

Jim Hart Doubly Honored: 'Best Of The Best' Renamed For Him; Presented McRaney Award

Jim Hart, the 'Gentleman Farmer' who lives in Bascom, Florida, with his wife Patty, and enjoys nothing more than "driving my tractor and cutting hay", was in the spotlight twice at the April 29th 24th Annual Membership Meeting banquet.

First, he received AFPAAA's Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award for his more than 24 years supporting AFPAAA.

The many things he did included designing, establishing, and guiding the endowment fund, providing the printing for the newsletter when we began, serving as the second chairman of the AFPAAA Board of Directors and then as treasurer until last year. It was an award he earned and deserved many time over but refused to accept until he left the board.

It was the second honor that surprised Jim and highlighted the evening – the renaming of the top award in Air Force Public Affairs as The Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr. Best of the Best Award.

Previously known as the Best of the Best, the AFPAAA Board felt that Jim's distinguished career in Air Force Public Affairs as well as his parallel civilian public relations career deserved the renaming of the award; the Air Force agreed.

There was no hint when he began as an Aviation Cadet in 1958 that Jim's almost 37 year Air Force active duty and reserve career, would culminate with him a general who served as the mobilization assistant to six Air Force Directors of Public Affairs, and included being called to active duty to support senior Air Force leadership during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He entered Public Affairs in the AF Reserve in 1961 as an Information Technician with the 32nd NORAD/CONAD Region, Gunter AFB, Alabama. He received a direct commission in the Air Force Reserve through the Outstanding Airman Commissioning Program and was Chief of Public Affairs, 187th Tactical Fighter Group, Alabama Air National Guard and then Director of Public Affairs for the Alabama Air National Guard.

There followed a series of assignments and promotions that were Jim's road to SAF/PA. In succession he was the mobilization



All Smiles - Jim Hart with Mike McRaney and AFPAAA Board Chairman Larry Clavette after receiving the Brigadier General Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award. Jim didn't know yet the Best of the Best Award (right) was renamed for him.



augmentee to the Director of Public Affairs, Lowry Technical Training Center, Lowry AFB, Colorado, where he was named outstanding reservist for Air Training Command; Deputy Chief of Community Relations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and SAF/PA Assistant Director of Public Affairs.

Jim's civilian career took an equally upward slope leading to vice president of public affairs for Duke Energy Corporation. Just as with the Air Force, his civilian career started off inauspiciously.

In the mid-1950s he got a start in broadcasting on the Chipola College station in Marianna, Florida; became anchor and news director for WSFA-TV, NBC's Montgomery, Alabama, affiliate, and then was executive director of the American Petroleum Institute in Alabama for 13 years. Jim was senior director of public affairs for Gulf Oil Corporation until 1985 when it was acquired by Chevron. He

then joined Hill & Knowlton, Inc. as senior vice president and general manager of its Denver office.

In 1988 he became vice president, corporate communications, PanEnergy Corporation, Houston, Texas, with responsibility for internal and external communications, media relations, public relations, advertising, employee and financial publications, design graphics and printing, community relations, audiovisual services and corporate contributions. Under his guidance PanEnergy won four PRSA Silver Anvils and two IABC Gold Quills. When Duke Power merged with PanEnergy to form Duke Energy he was the new company's vice president of public affairs until retiring in 1998.

In addition to his dual careers Jim had a lot of other things happening between his graduation from Chipola in 1956 and now. He earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1973 from the University of Alabama Law School and an Executive MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management in 1982. Always active in professional organizations and community affairs, he received numerous awards recognizing his public relations expertise and community service, and has

scholarships and awards named to honor him. In addition, Jim is a Certified Flight Instructor with single engine, multi-engine and instrument ratings. He has flown more than 7,000 hours in 25 military and civilian aircraft. In 2009 he received the Federal Aviation Administration Wright Brothers "Master Pilot Award".



President's Awards To Civic Leader Long & General Cook

Clifford H. Long, for more than a half century an Air Force supporter on Florida's Emerald Coast, and Brigadier General Kathleen Cook, SAF/PA director, March 2014-June 2016, now Director of Air Force Services, were presented AFPAAA President's Awards by President Judy Bivens, May 28, at Eglin AFB.

Cliff's commitment to the Air Force has been recognized many times. He chaired the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council 1989-2007, was Air Force Association Civilian of the Year, received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, and is a member of the Air Force Chief of Staff's Civic Leaders Group program and a recipient of



the Chief of Staff of the AF Award for Exceptional Public Service.

