



AFSA CHAPTER 951

Mt. Rushmore Chapter



Every December members of AFSA's South Dakota Chapter, 951 along with people from Team Ellsworth, go to SD Veterans Home in Hot Springs to decorate their residence for Christmas. This year they went to all 3 floors to spread the Holiday Cheer in every corner. Pictured in the middle is one of their most famous residents, Clarence. Each year he shows up with a different Christmas hat which either claps or plays music. Clarence, a Korean War Veteran, has been a resident for over 30 years.

Inside this issue:

Fireside Chat	2
Executive Council	3
Social Listings	4
D3 Conference	5
Family Matters	6-7
Out 2 Know	8-9
Communications	10
Chapter Happenings	11-12
Calendar of Events	13
2018 AFSA PAC	14

Membership

Volunteers are truly the backbone of this Association; people we need, trust and value. Volunteers at the chapter level immeasurably improve and enhance our Association. Chapter 951 continues to lead the way by spearheading many of the events important to the community and Ellsworth AFB. If you want to help out, please let us know or email us at afsa951@gmail.org.

Legislative Issues

Now is not the time to quit, but it is in fact the time to get involved. I encourage each of you to contact your elected officials and to let them know the time for partisan one-upmanship is over and it is now time to work together to put America first. These are serious times and we need serious people to solve the issues affecting our citizens both here at home and abroad.

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Fireside Chat, Chapter 951 President, TSgt “Abby” Philbrick



I would like to welcome all of you to the Mount Rushmore Chapter Newsletter. It has been a quick first few months of 2018 and your executive council stands ready and willing to support the Airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base and the surrounding community. This newsletter will provide you with some details of the organization and how to engage our chapter, family members, and those throughout the beautiful Black Hills area.

I am proud to be affiliated with such a service based organization and to be selected to represent Chapter 951 as president. This chapter has dedicated much time and service to support various events over the years and hope to see many new faces as we continue to move forward with some of our notable ventures this year. This newsletter will be your means to view some of the outstanding Chapter 951 has accomplished recently. We remain committed to the Airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base, supporting the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, legislative actions, and local fundraising efforts that enable our chapter to donate to both national and local non-profits dedicated to supporting Airmen.

The four pillars of AFSA include Membership, Legislation, Communications and Fraternalism. I would like to expand upon two of the four pillars within this newsletter, membership and fraternalism.

Membership is the foundation of an organization like AFSA as there is strength in numbers. The more members that AFSA represents, the more impact we can have on Capitol Hill and beyond. Our chapter has made large strides in the last two years building relationships with our local mayoral community of Box Elder and Rapid City as well as the state legislative office. Through these relationships we are able to voice the concerns

of our local members directly to those that can affect change. AFSA remains committed to voicing the concerns of our members to maintain the quality of life benefits they have earned through military service as well as improving transparency and supporting the families that sacrifice alongside their service members.

Fraternalism is more than just showing comradery or increasing bonds between members. Our chapter provides the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with those around Ellsworth Air Force Base breaking the confines of rank and status. With so many organization competing for time and support Chapter 951 seeks for our members to find a fellowship and sense of purpose while serving in various supporting roles throughout the community. Through our outreach programs individuals find great networking opportunities, professional development and charitable work all bundled together.

Thank you for being a member of The Mount Rushmore Chapter. As a reminder, our monthly membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 1130 to 1230 at the Dakota's Club on Ellsworth Air Force Base. Come out to get the latest news on upcoming events for our Airmen and our community. If you are experiencing any issues that you would like to be elevated to our state representatives please contact the chapter at afsa951@gmail.com with the details and we will ensure it reaches the proper offices.

Again, thank you for your interest and more importantly your support of AFSA and Chapter 951. I look forward to working with each of you in the future.

