

FCP Visions

To serve and support the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base



Summer 2018

Artwork welcomes all who enter Luke

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
ALEXANDER COOK
56TH FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“When I first drove onto the base, I noticed the wall and how blank it was,” said Staff Sgt. Brandon Garza, 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics planner. “That’s when I knew something had to be done.”

After seeking approval from leadership, Garza came up with a concept design for a mural. Garza then recruited three other airmen he knew were avid painters: Airman 1st Class John Lindeman and Senior Airman Bridgette Thompson, 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance journeymen; Airman 1st Class Sarah Wisler, 56th Communications Squadron, network



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexander Cook

The team of Thunderbolt artists poses May 9 for a group photo in front of the “Welcome to Thunderbolt Nation” mural at Luke Air Force Base. Over the course of a month, the team worked together to complete the mural, which represents Luke’s heritage.

operations technician.

“There is a lot of heritage at this base that I feel wasn’t as broadly represented until now,” Garza said. “With this mural, I wanted to pay a tribute to all of the ones that have come before us as well as the aircraft that have been flown here. In the painting, we silhouetted all of the old warfighters and added color on our current fighter aircraft representing the progression of airpower here at Luke.”

Each airman was proficient in a different style of painting. Garza has experience in graffiti art, while Lindeman is used to painting landscapes. Thompson enjoys painting portraits and for Wisler, fine art.

“With each artist having their own style and technical

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behind the Main Exchange

NATION: From 1

expertise, it was really cool to see everyone's style blend together to complete this project," Garza said.

Throughout the project, the team members would evaluate their own work to ensure they were all on the same track.

"Communication played a big part," Lindeman said. "Throughout the process, we had to provide honest feedback to one another to discuss what we liked and disliked about our work."

Garza and the team hopes the mural will not only become a major landmark for the base but also provide visitors with a great location for a photo opportunity.

"We want this to be something people can remember when they come to Luke Air Force Base," Garza said.

In the future, Garza plans to start an art club on base for aspiring artists to share and grow their passion in painting.

"Communication played a big part throughout the process, we had to provide honest feedback to one another to discuss what we liked and disliked about our work."

- Airman 1st Class
John Lindeman

Team Luke runs for Air Force Assistance Fund

The run began at the base track, looped through the residential area of the base, and returned to the track. Created in 1957, the annual six-week campaign raises money for charitable affiliates that provide support to airmen and their families in times of financial need.

In 2017, airmen and their families assigned to Air Education and Training Command received more than \$200,000 in Air Force Assistance Fund.

Right, runners set off on the Air Force Assistance Fund 5-kilometer Fun Run May 11 at Luke Air Force Base. Though the wing did not reach its goal, more than 500 airmen assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing pledged more than \$40,000 to the fund.

Right, Luke airmen run down the road during the Air Force Assistance Fund 5-kilometer Fun Run May 11 at Luke Air Force Base. The run helped to raise awareness for the AFAF campaign that offers financial assistance to active duty and retired airmen and their families in the form of small loans, education loans and grants and living conditions.

U.S. Air Force photos
by Senior Airman
Ridge Shan



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Fighter Country Partnership

FCP Visions is the official publication of Fighter Country Partnership
500 Estrella Parkway Suite B2, PMB #479 Goodyear, AZ 85338
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Delivered quarterly by direct mail and as a special supplement to The Glendale Star and Peoria Times. Also posted on Fighter Country Partnership website: www.fightercountry.org,
The Glendale Star website: www.glendalestar.com and
Peoria Times website: www.peoriatimes.com

FCP Visions is produced, published and distributed exclusively by Pueblo Publishers, Inc.
Owners and operators of The Glendale Star and Peoria Times
Submit news and information to William E. Toops wtoops@star-times.com,
Fax to (623) 842-6013 or mail to FCP Visions, 7122 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85301-2436

FCP Visions

Publishing Schedule

Next Issue, Fall
September 13, 2018

Deadline: August 24, 2018

For advertising information,
rates and placement contact:

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Sponsors make golf classic a big success

Thank you to 9th Annual Fighter Country Partnership Honorary Commander Golf Classic sponsors

Every year in the late spring, Fighter Country Partnership (FCP) holds its one and only fundraiser of the year in its support for the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base. FCP held its ninth annual Honorary Commander Golf Tournament May 18 at the Wigwam resort. JDM Properties, the owner of the Wigwam and a strong supporter of Luke Air Force Base, generously donated the use of their three golf courses at the Wigwam to benefit the golf tournament.

We especially want to thank Ping (who donated a Ping putter for each golfer), Wigwam/JDM Partners, Wild Horse Pass, Sub-Zero, Sanderson Ford, and Cox Business for their support as well as all other sponsors who supported our event.

The community has traditionally shown strong support of this fundraising event. This year was no different as 92 foursomes with a total of 368 golfers and more than 80 volunteers participated. The event started with the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard presenting the colors and Senior Airman Tim Orr singing the national anthem. With all the golfers in their golf carts, a Howitzer was shot by David Kimmerle of Sanderson Ford signaling the start of the tournament.

The Honorary Commander Golf Tournament is unique in the activities it has on the golf courses. Luke AFB had its EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Squadron on the first hole of each golf course for a unique photo opportunity.

Fifteen squadrons from Luke AFB participated and were spread across the three courses to greet the golfers and enhance the player experience.

The weather was perfect, the speed of play was respectable for a tournament of this size, and all the golfers seemed to enjoy themselves as they supported the Fighter Country Partnership fundraiser.

