



# The **Retrospect**

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 615

Volume 22, Issue 3

*The Leon Donnelly Chapter*

Oct 06- Dec 06

## AFSA Members Win Prestigious Patriot of the Year Award



The Bossier Chamber of Commerce and Diamond Jack's Casino Resort were pleased to name AFSA Chapter 615 President MSgt Michael A. Gibson and AFSA member TSgt Barbara A. Schleben "Bossier Patriots of the Year for 2006."

A Patriots' Celebration Dinner honored Bossier Parish front-line Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, and Homeland Security on September 8, 2006, in the Ballroom of Diamond Jack's Casino Resort. Nominees were evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates excellence in job performance in extraordinary circumstances.
2. Provides valuable service by volunteering their time to improve the quality of life for others in the community.

CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL AND BARBARA!

## AWARDS!!!

**TSgt Bonnie Paskey**

Have you ever wonder where some of the bingo money goes? Awards have the biggest budget with nothing coming into it.....EXCEPT for Bingo!!! So here is the quick break down of the big stuff, every month we support the wing airmen of the month program. That's \$25 each month for a grand total of \$300.00. Each quarter we support the wing quarterly awards. That's \$50 for each winner for a grand total of \$1,600.00. Then we have our annual wing awards which is \$100.00 per winner, for a grand total of \$800.00. We also buy and present 3-4 Distinguished Graduates plaques for all Airmen Leadership Classes. They cost \$50 each for an annual total of \$1,020.00-\$1,400.00 (approximately). We also supply all the graduation folders at \$3.50 per folder for a grand total of \$980.00. We also support the promotions of SSGts and MSgts by supplying folders for their ceremonies roughly \$1,260.00. We also support continuing education for high school graduates, military members and their spouses. We have 10 \$100 educational grants (military members and spouses) and eight \$500 scholarships (high school graduates) so if my math is correct that is \$5,000.00 for extra schooling. That is a break down of all the big items for the awards section of AFSA. Hope this answers some questions. Until next time, be safe and hope to see you at the meetings.

## AFSA members getting their "HANDS DIRTY" for the community!!!

JEFF MELAHN and CHESTER HINDS help out with ROAD CLEAN UP.



DORIAN GIBSON takes a break from helping with ROAD CLEAN UP.

Local AFSA members gathered early on a Saturday morning for a little clean up. Early September 9, volunteers got together to help the environment and the local community by "getting their hands dirty" during the monthly roadside clean up. Looking for a way to get Involved, this is a very simple way to give something of yourself and benefit the local community: if interested in helping our, check out the monthly calendar for the next date.

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website for updates between newsletters at: <http://www.afsachapter615.org>.

## Programs

CMSgt Jeff Melahn

**ATTENTION: GOLF TOURNAMENT (Barksdale Golf Course)** If you are associated or know of a business/ company that would be interested in supporting us let me know and I can get you a copy of the request. Sponsorship will be recognized as follows: \$100.00 – sign at the tee box area, \$50.00 - on the official score-board and in the clubhouse, Donation (Remember 4-per team) and on the scorecard. Benefiting Santa's in Blue and the Chapel Operation Warm Heart.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in forming a team or would like to play in the tournament green fees are as follows:** E-1 to E-4 \$9.00, E-5 to E-7, \$12.00, E-8 and up \$16.00, GS8 and up \$16.00, Guests (nonmilitary) \$23.00, Cart \$8.00 (per person). Entry fee is \$15.00 and you get a steak dinner and drinks during the event. Call 318-965-0260 (leave a message) or email me at [jeffreymelahn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeffreymelahn@bellsouth.net). Also contact me if you are interested in helping with the event.

**VETERAN'S DAY:** On November 11<sup>th</sup> the Chapter will be visiting the Overton Brooks VA Hospital. We meet at the Bingo Hall (Go over the Shreveport/Bossier Bridge (It's on the right). Time to be at the bingo Hall is 0800; goodie bags are made up and distributed to the patients. We will be finished in time to make the Golf Tournament/Charity Fund Raiser.

In August instead of doing **ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP**, we had 12 members clean up the shed, barbecue trailer, and picnic trailer. You can actually find what you are looking for.

**MDA TELETHON:** Seventeen members of the Chapter and Auxiliary assisted in the MDA Telethon as Telephone Operators. During our time the chapter and Auxiliary made a donation of \$1300.00 not to mention several phone calls; another opportunity to get involved and support our local community. If you have ideas for other events in the community give me a buzz.

