

## Viper Vigilant

Viper Vigilant is published quarterly for members of the Frank Luke Chapter AFA. Members with Internet access may view digital copies at [www.afaluke.org](http://www.afaluke.org).



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Frank Luke Chapter, Air Force Association

c/o 1300 S. Litchfield Rd, Box 1 Ste A1020

Goodyear, AZ 85338



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**Tour group.** AFA group poses by an F-16 on the Luke AFB flightline as part of their informative visit on Nov. 18, 2011.

Chapter hosts 1st-ever Luke visit

## AFA members tour flight operations

A group of 40 AFA members and Community Partner representatives enjoyed an informative afternoon at Luke AFB on Friday, Nov. 18.

The first-ever membership event began with a luncheon at Club 56, featuring guest speaker Brig. Gen. JD Harris, 56th Fighter Wing commander. He provided an overview of Luke's mission, "to train the best fighter pilots in the world," along with the resources required.

The group learned about current events and future plans at Luke. At the end of his talk, the general took questions; everyone wanted to know the latest status on the F-35 basing decision for Luke.

After lunch, the group boarded a bus to the 56th Training Squadron, where commander Lt. Col. Charles J. DeLapp described the unit's mission. Across the street, they were greeted by 309th Fighter Sq commander Lt. Col. Daniel Lasica. Following a staff briefing, the group was escorted to an F-16 static display on the flightline, where student escorts shared their experiences and answered questions for two hours.

"This first membership event was a success by all measure," said chapter president Joe Marvin. "We have others in the planning stages, such as a trip to the Goldwater Range in the February timeframe. When details are announced, act quickly; our 40-person quota for this signature event was filled fast. We thank General Harris and the 56th TS and 309th FS for their hospitality. It was a great afternoon at Luke AFB!"

# President's Message

## Year ends with great success; exciting challenges facing us

The Luke Chapter ends 2011 with "following winds" after an active fourth quarter.

Chapter members attended the National Air & Space Conference and Technology Symposium in Washington, D.C.; met with the 944th Fighter Wing key spouse; staffed a booth at Luke Retiree Day; conducted a membership visit to Luke; and represented AFA at pilot B-Course graduations.

Our activities in 2011 raised the bar for the chapter.

We hosted the Southwest Region conference in June. The experience was so valuable, the Arizona State Executive Committee has voted unanimously to continue the momentum by hosting an AFA State Conference in 2012. Host chapter? You guessed it -- the Frank Luke Chapter!

The opportunities are endless and horizons bright for our chapter.

Best wishes for a happy and successful 2012.

Planning to see you around the Chapter for an exciting Arizona Centennial Year!



**Joseph W. Marvin**  
President, Frank Luke Chapter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe W. Marvin".



### Ribboncutting

Opening ceremony for the AFA Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 19 features (from left) AFA Chairman of the Board Sandy Schlitt, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.



### At AF Memorial

Chapter president Joe Marvin and Southwest Region president John Toohey pose Sept. 18 at the Air Force Memorial.

Join the Frank Luke Chapter discussions through social media!

 LukeAFA

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 Air Force Association Frank Luke Chapter



## Chapter hosts dinner for families of deployed airmen

Families of deployed military men and women turned up in large numbers at a Chapter-hosted dinner Nov. 10, 2011. Nearly 50 people enjoyed the evening's entertainment with a Western theme.

The Luke AFB Chapel covers the cost of these monthly dinners, and base groups and organizations volunteer to host each event. This was the second time the chapter has served as host.

With Western decorations (compliments of volunteer Sandy Harris, who got chapel members Keith and Debby Neitch to bring in a saddle) and a Western meal prepared by Don Harris, the evening was a hit.

Chuck Powell, Phoenix Real AZtate, performed magic tricks as the guests ate, and Rick and Jill Marchetti demonstrated some country dances, then followed up by helping young and old in the audience learn simple dance steps.

Capt. Hee Lee, Base Chief, Legal Assistance, offered the families help with any legal problems during their spouses' deployment.

The evening ended with a raffle of items donated by Base Commissary vendors (four \$25 food vouchers), Base Exchange (complimentary manufacturers' gift items), Luke Chapter (toys), and community businesses including Submarino's Italian Restaurant in Glendale (pizza), Sands Chevrolet in Surprise (12 free oil changes and a Carnival cruise for two), and Blue Sky Java in Goodyear (four free lattes). The top prize, Sands' cruise for two, went to Samantha Perry, whose husband is with the Army in Korea.

Our thanks to all the donors and volunteers for helping to give deserving families a boost with a fun evening!



### Western decor

Luke Chapter's Sharon Marvin leans on a saddle before setting up the raffle table.



### It's magic!

Magician Chuck Powell of Goodyear performs magic tricks for one of the families as they finish their meal.



### Country dancing

Jill Marchetti helps a young boy learn dance steps. Jill and Rick Marchetti put on a dance demonstration and followed that up with fun "lessons."



### Winner!

Army wife Samantha Perry displays her prize -- a Carnival cruise for two donated by Sands Chevrolet.



### Cowboy grub

A family gets served all the typical "fixins" in keeping with the event's Western theme.



## At symposium

Scott Chesnut poses with Mike Dunn, AFA president/CEO, during a break in Global Warfare Symposium activities

## Chesnut represents Chapter at AFA Global Warfare Symposium in L.A. in November

Scott Chesnut, Chapter vice president for Aerospace Education, attended the AFA Global Warfare Symposium, held in Los Angeles Nov. 17-18, 2011.