A special VIP recognition event was held the night before for the top sponsors. At the sponsors event and at the lunch after the golf tournament, a silent auction, live auction and raffle were held to further support the cause.

A sincere thank you to all the participants, volunteers, and sponsors for the ninth annual Fighter Country Partnership Honorary Commander Golf Classic.

We are already planning next year's event, the 10th Annual Honorary Commander Golf Classic. Next year's event is one that you won't want to miss.

Bruce Larson
 Vice President - Engineering
 Westland Resources
 Member, FCP Board of Directors
 and Golf Classic Chairperson

Thank you, Fry's Food and Drug

Fighter Country Partnership and Fighter Country Foundation would like to also extend a special thank you to Fry's Food Stores with its Courageous Hearts Campaign. Over the past 5 years, the Courageous Hearts Campaign has raised more than \$200,000 for Fighter Country Partnership programs such as the Angel Tree and Operation Warmheart; both of which assist families in need over the holiday seasons. Fighter Country Foundation has been able to fund quarterly Deployed Family Events with the Luke AFB Chaplain Corps with the dollars raised during this campaign.

It is with partners such as Fry's Food and Drug that Fighter Country Partnership



Bill Johnston
 Program Director
 Fighter Country Partnership



can fulfill its mission of supporting the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base.

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425th Fighter Squadron celebrates 25 years

By STAFF SGT. JENSEN STIDHAM
56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 425th Fighter Squadron celebrated 25 years of United States Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force partnership May 22 with a parade ceremony.

Peace Carvin II, the name given to the joint-training environment between the Republic of Singapore and the U.S., is the longest operating overseas detachment for the RSAF. Since 1992, the 425th Fighter Squadron has flown the F-16C and F-16D Fighting Falcon with a mission to provide advanced weapons and tactics training to RSAF pilots and maintenance airmen.

During the parade ceremony, the guest of honor, Maj. Gen. Mervyn Tan Wei Ming, Republic of Singapore Chief of Air Force, spoke. He thanked the 56th Fighter Wing for its continued support and partnership.

“Through the years, each generation of RSAF aircrew and air force engineer that have come through the doors of the detachment has worked in conjunction with their United States Air Force counterparts to ensure that PC II continues to operate at a high level of readiness,” said Lt. Brandon Sim, RSAF officer in charge of publicity. “PC II, more fondly known as the Black Widows, has enhanced its operations by adopting the best practices from both air forces — truly achieving the best of both worlds.”

After a visual inspection of a flight of 425th Fighter Squadron airmen, Ming unveiled a new 25th anniversary, commemorative F-16 tail flash painted by the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron corrosion control.



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jensen Stidham

Maj. Gen. Mervyn Tan Wei Ming, Republic of Singapore Chief of Air Force, performs a ceremonial inspection of a flight of 425th Fighter Squadron airmen during a parade ceremony May 22 at Luke Air Force Base. The ceremony celebrated 25 years of United States Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force partnership within the 425th Fighter Squadron.

“It was very exciting to see the positive feedback from all the work we had to do to make that tail flash happen,” said Master Sgt. Zachary Marshall, 56th EMS NCO in charge of corrosion control. “It

was especially humbling to have the 56th FW, 425th FS and Singapore leadership all thanking us for the hard work. It was a daunting effort, but I have to hand it to my team’s creativity and commitment to

the task to make that possible.” PC II and the 425th remains a vital part of the USAF, RSAF partnership and a visible representation of their commitment to cooperation.



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ROC# 51293

F-35 Lightning II touches down for the 1st time in South America

By KILEY DOUGHERTY
56TH FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two F-35 Lightning IIs assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing landed in South America for the 2018 Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio, marking the first time the F-35 has been to South America.

The lead aircraft was piloted by Capt. Andrew Olson, F-35 Heritage Flight Team commander and pilot.

The aircraft arrived in Santiago, Chile, March 30 and was on public display at the FIDAE air show April 3 through 8.

Bringing the F-35 to FIDAE helped meet training needs for the aircrews and maintenance personnel for various operations, including long-range



Graphic commemorates two F-35 Lightning II aircraft assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing landing in South America for the 2018 Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio marking the first time the F-35 has been to South America.

flights, air-to-air refueling, as well as provide an opportunity to

strengthen military-to-military relationships with regional partners.

The two F-35s at FIDAE were part of the F-35 Heritage

Flight Team.

The Lightning II qualified to take part in the Air Combat Command Air Force Heritage Flight program in 2016. The team includes one pilot and 12 maintainers, all selected from Luke Air Force Base.

The F-35 Heritage Flight Team is scheduled to take part in 13 air shows for the 2018 season.

The F-35 combines fifth-generation fighter aircraft characteristics — advanced stealth, integrated avionics, sensor fusion and superior logistics support — with the most powerful and comprehensive integrated sensor package of any fighter aircraft in history.

strengthen military-to-military relationships with regional partners.

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Luke Air Force Base changes of command coming up

Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard relinquishes command of the 56th Fighter Wing to Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury at 7:56 a.m. June 20 in Hangar 431.

Brig. Gen. Todd D. Canterbury is the director, F-35 Integration Office, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Canterbury assists the Chief of Staff of the Air Force in consolidating oversight, improving communications and establishing Air Force F-35 priorities. He is responsible for integrating activities across air staff directorates, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, partners, Department of the Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, major commands and the Joint Program Office to ensure connectivity of information and decisions across the F-35 enterprise. The F-35 Integration Office is the single point of contact for all Air Force F-35A matters and is the Air Force's primary conduit of senior leader information flow to the Joint Program Office.

