



# The Sijan Sentinel

3RD QUARTER, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2015

## WELCOME TO SIJAN CHAPTER 125!

**President: Don Kidd**  
**Vice President: Linda Aldrich**  
**Treasurer: Barbara Binn**  
**Secretary: Tom Ocvirk**



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE CHAPTER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we were officially notified your Lance P. Sijan Chapter of the Air Force Association was selected as the Chapter of the Year for Communications as well as the Donald W. Steele Memorial Award recipient, **the AFA's Chapter of the Year**. Please join me in extending our deepest appreciation to Dave Shiller, most recent past president and his staff: Linda Aldrich, Executive Vice President; Barb Binn, Treasurer; Tim Tichawa, Vice President for Aerospace Education; Tom Ocvirk, Secretary; and Bill Houth, Director of Communications. Without them and their untiring dedication and monumental efforts, this would never have happened. For those of you who played key roles in the past, we are standing on your shoulders. For those of you who play key roles today, we couldn't have done this without you. This award truly reflects the devotion of an entire community to those who wear our Nation's uniforms. And I couldn't be more proud to be counted among you.



*The Donald W. Steele Memorial Award is the Air Force Association's highest chapter award presented annually to the single Best Overall Chapter, from hundreds of chapters nationally and overseas. It is presented to a chapter which has distinguished itself in all fields of the AFA mission — new member procurement, community relations, aerospace education, overall programming, individual programs, and communications. The award will be presented at the Air Force Association National Convention in September, 2015.*

Fox21 News interviewed the Lance P. Sijan President (Don Kidd) and State Vice President (Dave Shiller) about the Chapter's win of the Air Force Association's top award for 2014/2015. Click the top story link below to view the report that aired on Monday June 29th at 9pm. Click the following link to view story: <http://www.lancepsijanafa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/AFA-gets-prestigious-award-360p.mp4>

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE CHAPTER CONT.

## Chapter Update

First, let me thank those who have represented the Air Force Association so marvelously over this past year. I'm not going to try to list everyone because I know someone will be left out, but so many of you have done so much to spread the word that it's hard to express my thanks adequately. One who is certainly worth mentioning is Barb Binn, our State AFA Member of the Year. Barb has given selflessly of her time and efforts; she's serves as a great example for all of us to follow.



And I want to take just a moment to thank our entire Chapter Board of Directors. Linda Aldrich, Dave Shiller, Barb Binn, Tom Ocvirk, and Bill Houth do more than I could ever describe in a few short paragraphs to carry the torch for our Air Force Association. We are deeply indebted to them all for their continuing generosity and graciousness. And beyond the Board to Hank Scarangella, Sharon White, Jeri Andrews, Gayle White and Roy Griggs for what they do to serve our membership is indeed monumental. We could not continue to serve the needs of our community without them.

And after many, many years of service, people step aside. They leave us for a variety of reasons. Some retire to warmer climates; some have other growing family or business needs that have to be met at the expense of their volunteer efforts; some simply get tired.

If our Chapter is going to continue to serve the needs of the Air Force community, we need new and more volunteers. We need people who understand the needs of our local Air Force community, who understand the strength of volunteerism, and who are willing to step up and help fill critical roles in our Chapter and its activities.

These are just some of the roles we need to fill in the near-term:

Air Force Ball Chair: Hank Scarangella has done a tremendous job for a number of years, but is ready to move on; and he's offered a great opportunity for someone willing to take on this role. Hank will conduct the 2016 Air Force Ball, but is inviting someone to act as his second (to watch over his shoulder) this year and take on the AF Ball in the ensuing year(s).

Air Force Ball Vice Chair: Sharon White has been a backbone on our Ball Committee for many years, arranging the venue and decorations. Like Hank, she will She will conduct the 2016 Air Force Ball, but is inviting someone to act as her second this year and take on the AF Ball in the ensuing year(s).

Air Force Ball Publicity: An immediate need for anyone interested in working with our Board to promote the Air Force Ball.

Air Force Ball Audio Visual: An immediate need for anyone who understands A/V and can work with our Ball Committee to execute on the AF Ball.

Board Secretary: Last but certainly not least. Tom Ocvirk has been a hinge pin on our Board, and we are going to miss him tremendously. But Tom's has other demands that prevent him from continuing on the Board. We need someone immediately to fill his role.

