# The SAL III

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY REDSTONE-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER

VOL 20 ISSUE 2 Summer 2020

## Annual Women's Leadership Luncheon

By Nic Britto, president, West Alabama chapter

The Association of the U.S. Army West/Central Alabama Chapter honored four women during the annual women's leadership luncheon with Gov. Kay Ivey in attendance.

Five women were honored Wednesday for their leadership during a luncheon at the Tuscaloosa River Market.

The Association of the U.S. Army West/Central Alabama Chapter presented the honors during the group's annual women's leadership luncheon with Governor Kay Ivey in attendance.

The veteran of the year award was given to 1st Lt. Kayla Freeman, the first black woman to serve as a helicopter pilot in the 200-year history of the Alabama National Guard.

Freeman, a Tuskegee University graduate, flew more than 250 combat hours in Operation Enduring Freedom when her Guard unit was deployed in Iraq after she earned her wings in 2018.

In her civilian job, she works as a flight test engineer for the U.S. Army Redstone Center in Huntsville.

"Freeman is a perfect example of the quality of soldiers we have in our military." Nicolas Britto, president, AUSA West/Central Alabama Chapter said.

Other honorees included in the picture in no particular order:

Betty York, a retired Alabama Power employee, who served as the company's business office manager in Aliceville



and Reform for 37-years. In retirement, York joined the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa and has served as director of the Honor Flights, which takes groups of veterans on a day trip to the nation's capital to visit the memorials to their service.

Khristina Spruill Motley has been a schoolteacher for 23 years in the Tuscaloosa County School System. She currently directs choral groups, including an all-inclusive choir that includes typical and multi-disability students.

LaTonya Jemison is a counselor at

Hillcrest High School, where she has served as a mentor to the Army Junior ROTC students.

Ellen Potts, the executive director of Habitat for Humanity Tuscaloosa. She has volunteered with Habitat since 1997 and became executive director in 2013.

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## Introducing 5 new board members in 2020

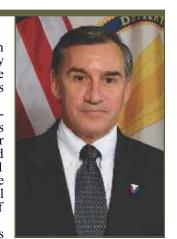
#### **Bill Marriott**

William Marriott was born into Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida during his father's service as a Navy helicopter instructor pilot. Upon graduation from the Naval Academy in 1979, he enjoyed a 26-year career as a Naval Aviator.

Marriott retired from active duty in 2005. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and served as the Executive Secretary for the DoD until departing for the U.S. Army Materiel Command in 2009. He served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and G-1 then reported to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command as the Deputy to the Commanding General in 2015. Marriott served as the Executive Director of AMCOM till June 2019.

Bill is excited to be a member of this board. It boils down to three things that are important to him: taking

care of our military members and their families; ensuring our Army has all the resources it needs to meet its priorities, and with fewer members of society serving in the military at present, to keep the accomplishments and importance of our Army at the forefront of people's minds.



#### **Dale Kuehl**

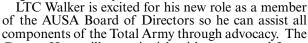
Dale Kuehl grew up in Huntsville, Alabama and is a graduate of Grissom High School. After graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1988, he returned long enough to marry the former Ellen Ferrell, a classmate from Grissom. Kuehl served as an infantry officer over the course of the next 30 years including command of a Combined Arms Battalion in Baghdad, Iraq during The Surge in 2007. He went on to serve as a senior trainer at the National Training Center as well as command of an Operations Brigade with First Army. After brigade command he served as the G3/5/7 and later Chief of Staff of First Army. He completed his Army career as a leadership instructor at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. After retiring from the Army, Dale and Ellen were happy to return home to Huntsville. Ellen is back at Grissom High School as a math teacher, while Dale joined



Edward Jones as a financial advisor where he specializes in partnering with military retirees and transitioning Soldiers to meet their financial needs. In addition to serving on the board with AUSA, Dale is an active member of the South Huntsville Main Business Association, Kiwanis of Huntsville, and the West Point Society of the Tennessee Valley. Dale is excited about the opportunity to join the AUSA Board of Directors as a way to continue to serve both the Army and his hometown.

#### **Darrell Walker**

Darrell Walker is a native of Seneca, South Carolina. He enlisted into the Army Reserves in 1990, and currently serves on active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel at the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command on Redstone Arsenal. LTC Walker attended the University of South Carolina where he received a Regular Army commission in Military Intelligence that included a detail to the Field Artillery branch for the first four years of active service. His active duty service includes two combat deployments, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002 with the 3d Infantry Division and in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008 with 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.



Greater Huntsville area is rich with current and former Soldiers that have earned the right for someone to fight for their concerns and interests. LTC Walker wants to do his part in ensuring AUSA continues to permeate its influence into the community in which he now resides.