Another opportunity to get together is the **MONTHLY BIRTHDAY MEAL**, typically, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 1700. Location is decided at the monthly meeting for the following month; just one more reason to attend the meetings.

**Chapter Members FALL PICNIC:** In memory of Jim Heffern, will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 06 at Cullen Park, Barksdale AFB. Picnic starts at 1100 and runs till we get tired. Food and drinks are at no cost. If you plan to attend please sign-up. Food and drinks are purchased based on the number of members attending. If you plan to attend sign-up at the next meeting on 26 Sept 06, 1900hrs @ BAFB STRIPES Club or contact me. Also let me know if you would be interested in Set-up, Clean-up or cooking. Hope to see you there!

### **DID YOU KNOW**

**When Chapters recruit more members it helps the chapters by providing:**

- More volunteers for chapter activities;
- More influence in state and local legislature;
- More support and new ideas for chapters and AFSA;
- More impact for community and charitable programs;
- And, more local publicity because of your group's strength and the ability to get things done as a team.

**CHALLENGE IS** to recruit one member, also don't forget about the Auxiliary! Non-military spouse and family are eligible!!!!

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website for updates between newsletters at: <http://www.afsachapter615.org>. OR you can email me at [jeffreymelahn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeffreymelahn@bellsouth.net) or call 965-0260

## GOOD BYE, Coordinator's Corner HELLO, INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE'S TIDBITS

Debby Oesterreich

Dear Friends, It has been wonderful being your Division Coordinator and I have loved the job. At the International Convention in Reno I decided to run for International Trustee and I was voted in. I was given the Legislation committee and I will do my best to keep you informed on the Legislation issues. My only regret is that I cannot continue to be your Division Coordinator. I talked with Christy Miller before I made my decision to run for office and she said she was ready to move up and will assume the Coordinator's position. Pending approval from our International Auxiliary President Carolyn Whitsell, Libby Swanson has agreed to be Asst. Coordinator. They will be an awesome team as your Div. Representatives. I know that you will support them as wonderfully as you have supported me. I will do my best to make you proud of me in my new position. God Bless All of You!!!

## Retiree News!!!!

**From your VSO, CMSgt Harold Swanson (RET)  
Blue Water Navy Veterans from the waters of Vietnam**

On August 16, 2006, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) held that Vietnam veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam are entitled to disability benefits for diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange. This decision reverses the VA policy that veterans had to step foot on Vietnamese soil in order to be eligible for those entitlements.

It is unclear at this time whether the VA will appeal the Court's decision. Also the VA may amend their regulations. But for now, the "law of the land" is in favor of the veterans who sailed the waters of Vietnam.

The case is "**Haas vs the VA**" and its resultant change to 38 USC para 1116(f) and the VA Procedures Manual M21-1.

If you are a "**Blue Water**" Vietnam Vet, or a Vet who has been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, w/ a diagnosis of Agent Orange presumed illness, and have been disallowed benefits due to Agent Orange exposure, or been told you couldn't file unless you could prove "feet on the ground," return to the VA Parish Office and file or re-open your claim.

**Do it soon**, before the VA can find a way to back out of this reversal.

## Legislative Updates!!!!

Jeff Ledoux

There are many legislative issues that AFSA is supporting as part of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Several affect both the active and retiree population. Health Care is among the most important issue facing our membership. There is a grass roots effort and campaign letter written to send to congress. Now is the time to send an email or write your congressional leaders and ask for their support on a number of the issues. If they are already supporting the legislation, let them know you appreciate their support. The following steps can help you:

**Step 1:** Find your Senator or Rep

House: <http://www.house.gov/Welcome.shtml>

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

**Step 2:** Call the Capitol Hill Operator and ask to be connected to the office of your elected official. 1-888-762-8760

**Step 3:** Tell the office staffer that you want your elected official to support the bills.

You can also send an email to your elected officials through the above websites. The majority of our elected officials have never served in uniform so it is paramount to ensure they know what is important to YOU! You can get the full text of each bill at: <http://www.thomas.gov/>

For a list of bills go to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and 1. Click—legislative information 2. Click—bills of interest 3. Click—topic of interest



# Calendar of Events

**AFSA  
General  
Membership  
And Auxiliary  
Meeting**

**Last Tuesday of  
each Month  
1900 Hrs.**

**@  
Barksdale AFB  
Stripes Club**

**Bingo  
Every Friday  
1700 Hrs.  
@  
Veteran's Bingo  
Parlor  
868-4170  
Shreveport-  
Barksdale Hwy**

**Membership**

**MSgt Richard Lee**

The membership drive at the BX during the month of August has added another 20 to the chapter. MSgt Michael Gibson has just made the Sky High Club with 101 recruits as of 13 September's website data. Everyone be sure to pass on big congratulations to Mike! Chief Ledoux (Ret.) is in hot pursuit with 38 members.



