



The Bag Dragger Newsletter

November 2023 – January 2024

Notes from the President



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Greetings to all,

It is such an honor to be chosen as the next President of Air Force Recruiting Alumni Association (AFRAA) for the next two years. I would like to thank Billy McAllan for everything he has achieved in support of the AFRAA mission for the past four years as President and for a very smooth transition.

I am very excited for the opportunity to serve Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS) in this capacity. We will continue to move the ball forward and assist the AFRS mission through support and sponsorship. Big ticket items we are currently supporting: Blue Suit XLV, recognizing Recruiting Top Graduates at the schoolhouse, standing up the Monument, and other activities to improve the morale and welfare of the recruiting force.

Blue Suit XLV is coming up in March and am very excited about supporting the best of the best! AFRAA and AFRS have been in direct communication to ensure

this will be the best Blue Suit to date! It has been nothing short of outstanding seeing how well all involved are communicating and enthusiastically making things happen behind the scenes to make this event go without a hitch.

We are in direct support of Recruiting School to attend graduations and present the Top Grad Award. As members of AFRAA, we will be looking for more involvement and support to participate in congratulating our top grads in person at recruiting school. Thank you, Sal Lagudi, for spearheading this program in 2024 and beyond!

We are diligently working towards finding the right donors to fund the Monument. This is a tall task, so, if you know of any businesses, big or small, that may want to contribute to getting our monument erected, please contact me soonest. This is doable; however, it will take all of us and our connections to make this come to life. JBSA-Lackland fully supports us in building this and will be a great opportunity to showcase the past, present and future recruiting force who provide a positive impact across the globe and are on the front line to shaping tomorrow's Air and Space Force.

We are always excited to hear your ideas or comments, please pass them along! We love it when you share your stories. If you want to contact us concerning the Bag Dragger, please feel free to contact me at afraa05-aimhigh47@proton.me or Mary Gandolfo at 53mgandolfo@gmail.com.

Attitude = Altitude

Meet Carl Childs ...



Carl Childs is currently the Military Outreach Manager with Columbia Southern University, located in Orange Beach, Alabama. Carl has served in many capacities during his 16 years with Columbia Southern to include, Business Development, Outreach and Director of Admissions at the previous sister school, Waldorf University. Carl brings a wide discipline in administering the learned Air Force Core Values while helping to educate our service members and families. Carl Childs is a native of Dallas, TX, and entered the Air Force April 12, 1987. Prior to joining the Air Force, Carl was employed by First City Bank of Dallas in their bookkeeping department.

Carl started his Air Force career as a supply liaison at Tinker AFB, OK. One of his many assignments took him to the Tonopah Nevada Test Range, still in the supply career area. He cross trained into Recruiting in 1999 and was assigned at the 349th Recruiting Squadron as an enlisted accessions recruiter in Oklahoma City, OK. He was recognized as a Master recruiter while a member of this squadron. His next recruiting assignment took him to the 331st Recruiting Squadron in Pensacola, Florida., where he was recognized as the Top Flight Chief in 2004.

He is the newest member of the Board of Directors for the AFRAA as the 2nd Vice President. Welcome aboard Carl!!!

Taps ...



Major General William J. Porter passed away on November 29, 2023. Many of us served with him during his assignment as Commander, United States Air Force Recruiting Service from 1985 – 1987. General Porter supported AFRAA through his tenured membership, donations to Blue Suit and to the Monument. He was always there if we needed his help. Below is his obituary:

William John Porter

JULY 18, 1938 – NOVEMBER 29, 2023

William J (Bill) Porter, age 85 of Canadian Lakes, MI passed away Wednesday November 29th after a brief illness. Bill was born in Lansing, the son of William and Joy Porter of Mason. He was married to Joan Hall on December 17, 1960. He graduated from Michigan State University where he earned his MBA. Bill entered active duty in the United States Air Force in 1961 and completed Navigator training in August 1962. He served for 32 years and achieved the rank of Major General before retiring from the Air Force in 1992. For the next 18 years Bill was employed by Merrill Lynch in San Antonio, TX before moving to Canadian Lakes, MI in 2021 to be closer to family.

Over the years Bill and Joan forged many friendships that became a very important part of their lives. Bill enjoyed family time, fishing, reading, and keeping up with world and market events. He always looked forward to a good piece of pie and was never known to turn down barbecued pork ribs.

Bill is survived by his wife Joan, sons David (Joyce) and Scott (Dawn), grandchildren Benjamin, Shannah, Andrew, Bailee, and Bryce, and great-grandchildren Harper and Lyla.