Among General Cook's accomplishments were leading the nationally recognized strategic crisis communications effort when an airman thwarted a terrorist attack in France that won a 2016 PRSA Silver Anvil. She partnered with AFPAAA for construction of the tribute to fallen Air Force PA professionals Memorial Wall in the renovated SAF/PA conference room.

The President's Award, a plaque with a small, red piece of the Cape Canaveral gantry used for the January 31, 1958 launch of Explorer One, America's first satellite, is presented to those who have significantly impacted Air Force Public Affairs.

Bryan Bouchard Caps Career Of Excellence At Top Of AF Public Affairs; First Recipient Of Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr. Best Of The Best Award

From high school to Air Force's enlisted ranks in intelligence to selection for the premier award in Public Affairs is pretty amazing. Bryan Bouchard, the recipient of SAF/PA's 2016 Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr. Best of the Best Award did just that.

Shortly after his birth in California, Bryan's family moved to Medford, Oregon, where his Air Force career began. He graduated from high school in 1995 and enlisted as a Hebrew Cryptologic Linguist, serving in that capacity until 1999 when he retrained into Public Affairs. The rest of his career can only be described as one of excellence.

After DINFOS he was the base newspaper editor and eventually NCOIC at Seymour-Johnson AFB, North Carolina. He moved to Fort Dix, New Jersey in 2003 to become the Public Affairs Instructor at the 421st Combat Training Squadron for successively the Phoenix Readiness, Eagle Flag, and Combat Airman Skills Training programs. In addition to the Public Affairs curriculum he taught other subjects including troop-leading procedures, convoy operations, and small team tactics. As an EM he received two Air Force awards: 2002 Best Metro Newspaper and 2005 PA NCO of the year.

Bryan completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies at Thomas Edison State University, New Jersey in 2006. He separated as a technical sergeant and entered Officer Training School, earning a commission in March 2007. After commissioning, his Public Affairs assignments included the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Arizona; 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan; SAF/PA's



2016 Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr., Air Force Public Affairs Best of the Best awardee, Major Bryan Bouchard, is flanked by SAF/PA Director Brigadier General Ed Thomas, AFPAAA President Judy Bivens, and Jim Hart, for whom the award is named.

in Japan. His efforts in Japan were recognized as the 2011 Public Affairs Best Integrated Communications Program. In 2016 he was the Public Affairs Company Grade Officer of the Year. In his career he has received more than 30 Air Force and MAJCOM Public Affairs awards.

Bryan was promoted to major January 1 and retired April 1. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Jenna, an attorney, and their children Hayley, 12, Felix, 4, and August 3. Currently he is looking for opportunities to use the communication skills he developed in the Air Force for employment in the civilian world with the possibility of entering law school next year.

The recipient of the Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr. Best of the Best Award, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, is chosen by SAF/PA. It recognizes the top officer, civilian, or enlisted person in Air Force Public Affairs for professional excellence and significant contributions to the effectiveness of the Air Force mission. In addition to the trophy, Bryan receives a check for \$1,000 and a life membership in AFPAAA.

was on active duty during the Korean War as the Information Officer at Williams AFB, Arizona.

He returned to civilian life in 1955 but stayed active in the Air Force Reserve as a mobilization augmentee with assignments that included Military Airlift Command and the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information.

Roy retired in 1982 as a colonel with more than 41 years of active duty and reserve service.

He stayed close to the military through membership in the American Legion and the Air Force Association, including being a District Commander and state vice-commander of the Legion in Indiana, and organizing and serving as first president of the Indiana American Legion Press Association.

A charter member of the Air Force Association, he served as president of the Indiana and Florida AFA and as a national vice-president. He was also instrumental in establishing several Air Force Junior ROTC units in Florida. Roy is survived by his wife, Glenda "Kay" Browning Whitton; his son, Matthew; stepdaughters Candy McCarty, Cally Stockton, and Christy Rosson; 11 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Lord Guard & Guide

Roy P. Whitton

Roy Whitton, one of the first Lifetime Founders of AFPAAA and one of our strongest supporters, died at Good Shepherd Hospice, Sebring, Florida, April 13. He was 94.

Roy's military service began when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps on January 6, 1941. He was initially stationed at Albrook Field, Panama Canal Zone but then was transferred to Baltra Island in the Galapagos archipelago as chief of the heavy bomber instrument shop.

He was discharged as a staff sergeant when World War II ended and entered Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, where he earned bachelors and masters degrees in Education.