Canterbury entered the Air Force in May 1993 after graduating from Arizona State University ROTC in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering technology. Canterbury's as-



Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury



Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard

signments have been a mix of operational and training assignments. As an operational F-15E and MC-12 pilot, he has logged over 650 combat hours and has participated in operations Northern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

He has served as a U.S. Air Force Weapons School Instructor, Thunderbirds demonstration pilot, fighter squadron commander and wing commander. His most recent assignment was as F-35 Integration Office Operations Division Chief, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

He is a graduate of the National War College and a command pilot with more than 4,100

hours in the F-35A, F-15E, F-16 and MC-12W aircraft.

Education

1992 bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering technology, Arizona State University, Tempe

1999 Distinguished Graduate, Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

1999 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2001 master's degree in aeronautical science – aeronautics specialization, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.

2006 master's degree in mili-

tary operational art and science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2006 Air War College, by correspondence

2010 Master degree in national strategic studies, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

2012 Executive Leadership Development Program, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, N.C.

2014 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Other changes of command in June

June 15: Lt. Col. Paul Jelinek, 56th Operations Support Squadron, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Anthony St. Aubyn.

June 19: Lt. Col. Marie-Antonette Brancato, 56th Dental Squadron, relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Nathan Schwamburger.

June 21: Maj. Edward Romero, 56th Component Maintenance Squadron, relinquishes command to Maj. Julia Mafnas at 7:56 a.m. in Hangar 999.

June 21: Lt. Col. Charles Ploetz, 756th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, relinquishes command to Maj. Edward Romero at 8:30 a.m. in Hangar 999.

June 27: Col. Jeffrey Freeland, 56th Medical Support Squadron, relinquishes command at 7:56 a.m. to Col. Daniel Lamar in Hangar 999.

June 28: Lt. Col. Matthew Gaetke, 310th Fighter Squadron, relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Kristin Hubbard at 7:56 a.m. in Hangar 999.

June 29: Lt. Col. Kathryn Gaetke, 309th Fighter Squadron, relinquishes command to Lt. Col. James Smith at 7:56 a.m. in Hangar 999.

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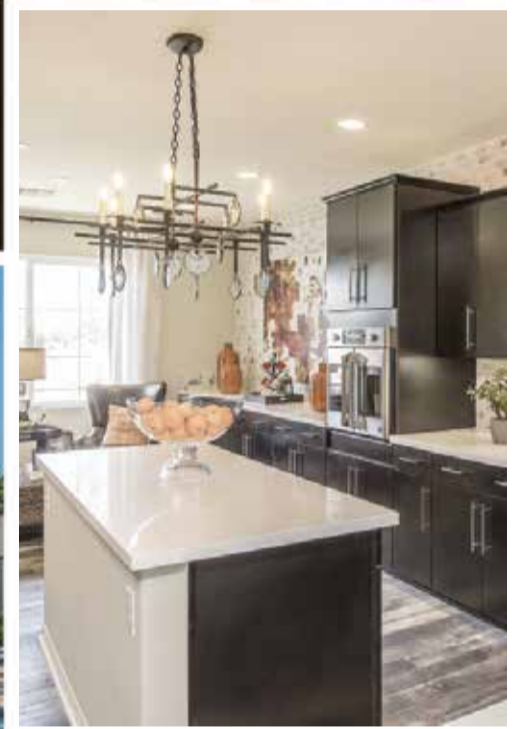
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F-16 flight 'thrill of a lifetime' for Cheri Brady

Honorary commander, Blue Blazer earns call sign 'Popper'

Fighter Country Partnership features Cheri Brady, an alumni member of the Honorary Commanders Program and currently a life member of the Blue Blazer Squadron of Fighter Country Partnership. Brady was assigned to the 310th Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base from 2009 to 2011 and is a highly engaged community leader.

Brady is vice president and senior national account manager for the national commercial services division of First American Title Insurance Co., an international provider of title, escrow and information-related products and services and longest established Arizona title insurance underwriter.

Brady began her title and escrow career in 1977 in Boise, Idaho. In 1987, she moved to San Diego to accept the position of vice president, regional director for HomeFed Bank's escrow department where she managed the activi-



Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Cheri Brady flies in an F-16 aircraft assigned to the 310th Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base led by Lt. Col. James D. McCune "AJAX."

ties of a region with six branches. In March 1993, she moved to Phoenix and joined the First Ameri-

can family where she has worked in the National Commercial Services and Home Builder divisions.

Brady serves as the founding director for the Real Estate Investment Advisory Council (RE-

IAC) from 2000 to present and presently serves as membership chair. Brady completed her second term

on the board of Valley Partnership from 2002 to 2009, and chaired its state Legislative Committee, where she followed legislation that affects the real estate community. She served as a director for the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties of Arizona (NAIOP) from 1994 to 2008 and was appointed to the national NAIOP state and local subcommittee that focused on development issues nationwide.

During her board term with Valley Partnership in 2007, Brady was invited by Rusty Mitchell, director of the Community Initiatives Team, Luke Air Force Base, to participate in the Luke Civic Leaders Tour with Brig. Gen. Tom Jones and the 161st Air Refueling Wing Commander, Col. Bill Anderson.