Gaylor, Air Force's fifth top NCO and motivational speaker, dies in San Antonio at 93



By Sig Christenson, Staff writer Jan 22, 2024

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor is seen in an undated photo downloaded Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, from the Air Force website. Taylor died Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024, at his home in San Antonio. Courtesy/U.S. Air Force Photo

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Bob Gaylor, a storied motivational speaker known for aphorisms such as “aptitude and attitude lead to opportunity,” died last week at his home in San Antonio. His family described him in a Facebook post as "the man that was born and brought up during the Depression Era; the man that never forgot the value of a dollar; the man that knew about and believed in attitude, aptitude, and motivation." Gaylor died in his sleep early Wednesday. He was 93.

The Noncommissioned Office Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is named for Gaylor, an influential chief who advised Secretary of the Air Force John C. Stetson and Gen. David C. Jones' and Gen. Lew Allen Jr.'s chiefs of staff. He often discussed the welfare of airmen and the career paths of enlistees in the Air Force.

In retirement Gaylor, the fifth chief master sergeant appointed to the top noncommissioned officer position, continued serving as an advocate for the Air Force and its troops, routinely posting videos on his Facebook page and making occasional public appearances. Air Force Col. Sean McKenna, public affairs chief for the Pacific Air Forces in Honolulu, said Gaylor was probably the most

famous chief master sergeant in his service. "He's the one that stands out," McKenna added. "He's on the Mount Rushmore of chief master sergeants."

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dave Smith said he didn't know Gaylor well when he was in the Air Force, but later took his life lessons to heart. Gaylor retired from the Air Force in 1979 and went to work for USAA. The job: crisscrossing the nation giving lectures on leadership. "Chief Gaylor traveled around the country, around the Air Force, after he retired giving leadership presentations at bases and NCO academies and airman leadership schools all over the Air Force," recalled Smith, 79, of San Antonio, a retired chief spokesman for the Air Education and Training Command. "So tremendous numbers of folks had the opportunity to hear Chief Gaylor and hear his story and learn from his life lessons on how to approach a career." Those suggestions often focused on knowing the job.

"He always talked about aptitude, continuing to learn," Smith said. "He uses three words in his discussion on how to approach a career, and aptitude was a starter. Attitude, he said, was what got you through, and aptitude and attitude give you opportunities. "And I know so many people, me included, who got that mind set: 'Hey, this is a pretty good job. I like what I'm doing and the job is no longer a job. It's an avocation,'" he said.

Robert D. Gaylor was born in Bellevue, Iowa, but spent most of his youth in Indiana. He entered the Air Force in September 1948 and was assigned to security police, where he served until becoming a military training instructor at Lackland AFB in September 1957. He remained in that job five years before returning to security police.

Gaylor was an honor graduate of the Second Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Barksdale AFB, La., and became an instructor, in time reopening the NCO Academy there. He became senior enlisted adviser for the Second Air Force in 1970, and then spent time at Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, where he traveled to bases teaching management. He became chief master sergeant of the Air Force in 1977.

Gaylor continued making speeches well after retiring from USAA. He refused to take money for his expenses, but once told McKenna that his organization could make a donation to a charity in lieu of payment. "That was the first thing that struck me — this guy is not in it for the money. He's in it to pay it forward," said McKenna, who previously served with the Air Education and Training Command in San Antonio. "He's very motivational. He was really talking about the airmen. They saw him as a fatherly figure, they saw him as a mentor. "His homespun stories went down so well with the airmen," he said. "He made them feel very comfortable, and so they could see themselves being as successful as the chief."

Gaylor's topics were serious, right up to his final days. He posted a Jan. 10 video that tackled national defense issues and took aim at famous public figures, including former President Donald Trump. In a Facebook post, Gaylor conceded that some of his opinions in his latest edition of "Wednesday with the Chief" videos could be misguided, and then let loose.

"In no particular order, first the defense of our country," he said. "Everything, everything in defense, begins with one word: And that one word is threat." Before Pearl Harbor and 9-11, he said, the United States had data but the failure came in how it was analyzed. Leaders today charged with assessing information about potential threats face similar dilemmas.

"I want you to see the opportunity for breakdown in that picture," he said. "I think we have so much data, we don't get around to analyzing all of it and could very well overlook something. And then I think the problem is with the people who are given the data. They don't know what to do about it. They don't know what action to take."

Gaylor reserved his most colorful comments for President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, and a host of politicians. He said Trump, former President Bill Clinton and his wife, former presidential nominee and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J. Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Hunter Biden should be jailed because "it's obvious they have committed crimes" and "we know they're not going to prison, but they ought to go for a while. "And they have to all be put in the same cell block in a big circle — separate cells to where they see each other — and then you could bring in Rachel Maddow to sit in the middle and interview them, ask, 'How are you doing?'"

The current chief master sergeant of the Air Force, JoAnne Bass, described Gaylor in a statement as "a patriot of unparalleled honor and dignity." "He devoted more than 75 years of his life, both in uniform and out, to actively serving our airmen and their families," Bass said. The first woman to serve as a top NCO in the U.S. military, Bass described Gaylor as "an American airman who led a life of purpose and defined an era in our Air Force. His legacy, art of storytelling, and passion for service will live in all of us for years to come."