



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

## SEIDEL CHAPTER

### DALLAS 232



March 2018

## “Status of our Military Forces and the Politics that are Driving the Configuration of our Military”



Mr. Allen B. West

Lieutenant Colonel Allen West believes it will be principled constitutional conservative policies, not politics, which secures a sound economic future for Americans – with growth, opportunity and returning the promise of the American dream for this generation and those to come.

He is the third of four generations of military servicemen in his family. During his 22 year career in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel West served in several combat zones and received many honors including a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, one with Valor device, and a Valorous Unit Award. In 1993 he was named the US Army ROTC Instructor of the Year.

In November of 2010, Allen was elected to the United States Congress, representing Florida’s 22nd District. As a member of the 112th Congress, he sat on the Small Business and Armed Services Committees and was instrumental in passage of the 2011 and 2012 National Defense Authorization Acts.

He is a Fox News Contributor, Senior Fellow at the Media Research Center, contributing columnist for Townhall.com, and author of *Guardian of the Republic: An American Ronin’s Journey to Family, Faith and Freedom*. He is the former Executive Director of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas Texas. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee as well as two Masters degrees.

LTC. West is a legacy life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, life member of the American Legion, life member of the Association of the United States Army and the Society of the First Infantry Division, Patriot Life Member (Benefactor) and Board of Directors member of the National Rifle Association. Lieutenant Colonel West is an inductee into the University of Tennessee Army ROTC Hall of Fame. He is on the Board of Advisors of Amegy Bank, Dallas Region. West was appointed by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. He is married to Dr. Angela Graham-West, a financial adviser, and they have two daughters, Aubrey, who recently graduated with her Masters from SMU, now attending Physician Assistant school in West Virginia, and youngest daughter Austen.

### THIS QUARTER’S PROGRAM

“Status of our Military Forces and the Politics  
that are Driving the Configuration of our Military”

When:

Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
11 :30 am — Gathering and Social Hour  
12:00 pm — Luncheon and Presentation

Menu:

Member’s Buffet  
Three Entrées with sides  
Salad and Dessert

Where:

Gleneagles Country Club  
5401 W. Park Blvd.  
Plano, Texas 75093  
972-866-6666



Directions: Take Dallas North Tollway to W. Park Blvd. in Plano.  
Go east about 1.6 miles on W. Park Blvd.  
Gleneagles Country Club is on the north side.

### RESERVATION COUPON

Please reserve the following number of tickets for the  
March 14th AFA Quarterly Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Individuals @ \$25.00 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Military in Uniform @ \$20 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 18 years of age and under @ \$20 each.

When: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Where: Gleneagles Country Club  
5401 W. Park Blvd.  
Plano, Texas 75093

For reservations go to [www.afadallas.org](http://www.afadallas.org) and click on  
*Events / Reservations*

OR

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make your check payable to: Seidel Chapter—AFA 232  
Mail to: Paul Hendricks  
711 Glenwood Circle  
Fairview, TX 75069

FOR LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS CALL:  
Paul Hendricks (469) 667-7750 or [pmh1004@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmh1004@sbcglobal.net)



## Message from Seidel Chapter President



Happy New Year Chapter members and friends! This may seem like a strange greeting for this time of year, however, this is our first newsletter of 2018. Hopefully you are having a great 2018! Our Executive Committee met this week to discuss our plans to continue to engage the three key mission elements of the Air Force Association:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security
- **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power and STEM education
- **SUPPORT** the total Air Force family, and promote aerospace education

We are supporting these mission elements by actively working in our communities on multiple efforts. We want to enhance our visible Air Force presence in our communities while we encourage growth and membership participation in our outreach activities. We are working with our community youth as we foster the Earle North Parker scholarship essay contest. The essay topic this year is: "Non-commissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?" This will surely be a mind provoking topic for our youth as well as our active duty and retirees.

