elected, and five were reelected. Newly elected are Charles G. Durazo (Central East Region), Arthur Trost (Far West Region), John J. Politi (Midwest Region), Dolores Vallone (Northeast Region), Ivan L. McKinney (South Central Region), Craig R. McKinley (Southeast Region), and Kenneth W. Calhoun (Southwest Region).

Elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms were Henry W. Boardman of Gulfport, Miss., James E. Callahan of East Amherst, N. Y., Dr. Dan Callahan of Warner Robins, Ga., William A. Lafferty of Green Valley, Ariz., Stephen M. Mallon of Hampton, Va., and Joseph A. Zaranka of Bloomfield, Conn.

Three new Under-Forty Directors joining the AFA Board are Capt. Dale E. Seiber of Malmstrom AFB, Mont., Sandra L. Henninger of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Maj. Kevin Sluss of Randolph AFB, Tex.

For a complete list of Vice Presidents and Directors, including those reelected, see "This Is AFA," p. 86.



National Director Tommy G. Harrison accepts Member of the Year honors from President Smith. Mr. Harrison, a member of the Central Florida Chapter, received a Presidential Citation for his work in 1995.

JROTC mission by participating in leadership training, drill meets, and encampments. They also participated in a youth leadership council on drugs and alcohol and worked with the needy during the holidays.

son, Dana Steinhauser, Janet Voltz, and Leola Wall.

The 1997 Convention will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D. C., September 15-17. ■

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Chairman of the Board James M. McCoy (left) and Florida State President William L. Sparks (right) award Rep. Sam M. Gibbons (D-Fla.) an AFA Citation in his office on Capitol Hill.

New Jersey State President Martin T. Capriglione (right) and Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N. J.) (left) listen as Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF Chief of Staff, and Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N. J.) discuss defense issues.



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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, addressed a breakfast held by the Massachusetts delegation, including State Vice President Winston Gaskins (right).

Rep. J. C. Watts (R-Okla.) (left) met with Air Force Secretary Sheila E. Widnall (right) and members of AFA's Oklahoma delegation—(left to right) former State President and current National Vice President (South Central Region) Kenneth W. Calhoun, State Vice President (Membership) Ann Ragland and State Vice President (Community Partners) Rhonda M. Trent.



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Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S. C.) (third from left) received an award from AFA's South Carolina delegation for a lifetime of service. With Senator Thurmond are (left to right) James C. Wray, Charles W. Myers, State President Rodgers K. Greenawalt, James K. Rogers, and Gerald A. Daniel.

Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-N. Y.), a member of the House Budget Committee, accepts a Special Award from fellow New Yorker Robert C. Bienvenue, L. D. Bell Niagara Frontier Chapter member and a 1996 AFA Medal of Merit recipient.



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