



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2021/Army Birthday Ball (July-August)

*And we just thought the thumbscrews were being lifted!! We had all sorts of plans for opening back up and having face-to-face meetings again. But, Covid had other plans, no matter who is in charge, or what we wanted to do. Here are some of the festivities of the Army's 246th Birthday Ball, a message from your Chapter President, and some news provided by AUSA in their **AUSA Update** and **AUSAExtra** emails.*

Another Army Birthday Ball in the Can!

This year the Covid scare mandated another Virtual ABB. Brian Holmes and his team planned and executed a marvelous Ball



that was mix of previous years and the televised version of 2020. We want to express our thanks to the whole Chapter Army Ball Planning Committee for their success in this event dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of Operations Desert Shield and



Desert Storm. After the Orlando Recruiting Battalion Color Guard posted the Colors, we were able to have the STRI PEO, Ms. Karen Saunders, deliver some words of praise and support. MG (ret) Bob Williams, a veteran of Desert Storm,



the 1st Gulf War, was our keynote speaker, and what a keynote speech it was. Mighty fine job. And, to top it all off, Mrs. Patricia Buhl sang our National



Anthem, a magnificent ***Star-Spangled Banner***, in our

salute to the Nation. Made us all proud. We

recognized this year's Earle L. Denton and David G. Halloran Award winners, Ms. Debbie Berry and Lockheed-Martin Corporation respectively. Sergeant Nicholas P. Labella, 436th Civil Affairs Battalion, was recognized as the NCO of the Year. Specialist Alexander J. Irizarry, also of the 436th, is the Soldier of the Year. As always, it was a great ending to a Covid-inspired TSIS Week and Golf Tournament.



Chapter President's Message

The Sunshine Chapter has put another operational year (July 2020 – June 2021) into the books, and what a year it was.

No doubt COVID was the headline for almost the entire year and in reality, the last 18 months. The Sunshine Chapter prevailed through this difficult time using Zoom meetings, emails, and the old-reliable telephone. There were challenges

and some still exist today as we try hard to come out of the back side of COVID.... hopefully.

Going forward into our new operational year, the EXCOM will drive the Chapter back to in-person events, board meetings, luncheons, etc. as soon as we are able. I look forward to getting out and seeing all of you in person this year.

In June, we held the Army's 246th Birthday Ball at the newly established Tech Grove located in Partnership IV. This was a "hybrid" event with about 60 of us gathering live while numerous others attended virtually. To say the least, it was a tremendous event. We turned the Tech Grove into an intimate evening venue and enjoyed renewing friendships face-to-face. I would like to share some thanks to several individuals and sponsors who made this year's Sunshine Chapter Army Birthday Ball possible. First, to our Sunshine Chapter team, led by Brian Holmes, Traci Jones and Teresa Moon. What they pulled together was something short of a modern-day miracle. They faced endless challenges with location changes (up to the last minute), outside participation, and too many more to mention. I cannot be prouder of what this group strove to, and did, accomplish.

UCF and the Tech Grove provided the venue. Carol Ann Logue and Kevin Mikalsen made the Tech Grove available to us after our previous location became unavailable at the last moment. The hours that Carol Ann and Kevin spent striving with us just goes to demonstrate the spirit of Team Orlando, everyone

always going the extra mile. A million thanks to UCF, Carol Ann and Kevin.

A special shout out to our color guard that was provided by the US Army Orlando Recruiting Station/Orlando Recruiting Company. These great Americans did all of us proud. Thank you.

Our twelve sponsors were:

Signature Sponsors - Raytheon Technologies, and Cubic

Flamingo Sponsor - MaK Technologies

Platinum Sponsor - Cole Engineering Services

Gold Sponsors - AVT Simulation, Engineering and Computer Simulations, Innovative Reasoning, Logicore, and the National Center for Simulation

Silver Sponsors - J. O'Connell and Associates, and Pulau

In Kind Sponsorship - UCF/Tech Grove

Their sponsorship and great support allows us to put together a first-class event. The entire Sunshine Chapter thanks these patrons for their contributions and efforts making this year's Army Birthday Ball possible.

In the coming year we will return to quarterly luncheons and General Membership Meetings. Please check back often for announcements of the dates as we are able to open up. Each luncheon will feature a unique guest speaker for the membership's enjoyment.

The chapter is in the beginning stages of planning a golf tournament for some time in the late fall after the heat has died down. Brian Holmes will be heading up that effort. We will advertise but again, please check back for updates.

Next year's Army Birthday Ball will return in full force as it did prior to COVID. The chapter will start our planning this fall.

Finally, my thanks to the entire EXCOM for all their efforts this past operational year. We met every challenge and did not let lockdowns, Zoom meetings etc., get in our way of supporting our entire Army family. ARMY STRONG. To the Chapter membership, our hats are off to you for your support year in and year out. The Sunshine Chapter has always been there for the entire Central Florida Army community and the entire EXCOM salutes you.

Michael J. Motko
Chapter President





<https://andreas4ed.myportfolio.com/desert-army-birthday-cake>







AUSA published news

AUSA Announcements:

Retired Gen. Robert Brown will become the Association of the U.S. Army's president and CEO on Oct. 1, succeeding retired Gen. Carter Ham, who has led AUSA since 2016, the association's board of directors announced.



Retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley has been appointed vice president, membership and meetings for the Association of the U.S. Army effective July, 2021.



Army Ten-Miler: The Army Ten-Miler will open priority registration for an in-person race on or about June 30. Currently, registration is open for a virtual race, held between Oct. 10–25. The in-person race is slated for Oct. 10, one day before the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition. For more information, please visit their website at www.armytenmiler.com.

AUSA Annual Convention: AUSA is pleased to announce the 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition, 11 - 13 October at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. We hope to see you there in person.

UPDATED MEMBER BENEFITS GUIDE: The 2021 Member Benefits Guide has been updated and is available for download in the ASK Toolkit.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial (1921-2021)

Honoring the unknown and providing inspiration for the future, the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier takes place throughout 2021. Three Soldiers for Life with service at the Tomb joined AUSA's Dan Roper to describe these commemorative activities along with the Tomb's enduring meaning in an *Army Matters* podcast.

Dedicated in 1921 as a "source of inspiration, reverence and love of country," the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier honors an unknown American warrior who "represents no section, creed or race... and typifies the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead." The 2021 Centennial, not only commemorates the dedication a century ago, but provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the enduring meaning of the Tomb and its relevance to all citizens, whether they have served in the military or not.



Graphic Novels

AUSA publishes several graphic novels. One of the series focuses on those Soldiers who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. The most recent graphic novel features CPL Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. , Co. E, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for single-

handedly holding off the enemy so that his fellow Soldiers would not get overrun in a hotly contested fight on Hill 123 near Chonghyon, North Korea, 5 November 1950, during the Korean War. Find 10 current graphic novels, for you and your kids, at <https://www.ausa.org/medal-honor-graphic-novels>

<https://www.facebook.com/AUSASunshine/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ausa-sunshine-chapter-official>

<https://www.ausa.org/chapters/sunshine-chapter>

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