Abigail J. Philbrick

President, AFSA Chapter 951

Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota

Member # 97041

Chapter Website: www.AFSA951.org

Chapter Facebook: www.facebook.com/AFSACHapter951







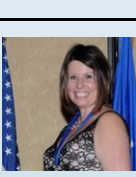

Chapter Email: AFSA951@gmail.com

AFSA Website: www.hqafsa.org

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Mt. Rushmore Chapter


























Executive Council

	President	TSgt Abigail Philbrick	president@afsa951.org
	Vice-President	TSgt Ryan Mitchell	vicepresident@afsa951.org
	Trustee 1, Legislation	CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott	Legislative@afsa951.org
	Trustee 2, Membership	MSgt Jessica Young	membership@afsa951.org
	Trustee 3, Programs	MSgt William Price	trustee3@afsa951.org
	Treasurer	MSgt Roy Pinkley	treasurer@afsa951.org
	Secretary	SSgt Josh Philbrick	secretary@afsa951.org
	Family Matters Chair	Mrs. Chasity Mitchell	family@afsa951.org
	Senior Advisor	MSgt (Ret) "Super Dave" Bamburg	senioradvisor@afsa951.org

AFSA CHAPTER 951

Mt. Rushmore Chapter

How are we Communicating?

Location	Media Type									
	Click on Icons below to access									
AFSA HQ										
Division 3										
Ellsworth AFB, SD										



Attending the Division 3 Convention

Nine Airmen from Ellsworth's Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) Chapter 951 proudly represented Team Ellsworth at the AFSA Division 3 Annual Professional Airman's Conference held in Wichita, Kansas from April 5 through April 7. This year's conference was hosted by AFSA Chapter 972 from McConnell AFB in Wichita.

Chapter President TSgt Abigail Philbrick (28 FSS) led the Ellsworth delegation as the senior delegate accompanied by her husband and Chapter Secretary SSgt Joshua Philbrick (28 MXG). Completing the Ellsworth delegation was Chapter Vice-President TSgt Ryan Mitchell (28 MXS), accompanied by his wife and Chapter Family Matters Trustee Chastity Mitchell; Chapter Legislative Affairs Trustee CMSgt (ret) Kevin Ott (28 CS); Chapter Retiree Affairs Trustee MSgt (ret) James Savage accompanied by his wife Elaine Warner-Savage; and Chapter Senior Advisor MSgt (ret) David Bamburg (AFFSC) accompanied by his wife Marny Bamburg.



Chapter 951 members were nominated for several individual AFSA awards for their dedicated efforts in 2017; Non-Commissioned Officer: TSgt Ryan Mitchell; Volunteer Service Award (Individual): SSgt Joshua Philbrick; International Legislative (Individual) and Member: CMSgt (ret) Kevin Ott. SSgt Philbrick was named Division 3's Volunteer Service Award winner while CMSgt (ret) Ott captured the Division's Individual Legislative award. Additionally the chapter was nominated for the Chapter, International Legislative (Chapter), and Website of the Year awards; and was recognized as having the Division's outstanding website. SSgt Philbrick and CMSgt

(ret) Ott will now go on to represent Team Ellsworth, Chapter 951, and Division 3 at the AFSA International Professional Airman's Conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas August 25 to August 29.



During the Division 3 President's luncheon Mr. Savage received special recognition celebrating his 90th birthday as well as his 50 plus years of AFSA membership; and Mrs. Warner-Savage was recognized for her past service as the International President of the AFSA Auxiliary. Mr. Savage, who first enlisted into the Army Air Corps in 1946, is one of the Association's longest serving members.

At the conclusion of the Division 3 business session new executive council officer elections were held, with both Mr. Bamburg and Mr. Ott re-elected for another term as a division trustees.

Highlighting this year's conference was Professional Development time with CMSgt Leon Calloway, Command Chief 22d Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB. The Chief reiterated Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson's vision to "Develop Exceptional Leaders" by emphasizing every Airman's role to being "Consistent, Constant, and Relevant." The Chief was also the speaker at Saturday evening's formal banquet where he underscored the importance of groups such as AFSA by highlighting 260 pieces of legislation passed thanks to the Association's legislative advocacy campaigns.

Locally, Chapter 951's 600+ members help support over 5,000 military members, veterans, and their families across the Black Hills each year. If you would like to learn more about AFSA, please feel free to visit www.hqafsa.org or www.afsa951.org; or visit our monthly meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month 11:30AM at Dakotas.



Family Matters Corner



Chasity Mitchel

Family Matters
Coordinator

Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Chasity Mitchell and I am your Chapter 951 Family Matters Coordinator. I am happily married to TSgt Ryan Mitchell, who is our chapter's Vice President, and we have 4 beautiful children. This will be my second year as the coordinator and I am very excited for the growth of our chapter, especially with new families joining!