We are in search of highly accomplished STEM teachers that will compete for Texas State and National honors as the Teacher of the Year. We need your recommendations.

Finally, we are reaching out to our Texas Air National Guard, local active duty Air Force Units and the Civil Air Patrol to promote the total Air Force presence in our communities.

Our Executive Committee cannot accomplish these mission initiatives without your assistance. We are developing additional outreach opportunities and community events. We need your active participation and hands-on guidance to support these objectives. I highly encourage you to contact me ([pmh1004@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmh1004@sbcglobal.net)) and indicate your desire and ability to become involved in our Air Force Association Chapter initiatives.

In our last newsletter we highlighted the opportunity to now shop online the military exchanges. This can be a significant benefit for online shoppers who want to save money and enjoy shopping from the convenience of their homes. I used this method of shopping for the holidays – it was easy and very fast delivery! This opportunity is open to all qualified Veterans. Go to [www.VetVerify.org](http://www.VetVerify.org) to verify proof of service. Once verified visit the following websites: [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com), [www.shopcgx.com](http://www.shopcgx.com), [www.mymcx.com](http://www.mymcx.com) and [www.mynavyexchange.com](http://www.mynavyexchange.com).

In our effort to provide continuous improvement in our AFA Chapter, we are relocating our Membership meetings to the Gleneagles Country Club: 5401 W Park Blvd, Plano, TX 75093. We believe the new location will provide an enhancement in the catering and excellent facilities to host our luncheon meetings. We will look forward to your feedback and recommendations. Note: Valet Parking is provided for our meeting attendees!

Our 2018 first quarter Membership meeting is planned for March 14<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate this meeting will be a signature meeting to kick-off a spectacular year! In addition to the new meeting location and the outstanding luncheon menu, our guest speaker will be Allen West. He is a former US Representative and is currently a news commentator for Fox News. I have had the opportunity to hear Allen speak several times and have been surprised and impressed with his knowledge and frank comments. You will not want to miss this excellent opportunity to hear Allen West speak on the state of our military and the politics that are driving them. You will not be disappointed – I promise!

I will look forward to hearing from you and discussing exciting ways to engage and support our communities and the AFA mission. Be sure to visit our web page: <http://www.afadallas.org> and like our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SeidelDallasChapter232AirForceAssociation>.

I will see you at our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Call me (469-667-7750) if you need a ride!

*Paul Hendricks*

Paul Hendricks  
[pmh1004@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmh1004@sbcglobal.net)  
President, Seidel AFA Chapter 232



# Thank you for your service: America's shrinking military



By Ralph Negron

Printed in the Cape Cod Times Newspaper 8 Jan 18

In 1969, the 101st Airborne Division (the Screaming Eagles) fought one of the hardest battles of the Vietnam War. For 11 days, paratroopers from the 101st fought the battle-hardened 29th North Vietnamese Army Regiment, which was solidly entrenched on top of a hill the troops named "Hamburger Hill." After 11 days of fierce fighting in treacherous monsoon weather conditions, the Screaming Eagles were finally able to wrestle the hill from its tough North Vietnamese occupiers. But it came at a steep price - 76 U.S. soldiers were killed and almost 400 more wounded.

In the same year, protesters organized the biggest demonstration of the era in Washington, D.C. The evening news showed enthusiastic demonstrators waving North Vietnamese flags and chanting in unison "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh." Hundreds of Americans enthusiastically waved flags that the Screaming Eagles had fought so hard to defeat.

Adding insult to injury, the provocative chant made a mockery of the U. S. government, which considered Ho Chi Minh and North Vietnam a threat to national security. It was convenient to dismiss these acts on the naiveté of mostly young college-age protesters. But the savvy activists fully comprehended the significance of the symbols they were using to dramatize their objections. In 1969, we had become a nation at war with itself.