#### Erica Bradford

Erica is a Huntsville native and Faulkner University graduate with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Her experience in the hospitality industry covers a vast number of job titles from Front Office Clerk to Area Director of Sales. Erica is the current President of Hospitality Sales & Marketing Executives (HSME), she serves as Secretary on the Rocket City Alabama Chapter of Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP). She enjoys working within the community as a volunteer at multiple non-profit organizations. As Convention Sales Manager covering the government and corporate markets, she is responsible for promoting Huntsville/ Madison County as a meeting and convention venue. In her spare time, Erica enjoys outdoor concerts, reading, and event planning and trying out new recipes. Her most valued time is spent with her family, husband Andra and daughter Marissa. We are excited to welcome Erica to our board.



#### **Rob Thomas**

After serving 30 years in uniform, Colonel (Retired) Robert (Rob) Thomas is excited to be able to give back to the military community and continue to serve our Soldiers on the Board of Directors for the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA. He was commissioned into the United States Army Armor Corps in 1991 after having enlisted in 1988, serving several years as a 13B Cannon Crewman. Rob served multiple Armor command and staff assignments including three assignments as a Company Commander. He entered the Army Acquisition Corps and served in Detroit, MI, Ft Monmouth, NJ, Aberdeen, MD, the Pentagon, tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and finally as a Program Manager in the Missile Defense Agency. Rob retired from active service in the Army in November 2018 and



was subsequently brought on with Booz Allen Hamilton. Now an Executive with Booz Allen Hamilton working as a Program Manager for the Space and Weapons account, Rob is proud to call Huntsville, Alabama home. He has volunteered here in the Huntsville area with Meals on Wheels, the Northern Alabama Food bank, Mana House, and Forever Young Veterans. Rob lives in Owens Cross Roads, Al and is affianced to the lovely Ms. Ann DeWeese. Together they have two beautiful daughters, Brittainy and Madison.

### President's Message

No doubt we are truly living in interesting times; face covering requirements, social distancing policies, workforces telecommuting, virtual meetings and conferences.... My staff continues to ask when will we get back to normal. Unfortunately, it appears what we are currently experiencing is, for the foreseeable future, the new normal. So now the challenge we face is answering how a service organization with the goal of being the voice for all components of America's Army, while fostering public support of the Army's role in national security, and providing professional education and information programs, can do that effectively in this new paradigm. I believe the answer is to soldier on and that is what we've done. While all our regularly scheduled events have either been cancelled or postponed, the members of your Board of Directors have not sat idle. Our tireless volunteers have accomplished much in furtherance of our stated goals and objectives:

Chapter Bylaws were reviewed, updated and approved

New members of the Board of Directors were elected and installed

Hosted a virtual Community Partner event with COL Kelsey Smith

Provided pizza and dessert to our veterans at Tut Fann for a July 4th celebration

Continue to provide support to ROTC/ JROTC components by supplying them with certificates of achievement, medals and cash awards

Donated \$5,000 to the Army Emergency Relief Fund (earmarked for Redstone Arsenal)

After thoughtful deliberation, we determined it was prudent to cancel the DA Civilian of the Year dinner which is one of our most important and rewarding annual events. Thank you to the commands and organizations who nominated individuals for special recognition and congratulations to all the nominees. The winners of each category will be announced later this month and, thanks to the determination and dedication of the



DACoY committee, arrangements have been made to personally present each winner with their award.

Last month's announcement that the annual AUSA Exposition and Symposium in Washington, DC is going virtual was absolutely the right decision, but nonetheless disappointing for all. I am confident the staff at AUSA National will make this event meaningful, relevant, informative and the best virtual symposium it can be.

I look forward to the time when we can once again meet in person. Until then, be well, stay safe and do not hesitate to contact me, or any member of the Board, if there is anything your chapter can do to support you. I would just like to leave you with this thought—the Chapter recently celebrated our 60th Anniversary and it would be an understatement to say there have been many ups and down over those 60 years and yet we are still here. This too shall pass. Army Strong!

Salute is the quarterly newsletter of the Redstone-Huntsville Association of the United States Army. Salute is published by Tennessee Valley Media, a private firm. The publisher is not responsible for incorrect information.

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### **Placing Flags on Veterans Graves on Memorial Day**

By John Perry, VP Reserve & National Guard Programs

On Saturday, May 23rd, the Veteran's community join forces with the local Boy Scouts to place flags on the graves of Veterans at Maple Hill Cemetery. Volunteers from AUSA and several organizations responded to a request for help from the local Boy Scouts and placed over 1,400 flags in just over 2.5 hours. "Amazing!" said MAJ(R) Johanna Moore, Troop Committee Chairman for the Boy Scouts. "We could not have done it without your help."

Mr. Moore contacted John Perry a month earlier requesting assistance. The local Boy Scouts planned to place flags on the Veterans graves at both Maple Hill and Glenwood Cemeteries that day. It would take them all day to cover both cemeteries. Mr. Moore decided to reach out to the Veteran community for assistance.