Brady said, "We witnessed two separate mid-flight F-16 refueling missions and toured Edwards

MORE BRADY ON 13



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* Some restrictions & blackout dates apply.

BRADY: Blue Blazer takes F-16 flight, From 12

Air Force Base, Calif., and the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. I was hooked and could not stop talking about it. I was then sponsored to participate as an honorary commander of the 310th Fighter Squadron from 2009 to 2011. After my two-year term was complete, I joined the Alpha Class of the Blue Blazer Squadron, Fighter Country Partnership in January 2013.

“My experience as an honorary commander and now as a Blue Blazer rank among the most memorable and enjoyable of my life. I am in awe of the selfless dedication and patriotism of the men and women of Luke AFB and recognize what a special privilege it is to serve them in a small way.

“Being an active Blue Blazer has afforded me the honor to participate in several activities including Haboob Havoc, Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., observing bombing and strafing at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, change of command ceremonies and roll call. I participate



Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Cheri Brady participates in the annual Luke Air Force Base “Wingman Day” feeding hundreds of Luke airmen.

in the annual golf tournament, Wingman’s Day, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, Fry’s Courageous Hearts phone bank, Air Force balls and speed mentoring. But the thrill of a lifetime was my flight in an F-16. My call sign name is ‘Popper’ and you will have to ask ‘AJAX’ how I earned it.”

Ron Sites, executive

director and president of Fighter Country Partnership, said, “We have many amazing individuals who spend the time to be present and support FCP and Luke Air Force Base. By the smile I always see on Cheri’s face, I would argue there isn’t another person who enjoys being involved with FCP and Luke more than she.”

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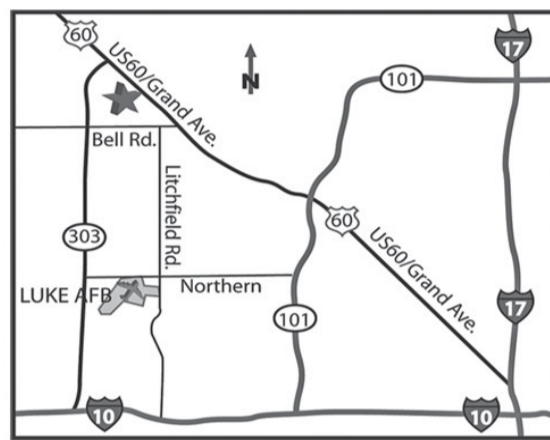


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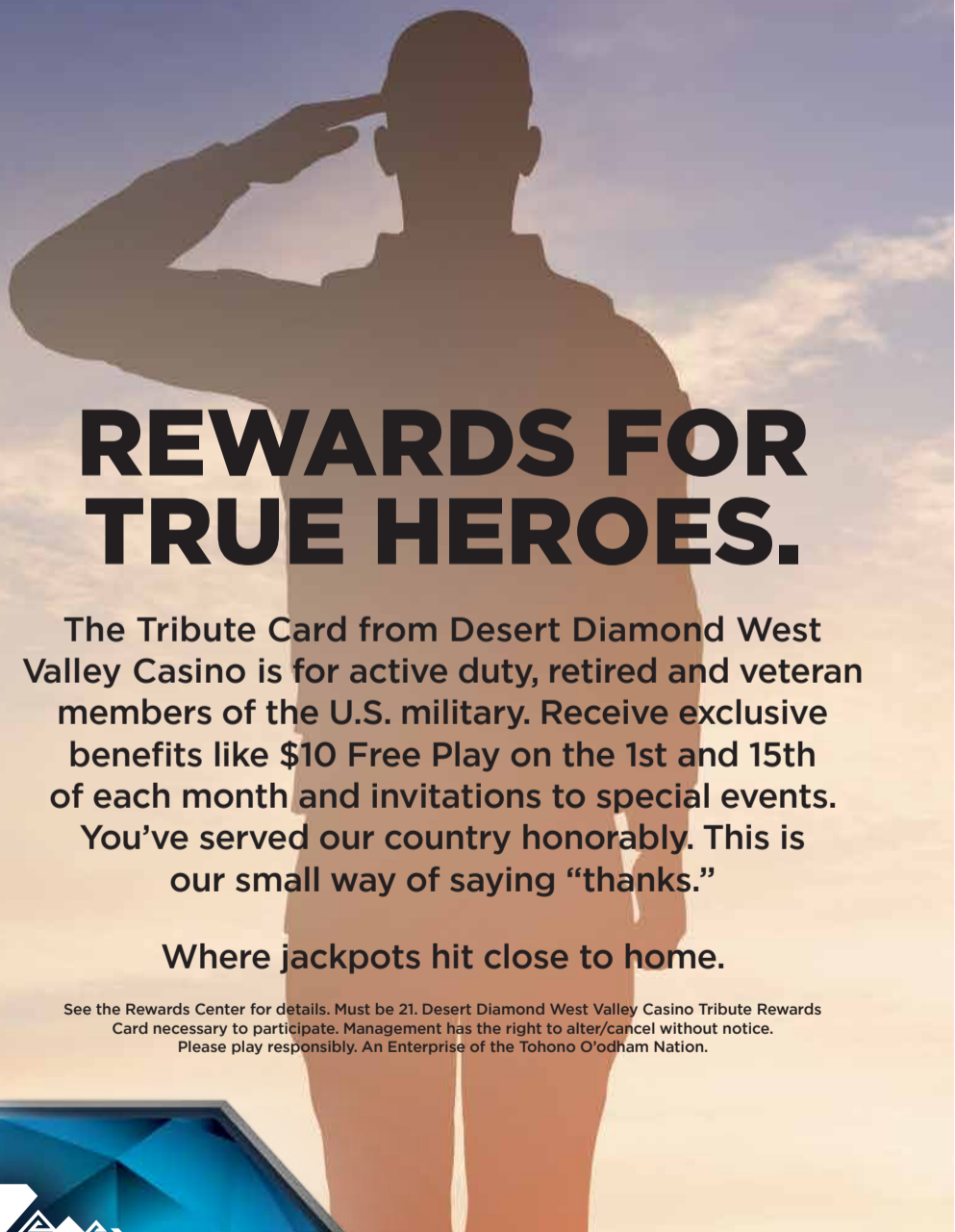