**Mark Your  
Calendars!!! Annual Golf  
Tournament**

**ATTENTION: GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

**(Barksdale Golf Course) DATE  
CHANGE New Date is 11 Nov 06,  
Shotgun start @ 1pm. If golfing  
show up NLT 1200.BAFB Golf  
Course**

Date	Time	Event	Place
OCT 5	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 7	1000	SUPER BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 7	0800	ROAD CLEAN UP	ELLIS POTTERY AIRLINE DRIVE
OCT 8	1100	FALL PICNIC	CULLEN PARK
OCT 9	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
OCT 13	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 17	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVER VIEW NH
OCT 20	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 21	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
OCT 24	1900	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	STRIPES CLUB
OCT 26	1900	AFSA AUX EXC BRD MTG	DEBBY O'S HOUSE
OCT 26		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
OCT 31	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG	STRIPES CLUB
NOV 3	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
NOV 4	0800	ROAD CLEAN UP	ELLIS POTTERY AIRLINE DRIVE
NOV 10	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
NOV 11	0800	VA OVERTON BROOKS	MEET AT VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
NOV 11	1200	GOLF TOURNAMENT	BASE GOLF COURSE
NOV 13	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
NOV 17	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
NOV 18	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
NOV 21	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVER VIEW NH
NOV 21	1900	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	STRIPES CLUB
NOV 23		HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
NOV 24	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
NOV 28	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG	STRIPES CLUB
NOV 30		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
DEC 1	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
DEC 2	0800	ROAD CLEAN UP	ELLIS POTTERY AIRLINE DRIVE
DEC 8	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
DEC 11	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
DEC 13		CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER	BARKSDALE CLUB
DEC 15	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
DEC 16	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
DEC 19	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVER VIEW NH
DEC 19	1900	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	STRIPES CLUB
DEC 21	1900	AFSA AUX EXC BRD MTG	DEBBY O'S HOUSE
DEC 22	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
DEC 25		MERRY CHRISTMAS	
DEC 26	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG	STRIPES CLUB
DEC 28		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
DEC 29	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR



### The Leon Donnelly Chapter

AFSA CHAPTER 615  
P.O. BOX 306  
Barksdale AFB, LA  
71110

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #333  
Shreveport, LA

**Application Type**

New Membership  
 Membership Renewal

**Membership Term**

One Year \$16  
 Two Years \$30  
 Three Years \$43  
 Life Membership \$200  
 Life Installments \$225  
(\$25 now and 8 quarterly payments of \$25 each)

**Membership Type**

Active  
 Affiliate

**Chapter Assignment**

Assign to closest AFSA chapter  
 Assign to chapter \_\_\_\_\_



## AFSA Auxiliary Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First MI*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's ID or SSAN \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter's Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send cash or checks drawn on foreign banks)

Check/Money Order  AmEx  VISA  MasterCard  Discover

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to: AFSA, P.O. Box 50 Temple Hills, MD 20757, or call 1-800-638-0594.

**Application Type**

New Membership  
 Membership Renewal

**Membership Term**

One Year \$25  
 Two Years \$44  
 Three Years \$64  
 E-1 - E-4 (18 months for New Members) \$18  
 Life Membership \$350  
 Life Installments \$400  
(\$50 now and 14 quarterly payments of \$25 each)

**Component**

USAF  DAF Civilian  
 AFRC  Former Enlisted  
 ANG  OTHER  
 Retired

**Chapter Assignment**

Assign to closest AFSA chapter  
 Assign to chapter \_\_\_\_\_

## AFSA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First MI Rank*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's ID or SSAN \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter's Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send cash or checks drawn on foreign banks)

Check/Money Order  AmEx  VISA  MasterCard  Discover

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to: AFSA, P.O. Box 50 Temple Hills, MD 20757, or call 1-800-638-0594.