



Col Buzz Carpenter Talks To Sacred Heart Academy Students About His Time As A SR-71 Pilot

For 49 6th - 8th graders at Sacred Heart Academy, Col Carpenter not only brought a glimpse into the past but also a pathway to space that one student might very well take.

Col Carpenter visited Sacred Heart to speak with students about what it was like flying an SR-71 above 80,000 ft at speeds close to 2,200 mph. He explained how he was able to see the Earth's curvature, view the terrain 350 miles in all directions, and operate in a full pressure suit.

Our chapter was pleased to coordinate this talk to help improve Sacred Heart Academy's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics program.

Northern Shenandoah Valley
Chapter 435 Officers 2012

President:
Norm Brander
nbrander@rma.edu

Vice President:
Norm Haller
efnhmh@aol.com

Secretary:
Stephen Pederson
spederson@rma.edu

Treasurer:
John Tagnesi
jtag1964@verizon.net

V.P. Aerospace Education:
Tom Shepherd
tshepherd@frontiernet.net

V.P. Communications:
Stephen Pederson
spederson@rma.edu

V.P. Community Partners:
John Tagnesi
jtag1964@verizon.net

V.P. Government Relations:
Edythe McGoff
emcgoff@gmail.com

V.P. Leadership
Development:
Raleigh Watson
rhwatson36@verizon.net

V.P. Membership:
Stephanie Portillo
sportillo@rma.edu

V.P Veterans Affairs:
Jim Phillips
jimphill@shentel.net



Thomas Shepherd presents a \$1000 check to principal, Rebecca McTavish, for the Sacred Heart Academy STEM Educational Fund.



(L) Col Carpenter shows students some of the gear he had to wear while flying as an SR-71 pilot.



STARBASE Coming To Winchester, VA

It's been a long journey, but a Starbase has been approved for Winchester, VA. Three years ago, the chapter approached Rep. Frank R. Wolf, R-10th, to see how STEM could be improved at the middle-school level.

Thomas Shepherd explained, "We're losing scientists and engineers to India and other places in the world." "We need more people. A study shows that if you don't get interested in science and math in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, you probably won't ever get interested."

STARBASE is not new to our chapter, however. The chapter has interacted with Laura Meske, STARBASE program director, who teaches hands-on STEM education at the Martinsburg ANG, base.

The STARBASE program is a one-week, 25 hour course in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) that is taught during the school year by the group's personnel, targeted toward fifth and sixth-graders, and sponsored by the Department of Defense.

All students taking the program graduate with a diploma and dog tags. An assessment is given before and after the program. Quizzes are taken daily, but no actual grades are given out.

For Winchester, it has not been decided how the not for credit course will fit into the students' school schedule. The course will address drug-use prevention, health, self esteem, and life skills within the math and science-based curriculum.

The National Guard Bureau has allocated \$350,000 for the Virginia Guard program. Most of this funding goes for full-time staff members, but money will also be allocated for the initial setup of equipment and supplies.



Tom Shephard, VP Aerospace Education, awards Cadet Ryan Ochoa the Chapter Scholarship for School Year 2011/12 during Family Weekend festivities at the Randolph-Macon Academy.

Chapter Presents Flag Flown Over Air Force Memorial



On Veterans Day Chapter VP-Aerospace Education, Tom Shepherd presented a flag flown over the Air Force Memorial. In attendance were the schools 200 students and teachers of the Sacred Heart Academy, Winchester, VA. The chapter has been assisting the academy in STEM Education and the flying of the flag flown over the A F Memorial signifies the close relationship between the Academy and the NSV Chapter of the AFA.

Care Packages for the Wounded Airman Program

AFA has taken on a new initiative to help care for our Air Force wounded. We are putting together packages of needed items for these airmen who arrive at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD and at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio TX. Local chapters in each of these areas are working with the wounded airmen's families to determine their needs. As you may know, when an airman is injured they are usually returned quickly to the states and usually arrive with nothing – no clothing, no personal items. When their families are able to join them, they are often unprepared for their own needs. There is a requirement for a variety of items for our airmen, and for their families who are with them. If you can help with a monetary contribution, please let us know. The primary contact at AFA is Mary Ellen Dobrowolski and she can be reached on 703-247-5823 or mdobrowolski@afa.org. These donations can be sent to her attention to AFA, 1501 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22209. We appreciate anything you can do to help with our Wounded Airman project.

Not Everyone Will Be Home For Christmas

Support Our Troops



Last Chance To Enroll In Legal Plan For 2012

The open enrollment period to participate in AFA's Group Legal Services Plan for Members ends Dec 28th!

We are not permitted to make exceptions -- all enrollments must be in to MetLaw®/Hyatt Legal on Dec 28th.

With office closings during the holidays, please call us with your enrollment details or fax your enrollment form today!

Cost is \$211.80 for the entire year and includes legal coverage for you, your spouse and your eligible dependent children.

Military Coalition Goals

AFA members, many of you don't know the great work AFA does for you on the Hill – both in support of the Air Force and for you personally.

One way we do this is to coordinate our Hill efforts with other veterans groups. We call this the Military Coalition, and we collectively represent about 5.5 million veterans.

Every year in the fall we hash out goals for the upcoming year. Sometimes we cannot agree; sometimes one or more groups “opt out” of a specific goal.

We have put the 2012 goals on our website at: <http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/WashingtonPerspective/goals2012.asp>

Take a moment to scroll through them to see what we are trying to achieve. Some of the papers on the web are labeled “draft” – but in reality all of them are final ... as of two days ago.

If you have any thoughts on them, send them to me.

Thanks, in advance.

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO
Air Force Association

Chapter 435 would like to thank the following Community Partners for their support.



Khaili Simon Andraos
Financial Advisor

Global Private Client

11951 Freedom Drive
Suite 1750
Reston, Virginia 20190
703 464 4304 Direct
888 565 6093 Toll Free
FAX 703 774 3860
khaili_andraos@ml.com

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328 S. ROYAL AVE.
FRONT ROYAL, VA

JOY KUSER
OWNER




John W. Evans IV
Dealer Principal

Phone (540) 635-2153
Fax (540) 635-5668
Cellular (540) 671-3157
johnevans@jechevy.com
www.jechevy.com

**JACK EVANS CHEVROLET
& CADILLAC INC.**
125 S ROYAL AVE
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630



Sean Lankard, IAR
Financial Advisor
Virginia District

AIG Retirement
7400 Beaufont Springs Drive, Ste. 400
Richmond, VA 23225
800.892.5558 Ext. 88923
540.477.2680 Local
888.477.2680 Office
sean.lankard@aigretirement.com

AIG Retirement Advisors, Inc.

