



# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter



Attending the 2019 AFSA International Convention, Chapter 951 won the TSgt Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence for its work to help pass South Dakota Law 1111 which allows spouses of military personnel to transfer their licenses. Pictured, l to r: Division 3 President, CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott; next are Chapter 951's VP, TSgt James Beck, Family Matters Trustee, Mrs. Marny Bamburg, Senior Advisor MSgt "Super Dave" Bamburg and member CMSgt Warren James Moran.

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### Membership

Our numbers/membership is what allows ASFA to have the voice/influence it does. In days past people were "required" to belong to AFSA but first chance they got, they were gone. Now, more than ever, it is important to know why it is important to belong to AFSA.

Take the time to read AFSA Legislative Platform and also its accomplishments over the years. Picture yourself today with out some of the victories then ask the question. Is my membership important?

### Legislative Issues

Understanding our Nation's fiscal situation, success in each of these areas will not always be defined by what is gained, rather the level of benefit preserved or gaining a portion of our objective.

#### AFSA's SEVEN MAJOR FOCUS GROUPS

**MILITARY HEALTHCARE – VETERAN/RETIREE BENEFITS – CARING FOR SURVIVORS – MILITARY BENEFITS & PROGRAMS – AIR NATIONAL GUARD & AIR FORCE RESERVE – EDUCATION – MILITARY FAMILIES**

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## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

### *Fireside Chat, Chapter 951 VP, TSgt James Beck*



I would like to welcome you all to the second instalment of the Mount Rushmore Chapter Newsletter for 2019. This year is more than half way done and I am so proud of all the accomplishments that our chapter has achieved. Your executive council remains committed to the future of this organization and to support the Airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base, our fellow teammates from our sister services as well as the surrounding community.

This newsletter will provide you with updated information on our accomplishments, as well as association. It will inform you on how you can engage with our chapter, family members, and those through out the beautiful Black Hills area.

Though out the year we as a chapter have taken great strides in the advancement of our chapter as well as our organization. We have done this by staying true to the purpose in which this great organization was created. Our chapter has dedicated countless time and energy supporting various events and organizations. Our members energy and enthusiasm are second to none, and because of their dedication and commitment to excellence I am proud to call myself an executive council member.

Through the Honoring our Patriots Campaign, Combat Fill the Boot fundraiser and our POW/MIA 5K Remembrance run/walk we have raised over \$11,000 in 2019. We have supported 3 national organizations as well as 13 local organizations through our efforts this year. Though a 'sweat equity' support approach our chapter has donated \$1,200 to each of the following national charities, the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Gary Sinise Foundation and Air Force Assistance Fund.

Chapter 951 and Division 3 represented ourselves well this year at the AFSA Professional Airman's Conference (PAC) in San Antonio, Tx. We were able to bring home the CMSgt Richard L. Etcherberger Chapter Communication award for both Division 3 and Chapter 951. Chapter 951 also received

the Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence for the contributions made in easing and expediting the PCS process for our airmen.

During this year's PAC we heard from many powerful speakers, a resilience panel, 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year (OAY), and military senior leaders. As in years past the former CMSAF's panel stole the show, with humor, pearls of wisdom and emotional content it's easy to see why they all held that prestigious position. The continued commitment and dedication to the Air force displayed by everyone of the panel members, makes you want to comeback every year to see what will happen next.

In addition to all the great things we have done this year for Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, our Division Organization. We continue to support the veteran's home, remain active with our state and local civic leaders and provide information on the unique challenges our airmen face here on Ellsworth Air Force base.

We have done great things through out this year, and I know that we will continue to do even greater thing in the future. I would like to thank all our Mount Rushmore Chapter members for all of your hard work and dedication to AFSA and our fellow service members everywhere.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the non-members to consider becoming part of this great service-based organization. Our monthly meeting membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 1130-1230 in the Dakotas Club, located on Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Feel free to view our website at [www.afsa951.org](http://www.afsa951.org), or Facebook page AFSA Chapter 951 The Mount Rushmore Chapter, or email us at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com).

In closing, all the accomplishments that Chapter 951 has achieved this year doesn't just happen. It happens when you take a motivated team and you focus their energy and effort on completing a mission. That what you are, and through your relentless pursuit of "Excellence" we will continue to excel in years to come.

# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

## Executive Council

President

MSgt Abigail Philbrick



Senior Advisor/  
Communicans

MSgt (Ret) David Bamburg



Vice—President

MSgt (Sel) James Beck



Secretary

TSgt (Sel) Josh Philbrick



Trustee #1

Maria D. Castaneda



Family Matters Trustee

Mrs. Marny Bamburg

Trustee #2, Membership

SMSgt Jamie Ericson



Treasurer

SSgt Garrett Murray

Trustee #3

SMSgt (Ret) Karie Skidmore




























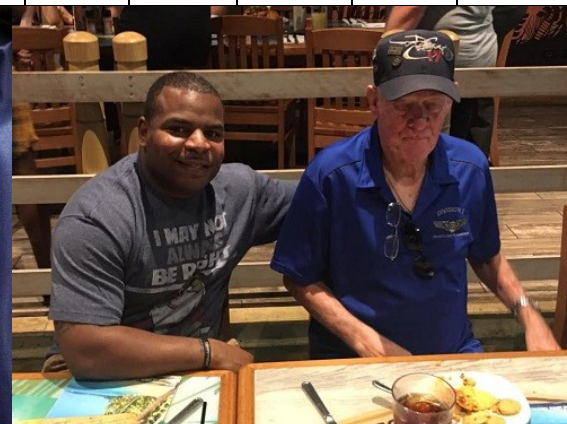


# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

### How are we Communicating?

Location	Media Type									
	Click on Icons below to access									
AFSA HQ										
Division 3										
<a href="#">Ellsworth AFB, SD</a>										



# Membership Principles



*Bobby Kazmir, SMSgt.*

Division 3

Membership Trustee

Guest Writer

## Greetings Division 3!

The PAC had an ongoing subject interwoven throughout the conference...the resiliency of our Airmen. Each of the Air Force leaders who spoke, the panels, the AFSA leadership and even the discussions around the room all pointed to the same thing: leaning on one another when the burden gets heavy. In my experience, the AFSA family that took me in has become those with who I share the load I'm carrying. This is a personal reason why membership in this association proves that we are better together.

Let me paint a picture for you:

A large chapter with 1,200 members has 30-40 members consistently attending meetings. The majority of this chapter's efforts are executed by a core cadre of 10-15 people. Does that picture look familiar?

At the PAC, I seized the opportunity to speak with folks across our division and from several other divisions. I presented this same picture, and the story was always the same: The majority of chapters across the association have less than 10% of their membership actively showing up to monthly meetings. In fact, roughly 3-5% are actually involved in chapter events.

Good news! The solution to this problem has been right in front of us all along: Intentionality.

Author Howard Marks wrote about a concept called First-level and Second-level thinking in his book, "The Most Important Thing." First-level thinking is where we naturally tend to seek the easiest solution. We need to use first-level thinking to solve problems quickly and we need second-level thinking to ensure they don't reoccur.

In times like today when our division faces a decline in membership, our first-level thinking usually defaults to recruiting new members in the Association. This is *exactly* what we need to do....but it's not *all* we need to do. If we're going to go to second-level thinking, we need to make sure a strong retention plan is part of our solution. What plan do you have in your chapters? Do you have a plan at all? Admittedly, I think many chapters are similar to my own... we get a wild hair and really focus on retaining folks who've allowed their membership to expire. Then the effort kind of tapers off until we are reacting to a sharp decline again.

The best way to combat this is to be as intentional about retaining our members as we are about our chapter's events. One member at the PAC shared an idea with me. Chapters should devise and execute a deliberate plan to reach out to those who missed attending a meeting. A little discussion could reveal that our members don't value how our meetings are conducted. If that's the feedback, it's great news! We have control over how to conduct our chapter meetings and we can make changes ensuring value for our members. Members who find value tend to come back again and often are eager to contribute to the cause.

As we enter the holiday season, there's no better time to reach out and welcome back our dormant members. There are lots of experiences and videos from the largest PAC in recent history we can share with them. My challenge to you is this. Each chapter step up recruiting a little bit and create a deliberate plan to retain members. Let's let Reno know that Division 3 really is The Place to Be!

## 2-Year AFSA Membership... \$50

**New Members AND Membership Renewals**

**Fill out form and contact Chapter to submission, [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com)**



**Deployed Membership Form**



# Chapter 951

## Family Matters Letter



It has been a blast these past few months. David and I left the Division 3 Convention, hosted by Scott AFB and headed to my dream vacation in Hershey, PA. What a thrill. We then headed to Washington D.C. where our first stop was the AFSA HQ building.