In fact, as we pass through the off-year for Board elections, I would ask you all to consider attending our Board meetings (the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Lockheed Martin Office on Space Center Drive) to hear firsthand about the activities in which we are continually involved, and consider playing a role on our Board of Directors in the years to come.

## CCAF Graduation Pitsenbarger Award Presentation

Technical Sergeant Tim Tichawa represented the Sijan Chapter at the Community College (CCAF) of the Air Force graduation ceremony for Peterson, Schriever and Air Force Academy graduates. The Air Force Association sponsors the Pitsenbarger Awards, which provide a one-time grant of \$400 and a one year complimentary AFA eMembership <http://www.afa.org/join/emembership> to selected top USAF enlisted personnel graduating from CCAF who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. The grants coincide with the CCAF graduation ceremonies held each Spring and Fall.



The base education officer appoints a committee of individuals to review job performance, scholastic achievement, education goals and leadership qualities to determine the winners of the Pitsenbarger Award.

The recipients from Peterson and Schriever for this ceremony were TSGT Daniel Cook, SSgt John Strickland, SSgt Ashley Jayawardena, SSgt Chase Flores, SrA James Brown and SrA Emily Rodriguez.

The awardee from the Air Force Academy was SSgt Kyle Strang, shown in the picture with TSgt Tichawa.

## A Thank You from Our Teacher of the Year

### A Thank You from Our Teacher of the Year

I just want to thank you so much for selecting me to represent your organizations as Teacher of the Year for 2015. As you may already know, I was selected as the CO State AFA Teacher of the Year, announced at the wonderful awards banquet in Denver. This state award capped an incredible past few months that also included my selection as 2014-15 Teacher of the Year by the Challenger Learning Center for Space Science Education.

The recognition and resources for Cotopaxi School that have resulted from earning these awards will help our school's students and our community in many ways. I will be able to obtain new equipment and books, and to take my students to the "Moon, Mars and Beyond" with new Challenger missions this year as well! I have also made more connections and learned about other grant opportunities that I intend to apply for that will further expand learning experiences for all of our K-12 students.

Once again, thank you for selecting me. I look forward to working with you for future missions and endeavors.

Rae Anne (Randi) Dotter, Cotopaxi Consolidated Schools





## Wounded Warrior Snack Drop

Air Force Association members Rebecca Decker and Kristen Christy donated water, fruit, protein bars, and electrolyte powder to the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Program on behalf of the Lance P. Sijan Chapter in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Program hosted an Equine Therapy event at the US Air Force Academy Equestrian Center for approximately 50 athletes and their caregivers. Wounded Warrior athletes participated in horseback riding, rock climbing, ropes course, and other outdoor sports.



Photo: Rebecca Decker, Program Coordinator Kari Miller, Program Manager Tony Jasso, Deputy Director Marsha Gonzales, and Kristen Christy.

## Save the Date

Sijan Chapter Members,

Next year's Air Force Ball is scheduled for **February 12, 2016**. As always, it will be held at the Broadmoor International Center. The Ball will be a great celebration as it coincides with the Valentine's Day weekend.

The Ball can not occur without the generosity of our corporate and table sponsors. As your companies finalize their 2016 budgets, please earmark funds for sponsorship and for table purchases. Please help ensure the success of our region's Air Force Ball by planning for this event in your 2016 budgets.

Also, please mark the date on your own personal calendars and encourage others in your companies to do likewise. Your personal support to the Ball ensures continued success and provides a memorable evening for military members, their guests, and other honorees. It is your support that has made the Sijan Chapter

## Janine Sijan Rozina Lance P. Sijan Chapter Visit

The Chapter had a very special visitor at the July Chapter meeting. Our guest was Janine Sijan Rozina, sister of our Chapter namesake, Medal of Honor winner Lance P. Sijan. Janine shared with our members her efforts to establish an educational program, Team Sijan, aimed at helping students learn about the heroic life of her brother. Her team has produced a documentary and is already visiting schools with the intent of sharing with students the finest qualities of a hero—courage, determination, integrity and honor as well as how the strength and commitment of one can affect so many. Janine and Linda Aldrich, Chapter VP, accepted a letter presented by Mike Pierson, Chief, Community Outreach Division for HQ AFSPC. The letter was congratulations extended to the Chapter by General John E. Hyten, Commander HQ AFSPC, for being the



Photo: Left to Right: Mike Pierson, Janine Sijan Rozina, Linda Aldrich

Donald W. Steele Memorial Award winner, best chapter in the Air Force Association. If you would like to know more about Janine's effort, visit [www.teamsijan.com](http://www.teamsijan.com).