We want to thank all those who volunteered their time along with the Boy Scouts,

Cub Scouts and parents who helped place the flags. The organizations who helped

Boy Scout Troop 400 Warrant Officer Association Boy Scout Troop 70 Sergeants Major Association

Boy Scout Troop 61 AUSA

Boy Scout Troop 340 General Dynamics VFW Post 5162 Cub Scout Pack 8 Veterans Coalition Lockheed Martin

Mr. Moore is requesting an additional 500 flags to cover all the graves at Maple Hill Cemetery for next year. The flags are 8" by 12" with 24" or 30" stem with a gold tip on top. Donation would be most appreciated.

On behalf of Mr. Moore and myself, we want to thank everyone for volunteering their time to assist placing flags to remember our Veterans on Memorial Day.

We look forward to working with everyone again next year when we hope to place 2,000 flags at Maple Hill Cemetery for Memorial Day



MAJ(R) Johanna Moore, Troop Committee Chairman for the Boy Scouts, (seated)

### **ENTERPRISEHOLDINGS**



#### **Donation made**

Huntsville, AL, 12 August 2020 – the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has donated \$2,500 to The Redstone-Huntsville chapter of the Association of the United States Army for veteran scholarship programs. The foundation is the philanthropic arm of Enterprise Holdings, which, through its integrated network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises, operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Alamo Rent A Car brands.



Young scout proudly displays one of the flags he was placing on the Veterans graves at Maple Hill Cemetery.

#### Chaplain's Corner

### Looking Back at Lessons Learned

By Jim Henderson, Chaplain

Last week visiting our grandson, an Air Force Special Operations captain who was training with the Army Rangers at Fort Benning, gave me pause to look back at my 57 years since I first reported to Fort Benning in 1963 for Advanced ROTC commissioning training. The Post looked pretty much the same except for the new buildings that were built combining the Infantry Center and the Armor Center to become the US Army Maneuver Center. The airborne jump towers looked the same. The old World War II barracks were gone, replaced by motor pools for armor units. The Building 1 headquarters had had a brick facelift. Nearby was an old M60A1 battle tank, part of a historical display, like the tanks we had in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. I found I could still climb up on the turret and drop down into the turret as a tank commander, if the hatch had been open, but it was not easy. As we drove around the post, I reflected on the lessons I had learned since then.

So, what have I learned that's worth sharing?

Follow God's leading. I always wanted to be soldier and worked hard to succeed. He blessed me with career success, and I was promoted to colonel. The worst failures I faced both personally and professionally were when I did it my way and didn't follow His leading. To sum it up, do it the Army way and do it God's way. Work hard to do both. They are fully compatible.

"Mission first, then your people," is more than an axiom, but a creed to live by with constant trade-offs between the two, while not worrying about yourself. The soldiers will follow you if they trust you and know that you know what you are doing and that you care about them. One of my soldiers when I was a company commander in Vietnam contacted me a few years ago and we shared some



of our memories from the unit. He reminded me of how the first sergeant and I would divide the company into two teams and compete filling sandbags to protect our bunkers from rocket and mortar attacks. I had forgotten, but he remembered. Not a big deal but they would follow me when we came under attack. Some of the things he said, meant more to me than the words in my officer efficiency reports.

Good soldiers never want to retire, but know that they must plan for the transition to civilian life which is not easy. The bottom line is to analyze the job market and develop the hard skills it takes to succeed then sell our skills to potential employers. We should allow room for God to direct our steps.

Take care of the family and try to compensate for the family separations and hardships.

So what have I learned in all these years? Allow for God to help us run our race. Follow Him and we will finish well.

Blessings!



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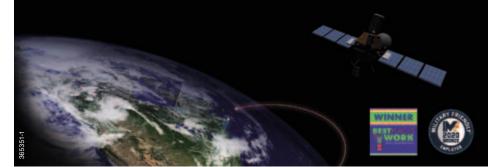


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### **Chapter donates \$5,000 to Army Emergency Relief**

As public health officials recommended continued social distancing, the Redstone-Huntsville chapter of the Association of the United States Army, along with top Redstone officials, cancelled the 2020 Army Birthday Dinner scheduled to be held at the new Toyota Stadium on June 12th.

The annual celebration brings together top leaders and representatives from Team Redstone along with AUSA members to recognize the anniversary of our nation's

Army and those serving and supporting Redstone Arsenal.

This is not the first event that the chapter had to cancel due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). In March, national AUSA officials cancelled the Global Force Symposium - one of Huntsville's largest conventions and visitor revenue generators. The Redstone-Huntsville chapter then cancelled the Rocket City Bash, the chapter's largest fundraiser of the year which is affiliated with the symposium.