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West Valley natives serve with Navy Strike Fighter Squadrons

Glendale native serves with Top Hatters of VFA 14

By MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ELECTA BERASSA
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tim Miller
Jonathan Kennell

A 2015 Cactus High School graduate and Glendale native is currently serving with a U.S. Navy strike fighter squadron which flies one of the world's most advanced warplanes.

Airman Jonathan Kennell is with the Top Hatters of VFA 14, which operates out of Naval Air Station Lemoore. A Navy airman is responsible for launching and recovering the aircraft as well as performing maintenance.

"I have learned to respect those over me and have a good work ethic," Kennell said. "It has helped me to stay out of trouble."

Members of VFA 14 work with the F/A 18 Super Hornet, one of the most advanced aircraft in the

world. The Super Hornet takes off from and lands on Navy aircraft carriers at sea and is capable of conducting air-to-air combat as well as striking targets on land. It is approximately 61 feet long, has a loaded weight of 51,000 pounds, and a max speed of 1,190 miles per hour.

Operating from sea aboard aircraft carriers, the Super Hornet gives the Navy the power to protect America's interests anywhere, at any time. The versatile jet has the ability to destroy targets located hundreds of miles inland,

without the need to get another country's permission to operate within its borders.

"Strike Fighter Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet, based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., is the heart of Naval Aviation," said Capt. James S. Bates, Deputy Commodore, Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific. "The sailors assigned to SFWP always exceed expectations and produce amazing results through team work and dedication to their department, squadron, the U.S. Navy and their family. Naval Aviation is a chal-

lenging occupation, but our sailors work day in and day out to provide fully mission capable aircraft and fully qualified aircrew to ensure leadership is able to answer national level tasking. I am humbled to be able to lead the sailors of SFWP and I am proud to call Lemoore my home."

Kennell has military ties with family members who serve and is honored to carry on the family tradition.

"My brother is in the Marines," Kennell said. "I always thought about joining the military."

Kennell is also proud of his contribution to the command.

"I like working on the aircraft," Kennell said. "I think they are very cool."

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied-upon assets, Kennell and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes providing the Navy the nation needs.

"Serving in the Navy means having higher morals and a better character," Kennell said.

Surprise native serves with Fighting Redcocks of VFA 22

By KAYLA TURNBOW
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Alexander Penrose

A 2011 Primavera Online High School graduate and Surprise native is currently serving with a U.S. Navy strike fighter squadron, which flies one of the world's most advanced warplanes.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Penrose is an aviation administrationman with the Fighting Redcocks of VFA 22, which operates out of Naval Air Station Lemoore.

A Navy aviation administrationman is responsible for keeping records of all parts of the aircraft.

Like his West Valley neighbor, Jonathan Kennell of VFA 14, Penrose also works with the F/A 18 Super Hornet, one of the

most advanced aircraft in the world.

"My parents taught me good manners," Penrose said. "That really helped me survive boot camp. I like working with the squadron because I enjoy meeting new people and seeing what I can learn from them."

Penrose is proud of being selected as Blue-jacket of the Quarter in 2017.

"I was originally from Russia. I came here when I was 9 years old and got my citizenship," Penrose said. "I joined the Navy to be able to give back to this country."