Let me start by sharing with you just a few things the Air Force Sergeants Association, as a whole, does for our families. First, AFSA supports educational and career development opportunities for military spouses. If we think about it, we spouses are the glue that holds our families together, so a group supporting our educational/career choices is definitely something to be a part of.

Second, AFSA ensures an adequate amount of federal funding (referred to as Impact Aid) is appropriated to assist local school districts that have large populations of military children. Depending on where one gets stationed, this is of great importance for our military children.

Third, AFSA provides tax exclusions for childcare expenses. I think we ALL can appreciate a break when it comes to paying for childcare.

Fourth, AFSA improves access to healthcare for our service members and our families.

Fifth, AFSA is a big advocate in protecting our funding for our commissaries, base exchanges, dependent schools, and family support programs. So I was only going to name a few but as you can tell there are many benefits of joining the Air Force Sergeants Association.

This leads me to our chapter, Chapter 951! Coming in to this I really didn't understand what AFSA had to offer or even what purpose it served. One of my personal goals is to recruit new families and retain current families within our chapter in order for them to benefit from all AFSA has to offer. Another goal of mine is to build continuity amongst our active duty members and our families. All too often, our families feel the everyday stressors of military life but maybe don't have or know the proper channels to seek out in the time of need.

Being a part of an organization helps bridge that gap and build relationships that we can carry on whether we currently serve or are retired. The goal I like the most, is to continuously offer family time for our members. Each quarter I host a family event for all to take a break from our everyday busy lives and socialize with others.

In the past, our big Family Matters Event has been our Halloween Fest, where the kiddos dress up and we host a mini festival with Halloween themed food, fun, and games. Each kid also got to take with them their own pumpkin. However, I like to also incorporate ways to give back as an organization to charitable

#WEAREAFSA #AFSAGIVESBACK

Proud **AFSA &
AIR FORCE**
Family





Chasity Mitchel
Family Matters

events while earning money for the Chapter as well. Which led me, with assistance from my husband, in creating "Fill The Military Boot." This fundraiser is held over the Armed Forces weekend and with the numerous volunteers from our Chapter as well as other base wide organizations and airmen, we proudly collect donations at different locations throughout Rapid City.

Last year we collected over 3K in one day and this year, due to the success from last year, we added another day. This is a family event. I encourage all family members, to include our kids, to get out there and hold the boot. The interactions that we have with the public and the stories that are told are truly worth the two days of hosting this event! These are just a couple of the events that I host for our Chapter.

I briefly mentioned earlier that I will hold quarterly family events for our Chapter Members with some events happening more than once in a quarter. Our next big event will be 19, 20 May which is the Fill the Military Boot Fundraiser. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up for Saturday thru our link at www.volunteersignup.org/FLRPP and Sunday thru www.volunteersignup.org/HTYAB. The next scheduled event will be held in September with a Back to School Bash. Followed by our Halloween Fest in October and finally to end out the year will be our Holiday Member Party in December. Please like our FB page [AFSA Chapter 951, The Mount Rushmore Chapter](#) to stay in the know with all the upcoming events. If you are interested in becoming a member of AFSA you may sign up thru our FB page, at any event, or thru our monthly meetings. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!

IN HONOR OF

Military Family Appreciation Month



AFSA SPECIAL FAMILY FOCUS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Military Member
2-year AFSA Membership
only \$50



A Family Member
2-year AFSA Membership
is FREE

Campaign Dates: Tuesday, MAY 1st through midnight Tuesday, JULY 31st, 2018
New AFSA Members Only | www.hqafsa.org/familyfocus

[COMPLETE THE ONLINE FAMILY FOCUS FORM HERE](#)

Use 1028035 as the Recruiter ID

What U “Ott” 2 Know

The phrase “playing politics” has negative connotations. In fact the Cambridge English Dictionary defines playing politics as: “to use a situation or the relationships between people for your own advantage”. The Free Dictionary goes even further: “to deal with people in an opportunistic or manipulative way, as for job advancement.” Equally bad is “partisan politics”, which according to Wikipedia is defined as “a committed member of a political party. In multi-party systems, the term is used for politicians who strongly support their party's policies and are reluctant to compromise with their political opponents”.

So how do we, as the Air Force Sergeants Association, engage in legislative advocacy without being accused of being partisan or “playing politics”? It’s actually really easy.