Keith, Andy and the rest of the staff treated us so wonderful. They showed us around, explaining what everyone did and Andy even made sure we took home some ASFA publicity items. Even though space in the car was limited, we found the room. Also David made sure he got a video and pictures with his AFSA Championship Belt.

Once we made it back my summer activities for AFSA Family members begin. During the first weekend of June we held our first of hopefully many Membership picnics. While there were not many in attendance we all had fun. May have had something to do with our chilly days here in the Black Hills of SD.

While July was quite, except for a membership drive, August began as it always did with our annual Salute the Patriots event at Main Street Square in Rapid City. I had the honor of taking part in the flag ceremony by lowering the flag during the National Anthem and a special reading about our Flag. We had chapter members helping serve in the Beer Tent including my daughter and Member for Life, Ashley. What a special evening.

Next David and I heading to the AFSA International Convention in San Antonio, TX. Despite a long delay in Denver we made and down and met up with old friends and members of Chapter 951 which included Kevin Ott our Division 3 President, VP James Beck and Chief Moran. Other members of Team Ellsworth were there as well.

I had the great pleasure of hanging out with my good friend and International Family Members Trustee Patti Dalzell who after serving several years in an appointed trustee became the first person to be elected into the position. We hung out and fellowshiped with other family member trustees coming up with new ideas on how to expand membership of our family members.

Finally we ended the summer with Ellsworth AFB's Back-school-round up held at the Pride Hanger. David and I, along with our son Patrick who is also a Member for Life, gave out free backpacks and school supplies and briefed AFSA and what our Chapter does locally to all who would listen. Now to start planning for the rest of 2019 and making things happen.



# 2019—2020 Legislative Platform



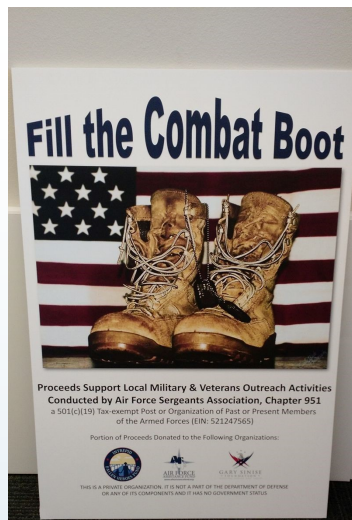
This platform of legislative objectives will serve as a “blueprint” for testimony and lobbying efforts, in conjunction with responses dictated by day-to-day events. There are seven major focus groups listed below. Within those generalized focus groups are the Association-approved initiatives, which we will list a few main objectives; as we win approval for one of those targeted areas, we will remove that particular item and add another from our on-going support list. This list is not all-inclusive and will be amended as dictated by the situation and events. Understanding our Nation’s fiscal situation, success in each of these areas will not always be defined by what is gained, rather the level of benefit preserved or gaining a portion of our objective.

## **AFSA’s SEVEN MAJOR FOCUS GROUPS**

### **MILITARY HEALTHCARE – VETERAN/RETIREE BENEFITS – CARING FOR SURVIVORS – MILITARY BENEFITS & PROGRAMS – AIR NATIONAL GUARD & AIR FORCE RESERVE – EDUCATION – MILITARY FAMILIES**

- Improve access to earned military health care benefits; enhance existing coverage/ services and resist future fee increases
- Improve funding and 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 and reduce backlog; ensure ancillary programs, services, etc., remain fully funded; advocate for maintaining a strong focus on suicide awareness and prevention; extend concurrent receipt to all retirees with disability ratings; expand and enhance access for women Veteran health care
- Repeal 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
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector via full military pay raises in accordance with current law and protect or enhance related benefits like leave, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to include dual BAH, bonuses and special pays while protecting funding for commissaries, base exchanges, and MWR facilities; review and enhance COLA for high cost areas. Fix the contracted military housing issues
- Fix complex reserve duty status system (e.g., 12304b situation) without reducing compensation value; reduce the Guard & Reserve retirement compensation age from 60 to 55
- Support legislation that promotes future success through the use of hard-earned education benefits, like Tuition Assistance, MyCAA, Montgomery or “Forever” GI Bill and ensure that these programs remain relevant and fully funded for them or any dependents whom their benefits may have been transferred
- Extend and enhance educational and employment programs for military spouses; fully fund Impact Aid