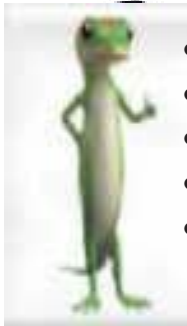
He represented the Chapter in discussions with AFA leaders, including Chairman of the Board Sandy Schlitt, President Mike Dunn and others.

He received outstanding briefings on the state of the Air Force and current issues. Among other highlights, he noted the following bits of information:

- Planned budget cuts will reduce force structure.
- Past performance and cost growth will be scrutinized in future contracts.
- "Block buys" are buzzword for upcoming EELV procurement.
- "Insourcing," combined with civilian cuts, is painting AF into a corner.
- Former AF historian's presentation chillingly compares today's China to Japan in 1940.
- AF's Vice Chief of Staff said current industrial capacity is limited by subs, not primes. Also, we will not have a hollow force but a smaller force and fewer bases with same win capabilities.



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## Register now for Arizona Vets Hall of Fame dinner

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame will honor two citizens and award student scholarships at its annual dinner Feb. 2, 2012, at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe.

Barbara Hatch, founder of the Arizona Heritage Project, will receive the 2012 Copper Sword Award for her work furthering the initiatives of veterans by encouraging students to capture history through interviews of veterans and publishing their stories.

Arizona State Representative Jerry Weiers will receive the 2012 Copper Shield Award for his support of military veterans as chairman of the Arizona House of Representatives' Rules Committee.

Interested attendees may register at [www.avhof.org](http://www.avhof.org) or call Carmine Iosue at 480-8092-0085, or email him at [iosuegrammy8@aol.com](mailto:iosuegrammy8@aol.com).

Dinner (choice of chicken marsala or New York steak) is \$39 each now, or \$49 after Dec. 31. Advance payment only.

Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Fiesta Inn, 2100 S. Priest Dr., Tempe.

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## Pilot graduation

Top three 310th Fighter Squadron pilots pose with their AFA Chapter certificates at their graduation ceremony Sept. 23. From left are Mads Brandt, Chapter VP/Membership; Joe Marvin, Chapter president; 1st Lt. William DuBose Jr.; Capt. Robert Preston; Capt. Justin Ankenbruck; Lt. Col. Todd Murphey, 310th FS commander; and Brig. Gen. JD Harris, 56th Fighter Wing commander. Chapter honors, besides the congratulatory certificates, also include complimentary one-year AFA memberships.

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## Help send the B-25 ‘Maid in Shade’ to 2012 Doolittle Raiders reunion

The Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force in Mesa (our chapter’s Community Partner) is asking for help.

They want to send their B-25 “Maid in the Shade” to the 70th reunion of the Doolittle Raiders, to be held April 18, 2012, in Dayton, Ohio.

Arizona Wing officials say only five surviving Raiders are left, and their age and health may very well mean that this will be their last reunion.

However, the Arizona Wing needs help to cover fuel and other trip expenses.

Any groups interested in becoming sponsors, or individuals in making private donations, may contact the Arizona Wing by phone at 480-924-1940, or visit their website, [www.azcaf.org](http://www.azcaf.org).

Website visitors will also learn about other Arizona Wing events, including their Tribute to Tuskegee Airmen on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 (\$25 per person), and Night in the 40s Big Band Dance and WWII Musical Show on Saturday, March 17, 2012 (current early-bird special \$30, \$40 at the door).

# Community Partners

Please patronize the following area businesses/organizations, our valued Chapter Community Partners, who proudly display a plaque as evidence of their support of AFA's goals and mission. Take time to stop by and thank them for their support of AFA, Team Luke, and other military units in our chapter's area of responsibility.

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### AEROTURBINE, MRO FACILITY

**Skip Maiorana, VP/Gen Mgr and Mark Keefer, Mat. Mgr.**  
1658 S. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear 85338, 623-792-9865

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Base Exchange Branch, 623-535-8604

### AXA ADVISORS LLC - Benjamin Santerre, Financial Pro

14851 N. Scottsdale Rd #103, Scdsd 85254, 480-444-3751

### CREDIT UNION WEST - Robert MacGregor, Pres/CEO

P.O. Box 7600, Glendale 85312, 602-631-3200

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## MUSEUM

### ARIZONA WING, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE -

#### Richard Exler, Tour Coordinator

2017 N. Greenfield Rd, Mesa 85215 - 480-924-1940 X116

## NEWSPAPERS

### USA TODAY - Jeanine Rogers, Account Mgr

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## 6-week Arizona SciTech Festival starts in February around the state

The inaugural Arizona Science and Technology Festival will begin in February 2012 with events at sites across the state, the festival director has announced.

Jeremy Babendure, Ph.D., ASU Office of Public Affairs, said the 6-week statewide celebration is spearheaded by the Arizona Technology Council, Arizona State University and the Arizona Science Center.

“More than 200 organizations in industry, education and the community will be involved, to inspire Arizonans about how STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) will drive the future of Arizona,” Dr. Babendure said.

Joe Marvin, Chapter president, said the Luke Chapter is a registered collaborator on this project.



The event will offer a series of hands-on activities and workshops, conversations and debates, exhibitions, concerts, guided walks and tours.

The festival showcases Arizona as a national leader in science, technology and innovation through a series of events taking place in February and March.

The project is a grass roots collaboration of hundreds of organizations in industry, academia, arts, community and K-12, geared to showcase STEM activities and excite and inform Arizonans ages 3 to 103 about how science, technology and innovation will drive our state for the next 100 years.