

The **GOE** **Newsletter**
INSPIRE AIRPOWER'S FUTURE

GATHERING OF EAGLES



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ANNIVERSARY

1982-2022

HONORING HERITAGE - SERVING COMMUNITY - FORGING FUTURES

THIS ISSUE!

THE 2022 EAGLES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS



GATHERING OF EAGLES FOUNDATION

CharMeeka Scroggins
GOEF PRESIDENT



Our team hit the ground running since the start of the academic year! We remain committed to serving the local students of the River Region through our staple educational programs by volunteering, fundraising, and offering STEM exposure opportunities. With over 50 volunteers signed up to date, our efforts with STARBASE Maxwell have enabled us to connect with local 5th-grade students and garner their interest in STEM occupations. We have also recently unveiled our inaugural Mentoring Program "Soaring Higher" for grades 6th-8th in collaboration with Bellingrath Middle School and Southside Church of Christ. Additionally, we are facilitating the reinvigoration of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) program with Goodwyn Middle School and the local CAP detachment.

Our fundraising efforts over the past months have remained steady to meet our goal to raise over \$25,000 to provide STEM scholarships for River Region students and AFROTC cadets. I have recently published a sponsorship letter detailing the various ways that you can give monetary donations to our cause. Feel free to review the details and consider supporting our cause. Again we are committed and excited to continue our service to the local students of the River Region! We look forward to your committed partnership as we venture through this time, and we cannot do this without the help of our River Region partners!

GATHERING OF EAGLES PROGRAM

Katie Kuc
GOE PRESIDENT



The Gathering of Eagles (GOE) team is thrilled to announce our academic year 2022 Eagles! We spent over two months reviewing several dozen candidates before making our selection. These final eight Eagles are an impressive and diverse group with a common bond: they've each made significant contributions to air and space power. Each Eagle is highlighted in the following pages of this newsletter.

Since its inception in 1982, the GOE program has sought to honor aerospace heritage and to inspire military and community leaders of the future. Honored Eagles will have the opportunity to tell their story to the Maxwell AFB and the Montgomery communities at our CAPSTONE event occurring May 23-25, 2022. They will also have their stories immortalized in the annual published GOE book, which will be available in May 2022. This GOE program continues to stand true to its mission to Honor Heritage, Serve Community and Forge Futures. We look forward to the opportunity to share the legacy of these Eagles and inspire future generations to invest in air and space power.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from the GOEF and GOE Presidents

AY 2022 Eagles

Scholarships

Outreach

Fundraising

On the Cover:

Top: The first AC-47 "Puff" taken in Vietnam 1965

Left: Bob Hope. This is to commemorate his early involvement in GOE

Right: USAF Colonel (Ret) Merryl Tengesdal.

MEET THE 2022 EAGLES



GEN JANET C. WOLFENBARGER, USAF (RET)

General Janet C. Wolfenbarger was selected as an eagle for her outstanding, innovative contributions to air, space, and cyberspace as she was a member of the first female class of women at the United States Air Force Academy. She also was the first female four-star general in the United States Air Force and the first female to command an Air Force Major Command.

COL RONALD TERRY, USAF (RET)

Colonel Ronald W. Terry was selected as an eagle for his revolutionary contributions to Airpower and Air Force Special Operations. As a young fighter pilot, Captain Terry challenged conventional wisdom and sold the United States Air Force on a radical new air weapons system concept. Captain Terry's concept, a side-firing cargo aircraft, the AC-47, would earn him the title "Father of the Gunship" and forever change the character of close air support and armed interdiction.



CW5 MIKE HARDY, USA



Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Michael "Mike" W. Hardy was selected as an Eagle for his outstanding contributions to Army aviation, specifically to helicopter combat operations. He is a current MH-60M Standardization Pilot and Flight Lead for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). CW5 Hardy completed 38 combat deployments, 500 combat missions, 1,500 combat hours, amassed over 6,500 rotary wing flight hours and 3,250-night vision goggle hours.