## 2015 State Awards Banquet & State Meeting Hosted by Mile High Chapter in Denver

### August 21st

The Sijan Chapter was represented at the State Banquet and Meeting by Dave Shiller, Gayle and Sharon White, Brian and Barbara Binn, Tim Tichawa, Joan Sell, Jerry White and Dave Warner. Colorado Springs did very well in the military awards. USAFA won Airman of the Year, NCO of the Year and CGO of the Year, as well as Cadet of the Year. The 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wings won Civilian Category 1 of the Year. Sijan's Teacher of the Year select won Teacher of the Year for the State.

### Sijan AFA winners included:

BARB BINN AS STATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR!!!! Congrats Barb! National Awards were recognized: Linda Aldrich and Barb Binn won Exceptional Service Awards; Tim Tichawa won the Medal of Merit. The Chapter was recognized for the Donald Steele Award, best AFA Chapter in the Nation. State Awards included: Superior Excellence Award – Jeri Andrews, Joe Kahoe, Hank Scarangella, Sharon White, Roy Griggs, Tom Ocvirk, Dave Shiller; Presidential Citation – Ewa Folden, Bill Houth, Bob Cooper.

### At the State Meeting, the biggest news was elections:

Our own Chapter member TIM TICHAWA IS THE NEW STATE PRESIDENT. Emilie Boschert is the Vice President. Congrats to both of them and we are proud to see younger, active duty Airmen in the roles as well as Emerging Leader Program alums. Chapter recaps their activities and National candidates presented their campaign remarks. The October State Quarterly Meeting was announced as moving from Grand Junction to Colorado Springs on October 11 to coincide with the Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Area Conclave being held in Colorado Springs.



## 2015 Combined Federal Campaign Has a New Partner

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter was recently approved as an electable charity for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Chapter volunteers Dave Shiller, Tim Tichawa, and Rebecca Decker were present at CFC events at local Air Force Bases where information was provided about the Air Force Association and our Chapter. The 2015 CFC Campaign runs from September through January.



## Initiative

### A new national effort recently launched by Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald

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Sijan Chapter Members,

Chapter member Dr. Rebecca A. Decker, a Volunteer for the Veterans Economic Communities Initiative is reaching out to e-introduce you to Rachel Chaparro who has recently come to our city to implement the Veterans Economic Communities Initiative, a new national effort recently launched by Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald.

The VEI aims to increase the number of education and employment opportunities for Veterans and their families through a network of support in Colorado Springs and 24 other cities across the nation. Attached are a few documents that describe the program and the following are some recent news clips:

<http://gazette.com/guest-column-campaigning-to-reintegrate-veterans-into-communities/article/1553285>

<http://gazette.com/pilot-program-in-colorado-springs-aims-to-link-veterans-to-jobs/article/1553265>

<http://www.koaa.com/story/29348318/va-campaign-to-hire-more-veterans-launching-in-colorado-springs>

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter of the Air Force Association is doing remarkable work in the Veterans space in our community, and Rebecca thinks it would be great for the Chapter to connect. We are also sending this information to see if any of your organizations would be interested in co-sponsoring the launch of one of the first VA Learning Hubs. The VA is partnering with [Coursera](#) to offer Transitioning Servicemembers and Veterans one free course.

To kick off the VA Learning Hub, Rachel and Rebecca are planning an event co-hosted by Lt. Governor Joe Garcia and Chancellor Pam Shockley on August 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and they would certainly welcome co-sponsors for this event. They only ask for co-sponsors to send a minimum of two emails to your e-mail list, two plugs on social media and announcements at upcoming events. In return, your logo will be added to the invite, your organization will be acknowledged the night of the event and you will be able to have a table there if you want. The timeline is a little tight, so please respond as soon as possible.