Roy joined the Air Force Reserve as staff sergeant in 1948 and received a direct commission as a second lieutenant. He



From The President's Pen ---

I'm honored and thankful to have the opportunity to serve as your president for the coming year. Working with Chairman Larry Clavette, President Judy Bivens, Treasurer Phil Ratliff and Secretary Tom Dolney during the past year has certainly prepared me well for the challenges ahead. I'm also grateful for the sage counsel Jim Hart, this year's McRaney Award winner, has provided me and our Board of Directors over these past few years.



The success of our recent annual meeting in Destin was the result of a lot of great work by our host committee led by Joe Purka, Jim Hart and Shirley Pigott. They were ably assisted by our event coordinator, Perry Nouis, and association treasurer, Phil Ratliff. The Eglin and Hurlburt public affairs staffs were instrumental in arranging our briefings and escorting our tours. Thanks to all for making our visit to the Emerald Coast a very special and meaningful event.

At Destin we were pleased to receive an update from Brigadier General Ed Thomas, Air Force Director of Public Affairs. General Thomas introduced America's Air Force: Always There – A Narrative for 2017 and Beyond. The narrative is a comprehensive review of 1) what Airmen do for America, our Allies and the Joint Force, 2) the current state of the Air Force, 3) what is being done to ensure the most capable Air Force within current constraints, and 4) where America's Air Force needs to go. A copy of the narrative is posted on our Association web page.

My goals for the coming year include the establishment of an Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame, an appropriate and necessary means to recognize and celebrate the achievements of those who helped build and nurture the profession we all are so privileged to be part of. We will be working with SAF/PA to bring this concept to reality. Another one of my objectives is to continue work on our AFPAAA 2020 initiative that will provide us with recommendations for enhancing our finances, operations, annual meetings, and membership.

Next year our annual meeting will be in San Diego on May 31 - June 2. John Gura is leading our planning committee and I'm sure it will be another "can't miss" event. In the meantime, I ask that each of you reach out to your friends and former colleagues who are not AFPAAA members and encourage them to join AFPAAA. While our membership has remained somewhat constant over the past few years, we're beginning to see our numbers fall – primarily because of failures to renew. We need everyone's help to ensure that our Association remains an active and relevant organization committed to linking and supporting past, recent, and present members of the Air Force Public Affairs career field.

Thanks for Your Help and Support!

– Art Forster



The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges these corporations whose generous support enabled the success of our 24th Annual Membership Meeting.

Lockheed Martin
Joe LaMarca, Ron Rand & Johnny Whitaker

Pratt & Whitney
Jay DeFrank, Maria Carl & Erin Strout

Raytheon Company
Dave Shea

Eglin Federal Credit Union
Sherry Harlow



Photo Album

AFPAAA

24th Annual Membership Meeting
April 27-30, 2017
Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida

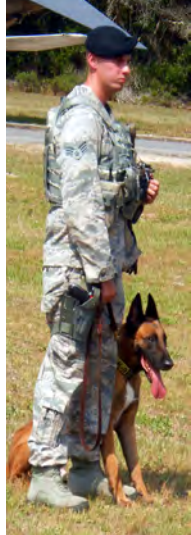
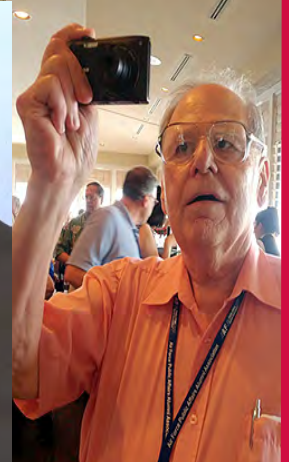


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Steve Murray, John Peters,
Mike Terrill*



**Air Force Public Affairs Alumni
Association 24th Annual Membership Meeting
April 27-30, 2017 – Destin, Florida**



Attendees

Judy & Jerry Bivens
 Don Black
 Temple & Jeanne Black
 Steve & Ann Bolduc
 Neil & Connie Buttmer
 Sam & Barbara Cagle
 Robyn Chumley
 Larry & Patty Clavette
 Kathleen Cook
 Wayne Corbett
 Kristena & Mike Corbett

Jerry & Carolyn Dalton
 Jay & Elise DeFrank
 Tom & Lori Dolney
 Al Eakle
 Danny Ferguson
 Art Forster
 Mark & Janet Foutch
 Rick & Ann Fuller
 Clem & Jean Gaines
 Bob Glymph
 Robin Grantham