Click picture for Details



Honoring our Patriots

Click picture for Details



# 2019—2020 Legislative Platform Cont....

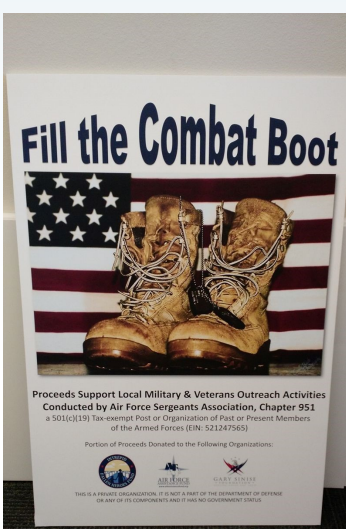
## ON-GOING LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

• Provide option of TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) to Air Reserve Technicians (ART) • Resist TRICARE fee increases, pharmacy co-pays and authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums to include chiropractic care • Extend the VA Caregivers Act to full-time caregivers for veterans of all eras • Promote and enhance transition programs and employment opportunities for veterans and spouses • Improve access to affordable child care, encourage payment policies that accommodate military lifestyles (i.e., accommodate periods of leave, offer tax breaks), and monitor extension of CDC hours to ensure they reflect operational pace of service members and families using those facilities • Seek adjustments to allowances to better reimburse members for expenses they incur for housing and government-directed PCS moves • Credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard/Reserve early retirement • Remove the annual cap on inactive duty points that can be applied towards retirement • Acquire Tuition Assistance (TA) program benefits for Air National Guardsmen and Dual Status Technicians & enhance Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-SR) benefits • Allow survivors of military retirees to draw the full, final month's retired pay • Repeal or further modify the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA) • Protect the voting rights of military service members • Pursue further legislation and funding for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) as treatment of persistent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)/post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) for veterans through VA • Provide a full accounting of POW/MIAs from all past and future military actions • Advocate for DIC recipients to be able to remarry at age 55 and maintain their benefits • Guard the American flag from purposeful acts of physical desecration

## ON-GOING POLICY ITEMS

Extend time on station between Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves • Pursue changes in Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) to provide overseas military retirees with full exchange/commissary benefits and postal services • Establish a catastrophic leave program; allow military members to transfer their annual leave to other military members • Extend length of time allowed on final PCS move for household goods to two years

Click picture for Details



Click picture at bottom to access Voter Voice and submit a response to on-going Legislative issue.



# AFSA LEGISLATION ACTION CENTER

Defending the Total Enlisted Corps and their Families since 1961

#WeAreAFSA | #AFSAGivesBack



## AFSA CHAPTER 951

### Electronic Communications



Once again Division 3 leads the “PAC.” At International we won the 2018 AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Division Communications Award for the Chapter level. Our hard work continues to pay off.

AFSA as a whole has strived to improve how they communicate. Just look at their home page, [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org) for starters. It has a more appealing look and they are working to clean up a lot of information on their links. You can even read the latest magazine by going [HERE](#). Just chose the most current or past magazine.

Miss getting the magazine in hard copy? Go to this [LINK](#) and order your subscription, just \$20 a year. You can order even more copies if you want extras to place in the common areas on your base or community. If none of the links above seem to work then go to the AFSA Home page, Click the Chapter Corner tab and under it click Communications and Marketing Materials or the News tab and it is under there.

As with last year, look for AFSA to reach out to its members to find out what you want and how they can improve. There will probably be more surveys such as Legislation, Communications, etc. For AFSA to be able to improve they need to hear from its most important customers, YOU. If you have ideas submit them through your Chapter/Division or, give your AFSA Leadership/HQ Staff a call.

That is exactly what I did after our Division Conference when Marny and I took a trip out East. We stopped by AFSA HQ to see how everything worked. Our thanks to Andy and Keith for showing us around, explaining how each section worked and letting us sit in on one of their Staff Meetings. They even listen to some of my crazy ideas.

One such idea, which I’ll take credit for, was Keith Reed, AFSA’s Executive Director, needed to let the members know what AFSA needed and the budget probably couldn’t give us. He did just that by presenting a plan which would allow members to pay a monthly subscription instead of the yearly one. Problem was the initial cost of the license was \$18K and then \$12K a year to maintain the use. It was put to the chapters to help fund the initial start up, at least \$200 a chapter. Also the new subscription would be \$4 a month for those wanting to use this option. Basically an extra \$1 a month for a service fee. So, if only 1,000 people took advantage of this each year,,, you can do the math.

