



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume I – 2026

February 2026

**WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125**



**President: Dave Geuting
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Gayle Divine
Treasurer: Bruce Hall**

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



Dear Members and Friends of the Chapter,

Greetings! As we begin another year, the Lance P. Sijan Chapter of the Air & Space Forces Association has a robust membership of around three thousand. A few years ago, a former chapter president wisely said, “We don’t need more members, we need more participation.” That statement remains true today. Though gaining a new member is always a happy event, our chapter has been unable to translate that into filling established positions on our executive council. Unfortunately, this has resulted in existing officers trying to do double and triple duty to make up for the shortfall.

However, the position shortfall is not the most pressing problem. We have many tasks available that can be completed without election to a position or a long-term commitment. These tasks help our organization thrive. For example, attending a Junior ROTC high school graduation (no speech-making required), handing out pieces of cake at our quarterly birthday party, or helping organize an event we sponsor such as the Colorado AFA State Awards Banquet. There are many tasks that chapter members and supporters could complete without having to commit to a set meeting schedule. If you have skills or interests that could be applied to these tasks, such as finance, recruiting volunteers, visiting Community Partners, maintaining membership lists, leading a group function, making phone calls, inventory, etc., etc., please let us know of your skill and interest.

Help your chapter maintain our mission to “Educate the public, Advocate aerospace power, and Support Air & Space Forces and families.” We greatly appreciate your participation and support!

Respectfully,

Bruce

Bruce L Hall, CMSgt, USAF (ret)

Treasurer

Lance P Sijan Chapter 125

Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)

Co125.Sijan.Treasurer@afa.org

You’re already a part of the team. Find out how you can become involved.

- **Contact Dave or any Sijan board member for more information on chapter needs.**
- **Drop in to our quarterly birthday parties at The Hub, have a piece of cake and chat with us about upcoming activities and ways you can participate.**
- **Visit our website, check out upcoming activities and events, and be sure to register.**

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER VETERANS WEEK SUPPORT

-- By Dave Geuting

Veterans Day turned into Veterans Week in Colorado Springs. Your Sijan Chapter was heavily involved in activities all around town. This year we repeated as a sponsor of the In Their Honor Veterans Day Parade Project and all its associated functions. The AFA logo was prominently displayed, and we received verbal recognition at events.

The week started off on Thursday, November 6, with a Purple Heart Reception at the Colorado College Fine Arts Center. President Dave Geuting attended and mingled with other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO). The reception honored all military members who have been wounded in service to their country.

Festivities continued with the *Salute From The Springs* flag display. Thousands of flags filled downtown Colorado Springs. I truly appreciate all of you who sponsored a flag.

Saturday saw a pre-reception for sponsors and dignitaries prior to the big parade. Sijan Treasurer Bruce Hall and Vice President for Communications Jennifer Hall attended the pre-reception and the parade, receiving prime seats on the grandstand.

Bruce also participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Memorial Park on Tuesday, November 11, organized by the Special Forces Association. They laid the AFA wreath along with other VSOs.

On Wednesday, Dave attended a Veterans Ceremony at Mitchell High School organized by the Air Force Junior ROTC detachment there. The ceremony honored veterans from all Services and featured a saber arch that each veteran walked under while their name was read. Dave walked through as an Air Force veteran and was identified as President of the Sijan Chapter.

The week of activities concluded with the Colorado Springs Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Profiles in Valor Awards Dinner. This dinner honored five Latino veterans who distinguished themselves in service to their country and communities. Sijan Chapter was again an event sponsor and hosted a table with Dave, Bruce, and Jennifer representing the Chapter.

All in all, the week was a huge success, and your Chapter played a prominent role. We will continue to sponsor worthy causes, within our means, and attend appropriate events as part of our goal to be a leading VSO in Colorado Springs.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER – VETERANS WEEK



Salute From The Springs Veteran's Day Parade



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER – VETERANS WEEK



Above: Dave Geuting, Sijan Chapter president, and Colorado Springs Hispanic Chamber president, Dave Alvarez at the Profiles in Valor Awards Dinner

Below: Dave attended the Salute From The Springs Purple Heart Reception



Above: Mitchell High School JROTC Veterans Award Ceremony

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER – CELEBRATE!

Left: Sijan President, Dave Geuting, and Treasurer, Bruce Hall, show off the cake at our 4TH Quarter Birthday Party and Membership Social at The Hub in November

Below: “Chief Talk”. Bruce, a retired CMSgt has a conversation with one of the many Chiefs that stopped in at the party.



No, the Grinch isn't stealing the presents. It's **Stockings For Kids!** On Nov 29th, chapter volunteers gathered at Walmart to shop for 12 military kids as part of **Colorado Springs Early Connections Stockings for Kids** program. Each child received much needed winter wear, clothes, shoes, educational books, and a requested activity or toy as well. With support from member donations, your Sijan Chapter sponsored these kids ensuring a joyful holiday for them and their families during difficult times.