While event and fundraiser cancellations have impacted funds and operations, the local chapter continues to work virtually to serve through this crisis. In keeping with their mission to serve the Army family, the Redstone-Huntsville chapter of AUSA

has donated \$5,000 to Army Emergency Relief.

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is the Army's non-profit organization, providing financial assistance to soldiers through zero-interest loans, grants, and educational scholarships. During the COVID-19 crisis, AER is providing direct support and increased readiness to soldiers and their families who have been adversely impacted. More information about AER and their COVID-19 response efforts is available at https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19/.

"We look forward each year to recognizing the history of our nation's Army and the service and sacrifice of those who continue to serve this country. Our board of directors and members are disappointed to cancel this year's celebration," said Steve Below, President of the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter. "Through our donation to Army Emergency Relief and continued support of our local Army community, we continue to look for ways to serve during this difficult time.

AUSA is a private, nonprofit, educational Association of individual, business and

organization members dedicated to supporting and maintaining a strong national defense with an emphasis on the role of the United States Army.

AUSA Redstone-Huntsville supports the needs and interests of soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, veterans, and the entire Army family. To learn more about how to join and support AUSA Redstone-Huntsville, visit https://www.ausa.org/chapters/redstone-huntsville-chapter.



Congratulations John Wright, past president of the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville chapter on your new role as Chair of the Board of Directors with Still Serving Veterans.



Phoenix thanks all who have served and acknowledges the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

Congressman Mo Brooks (second from the left), one of north Alabama's AbilityOne champions, congratulates Phoenix employee Shannon Green (seated) and her husband Kevin (second from the right). Joining them are Phoenix VPs Amy Patterson (left) and Wes Tyler (third from the right), Phoenix board chair Mary Turner (third from the left) and Phoenix board member Kenneth Anderson (right).



### The Fallen Soldier Battle Cross

By Nicolas Britto, president, west alabama chapter

Tuscaloosa, AL – Due to the generosity of Leroy McAbee, Sr.; the Hillcrest High School Army Junior ROTC program; Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreations Authority (PARA); and the Association of the United States Army, West/Central Alabama Chapter. A new monument honoring veteran of all wars is now on display at the Tuscaloosa Memorial Veterans Park.

The arrangement of a fallen soldier's rifle, topped by the helmet, identification tag, and a

Pair of boots – known as a Battle Cross – began during World War I. Since then, when a service man or women is lost on the battlefield, it is traditional for comrades to erect a Battle Cross indicating the site and memorializing his/her supreme sacrifice. The helmet and identification tags signify the dead soldier. The inverted rifle with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to the comrade. The combat boots represent the final march of their last battle.

The Battle Cross located in this park are representative of those sacrifices made during

World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and Afghanistan/Iraq War.





### **Local Face Shield Production: Helping Those on a Mission**

By Elizabeth Mudler, marketing manager

EOS Defense Systems USA, Inc. (EOS) jumped at the chance to assist the effort during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EOS CEO, BG (Retired) Phil Coker researched to find an open source design called the "Badger Shield" that would fit the exact purpose of protecting the people willingly putting themselves on the front line.

He said, "EOS is in business to help our citizens who are putting themselves in harm's way in support of our country. Helping the healthcare professionals during this challenge seemed to be a natural extension of that mission. The supplies of basic personal protective equipment available to them were severely limited during the early weeks of the pandemic, and the EOS workforce was determined to find a way to help. Putting together face shields seemed a great way to contribute to the outstanding folks who were working in dangerous situations to try to counter this terrible disease".

The materials needed to construct the

face shields were purchased from a local Alabama company and the plastic was laser cut with the cooperation of Sheila Cummings, CEO of Cummings Aerospace and performed by Clyde Cochrane, owner of Cochrane Creations.

EOS employees assembled parts to create the shields, sanitized them and packaged them for delivery into the community.

The company manufactured almost 1000 face shields. 400 were delivered to Huntsville Hospital, 300 were delivered to Crestwood Medical Center, and the rest were handed out to local doctors' offices, pharmacies, and dental workers.

Tait Gibson, Pharmacy Manager at a community CVS said "The Face shields helped me and my colleagues feel safer than just wearing a cloth mask. Thanks for everything EOS does for the community".

ÉOS is a US based manufacturing company, operating in the global defense market providing design, development, production and support of remote weapon stations in the North American market



EOS Family who assembled the face shields. From Left to Right: Antione Walters, Chad Stone, Jake Brown, Will McNutt, Fatina Elzy, George Hopkins, Casey Culver. Floor: Gary Holzheimer. Not pictured, the photographer, and lead of the production, Jackie Turner.

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## Saving UAH hockey

In May, Alumni, UAH hockey, and college hockey supporters locally and around the world successfully raised the funds needed to reinstate the University of Alabama Huntsville NCAA Division I hockey program. \$870,022 was raised in four days – exceeding the goal by \$120,000.