Start by becoming familiar with the current AFSA legislative platform; broken down into seven major focus areas:

Military Benefits & Programs: Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector via full military pay raises IAW current law and protect or enhance related benefits like leave, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), bonuses and special pays while protecting funding for commissaries, base exchanges, dependent schools and family support programs.

Military Healthcare: Improve access to earned military health care benefits; enhance existing coverage/services and resist future fee increases.

Veterans/Retiree Benefits: Improve access to VA healthcare thereby ensuring the nation fulfils its obligation to care for those “who shall have borne the battle.” Enhance the disability claims and appeals process; ensure ancillary programs, services, etc., remain fully funded.

Caring for Survivors: Fight to eliminate the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)/ Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset of annuities for survivors of service members who died of service-connected causes.

Air National Guard & Air Force Reserve: Fix the complex reserve duty status system (e.g., 12304b situation) without reducing compensation value as well as reducing the Guard & Reserve retirement compensation age from 60 to 55.

Education: Support legislation that promotes future success through the use of hard-earned education benefits, like Tuition Assistance, MyCAA, Montgomery or Post 9/11 GI Bill and ensure that these programs remain relevant and fully funded for them or any dependents whom their benefits may have been transferred.

Special Interest Items: Continue to seek increasing eligibility of concurrent receipt for military retirees; protect the voting rights of military service members and their eligible family members; and repeal or further modify the Former Spouse Protection Act.

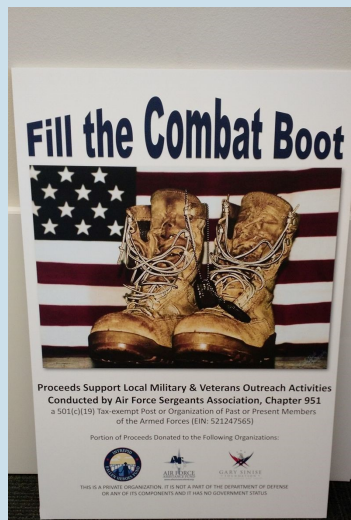
As you’ve read those seven focus areas and their associated AFSA-approved initiatives you’ve noticed the absence of mentioning any political party, politician, or administration. True legislative advocacy is void of partisanship; instead focusing on the purpose, goal, or cause. The American Heritage Dictionary defines advocacy as “The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support”. Successful advocacy efforts; whether at the Chapter, Division, or International levels must be a non-partisan activity. Just like when you build (or built) an effective team in the Air Force, we must also build an effective relationship (team) with all the elected representatives (and community leaders) in our areas. City Councils, Mayors, Chambers of Commerce...State Representatives & Senators, State Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Governors... US Representatives & Senators, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Office of the President.

Each and every single person is important not just to AFSA’s mission “to advocate improved quality of life and economic fairness that will support the well-being of the Total Air Force enlisted personnel and their families”; but more importantly to meet AFSA’s objective “to Loyally serve the nation and the US Air Force, and to do all else necessary to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States”.



Kevin Ott
CMSgt (Ret), USAF,
AFSA CHAPTER 951, Trus-

[Click picture for Details](#)



Honoring our Patriots

[Click picture for Details](#)

What U “Ott” 2 Know Cont....

So how do we, as the AFSA, remain an active political advocacy organization without being viewed as being partisan? Start with a quick review of Air Force Standards (AFI 1-1), specifically paragraph 2.13, here are a few highlights:

“Generally, as an individual, you enjoy the same rights and have the same responsibilities as other citizens. However, because you are a member of the United States Air Force, the manner in which you exercise your rights is limited in some cases. Under our democratic system, the military, as a group, must remain politically neutral and divorced from partisan politics. You have the right and duty as an American citizen to vote and to voice your opinions concerning political matters; however, you must be careful that your personal opinions and activities are not directly, or by implication, represented as those of the Air Force. Enlisted personnel who make derogatory or disrespectful statements about political leaders may violate Article 134, UCMJ, when their military status is associated with the statements (such as making these comments on a social networking site where the member’s employment with the Air Force is also listed). You may not speak before a partisan political event, ride, or march in a partisan political parade, or engage in partisan political fundraising activities, regardless of whether or not you are in uniform. You may support or endorse a particular political candidate, party, cause, or issue through displaying a bumper sticker on your personally owned vehicles. You may not attend or participate in any demonstration or other political activity on a military installation, unless that event has been approved by the installation commander. You may not sign or circulate a petition on a military installation, unless the petition has been approved by the installation commander. Political discussions are generally not appropriate in the Federal workplace. You may not attempt to influence the view, position or vote of any subordinate except to generally encourage participation in the voting process.”

