

Langley AFA Meeting Minutes

Date: 10 Aug 17

Location: Bayview Commonwealth Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis

The meeting began at 1200 noon with President Mark “Buster” Douglas

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer led by Mr. Vince Wisniewski
- Introduction of all guests except for Congressman Rob Wittman who was delayed by traffic and gate access issues
- President – Mark Douglas
 - Invitation to become members and reminder for renewal of membership
 - Highlighted recent 94th Fighter Squadron’s Centennial Celebration event at the Military Aviation Museum, VA Beach
 - New Retirement System brief – 25 Aug (location time TBA)
 - Highlighted upcoming events:
 - Free bus transportation for AFA Conference - 19 Sept
 - AFA State Meeting Dinner - 21 October, Williamsburg VA
 - 1FW Centennial Celebration week of 26 October (deferred to Rich Shook)
 - 2nd Annual 5K Run (deferred to SSgt Swede)
 - SSgt Swede has been selected for AFA Emerging Leadership Program. Sadly, SSgt Swede is PCSing in October. His replacement for AFA position will be SMSgt Chwalik.
 - Introduction of Ondrea Hall, new VP Communications and notation of deadline for next issue of the Crier
- Executive Vice President – Rich Shook
 - 1 FW Centennial Celebrations 26-28 October
 - 26 Oct - Dining Out at Hampton Roads Convention Center—Black tie/formal - 180 tickets will be given to E6 & below, event will accommodate 640 guest in total
 - 27 Oct - Golf Outing and Centennial Monument unveiling
 - 28 Oct – JBLE Family Fall Festival in conjunction with 1FW, AFA
- VP Veteran Affairs – Mr. Wisniewski
 - Upcoming Tides Baseball Game for Veterans, 16 Aug 2017
- VP Wounded Airmen - SSgt Swede
 - 28 October - Upcoming 2nd Annual 5K in conjunction with 1FW celebrations & F22 Demos. This year’s goal is to raise \$15K for Wounded Airman. This event will include local & national level AFA participation.
- VP Communications – Ondrea Hall
 - Awareness and encouraged members to utilize chapter’s social media tools more often.

Keynote Speaker: Congressman Rob Wittman, First Congressional District of Virginia

- Unfortunately due to the above mentioned delays, the Congressman speaking time was cut short considerably but he packed a great deal into 20 minutes!

- He expressed his frustration and disappointment with Congressional delays in next year's budget resolution process.
- Appropriations bills, budget & funds to keep missions on point
- Changes to GI Forever
- Getting serious about cleaning up the VA to better serve the Veterans not the administration. Making progress but barriers remains.
- Q&A - Where are we today with our military bases? Evaluating infrastructure, assets, forces and bases. Critical bases in critical areas - logistics and cost of support remote base are problematic. Not oppose to BRAC, but most ensure that we evaluate and understanding the needs of the future USAF and new platforms before simply selecting bases for BRAC – once they are gone, it will be impossible to reverse and regain the property – especially for bases surrounded by high civilian populations.
- Q&A- What can we do about the current situation with the budget resolution and congress' lack of commitment to getting the job done? Any advice as what we can do, where to put our voices and try to improve morale (or attitude)?
- Q&A - What motivates the Congressman? Traveling around the world to meet and support our Nation's military members. Serving the people and military of this nation.
- Q&A – What can be done for military members that are veterans but didn't serve long enough to gain access to Veteran Affairs benefits? Are there other systems that these members could be merged into for benefits? This issue has been looked at but good resolution has not been found. Aware of the issue though.

Other Announcements and Recognition