One of the things I plan to do is to send up a Talking Paper to change the current Communications award. Currently it says a division/chapter needs to submit at least three newsletters, if applicable. Unfortunately the newsletter part accounts for 30 pts and also the website accounts for 30 points. You are already at a disadvantage if you don’t have a newsletter. When AFSA changed the award away from a separate website and newsletter award it was meant to bring us into the new era of Social media where most people communicate through the web.

In addition I will recommend they bring back the newsletter award to recognize those chapters that believe in communicating the “old fashion” way because that is what their members want and expect. This change should not cost AFSA that much since they now only give out a certificate and post the winner on a plaque at AFA HQ. This way we continue to show appreciation to all our members.



# #951

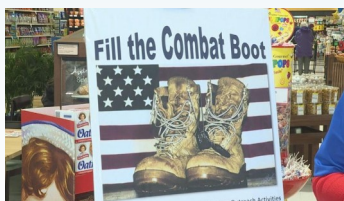


## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER



We begin with the adventures of our Senior Advisor, "Super Dave" and his wife, our Family Members Trustee Marny Bamburg as they made their way from the D3 Convention up to Washington DC where they were able to tour the AFSA HQ building. After touring the facility, Super Dave was able to get a video showcasing his new AFSA Championship belt which now has the emblems of all the Services.

Next we move on to the showcase of our fundraising, the Fill the Boot which takes place May of each year during the weekend of Armed Forces Day. Despite rain and cooler temperatures volunteers from several of Ellsworth's Private Orgs came out to volunteer and close to \$9K was raised, with the money going to several Veterans Organizations and the local organizations who volunteer to assist us during the year.



Each year, Chapter 951 supports the local AF JROTC, SD-061 program at Douglas HS. This year the award winner was Cadet Jada Kicks who served as a flight sergeant for the entire school year. And is a member of the DHS varsity volleyball team.



In June we had our first of what we hope will be many, Chapter Membership Picnic. While the turnout wasn't as we had hoped, those in attendance had fun. In fact, VP Beck has already been volunteered to be grill master for the next one.



Also in June, Kevin Ott, now the D3 President and Super Dave visited the office of South Dakota's newest congressional leader, Dusty Johnson. Both briefed local staffers on AFSA Legislative platform



and some of the local issues coming to light. And yes, the BELT was in attendance.

July was a quite month. We help what has become a month membership drive at the Base Exchange on Ellsworth. Chapter members volunteer to sit at the Chapter's table and engage with those brave enough to stop by and say hello. We also had a meeting, if you could call it that, to sample what was to be the signature drink for 2020 D2 Convention which we will host in April of next year.



August is probably our busiest months. First we had members in attendance for the Military Affairs Committee (MAC) Pig Roast held at Main Street Square in Rapid City, SD. Chapter 951 is one of the sponsors and the event is meant to honor those serving, to include members of Ellsworth AFB and SD Army National Guard's Camp Rapid.

Next we had our Cornerstone Event, Honoring our Patriots, held at Main Street Square in downtown Rapid City. This event, a vision of both Kevin Ott and Super Dave, was started to pay tribute to Veterans and first responders. Each year many Veterans Organizations sit up table to showcase what they do in the community and the highlight of the event is the AFSA Chapter 951's flag folding event.



During August, members of 951 and Team Ellsworth attended the annual AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference in San Antonio, TX. This was an outstanding week of conducting AFSA business, hearing from the top leaders of the Air Force, hosted by CMSAF Wright but also recognizing some of the top performers of the Air Force and AFSA.

Finally, closing out August, Family Affairs Trustee Marny Bamburg worked with Ellsworth to be a part of their Back to School Roundup. We passed out backpacks and school supplies to the students heading back to the classroom and were able to meet with their parents to share what AFSA was doing for them on Capitol Hill and in the community. It was the perfect end to a great summer.





# #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 2020 D3 Professional Airmen's Conference**

**Hosted by Chapter 951**

**at the**

**Rushmore Hotel and Suites**

**445 Mt. Rushmore Rd.**

**Rapid City, SD 57701**

**(605) 348-8300**

**[Website](#)**

**More information coming soon**