Saving the program was a huge and impressive achievement, and now it's time to take the next step in ensuring the future of our program.

NOW IS THE TIME for Huntsville send a message to college hockey that we are here to stay and are serious about rebuilding a championship-level program.

NOW IS THE TIME for Huntsville to come out strong as fans and supporters.

How do we do this? Right now, the answer is simple: season tickets. Fans in the stands will show our community's support for UAH's Hockey program.

NOW IS THE TIME to show potential conferences how strong the Charger fanbase is and that WE, as a team, hockey fans, and a community are ready to come out fighting.

NOW IS THE TIME for our hockey family to send the message that we are here stay!

AUSA has been a part of the UAH Hockey fabric for a long time. As a thank you for your support, we are proud to offer AUSA members 10% off of season tickets with promocode: AUSAHockey. 10% off promotion is valid through 09/15/2020. Season tickets can be purchased here: www.saveuahhockey.com

### Army National Hiring Days Local Support

By Troy Trulock, Legislative Affairs VP

From 30 June through 2 July 2020, the US Army held it first "Army National Hiring Days", an Army-wide virtual campaign showcasing the U.S. Army's 150 full-time and part-time career options, training, benefits and education to inspire individuals to consider military service.

The Army had a nationwide goal of hiring 10,000 new full-time and part-time Soldiers in the federal and state service during the campaign.

To assist the Army in this national campaign, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for North Alabama, Dr. Joe Fitzgerald, promoted this event. In addition, our local community leaders were very supportive of this event and signed a proclamation showing their appreciation for the men and women of the United States Army who have served and continue to serve today.

The Army reported tremendous success with the campaign. Those interested in Army opportunities should visit goarmy.com/hiringdays

We work tirelessly to help kids get well because Hugh has a long list of stuff he wants to do.

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### **Redline Steel Memorial Day Contribution**

By John Perry, VP Reserve & National Guard Programs

Colin Wayne, CEO and Vice President of Redline Steel donates his unique steel designs to a selected organization to remember our Veterans on Memorial Day every year. This year he donated 250 steel American flags to the Redstone Huntsville Chapter of AUSA. The flag pattern is called "Freedom isn't Free".

Chapter Executive VP, Rhonda Sutton, Chapter VP for Reserve & National Guard Programs, John Perry and SFC Chad Perry, Army Recruiter from the Huntsville Recruiting Company, were invited to the Redline Steel manufacturing facility to accept the flags.

Gary Burgess, VP for Redline Steel, lead our group on a tour of the facility. The custom designed steel flags and hundreds of other unique designs are made at the facility in Tanner, Alabama. Hi-tech laser machines cut the metal to the precise design programmed by Redline Steel designers. 5'X10' sheets of steel are loaded into the conveyor and the machine cuts the designs and transfers the final product to a station where workers off-load the product and send it to the paint booth.

The steel flags that our chapter received are 10"X18" in size. The steel flags are painted either red or black. All the steel flags are made by the local, Veteran owned company.

The chapter plans to present the steel flags to chapter members and supporting organizations as special tokens of appreciation.

We want to thank Mr. Colin Wayne, Mr. Gary Burgess and all the great folks at Redline Steel for considering our chapter for their generous donation of the "Freedom isn't Free" flags. What a great patriotic gift from a great patriotic company.



From Left to Right: VP Gary Burgess, SFC Chad Perry, CEO Colin Wayne, AUSA Exec. VP Rhonda Sutton and AUSA VP for Guard and Reserves, John Perry receiving the "Freedom isn't Free" flags at Redline Steel.

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#### **SAVE THE DATE**

AUSA Redstone Huntsville Chapter hosts

The 16th Annual

Sergeant John Ordway Awards Breakfast

Friday, 20 November 2020

The Jackson Center

6001 Moquin Drive NW Huntsville, AL 35806

**Begins:** 7:30 AM **Ends:** 9 AM

#### Submit questions to:

Chad Cuomo Chad.Cuomo@peduzziassociates.com

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### A Time to Shine: Infection Control During a Pandemic

By Macy Magnusson

Hospitals are a place of healing and recovery. Unfortunately, they are also a place where infections can spread rapidly if proper precautions are not taken. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 25 hospitalized patients will get an infection as a result of the care that they receive, and an estimated 75,000 patients with healthcare-associated infections will die each year. Because these infections pose a major threat to patient safety and in turn the safety of the community, hospitals have made the prevention and reduction of infections a top priority, depending upon their Infection Control teams to lead the charge.