Left: Jennifer Hall (Sijan VP of Communications), Nicole Anthony Schiff (Early Connections Development Director), and Dave Geuting (Sijan President) hold bags full of presents for the kids.

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OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER JOINT HOLIDAY PARTY



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER JOINT HOLIDAY PARTY



COMING UP!

TEACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

The AFA **Teacher of the Year** (TOY) program recognizes classroom teachers at the Chapter and State levels for their accomplishments and achievements in exciting K-12 students about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and preparing them to contribute to tomorrow's technologies. This is a unique opportunity to recognize and reward outstanding teachers who are furthering excellence and making coming to class an adventure by teaching and integrating aerospace-related STEM topics/programs into their classrooms!

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter recognizes the teaching excellence of one teacher in grades K-12 and forwards that honoree to compete for the State Teacher of the Year. The Sijan Chapter TOY receives a check for \$250, a Certificate of Excellence, lapel pin, padfolio, and a complimentary Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Membership. We recognize the honoree, along with their school's principal, at a school assembly or a school board/staff meeting in coordination with the school principal's recommendation and additionally, at the AFA Colorado State Banquet/Awards Ceremony. The State TOY winner receives a \$500 check, AFA jacket, certificate and pin. Additionally, the State TOY winner may be nominated for the AFA National TOY award. **To apply or nominate your favorite STEM TEACHER, complete a [Nomination Package](#) and email to LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com. Due date is 1 April 2026.**

Thank a STEM Teacher Today... Nominate them for AFA Teacher of the Year!

Chapter Teachers of the Year will receive a \$250 award check, certificate, lapel pin, padfolio, window decal, and complimentary membership to Civil Air Patrol.

It's easy!

1. Fill out the form
2. Attach a one-page narrative of the teacher's accomplishments and achievements in support of aerospace-related STEM and the impact of these activities on the students.
3. Include a letter of recommendation/support from a school official, principal, or higher.
4. (Optional) Up to three pages of newspaper articles, other documents, and/or photos that include the teacher with students completing aerospace-related STEM activities. Ensure students in photos have media release permission for use.

[Click for the application form and more details.](#)



2026 Scholarships Available

Many of our nation's Airmen, Guardians, and their spouses and families are on missions to complete higher education degrees. For years, the Air & Space Forces Association has funded those efforts as part of its own mission to support and encourage the prosperity of our nation's Air & Space Force community.

In 2025, AFA contributed more than \$110,000 to Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children through 11 unique scholarships. The scholarships help fund college tuition, flight school, dental school, Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, and even full rides to certain universities.

2026 AFA Scholarships Available - APPLY NOW!



Offering more than \$100,000 in educational funds to support Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children in pursuing higher education.

Sijan and Colorado State AFA scholarship applications due April 1, 2026
Applications for all 11 National scholarships accepted through April 30, 2026

[2026 AFA Lance P Sijan and Colorado State AFA Scholarships](#)

[2026 AFA National Scholarships](#)



Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Leadership Meetings

Every 2nd Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM.

Email CO125.Sijan.President@AFA.org or check our website to confirm date/time and for in-person location and online link

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Become a Community Partner!

“Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force and Space Force community! For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air & Space Forces Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive a wooden plaque with a date medallion and a window decal. These will show customers and clients that your business supports our troops!”

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually - Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually - Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Want to know more? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Do you like golf? Birthday parties? Races? Ball games? Corn hole? *Send us a note, stop by an event, or join us for our monthly leadership meeting.*



VOLUNTEER! Whether one hour one time or one hour a week, your AFA Sijan Chapter has opportunities for involvement in multiple areas. Areas of most need are in support of veterans and government outreach, community partnerships, and programming/events.

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.org
- To update your contact information, email National AFA at membership@afa.org. Note that the chapter cannot change your email, mailing address, or other contact information. It must be done on your National membership profile.
- To join or renew your AFA membership, visit www.afa.org
- For details on AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>

Make sure you continue to receive our communications. You don't want to miss out on \$1 ice cream sundaes, free birthday cake, or any of the other exciting events we have in the works. Update your contact information today. Email National at Membership@afa.org.

While we can update our mailing list, Sijan representatives cannot update your official AFA contact information. You must contact National.

Do you know someone who would like to know about our events but isn't a member yet? We're happy to add them to our mailing list. Have them send a request to us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org



AFA National Website:

www.afa.org

Email

lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Air & Space Forces Association
Lance P Sijan Chapter #125
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Colorado Springs, CO 80970

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

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest chapters in AFA, with nearly 3000 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson SFB, Schriever SFB, 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 & Space Forces community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air & Space Forces Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!