LT COL DAN SCHILLING, USAF (RET)

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Schilling was selected as an Eagle for his outstanding contributions to the special operations community and his dedication to telling the Air Force story. He has numerous combat and clandestine deployments, including the operation popularly known as Black Hawk Down, where he is credited with saving the lives of a Ranger and SEAL under fire. He is also a published author and advocate for the Air Force.

CAPT NILOOFAR RAHMANI, AFGHAN AIR FORCE

Captain Niloofar Rahmani was selected as an eagle for her outstanding courage as a female aviator, becoming the first female fixed-wing pilot in the Afghan Air Force despite ethnic discrimination, sexism, and consistent threats to her life. She is an author and activist inspiring women to join the Afghan Air Force to fly. Because of her courage, she won the U.S. State Department's International Women of Courage Award in 2015.



COL GERRY BERRY, USMC (RET)

Colonel Gerald (Gerry) L. Berry was selected as an eagle for his outstanding contributions to aviation including heroic actions during Operations FREQUENT WIND and EAGLE PULL in the Republic of Vietnam. Throughout his distinguished Marine Corps career, he held numerous command and staff positions including command of Marine Aircraft Group 36 where he oversaw 60 aircraft and 3,000 Marines supporting fleet operations during Operation DESERT SHIELD.



DEAN KAMEN, CEO

Dean Kamen is an American engineer, innovator, and businessman, who founded and remains the CEO of DEKA Research and Development Corporation, a company dedicated to bringing expertise to the world of complex problem solving and improving lives. He holds over 1,000 patents and is an avid supporter of pre-K-12 STEM education and developing future science and technology leaders through his non-profit, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

CMSGT KALETH O. WRIGHT, USAF (RET)

CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright was selected as an eagle for his outstanding contributions to the Enlisted Corp while serving as the 18th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. During his tenure as the highest-ranking enlisted member in the Air Force, he implemented groundbreaking changes to Professional Military Education, enlisted promotions, and the enlisted evaluation system. CMSAF (Ret) Wright was also the trusted advisor to the 21st Air Force Chief of Staff to General David Goldfein.



SPECIAL GUEST! AY 2021 EAGLE



GEN DAVID GOLDFEIN, USAF (RET)

Gen. David L. Goldfein was the 21st Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. As Chief, he served as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training, and equipping of 685,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. General Goldfein received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1983. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School and is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-16C/D, F-117A, MQ-9, and MC-12W. He has flown combat missions in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Allied Force, and Enduring Freedom.

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES SCHOLARSHIPS

GOEF aims to preserve Airpower Heritage and celebrate aviation history by:

1. Financing educational opportunities linking air power & innovation with rising military and Alabama River Region youth.
2. Providing annual STEM scholarships to ROTC cadets and River Region youth.



by Latecia Brown

GOEF SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

The Gathering of Eagles Foundation is committed to impacting the local community through outreach and scholarship. This year GOEF has hit the ground running to continue in this tradition. Our goal this year is to raise over \$25,000 for scholarships. Students receiving this year's scholarship will have the opportunity to attend the National Flight Academy and or Space Camp.

We encourage all students ages 9-17 that are interested in STEM to submit an application.

Applications can be found at

<http://goefoundation.org/scholarship-program/>.

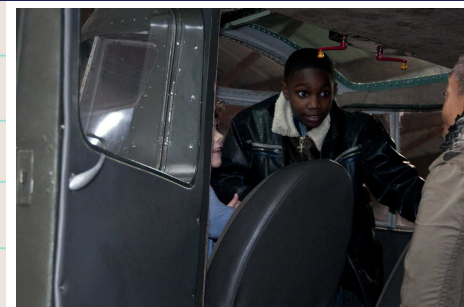
Applications have already begun to flood in so don't forget the deadline of **February 8, 2022**.