At Crestwood Medical Center, a lot of time, hard work, research, and education goes into preventing the spread of infection. Crestwood's Infection Control Team is made up of 2 Infection Preventionists, Amy Stephens, RN, and Roslyn Richardson, RN. Infection Preventionists are experts on practical methods of preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases. They tend to wear many hats. They look for patterns of infection within the facility; provide education to patients and staff members; audit practices; develop, review, and update the facility's protocols and procedures for infection control; investigate infections and outbreaks; advise hospital leaders and other professionals; and coordinate with local and national public health agencies. Their roles and responsibilities require expertise in microbiology, epidemiology, statistics, human resources, education, public policy, and clinical practice.

Most of the work Stephens and Richardson do is typi-

cally done behind the scenes. When COVID-19 hit, they found themselves in the spotlight, their roles proving to be more critical than ever before. Their primary roles immediately shifted to the hospital's preparation and response to potential COVID-19 cases.

Each day, Stephens and Richardson are responsible for reviewing the guidelines and recommendations on safely caring for patients with suspected and confirmed COVID from governing bodies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), World Health Organization (WHO), and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). From those guidelines, they have written and implemented policies and procedures for preventing the transmission of COVID-19 within the facility. They have been involved in key decision-making and planning with regard to issues like personal protective equipment (PPE) supply and use, to ensure that all staff members had appropriate PPE at all times, and helping to optimize infection control in the design and set up of Crestwood's COVID units.

In addition to researching and planning, Stephens and Richardson have worked closely with the clinical staff, educating them on hand hygiene and appropriate PPE usage and addressing any issues that the staff encountered along the way.

Because of the excellent job that Stephens and Richardson have done, as of the date of this publication, Crestwood has been able to keep 100% of its team members healthy, provide appropriate PPE to all of its staff during the country's PPE shortage, and continue to give excellent care to all



Crestwood Infection Prevention Team: left to right: Roslyn Richardson, BSN, RN, CIC; and Amy Stephens, BSN, RN, CIC

patients. Their hard work and dedication to keeping everyone safe also helped to reduce the risk of spread within the community.

In moments of crisis, there are always helpers and heroes. For Infection Preventionists like Stephens and Richardson, this pandemic has been their time to shine. They have shown our community just how important infection control is and the positive effects infection control can have on keeping everyone safe and healthy.



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**12** AUSA Salute Summer 2020

### Bamatracker: Benefiting Alabama's fight against COVID-19

Data has become an essential part of our lives. With the COVID-19 pandemic taking over our lives and the news, citizens around the world are now glued to news sources and social media, digesting whatever statistics they can to stay informed about how the virus has spread throughout the world and within their own communities. However, as data accumulates, health and community organizations struggle to collect it from multiple sources in a way which can be interpreted by the public.

#### The face behind the tool

OneTeam's own Chief Technology Officer and computer software engineer, David Marconnet, took his love for assembling data for more effective use and built a website to do just that: collect the influx of data obtained from multiple sources and arrange it in a more contextual way, giving perspective to a collection of numbers which were complicated and impractical for most people to make use of. Considering the health of his own family and the people of his home state of Alabama, David wanted to provide citizens with tools to help them make sense of the pandemic within their own communities, and thus BamaTracker was born.

As individuals watched news and other media sources, the amount of data shared by health authorities and governments can be overwhelming, and it was nearly impossible to interpret due to the mismatch of information provided by a high number of disconnected authorities. David used his experience in software and combined it with his company's expertise to collect data from several authorities and offer the community a clear vision of how their state has dealt with COVID-19, from new and cumulative cases to detailed testing information. One metric not found in many other sources is the Rt Per Day, or reproduction of the virus. This metric gives visitors a well-defined view of how well Alabama is succeeding at slowing the growth of the virus.

#### **Community service**

The knowledge that David could use his love for and expertise in translating data to useable information and reporting to benefit the community was a driving force in the development of BamaTracker. Glenn Meyer, OneTeam's founder, offered to provide the hosting on the OneTeam server at no cost. Both

#### BamaTracker





men were happy to not only educate the citizens of the state of Alabama, but also allow communities to make their own decisions regarding work, shopping, recreating, and gathering, based on real-time data and relevance—having access to statistics for each specific county within the state.

#### **Getting some attention**

When David began BamaTracker, he had no idea it would become this popular, garnering attention to the tune of approximately 15,000 visitors each day.

Its popularity—and authority—has grown to the point where mainstream news and even government representatives have stood up to take notice of the usefulness of the website. A central location where Alabama residents can gather trustworthy metrics presented in easy to understand charts helps not only the people of Alabama, but helps to increase confidence in state leaders' ability to provide its citizens with peace of mind that they are winning the fight against CO-VID-19.

