



## AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Spring 2021 (April – June)

*Things are getting busy again as the thumbscrews are lifted. Your chapter needs you to know and to be involved. Here are some upcoming events you can join in on in the future as they come around again!*

## Another Army Ball is coming up.

One of the Sunshine Chapters premier activities is the Army Birthday Ball. It is always a wonderful evening full of



comradery and entertainment. This year we will have another Virtual ABB. Brian Holmes and his team have planned it that way and there is not enough time to change it based on still evolving guidance from DoD and AUSA National. Our thanks to the Chapter Army Ball Planning Committee for their skillful coordination in making this a bit different than last year, and being more wide-ranging. We adapt as we can and learn as we go. Our supporters and

Partners are still chipping in with their generosity. Sign up to join us and we will be able to continue the tradition of hosting Soldiers, Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Cadets, Family-members, and the local community helpers. We will be

recognizing Earle L. Denton and David G. Halloran Award winners as usual. A great way to end TSIS Week and the Golf Tournament.

## UCF Army ROTC Staff Ride

The University of Central Florida Army ROTC Staff Ride was



conducted at El Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, FL. The Military Science Level (MSL) IV Cadets (seniors) departed the university campus on an historical journey to the 450-year old Castillo de San Marcos on April 8. Acting as a moderator for the Cadets was Sunshine Chapter VP for History, COL(R)

Lawyn C. (Clay) Edwards.

The Cadets came prepared and shared their research and study. They enjoyed learning the history of the fort, its construction, and many of the main characters who contributed to the history of St. Augustine, the Castillo, and



Florida in general. They also learned how all of these historical events can inform them today in their chosen Profession of Arms. Each Cadet was assigned either a topic or a character to speak about to the entire group. COL Edwards then provided

some vignettes, thoughts to connect and to ponder, and tie-ins to each of their own contributions, sort of translating then into now. They determined that it all comes down to leadership! That conclusion makes it personal for each of them.

Each Army ROTC Cadet must complete a history course, preferably one to do with the Army and its contributions to the Nation, during his time in ROTC. The Staff Ride is part of that requirement, and it is one of the anticipated events for the Cadets' final year, engaging in Military History and in camaraderie.



## 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting Update

Just to let all of our Members, Industry Partners, and the Friends of AUSA know, there is encouraging news that the world is getting back toward normal. The 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting will be held this year now that the District of Columbia is lifting many social distancing restrictions on 21 May and is planning a full reopening on 11 June.

We are thrilled by this news, as it means AUSA can host our in-person Annual Meeting on 11–13 October. The theme for this year's Annual Meeting has been approved and is: **"America's Army and its People, Transforming for the Future."** It's time to get back to business, and we can't wait to see you there!

# NMUSA

Another indicator that the world is getting back to normal is



The museum is the first and only one to tell the complete history of the U.S. Army and its soldiers, from before the country was founded to the present day. (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

that the newly completed National Museum of the US Army, on Ft. Belvoir's periphery, will reopen on the Army's Birthday, 14 June. **AUSA Extra** tells us that the 185,000 square foot museum first opened last Veterans Day, delayed by Covid-19. Then, less than a month

later, it was forced to close down because of health concerns. If you are looking to learn about the complete history of the US Army, then this is the only place where that whole story is told. Starting with the earliest militias before there even was a United States and coming down through the years to today. Free time-entry tickets are required but easily available. AUSA is the single-largest contributor to the facility, which is owned by the Army but managed by the Army Historical Foundation.

## AUSA UCF ARMY ROTC AWARDS

On April 7, 2021, the University of Central Florida Army ROTC conducted its annual Award Ceremony, this year virtually. The Cadre nominated Cadets to receive these awards from different partners. AUSA Sunshine Chapter, being a long-time partner to the UCF Army ROTC program, provided two of the awards presented to Cadets.

The AUSA Award is presented annually for the outstanding MS III Cadet who contributes the most toward advancing the standing of the Military Science Department. The awardee receives a medal pendant with ribbon bar and certificate. This year AUSA Sunshine Chapter President, LtCol (USAF, Ret) Mike Motko, presented this award to CDT Gibson Jakes.

The second award presented was the AUSA SUNSHINE CHAPTER UCF ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIP. This award is presented annually to an outstanding cadet from each MS level who contributes the most toward advancing the standing of the Military Science Department. Each cadet received a \$1000.00 scholarship. LtCol Mike Motko presented these awards to MSL I CDT Joseph Power, MSL II CDT Alexandra Howell, MSL III Alyssa Sanchez, and MSL IV Alexis Romeyn.

## **Awards, Recognitions, and Scholarships**

As we begin to get back to normal, we have been able to recognize some future leaders of our United States Army. In April, LTC (Ret) Dan Clark, Senior Army Instructor for the Army JROTC at Lyman High School, nominated Cadet Thomas Arminger for the AUSA Leadership Award.

Cadet Arminger is a solid academic performer with a 3.2 GPA, is the Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major, and immediate past Public Affairs Officer. He is a current competitor on the Drill Team, Fitness Team, and Academic Bowl Team. LTC Clark predicts Cadet Arminger will enlist in the U.S. Army Military

Police after graduation or enroll in Army ROTC through the Simultaneous Membership Program.

Regardless of his decision, I feel confident that Cadet Armingier will continue to make his friends, family, and peers proud, now and in the years to come.

## Memorial Day

Do not forget Memorial Day. Be where you ought to be to recognize those who have given all for our country's freedoms.



As we see how fragile it all is, we need to recall that President Reagan reminded us that freedom is always only one generation away from collapse. This year we celebrate on Monday, 31 May. Services will be held at all of the National Cemeteries and at so

many other places. The VA says all the Cemeteries are up and going for events again. Wherever you go, make sure you at least celebrate it in your heart, and in teaching your kids and grandkids. Only one generation away!



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				April 1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter 	5	6	7	8	9 	10
11	<b>NDIA</b> 12 Ramadan	 13 PALT	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	 21 EXCOM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
2	3	 4 RSA PALT	5	6	7	8
9 Mothers' Day	<b>NDIA</b> 10	  11 PALT	12 Eid	13	14 	15
16 	17 SOFIC Week 	18 	 19 EXCOM 	20 	21 	22
23	24	25	26	<b>NDIA</b>  27	28	29

Key Events:

17 May SOFIC (Virtual)  
27 May NDIA & WID Luncheon (Hybrid)

EXCOM Priorities:

Army Ball 2021 Sponsors  
ABB Unit Awards



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
May	30		31	June	1		2		3		4		5
	6		7		8		9		10		11		12
													
	13	 14 Army Birthday Flag Day		15		16		17		18		19	 Army Birthday Ball
				<b>TSIS</b>		<b>TSIS</b>		<b>TSIS</b>					
	20 Fathers' Day		21		22		23		24		25		26
	27		28		29		30						

Key Events:

- 15 Jun TSIS (Hybrid)
- 18 Jun Golf Tournament
- 19 Jun Army Birthday Ball (Hybrid)

EXCOM Priorities:

- Army Ball 2021