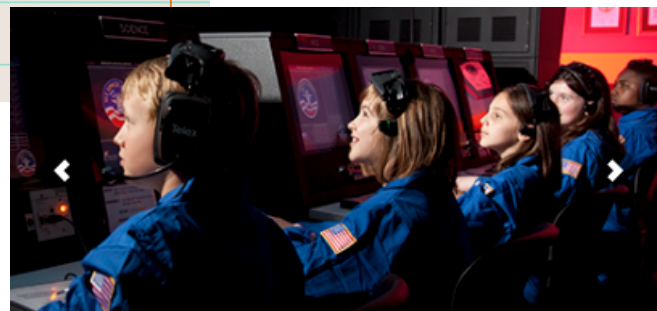
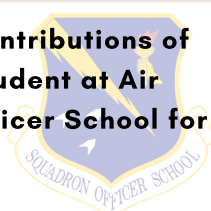
Testimonial
MATTHEW MEADOWS
Space Camp Scholarship Recipient



My name is Matthew Meadows, and I received an opportunity to go to Space Camp and fly at Tuskegee because of the Gathering of Eagles Foundation. I had a blast learning about aerospace, aviation, and space history. I even got to fly in a plane! If space, chemistry, engineering, and flight are some of your interests, this is a great scholarship opportunity to dive into these categories, and to spark interest for a possible career.



GOEF would not be successful without the contributions of our donors so we would like to thank the student at Air Command and Staff College and Squadron Officer School for their donations.



Partner with the GOEF to give the students in the River Region an opportunity to experience first-class STEM education. Add your business or organization to the list of generous sponsors. You can donate at GoEFoundation.org.

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES OUTREACH

by Brooke Cobbin
GOEF OUTREACH DIRECTOR



WHAT IS STARBASE MAXWELL?

STARBASE Maxwell is a DoD Youth S.T.E.M. program that focuses on providing hands-on S.T.E.M. education to students in surrounding counties. Their main program, STARBASE 1.0, is designed for fifth-grade students. STARBASE 1.0 is our five-day, 25-hour hands-on S.T.E.M. curriculum delivered to students from their facility at Maxwell AFB. Each year, ACSC faculty, staff, spouses, and students volunteer their time and share their talent and passion for S.T.E.M. as daily presenters.



Maj Johann Pambianchi

THANK YOU!

GOE would like to extend a huge thank you to ACSC students **Maj Brandon Glass, Maj Gordon Lott, Courtney Thornton (DAF), Maj Christie Lamond, Maj Eric Copeland, Anne Bennett (spouse), and Maj Johann Pambianchi (instructor)** for their commitment to empowering youth in the river region. We look forward to learning from more of our ACSC family as we extend the opportunity to volunteer as a S.T.E.M. presenter in the spring.



Mrs. Anne Bennett

SERVING COMMUNITY

The Gathering of Eagles Foundation in partnership with Southside Church of Christ and Bellingrath Middle School will provide mentorship to a group of middle school students around the topics of leadership, social media etiquette, self-awareness, goal setting, bullying prevention, and conflict resolution. A team of ACSC students will facilitate two-hour sessions after school, **beginning January 2022 through the end of the school year.** Check back for updates on how the program is changing lives!

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES FUNDRAISING

The Gathering of Eagles Foundation is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that aims to preserve the legacy of the United States Air Force through the celebration of airpower and empowerment of youth in Alabama's River Region.

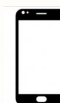


by Brandon Glass
GOEF FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR



Thank you to all those that have contributed to the GOEF Scholarship efforts! We have had a busy year thus far with two GOEF hosted Pub Crawls in downtown Montgomery, a Giving Tuesday campaign, and GOE memorabilia sales. The 'Tis the Season of Giving campaign will be running through the end of 2021. In addition to reaching out to our eaglets engaging local donors, be on the look-out for more upcoming GOEF hosted fundraising events. With all the help thus far, we are approximately 30% on our way to our goal of \$25,000. Every single donation is vital to fulfilling the vision of sending River Region youth to Space Camp and Flight Academies, as well as, Scholarships for local University ROTC Cadets.

Ways to Donate



text: 334-249-1670



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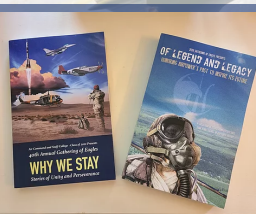
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