### **A Win-Win Morale Boost**

When the governor of Alabama issued the Stay at Home order on March 19, 2020 for Alabama residents, this had a major impact on the community. Schools went online and closed their doors; many restaurants and other businesses were forced to close their doors or modify how they served the community; and S3 Inc. had to modify its opera-



The CEO, Jan Smith, directed personnel in headquarters to look into what it would take to have dine-in Fridays for those who were required to be in the home office and were unable to conduct

business through tele-working. There were two main goals for this idea: (1) Give a morale boost for employees and reward them for hard work and dedication; and (2) Show appreciation to the local community restaurants that could only provide takeout and delivery. The guidance was to pick a restaurant and get orders from everyone in the headquarters, and then also get input for future weeks to alter the locations to get meals. Employees nominated restaurants, and then on Wednesday, a name was selected from the nominations, and the Friday order was placed and delivered.

The team of John Andrews, Josie Garza, and Michelle Reilly made this event happen for 10 weeks. When the orders were placed, the gratitude of the restaurants was overwhelming. On one occasion, a manager was brought to the verge of tears, as she was so thankful for S3, the order, and how the large order would help the business out during this uncertain time.

Every time the HR team picked up the order and delivered to the S3 employees, everyone was happy. As a result of the Friday dine-ins, people at the various restaurants were happier, and the S3 employees were appreciative of Jan Smith's efforts to improve morale during the uncertain time everyone faced. Employees also felt glad that S3 was supporting local businesses that were struggling.



AUSA

Redstone-Huntsville Chapter

2020 Department of the Army Civilians of the Year Awards Dinner

We regret to inform you that this Year's Awards Dinner has been cancelled.

In order to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of all nominees and category winners, we are coordinating with each command for a small ceremony at each command's discretion and location.

Do not hesitate to call if you need further information. Matt Mingus 334-717-0706

### Raytheon employees in action during pandemic

By Natalie Lapacek-Trout, corporate social responsibility manager

To help our communities meet the unprecedented challenges presented by CO-VID-19, Raytheon Missiles & Defense (RMD) employees jumped into action with a plan to help first responders and community organizations. Employees collected and made necessary items and worked hard to produce them quickly, while the company supported local organizations that are helping make Huntsville safe and healthy during this time.

#### Face Shields

Led by Engineer Jeff Bannon and Engineering Lab Lead Rory Overcast, RMD employees worked with the Huntsville Commerce Department to deliver approximately 700 face shields to the Huntsville Hospital and clinics around the community.

When the company's stay-at-home order began, Engineering Manager Brett Pagel borrowed a couple of 3D printers to make face shields and ear savers at home. By working with volunteers from Huntsvillefightingcovid.org, Pagel donated over 60 shields and hundreds of ear savers to the Huntsville Hospital, which has received over 40,000 PPE items from the group's efforts.

"I was a small part of a much larger effort," said Pagel. "Instead of letting the printers just sit there, it was nice to be able to help even a little bit."

#### **Supporting First Responders**

RMD's employee resource groups collected food and gift cards to donate to local police, firefighters and ambulance drivers through the Leadership Greater Huntsville initiative. Charles Moore, vice president of the Raytheon Employee Veterans Network, led the effort to deliver over 2,000 paracord bracelets and

encouraging letters to soldiers serving overseas as the virus became a global pandemic.

#### **Innovative Mask-Making**

RMD Site Manager Justin Hiehle and his wife Yachi wanted to help Raytheon employees and Huntsville community members by providing masks. Hiehle credits his wife for finding a unique way to make N95-style masks.

"She used medical smock material to make double-layer masks for friends and family, and I asked her to expand her efforts to help Raytheon teams coming into the office. She started there and just kept making them," he said.

The Hiehles delivered over 400 of her innovative masks to Raytheon employees, local clinics and nursing groups, and a clinic in New York City.

#### **Community Healthcare Donations**

To supplement the work done by RMD employees, RMD gave \$10,000 to the Take 5 to Give \$5 campaign led by the Huntsville/Madison Chamber of Commerce. With a goal set to raise \$500k, the effort has currently raised over \$700k to date for local emergency relief needs.

RMD has also provided much-needed assistance to those financially affected by the pandemic. In June, RMD donated \$25,000 to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. The funds are being used to assist Huntsville Hospital employees who have been unable to come to work due to lack of childcare, illness, furlough and other reasons related to the pandemic.

"Our healthcare workers are giving their time and expertise to keep Huntsville safe and healthy," said Raytheon Technologies Huntsville Site Executive Dr. Patricia Dare. "We are happy to provide resources that help them do that. It's the least we can do for those who are doing so much for us."

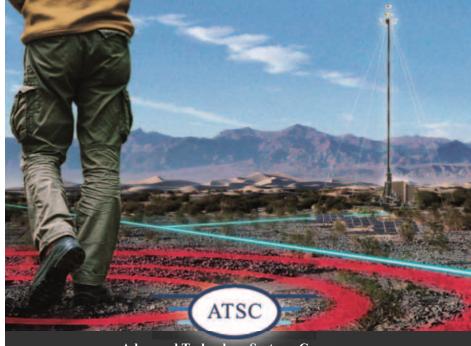


From left: Dr. Patricia Dare, Raytheon Technologies Huntsville Site Executive; Jeff Samz, Huntsville Hospital Chief Operating Officer; and Sarah Savage-Jones, Huntsville Hospital Foundation President.