Americans had grown weary of war. Many disengaged themselves from the fighting raging on the other side of the world; unless, of course, there was a loved one still in the fight. Few Americans at the time paid much attention to the heroic actions of the Screaming Eagles in 1969. The battle is noteworthy, however, because it exposed the ultimate irony of the Vietnam War; which is that we won all the battles, like Hamburger Hill, but lost the war. Not to a foreign army, but to the loss of support from the American people.

There are many lessons from the Vietnam War, but none more important than the idea that a democratic nation cannot sustain a war without the will of its people. The loss of public support left government overseers with few options. There appears to be a similar public withdrawal developing today but it has taken a different passage.

Currently, America has the smallest number of citizens ever to serve in the armed forces. Less than 1 percent of the U.S. population is serving in uniform on active duty, the National Guard or reserves. This small group provides the thin veil that stands between America and its many foes. They get bloodied, endure squalid living conditions multiple deployments to dangerous places, and too often die so that you and I can remain safe.

In conjunction with the declining armed forces is the rapidly diminishing veteran population. Veterans provide an important bridge linking mutual understanding between the armed forces and the rest of the population. Through aging, the large veteran populations from World War I I , Korea, and Vietnam have rapidly declined. Today less than 5 percent of the total U.S. population has ever been in uniform. The result is a nation with little firsthand knowledge about military service or war.

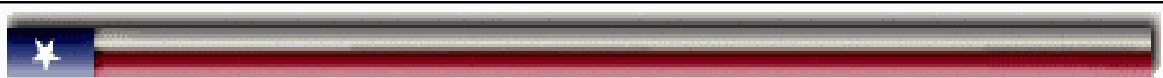
In 1969, Americans deliberately created a wall separating themselves from the military establishment out of weariness for the Vietnam War. Today the wall has re-emerged from complacency and lack of engagement by a public that has limitless respect for the men and women in uniform but prefers not to think about them or the possibilities of war.

The phrase "thank you for your service" has become a popular phrase used by well meaning citizens to express gratitude to members of the military community and veterans. Although I believe that most veterans appreciate the thought, it has a hollow ring since the person conveying the gratitude has no idea or interest about the realities of new norm is to praise the military and support it without the skepticism that might be applied to other government institutions funded by American taxpayers. Support of the military might be the only bipartisan topic of agreement in Congress today.

As a quantitative measure of American confidence in its military, a recent Gallup poll indicates that 75 percent of the American public has full confidence in the U.S. armed services, as opposed to only 7 percent confidence in Congress. And with good reason. The professional armed forces that currently defend us is the best trained, best educated, motivated, and disciplined force that America has ever fielded. But it faces an imminent threat from a public that has "no skin in the game."

General Douglas MacArthur once said: "The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." MacArthur's comment is a poignant reminder that a nation needs engaged citizens who fully comprehend the consequences of going to war. And the Vietnam War is a good reminder that going to war has dire consequences unless a fully engaged citizenry supports it.

- Ralph Negron of Sandwich is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam



## Lt. Col. Burdon "Dave" Davidson

December 25, 1920 - November 28, 2017

Lieutenant Colonel Burdon (Dave) Davidson, World War II pilot and Seidel Chapter member, passed away on November 28, 2017. Dave's life adventures ranged from flying a B-24 Liberator bomber during World War II, to rebuilding and flying his British "Tiger Moth" biplane to his building and flying his "MA-5 Charger" biplane to far away places. His ultimate flight was across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe and back again to the United States. These two flights accomplished world records, as no one had ever before flown an open cockpit biplane solo across the Atlantic Ocean, not alone both ways.

Upon graduating from U.S. Army Air Corps flying school in June, 1943, he was assigned to fly B-24s with the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Bomb Squadrons, 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the South Pacific Theater. In 1943 and 1944 Lt Col Davidson flew 50 combat missions as B-24 pilot. At age 22, he was the second oldest person on his ten man crew. Lt Col Davidson and his crew flew to specific island destinations, to bomb islands that the Japanese held. Each island was protected by anti-aircraft guns and Japanese Zero fighter planes. These missions were accomplished without fighter plane escort since the missions were eight to ten hours long and beyond our fighters' range.