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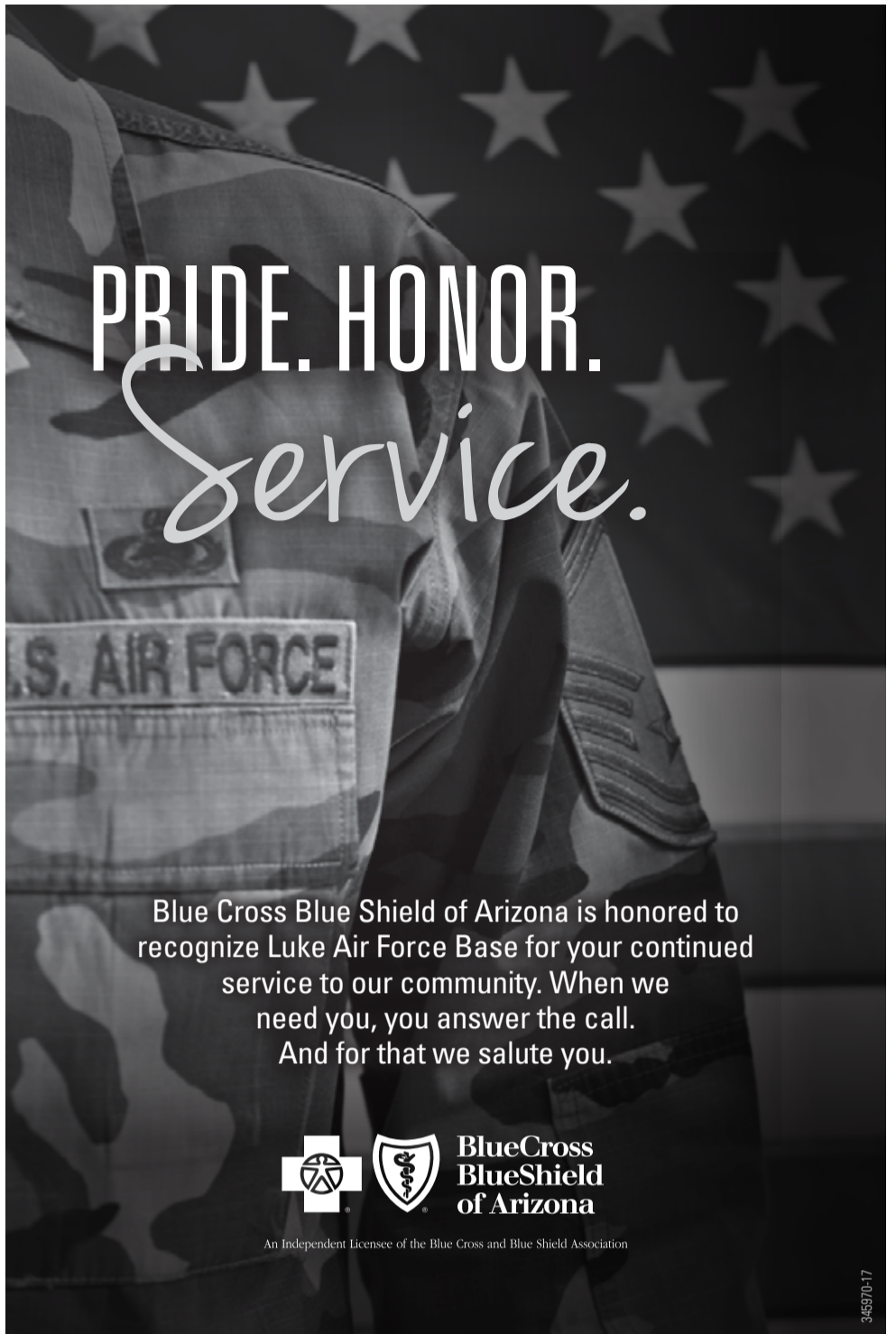


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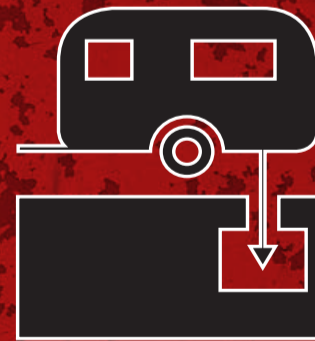
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Gold Star mom tells why we should remember

By CAROLYN DRYER
EDITOR

Darryl Walker, U.S. Air Force Maj. (ret.), a C-130 navigator during his career, was a special guest speaker at the May 28 Memorial Day service at West Resthaven Park and Cemetery. He acknowledged all branches of the service, his wife and family, mother and father, his brother and other members of his family, including nieces and nephews and friends.

Walker quoted President Ronald Reagan about there being certain sadness when it comes to the death of a serviceman. He said we usually see servicemen as old men with gray hair, "but they were boys. They gave up everything for us and all we can do is remember. There's something about remembering — flying a flag, attending a parade, wearing a poppy."

Then, Walker said, "Army Specialist A. J. Walker, 23, Sept. 18,



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

Annie Walker, a Gold Star mother, talks about her late son's life during the Memorial Day service May 28 at West Resthaven Park and Cemetery.

2007, was killed in Iraq. We reminisce about football, youth camps, playing the drums, his big heart and his zest for Jesus. But some days, we hear a new story about A.J."

Walker said he got a call two days before Memorial Day from "Jonathan," a

man who served with A.J., who told him he was thinking about A.J. Jonathan also wanted to tell Walker another story and let him know he was "just calling to remember."

Walker said A.J.'s captain called two years ago, "to let us know he had

named his newborn son after A.J. There's power in the sword; it protects us and keeps veterans in our thoughts and our minds."

Walker and his wife, Annie, have two other children, Alice and Andy, who were present at the Memorial Day ceremony.

But that day, Walker gave part of his speaking time to Annie, so she could tell the story of their late son's life.

"As Darryl said, Memorial Day, I want to remember my soldier," Annie said. "A.J. grew up like many military service kids: Every payday at the commissary and every summer waiting until 1300 for the pool to open."

In 1995, when A.J. was 8 years old, Annie said the only communication was a land line phone. There was a certain time on a certain day when the family could talk to their deployed serviceman. No Skype. No Facebook. No Twitter. By the time A.J. was 10, his father was gone on another extended tour.

One of those days came the words from A.J., "I hate the Air Force," Annie said. "I remember that night very clearly. He wanted to know where his dad was and why he was gone so much. I sat him down and explained America wanted the world to know the freedom we

enjoy and heroes have to go where heroes are needed.

"At 21, A.J. approached his dad and said, 'You've done your part; now it's time for me to do mine.'"

Annie then began to read excerpts from A.J.'s letters regarding his passion for what he was doing — "answering the call" and saying, "Evil will not prevail, not while I stand and my brothers stand."

She repeated: Sept. 18, 2007, Bagdad, Iraq.