John & JT Gura
 Steve & Fran Harden
 Jim & Patty Hart Dave &
 Tamra Honchul
 Doran & Fran Hopkins
 Henry & Anita Hufnagel
 Connie Jackson
 John Kirkwood
 Patrick & Cathy Maloney
 Jim McGuire
 Frank & Lynn McNally

Mike & Sharon McRaney
 Herb & Nancy Meyer
 Steve Murray
 Perry & Jean Nouis
 John Peters Bob Potter
 Joe & Dee Purka
 Shirley Pigott
 Jim Ragan
 Phil & Linda Ratliff
 Carol Remic
 Gene Sands

Dave & Mary Shea
 Tom Shumaker
 Dave & Carolyn Smith
 Carla Sylvester
 John Terino
 Leo 'Mike' & Carolyn
 Terrill
 Ed Thomas
 Tiffany Waters
 Miles Wiley
 Johnny & Nancy
 Whitaker

**Minutes of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association
24th Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2017
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Florida**

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Bivens at 2 p.m. A quorum was declared by Secretary Tom Dolney.

Board of Directors Members Present:

Larry Clavette, Chairman of the Board	
Judy Bivens, President	Clem Gaines
Art Forster, Vice President	John Gura
Tom Dolney, Secretary	Perry Nouis
Phil Ratliff, Treasurer	John Terino
Jay DeFrank	Johnny Whitaker

Absent: Dick Abel and Connie Custer

Remembrance Of Deceased Members Of The Public Affairs Community – The names of members of the Public Affairs community who have died since the last Annual Membership Meeting were read by the secretary and recognized by the membership with a moment of silence:

Richard S. George	Michael J. Holsinger
David G. Jones	Thomas E. LaRock
Lawrence Orluskie	Raymond J. Santangelo
Roy P. Whitton	

23rd Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – President Judy Bivens presented for approval the minutes of the 23rd Annual Membership Meeting, held May 14, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jim Ragan moved for approval, Dave Smith seconded and they were approved unanimously.

Financial Report – Treasurer Phil Ratliff presented the financial status of the association. He reported that the net worth of the organization is now \$407,000. The endowment fund earned a 10% return on investment last year, and has grown by 4% so far this year. Treasurer Ratliff made a motion to approve the report as presented; it was seconded by Mike Terrill and approved unanimously.

SAF/PA Liaison Report – Liaison Art Forster reported that Brigadier General Ed Thomas has indicated he will appoint the new SAF/PA civilian deputy, Jerry Renne, as his liaison to AFPAAA. The remodeling of the SAF/PA conference room is nearing completion and will include a Memorial Wall funded in part by a contribution from AFPAAA. A plaque on the wall will recognize our contribution.

Committee Reports

2018 Annual Membership Meeting – Perry Nouis reported that next year's meeting will be held May 31 through June 2, 2018, at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, California. We're looking for an East Coast location for the 2019 annual meeting. Possible sites being considered by the Board include Charleston, South Carolina, and Langley AFB, Virginia.

Membership – Committee Chairman Neil Buttimer reported that we have about 480 people who compose the association's core membership. Normally we have a renewal rate of about 75%, however this year it's down to about 50%. Flip through the membership directory and look for the names of your friends who aren't listed there but should be -- and then invite them to join.

Communications – Committee Chairman John Terino said he continues to be pleased with the printer we're using. John reminded everyone to send in news items for publication. Obituaries and tributes are published in the newsletter for all public affairs professionals, both members and non-members. John asked everyone to please notify him whenever a PA passes, and then send in memories of their service to be printed as tributes.

Web Site/Oral History – Committee Chairman John Gura reminded everyone to visit the web site regularly for news about

the association and the career field, and to use the web site to keep their e-mail address and contact information updated.

AFPAAA 2020 Initiative – President Bivens introduced the AFPAAA 2020 committee chairs for updates on their efforts.

Finance: Treasurer Phil Ratliff reported the finance committee has projected that within the next two years the association could become a half-million dollar organization. They suggest that the association consider expending some of our endowment account so that the balance doesn't grow too large.

Operations: Secretary Tom Dolney reported the operations committee has made progress on creating a continuity book that summarizes the duties of each position in the association. The next step will be updating the wording in our bylaws to correctly reflect the current structure of the organization.

Membership: Connie Custer has reached out to our alumni association counterparts in both Army and Navy Public Affairs. She has collected information from the Army and hopes to soon get inputs from the Navy. She is using social media to survey younger PA professionals to gather ideas to improve recruiting.