Now, like many of you I too hold the coveted DD-214 in my procession...and as such, I can easily say “all that doesn’t apply to me”...which may be a true statement. BUT, when we look at it from the perspective of being a member of the AFSA...we need to be aware of and understanding of the limitations placed upon our brothers and sisters who are wearing the Air Force Blue. There are four simple things we ALL need to do, whether we answer to Mr., Mrs., Ms., Airman, Sergeant, or Chief:

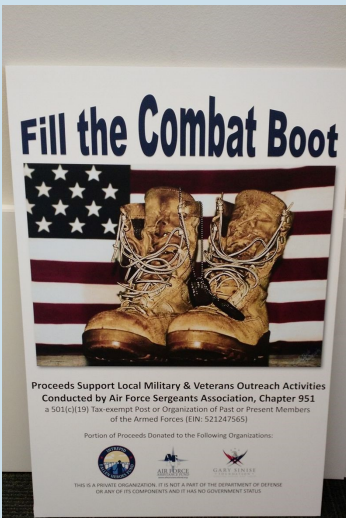
1: Register to Vote; 2: Contact Your Elected Representatives on Issues Important to You; 3: Vote in Local, State, Federal Elections; 4: Encourage Others to Do the Same

“Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success”
- Henry Ford



Kevin Ott
CMSgt (Ret), USAF,
AFSA CHAPTER 951, Trus-

[Click picture for Details](#)

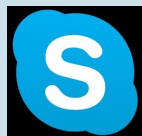


Honoring our Patriots

[Click picture for Details](#)

AFSA CHAPTER 951

Electronic Communications



MSgt (Ret) Super Dave Bamburg

What if someone donated enough money to AFSA to cover a free trip to the AFSA PAC but the link was sent out by email on a Saturday and you had to respond by the end of the weekend. Would you get the message and be able to respond in time?

Chances are many of you would not because the email on the AFSA roster is your Air Force work email. I noticed this recently when I updated the email listing I send out to the leadership of each chapter requesting information for the newsletter. Many of the emails I entered were their Air Force email. Considering I sent my email out on a Saturday many of them would not receive it until Monday, unless Monday was a holiday then it would be Tuesday.

In the past this was not always a bad thing because AFSA has always been part of the Air Force community and that is just how we did things. Even over the last few years the Air Force has simplified things by giving you an email that would transfer every time you moved.

However, things are changing. Air Force servers are becoming more secure and sometimes that means AFSA related emails being sent in are filtered out, especially if they contain attachments. Also some bases/legal offices frown on using your Government email for AFSA business.

This is why AFSA encourages you to list your personal email for your membership information. Most of us have a smart phone and you can easily add your personal email accounts such as Gmail, Yahoo, Comcast, etc. When you do this it is easier to get those important AFSA emails and respond.

I encourage everyone, starting with each person, first starting with the Executive Council of each chapter to update their email on the roster using their personal email. Next, when you sign up a new member or get in a transfer, ask for their personal email and get it to AFSA. After that have your Membership Trustee and those helping them go over the roster and contact the members to do the same.

Replacing an old habit with an new one can help guarantee we can get the AFSA information out in a timely fashion. Also it makes it harder to ignore those emails from Dale Lutzen because now he knows they come straight to my phone.

Once you've embraced this idea then you can move on to the next social media idea to start learning. Trust me, if Bud and Jean, more Jean, can master emails, Facebook and putting together something for the newsletter, then anyone can do it. It doesn't mean you have to learn everything that is out there but at least find a few of the most popular and get involved.

Who knows, if everyone updates at least their email address then just maybe AFSA will send out a mass email on a Saturday. If not for a free trip to the AFSA PAC then maybe a chance to tour with Jeff Ledoux in his retirement trailer.

#951



THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

As 951 began another year, we can't help but look back on the things we have accomplished and look forward to new horizons ahead.



The last quarter of 2017 was a busy quarter with many events. Our most memorable every year is taking a group of people from both the chapter and Team Ellsworth down to the Veterans Home in Hot Springs, SD to help decorate for Christmas. Now it is a bigger challenge as we have gone from just decorating a small auditorium to now in their new facility, decorating 3 floors.