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### Moog is Proud to Support COVID-19 Relief Efforts Worldwide

Moog Inc. is a worldwide designer, manufacturer, and integrator of precision control components and systems. Our high-performance systems control military and commercial aircraft, satellites and space vehicles, launch vehicles, missiles, automated industrial machinery, marine and medical equipment.

As the world faces COVID-19, Moog employees believe that we are all in this together and have a responsibility to support one another during these challenging times. To do our part, Moog sites around the world have been providing essential supplies and medical equipment to those who need it most.

One of the greatest ways we have been able to contribute to the fight against CO-VID-19 is through the production and donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) at several Moog locations around the world.

Internationally, our Aircraft Group manufacturing plant, located in Baguio, Philippines, donated 3D-printed face shields and thousands of face masks, goggles, and medical gowns to the city and local hospitals. Meanwhile in Europe, three of our facilities in the United Kingdom are collaborating to manufacture and distribute face shields to local nursing homes and medical centers.

Our sites across the United States are also doing their part. In Torrance, CA, employees are printing 3D masks from home for an organization that sources and distributes PPE to underserved communities. Heading south to Oklahoma City, our Aircraft Group site partnered with Rose



State College to donate 3D-printed plastic headbands and laminate covers to protect healthcare workers at an area hospital. Moog's COVID-19 relief efforts have also been successful at our global headquarters in East Aurora, NY, where hundreds of homemade face masks have been donated to local cancer support groups and 3D-printed PPE have been donated to local first responders, as the result of employees' individual efforts.

In addition to the design, production, and donation of PPE, Moog facilities in the

Philippines, Germany, and United States have been actively working to meet the demand for critical medical supplies, such as thermal scanners, infusion pumps, and rapid testing devices. Our sites in Murphy, NC, and Radford, VA, have been leaders in this endeavor, and have ramped up the production of blower units for respiratory ventilators. At this challenging time, we can take pride in knowing we form a critical part of the medical supply chain and directly impact the industry's ability to scale production and save lives.

Moog will open a regional support center in Huntsville in August 2020 to co-locate our technical capability in a key strategic location for customers and programs while expanding our global workforce to include a strong presence in a growing talent market. The center is projected to grow to 25 permanent employees over the next three years.

It is with great pride that we recognize the ongoing commitment of our employees for making a difference and saving countless lives. If you would like to learn more about Moog's relief efforts.

### Martin Federal a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

MartinFederal Consulting, LLC. (MartinFederal) is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) focused on providing solutions-based services to the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and other federal agencies. Headquartered in Huntsville, AL and with employees in nine states and three countries, MartinFederal focuses on Advanced Information Technology, Engineering, Course Development and Training, Laboratory Support and Talent Acquisition.

MartinFederal provides training development and interactive multimedia instruction (IMI) support for the Strength Maintenance Training Center (SMTC) for the Army Reserve National Guard (ARNG). Due to the travel ban related to COVID-19, the SMTC instructional team had to adjust their methods used to train new classes that previously occurred onsite at Camp Robinson to a Distance Learning (DL) method. DL allows for soldiers across the 54 states and territories to continue to receive the training that the SMTC provides despite the travel restrictions. At the end of each class, a graduation ceremony occurs and previously included a live stream available to family, friends, and others to celebrate their soldier's achievement. These ceremonies, like the training, had to be modified to fall within the DL requirements. MartinFederal's IMI team was challenged to develop a new approach for these graduations

As part of the new approach, the IMI team now produces video segments that highlight the graduating soldiers and combines them with video of a guest speaker, words from the Chaplin, and live remarks from SGT Young Hall by Major Woodard. The videos require capturing multiple images of the soldiers and instructors from each of the virtual classes. The most recent SQI14 class consisted of more than 200 students and 30 instructors. Music, video effects, polishing, and rendering of the final



product takes place the week of graduation and is combined with the live event. The completed ceremony is recorded and posted on the SMTC's YouTube and Facebook pages for soldiers and ARNG staff to share. The ceremonies take weeks to plan and execute but are important to the pride of these soldiers. All these actions have ensured that education and training did not stop due to COVID-19 and the SMTC's mission to improve soldier readiness had not stopped.

In addition, MartinFederal has continued to focus on pursuing excellence and encouraging employees to practice safe habits to reduce the spread of the virus. In March, we expanded our teleworking policy at the corporate office to allow employees to work remotely, embraced virtual meetings utilizing Zoom and Microsoft Teams, and raised over \$1,000 for the 2020 Huntsville Virtual Heart Walk.

For more information, visit: www.martinfed.com and follow us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/martinfederal-consulting-llc-

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