Meetings: John Gura reported his committee has been looking at three primary issues – increasing participation in annual meetings, reducing costs for both the association and its members, and picking meeting locations that are easy to get to.

Old Business

Hall of Fame – Art Forster gave an update on the effort to establish an Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame. We had been working with SAF/PA to establish a hall of fame but the process stalled while the civilian deputy position sat vacant. Brigadier General Ed Thomas has indicated his support for establishing a Hall of Fame and we look forward to restarting the effort with the new deputy.

New Business

Election Results – Chairman Clavette announced the results of the 2017 Board of Directors election. Elected for two-year terms were:

Phil Ratliff	Perry Nouis	Art Forster
Tom Dolney	Jay DeFrank	James "JC" Corcoran

New Officers – President Bivens announced that as specified in the by-laws, the Board of Directors appointed the following officers whose terms begin July 1, 2017:

Judy Bivens, Chairman of the Board	
Art Forster, President	Tom Dolney, Vice President
Phil Ratliff, Treasurer	Jay DeFrank, Secretary

President Bivens also announced that the Board of Directors has approved John Terino, Chairman of the Communications Committee, to continue to serve as a member of the Board.

State of the Association – Chairman Larry Clavette assured the membership that the organization is in great shape. He said our association's struggle with membership numbers is the very same challenge faced by all similar organizations. He stressed that the key to attracting and keeping new members is personal contact – reaching out to people and inviting them to join the association.

Adjournment – With no other business, Dave Smith moved for adjournment, it was seconded by Mike Terrill and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Tom Dolney, Secretary, May 20, 2017



P. O. Box 447
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

CENTURIONS ADD \$ 3,000 TO ENDOWMENT FUND

AFPAAA's Endowment Fund gained \$3,000 dollars as 30 members became 2017 Centurions by donating \$100 each to the Association's financial foundation.

Each year Centurion Fund donors present at the Annual Membership Meeting participate in a drawing for free hotel rooms. Don Black and Frank McNally

won the room drawing this year.

Established in 1997, the Endowment Fund's initial goal was \$300,000 to provide for future AFPAAA operations. Since 2003 the Centurion program has added more than \$36,000 to the fund, which, coupled with investment growth, is now valued at more than \$400,000 .

AFPAAA members can donate

to the Endowment Fund at any time in a variety of ways – money, stocks, real estate, collectibles, & other valuables.

Donations are tax deductible, reducing a member's tax liability while helping provide for the future of AFPAAA. For guidance in making donations, contact treasurer Phil Ratliff at www.PhilRatliff@afpaaa.org



2017 AFPAAA CENTURIONS

JUDY BIVENS
DON BLACK*
SAM CAGLE
LARRY CLAVETTE
WAYNE CORBETT
JERRY DALTON

JAY DEFRANK
ART FORSTER
MARK FOUTCH
RICK FULLER
CLEM GAINES
JOHN GURA

JIM HART
DAVE HONCHUL
DORAN HOPKINS
HANK HUFNAGEL
PAT MALONEY
JIM MCGUIRE

FRANK MCNALLY*
MIKE MCRANEY
HERB MEYER
CAROL SCHILERSTROM
DAVID SMITH
CARLA SYLVESTER

JOHN TERINO
MIKE TERRILL
MILES WILEY
JOHNNY WHITAKER
ED WORLEY
CHUCK WYNNE

*Indicates winner of the free rooms drawing. All Centurion donors since the previous Annual Membership Meeting present at this year's meeting were eligible for the drawing. The room prizes this year were valued at \$462.87 each.

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P.O. Box 447, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447. On-line subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, as an Air Force Broadcaster, or in the multimedia career fields, as either military or civilian, are eligible for *Full Membership*. Current or former members of those career fields, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for *Associate Membership*. **Membership Rates:** Lifetime \$300 (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments); Full Membership, one-year \$25 or three years \$50. Associate Membership, one-year \$10 or three years \$20. Membership applications are available at www.afpaaa.org **Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Judy Bivens; President, Art Forster; Vice President, Tom Dolney; Secretary, Jay DeFrank; Treasurer, Phil Ratliff; Dick Abel, Larry Clavette, JC Corcoran, Connie Custer, John Gura, Perry Nouis, John Terino and Johnny Whitaker. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff; Membership, Neil Buttimer; Oral History & Web site, John Gura; SAF/PA Liaison, Art Forster.