In addition, we received a tour from the Home's director and a briefing on what went into decisions on how the resident was developed. Funny how putting the TV used for showing family videos in the hot tub room can get the "men" to take baths and stay in longer..



As with each quarter, Chapter 951 hosted a Legislative Forum and had local directors from the offices of Senators Thune and Rounds and Congresswoman Noems. Our Legislative Trustee CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott moderated a roundtable discussion with those in attendance and Sen-

ior Advisor "Super Dave" Bamburg again reminded them why it is important to keep the promises made to the active duty/retirees and those promises should never be a bargaining chip during negotiations.

Some of the highlights for 2017 include our trademark event, cohosting "Salute the Patriots" during the summer concert series in Rapid City. What started out a few years ago as just some



brainstorming between Super Dave and Kevin Ott has turned into a wonderful undertaking where Ott has build not only the support from most of the base Private Orgs but also businesses in the local community. 2018 may be even bigger as Chapter 951 is now a part of the Rapid City Chamber of Commence.

Speaking of Private Orgs, this is something Chapter 951 is not. We continue to be recognized by the base as a National Military Organization and grow our support with the base's Leadership.

Another milestone was being able to again send more members to the Division and International Conventions where Super Dave and Kevin Ott were elected to Division Trustee positions. At the International Convention Super Dave was asked by the International President to brief on how a chapter could become an NMA and have more of an impact on not only the base but in the local community Not to mention the chapter took advantage of

#951



THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

the Member for Life Campaign by signing up the Secretary of the Air Force as a member of Chapter 951.

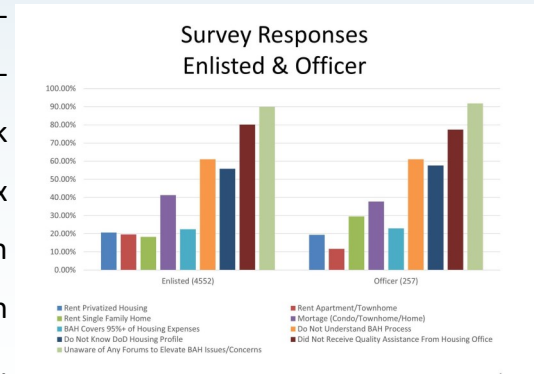


In December we held elections and chose the Chapter's Leadership who will take us into 2018. President, TSgt Abigail Philbrick; Vice-President, TSgt Ryan Mitchell; Trustees, CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott, MSgt Jessica Young, and TSgt Will Price. Staying on as Secretary is SSgt Philbrick and Treasurer, MSgt Roy Pinkley. And of course, still Senior Advisor, the legendary "Super Dave" Bamberg.

Once again our chapter will strive to improve on the things we do best but also meeting our weaknesses head-on, those being recruitment and retention. While

we do good when it comes to capturing the new arrivals to Ellsworth and getting them transferred to our chapter, we need to do better in maintaining the members we have and bringing in new people.

In addition we will continue to think outside the box for ways we can help our airmen currently serving.



Just one example is the BAH survey that Kevin Ott put together and send out. Almost 5,000 people took advantage of an opportunity, helping to compile information that Kevin presented to our local base leadership, Congressional leaders and AFSA.



#951



THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

February

**SD Veterans Home Valentine's Day
Dance**



April

Division 3 Convention



May

Fill the Boot



Jan/JUN/Sep

Legislative Awareness



Jul/Aug

AFSA International Conv/PAC



August

Honoring our Patriots



September

POW/MIA Run



October

BOO Hunt



December

Decorate SD Vet Home/AFSA Kids Holiday Pajama Party





The 2018 Professional Airmen's Conference will convene in San Antonio, Texas, at the
Grand Hyatt San Antonio

600 East Market Street

San Antonio, Texas, 32202

The AFSA contracted room rate is \$124 (Single occupancy) and \$145 (Double Occupancy)

[Click Here to Make Your Reservations](#)

The 2018 PAC Theme
is
"AFSA...UP – Unlimited Possibilities"

25 August 2018

The Theme for the 2018 International Convention Theme
Party is a

"Pajama Party" - So come dressed in your favorite
"Pajamas."