She said, "I'm so grateful to share with you about my soldier. We have known the memories of our heroes and we need to share those memories."

Following Annie Walker was someone who appreciated the sharing of memories: Mike Pearson, a third-generation combat veteran. He gave a history of Memorial Day, told the group at the ceremony about the 25 American military cemeteries on foreign soil. But he also told those in attendance to "remember the dead by serving the living."

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As the summer vacation season goes into full swing, so do United Blood Services' efforts to ramp up blood donations. Vacations and school recesses prevent many organizations from holding blood drives in the summer months – the source of more than half of Arizona's blood supply.

The weeks surrounding the Independence Day holiday have traditionally been the most difficult time of the summer to meet patient blood needs. To help solve this problem, Luke Air Force Base has scheduled several blood drives to make it convenient to save lives. While donors of all blood types are needed, O-negative is always in greatest demand. For a list of locations and to make an appointment, visit www.BloodHero.com (Sponsor Code: LAFB) or call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376) – base access credentials required.

Become a superhero by giving blood this summer at Luke



Superhero Spiderman grabs a ride on a Volkswagen Tiguan.

Photos courtesy United Blood Service

Air Force Base and be automatically entered to win a Tiguan 2.0T S. Valley Volkswagen dealers have donated the car and partnered with United Blood Services in the ninth annual campaign to help inspire more people to give blood this summer. Ten finalists will be drawn from among Arizona's

May 25 to Sept. 7 blood donors to participate in the grand prize ceremony. They will be unveiled throughout the summer on AZ-TV, media partner for the "Summer Drive to Save Lives" campaign.

During the three-month summer campaign with Valley Volkswagen dealers, United

Blood Services hopes to attract nearly 50,000 blood donors to save lives in Arizona hospitals. Those donors will help kids like 17-year-old Owen, who was diagnosed with bone cancer when he was just six years old. Blood transfusions helped Owen survive 100 limb-saving surgeries.



Blood transfusions helped Owen Gauntt survive 100 limb-saving surgeries.

"I will always be grateful to blood donors because they helped me fight cancer," Owen said. "Blood donors are my superheroes."

"The seven Valley Volkswagen dealers genuinely believe in giving back to the communities in which we live and do business," Lunde's Peoria Volkswagen owner Dennis Lunde said, on behalf of the dealerships. "What better way is there than to support United Blood Services in their efforts to make sure there is an adequate blood supply for those in need."



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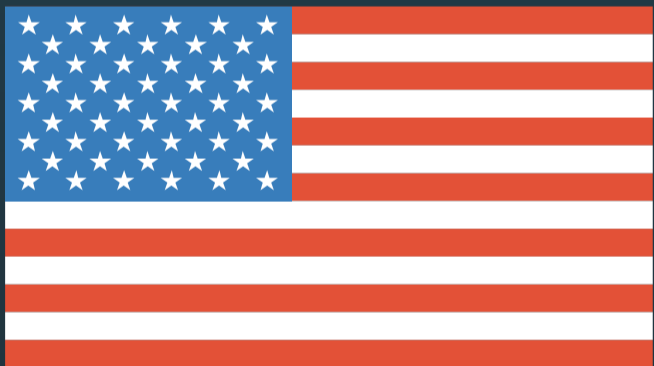
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Taste of Luke brings out the chefs



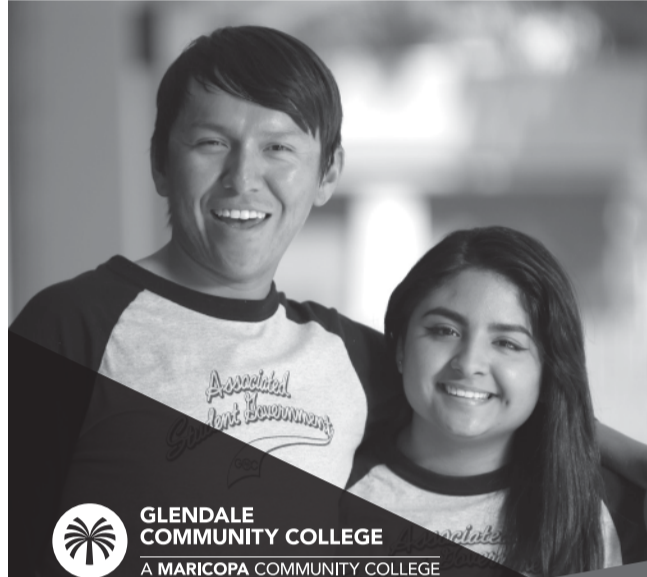
Joe Lucidi, a local restaurant owner, judges an appetizer during the Taste of Luke cooking competition. The other two judges were also from local restaurants.

By SENIOR AIRMAN
RIDGE SHAN
56TH FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three teams of Luke Airmen competed against each other in a Taste of Luke competition May 9 to cook Asian-inspired food in honor of Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which took place throughout May at Luke Air Force Base.



Airman 1st Class Joel Hendrickson, 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, and Senior Airman David Escobar, 56th Force Support Squadron food service apprentice, prepare Asian-style food for judging. They were one of three teams in the competition.



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The finished product of Airman 1st Class Joel Hendrickson, 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, and Senior Airman David Escobar's, 56th Force Support Squadron food service apprentice, sits on a tray ready for judging. Hendrickson and Escobar took first place.