In 2009 he met Monica, who had been widowed the year before. From the first time they danced, the sparks flew and they were besotted. The rest as they say, "Is history." David and Monica were married in 2012.

## Seidel Chapter Teacher of the Year Award

The Seidel Chapter is searching for an outstanding Texas teacher who has demonstrated exceptional ability to motivate students in the Aerospace disciplines. The purpose of the Teacher of the Year program is to recognize classroom teachers for their accomplishments and achievements in exciting K-12 students about science and math (STEM) and preparing them to use and contribute to tomorrow's technologies.

The winner of the Seidel Chapter contest will be nominated for AFA Texas Teacher of the Year. Tough competition? Yes, but we have great teachers. Rewards are good—\$500 for winning Seidel Chapter contest and \$1,000 for winning the AFA Texas contest.

We need your help, your eyes and ears. Do you know a teacher that should be considered? If so, contact Ric Hamer at [rhamer@aol.com](mailto:rhamer@aol.com) or 214-769-1078 and give him as many details as you can.

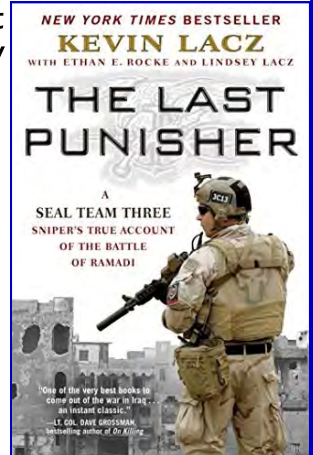
## Military History Book Club Breakfast

The objective of the Military History Book Club is to encourage attendees to support Military Organizations. The Military History Book Club meets about every two months. The breakfasts are complimentary, but you need to RSVP (see below). Do not hesitate to bring friends.

### *The Last Punisher: A SEAL Team Three Sniper's True Account of the Battle of Ramadi*

Released in February 2017, *The Last Punisher* has been widely acclaimed as the most realistic and down-to-earth account of the combat experiences of some of the most elite warriors in our military. Author Kevin Lacz was a teammate of legendary SEAL sniper Chris Kyle, and assisted in the production of the Kyle biopic *American Sniper*. Reviewers call the book "one of the very best books to come out of the war in Iraq" and "a rare glimpse into the mind of a Navy SEAL"

- ◆ Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018
- ◆ Time: 7:30AM – 8:30AM
- ◆ Where: Canyon Creek Club, 625 W. Lookout Dr, Richardson, TX 75080
- ◆ RSVP: to Robert Epstein at [Macabee1948@aol.com](mailto:Macabee1948@aol.com)
- ◆ Moderator: Lt Gen John Campbell, USAF (Ret), combat fighter pilot, four commands, 34 year AF career. Central Intelligence Agency.



## Amazon & Tom Thumb Support Seidel Chapter Educational Programs

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, we have good news! The Seidel Chapter is now enrolled in the Amazon Smile Program. Amazon Smile allows you to help us fund CAP Cadets scholarships for Flight Academies, the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, Youth Leadership Conferences and other youth education programs. If you would like to help to provide funds that are so meaningful to the young people, please sign up with the Amazon Smile Program. It does not cost you a dime.