Many thanks in advance for your time and consideration and all you do to make Colorado Springs one of the most veteran-friendly cities in the nation!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## How To Contact AFA

AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION  
LANCE P. SIJAN  
CHAPTER 125

- To be added to the AFA Update distribution list, please e-mail us at: [service@afa.org](mailto:service@afa.org)
- To change the e-mail address to which you receive the AFA Update [service@afa.org](mailto:service@afa.org) Please provide the old and new e-mail addresses.
- For questions or comments about the AFA Update, e-mail ([srubel@afa.org](mailto:srubel@afa.org)).
- To change the mailing address or other information for your AFA membership record, and to join AFA or renew your membership, visit: <https://www.hqafsa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Renew&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&NavMenuID=780&ContentID=12875&DirectListComboInd=D>
- For details on your AFA member benefits, go to: <http://www.afavba.org/AboutUs/member/>



MilitaryHOMEFRONT is the Department of Defense website for official Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) program information, policy and guidance designed to help **troops and their families, leaders, and service providers**. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need. Visit: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>



AFA LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER

## Points of Interest & Up Coming Events

### LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: 985 SPACE CENTER DR. CLSP, CO. 80915  
DATE: EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH / TIME: 04:30PM

### COLORADO SPRINGS VETERANS DAY PARADE

PLACE: TEJON STREET  
DATE: 7 NOVEMBER, 2015

### VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AND WREATH LAYING

PLACE: ENLISTED ASSOCIATION  
DATE: 11 NOVEMBER, 2015

### SNOFEST

PLACE: KEYSTONE COLORADO  
DATE: 22, 23, & 24 JANUARY, 2016

### AIR FORCE BALL

PLACE: BROADMOOR  
DATE: 12 FEBRUARY, 2016

### WING OPEN BOXING

PLACE: CADET FIELD HOUSE USAF ACADEMY  
DATE: FEBRUARY, 2016

For up-to-date chapter happenings follow us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/browse/admided\\_pages/?id=100004188004907#!/pages/Lance-P-Sijan-AFA-Chapter-125/378580798874849](https://www.facebook.com/browse/admided_pages/?id=100004188004907#!/pages/Lance-P-Sijan-AFA-Chapter-125/378580798874849)

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## Membership Changes

**Any changes to members' home / work addresses and email addresses must be sent to AFA National not the Sijan Chapter because we cannot add, delete or change a members mailing address due to privacy laws.**

[Click here](#) to update your address and email, or mail changes to AFA National address at:

Air Force Association  
 Member Services  
 1501 Lee Highway  
 Arlington, VA 22209

**We're on the Web!**

[www.lancepsijanafa.org](http://www.lancepsijanafa.org)

[www.lancepsijanafa.com](http://www.lancepsijanafa.com)

The AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and disseminates information through outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national awards programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents, and AFA awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary, secondary, and high school level. Nationally, AFA has more than 100,000 active members. The AFA National Website is [WWW.AFA.ORG](http://WWW.AFA.ORG)

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 2100 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the USAFA. The AFA Sijan Chapter is proud of our rich heritage and strong support for the Colorado Springs Air Force community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air Force Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!

## NEW AND RENEWED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A collage of logos for various community partners. The logos include: Aerospace (Assuring Space Mission Success), Booz | Allen | Hamilton (delivering results that endure), Colorado Aerospace Consultants, LLC (CAC), FirstCommand Financial Services, STAR BANK, Boeing, Fidelity Mortgage Solutions, Lockheed Martin (We never forget who we're working for!), Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., serco, Orbital ATK, THE BROADMOOR COLORADO SPRINGS, Coca-Cola, STIFEL, Scitor Corporation, at&t, Radisson, Ent, Northrop Grumman, H&R BLOCK, Dynamic Aerospace Technologies, COLSA Corporation, THE LANDHUIS COMPANY, ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Borg Warner Cleaners, Colorado Thirty Group, Pikes Peak Association of REALTORS, CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN RESORT, ASRC FEDERAL, The Rader Network, AUER WOODLEY HILDEBRAND & SANDERS LLP, Webster UNIVERSITY, BRAXTON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GROUP, HARRIS, BRYAN CONSTRUCTION INC., EXELIS, JOHN SENTER TIRE & SERVICE CENTERS, INC., ingenuity research corp., NAVY FEDERAL Credit Union Saddletree Homes, SPACE FOUNDATION, TD SUPPORT SERVICES CORPORATION, and SUMMIT Catering (Simply Eventful).