A judge writes down his score after tasting an appetizer during the Taste of Luke cooking competition. Food was judged based on criteria, such as presentation, flavor, and incorporation of special ingredients.



A competitor at the Taste of Luke cooking competition peels an avocado during the cooking competition, which required competitors to cook three different dishes, an appetizer, an entrée, and a dessert, to complete a three-course meal.

U.S. Air Force photos
by Senior Airman Ridge Shan



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Chamber, city recognize graduates entering military

By CARY HINES
Assistant Editor

Soon-to-be West Valley graduates who have committed to military service were honored during the second annual Induction Ceremony April 28 at Calvary Church in Glendale.

The event was hosted by the Glendale Office of the Mayor and the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military & Veterans Affairs Committee.

The ceremony began with remarks from Master of Ceremonies Jeffery J. Turner, Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military & Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, followed by the posting of the colors by the Civil Air Patrol, 388th Composite Squadron.

Sounds of the Southwest Singers Community Choir sang the national anthem, an invocation was given by the Rev. Mark Martin of Calvary Church, and the choir then sang "America the Beautiful."

Opening remarks were delivered by Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, who told the recruits, "Today, you are doing the right thing. Your community appreciates you and we have your back."

Next, a video was played of Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, command chief of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, performing the song "Heroes" written by Mike Munsterman of Renegade Rail.

Certificates and challenge coins were handed out, starting with Army recruits, who outnumbered the other three branches of recruits nearly two to one.

Weiers explained that challenge coins date back to World War I and that a commander or someone up the command chain would present one to recognize a special achievement. He said it could be for courage or for showing leadership, honesty or anything that recognizes the recipient as exceptional.



Photo courtesy Glendale Chamber of Commerce

High school graduates take the Oath of Induction at the 2nd Annual Military Induction Ceremony April 28. The event was presented by the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and the City of Glendale Office of the Mayor.

"Often times, you can't give someone an increase in pay, or a promotion in rank, so the challenge coin is a very special recognition for something extraordinary," he said. "The most important stamp on the coin is where it says: 'The First To Say Thank You.'"

Lt. Col. David Clukey, U.S. Army Phoenix Recruiting Battalion commander, said, "Events like this are crucial," adding that 70 percent of high schoolers don't qualify for military service, with obesity accounting for the majority of disqualifications.

He listed five charac-

teristics of veterans, the first being, "Veterans can learn anything on the fly," he said.

No. 2 is punctuality, he said, adding, "If you're not 15 minutes early, you're late."

No. 3: courtesy to superiors.

"Nobody knows chain of command like a vet-

eran," he said.

No. 4 is loyalty and No. 5 is work ethic, he said, explaining that a veteran will shoulder more than his task.

Maj. Scott Stewart, commanding officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station Phoenix, spoke before Marine recruits were given their certificates and challenge coins.

He applauded the recruits for volunteering "when volunteering isn't the most popular thing to do," he said, adding, "I'm proud of all of you."

Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie Woods of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke took the podium before the Air Force recruits were acknowledged.

He said joining the military isn't an easy decision to make, but the support the recruits have been shown by their family, friends and the community has made the decision easier.

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Photo courtesy Glendale Chamber of Commerce

The winning Luke Shoot-Out team, Scott Spillman, Jack Mulligan and Chris Bjurlin, are pictured with Monika Nylund, chamber team member emeritus.

Luke Shoot-Out sells out again

Sold out again, is a great thing to say about the 37th Annual Luke Shoot-Out Golf Tournament held in April at Falcon Dunes Golf Course.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful sunny day of golf, contests, drawings and an awards luncheon. Lerner and Rowe stepped up as the Putting Contest sponsor and the Hole in One sponsor was Larry H. Miller Dodge Ram Avondale.

The first place team, flight A, was from BNC National Bank: Scott Spillman, Ron Castro, Chris Bjurlin and Jack Mulligan (great name for a golfer).

The first place team in flight B was sponsored by AmeriFirst Mortgage: Brian Gallegos, Gilbert Castillo, Richard Alcorn and Bo Brafford.

In flight C, the first place team was from Blue Cross Blue Shield: Jean Higginbotham, Ann Bean, Marci Cragg and Susan Sanchez.

The putting contest winner was Mike Sessler from the Striventa team.

Closest to the Pin winners were Jason Janda, Alaska USA; Delbert Hawk, IBEW Local 640; Scott Spillman, BNC National Bank and Mike Merrill, Cox Business.

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Luke Shoot-Out, April 5 at Falcon Dunes.

INDUCTION: From 22

an elite organization," he said, referring to members of the armed forces as the "1 percenters."

"You're the best of the best," he said. "Your sacrifices will exceed that of a normal American."

Woods shared a story of a boy throwing starfish on a beach back into the ocean when an old man approached him and asked why he was doing it.

The boy said he was throwing them back in so they wouldn't die. The old man said there were too many and that it wouldn't make a difference, when the boy picked one up, threw it in and said, "I just made a difference for that one." Woods said the recruits "are that little boy."

Navy recruits, who numbered half as many as Marine Corps and Air Force and less than a quarter as Army, were the last to receive their certificates and coins.

Chief Petty Officer Dominic Guilliano said success is gauged through a great deal of sacrifice.

No Coast Guard recruits from the West Valley were at the ceremony.

The event concluded with the recruits taking a ceremonial oath administered by Clukey, the choir singing "Salute to the Armed Services" — with recruits and audience members from each branch joining in — and "God Bless America," closing remarks and the retiring of the colors.

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