First of all, you need to have an Amazon account. Go to Amazon.com to establish an account. Then, to register your account with the Seidel Chapter Amazon Smile Program, click on the following link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-6053206>. This will open a link to the Amazon Smile website, and ask you if you would like to have "Air Force Association" as your charity. If you click, "Yes", from then on, any time you sign in to Smile.Amazon.com, any purchase you make will automatically

allow 1/2% of the purchase amount to be credited to the Seidel Chapter account. It is important to note that, even though you have registered your account to be linked to our charity, you must sign on to the smile.amazon.com website. If you simply continue to sign on to amazon.com, we will not receive anything. The easiest way to ensure you are always signed on to Amazon Smile is to copy this address (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-6053206>) and enter it into the address on your internet browser. Make it one of your Favorites on your computer. Please send this link above to all your friends, relatives, and business associates, and ask them to register their Amazon account through the link, AND to remember to sign on to smile.amazon.com.



Also do not forget by using your Tom Thumb Reward Cards you can help provide funds for our youth education programs. All you need to do is GO to the Tom Thumb Service Desk and designate the AFA Aerospace Education as your charity of choice by completing a Tom Thumb order form. Our chapter's number for the form is 6568. After you register as a supporter of the AFA

Aerospace Education Fund, Tom Thumb will pay 1% of your purchases to the fund. Remember, by participating in the Amazon Smile or Tom Thumb Reward Cards programs, you are making an investment in our young people AND it cost you nothing but a little bit of your time.

## Earle North Parker Essay Contest Winner

The Seidel Chapter—Dallas wishes to congratulate Trifeena Marie James of Hebron High School as the 1st place winner of the 2018 Seidel Chapter Earle North Parker Essay Contest. The subject for this year's contest is: "Noncommissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?"

In Ms. James essay, she concludes the 'having enlisted pilots enables the Air Force to proliferate its strength as a military branch, perpetuate a merit based system, and diversify its enlistment of private citizens for modern missions and agendas. Continuing to maintain the strength of the United States Air Force in the face of domestic and global danger is essential: having noncommissioned officers in action has the Air Force being ahead of the change and not adapting in the face of change (therefore, a potential catastrophe). The new face of the Air Force and the RPA agenda presents itself to be the dynamic, innovative new future of the Air Force thus continuing the hope of our airmen and our military: protecting our great nation's freedoms and its citizens."

In addition to the \$500 prize Trifeena will receive for winning our chapter contest, her outstanding essay has been submitted to the Texas state committee to compete in the state contest. The AFA-Texas Earle North Parker Essay state winners will be awarded scholarships for \$2,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$1,000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Please, wish Trifeena good luck with her outstanding essay!

### Coming Events

- Seidel Chapter Executive Council Meeting  
March 8, 2018
- Seidel Chapter Quarterly Membership Meeting  
March 14, 2018
- AFA Texas Executive Council Meeting  
College Station - March 16-18, 2018
- Seidel Chapter Executive Council Meeting  
April 12, 2018
- Seidel Chapter Executive Council Meeting  
May 10, 2018

### SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We wish to thank our Community Partners.

Navy Federal Credit Union.....866-661-7650  
 Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union...469-571-4637  
 Stanford L. Sewell.....stan@stansewell.com  
 US Coast Guard Auxiliary.....214-349-6584

### SEIDEL CHAPTER AFA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Paul Hendricks	469-667-7750
EXEC. VP:	CMSgt Matt Crawford	214-263-3627
SECRETARY:	Fletcher Sharp	214-766-1212
TREASURER:	Bob Gehbauer	972-306-2270



PLEASE SUPPORT  
THIS PROGRAM  
THAT BENEFITS

### TEXAS AFA SCHOLARSHIPS

These specialty plates cost \$30 over the cost of the regular plates; \$8 of this goes to the State and the remaining \$22 goes into escrow for AFA to draw on for scholarships. The plates can be ordered anytime. You do not need to wait until your current plate expires.

The process is as follows:

1. Go to <http://www.txdmv.gov>
2. Click on "Specialty License Plates" on Most Visited menu
3. Click on Air Force Association plate
4. Follow prompts
5. TxDMV will send the license plates to your County Tax Office for you to pick up.

TO:

Paul Hendricks  
711 Glenwood Circle  
Fairview, TX 75069

In Care Of:

