



# Airfield 858

The Newsletter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association – Chapter 858 Summer 2004

## From the President

WOW – what a Quarter! We've been busy raising money at the Dome, giving awards to our young JROTCs, providing prizes at the 934<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament, attending the 1<sup>st</sup> EVER Enlisted Call at the 133<sup>rd</sup>, and sponsoring an AFSA Softball Team! And SOON, you'll be able to see photos from all those great events on our Award-Winning Website of the Year! Congrats to Dave Hammer for maintaining and keeping our Chapter website up-to-date and great!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all my volunteers! As you can see volunteerism is making the Chapter visible. I couldn't, I repeat, I COULD NOT do it without all of you that step up to the plate and help me! *Thanks!*

I want to encourage you all to sign up for the electronic newsletter. During the month I get additional updates that I have Tami send out and if you're not on that list, you don't get them. I also have Dave put them on the website so keep checking it out!

<http://afsa858.home.att.net/>

See you at the 934 NCO Club Lounge, Sat, Aug 7, 1700 for the meeting!

### World War II Memorial

On Saturday May 29, President Bush dedicated the World War II Memorial during a moving ceremony that featured more than 100,000 military veterans and guests. Over 600,000 individual contributions paid for the \$195 million bronze and granite memorial which took more than 10 years to get approved, designed and built.

### Important Contacts

E-Mail Newsletter - Tami Besser: [Tami.Besser@mortenson.com](mailto:Tami.Besser@mortenson.com)

It saves our Chapter \$\$ if you subscribe via e-mail!!!

Website News - Dave Hammer: [afsa858@worldnet.att.net](mailto:afsa858@worldnet.att.net)

*CONGRATULATIONS* to Dave Hammer for winning our Chapter Website of the Year! Now it's on to International!

*Check out the website for the latest AFSA contests, volunteer information, and SOON – photos from the events!*

MetroDome Core Training – Vicky Kuntz: [vicky.kuntz@genmills.com](mailto:vicky.kuntz@genmills.com)

All volunteers will need training before the end of the season, but you can work before you've done the training!

Dome Night Volunteering – Allison Fieseler: [hazeleyes0519@hotmail.com](mailto:hazeleyes0519@hotmail.com)

T-Shirts – Chris Neitzel: [Christopher.Neitzel@minneapolis.af.mil](mailto:Christopher.Neitzel@minneapolis.af.mil)

Make sure to send him your address, size and style of shirt!

Chapter Website Address - <http://afsa858.home.att.net/>

Check it out! It's informative and award winning!

### Chapter 858 T-Shirts and Polos

The polos are royal blue and have the AFSA wings and Chapter 858 stitched in silver thread. The t-shirts are black, with the same logo design as the polo shirts on the front, except Chapter 858 is in red. There are still some available with the same logo printed on the back across the shoulders and some without. Proceeds from the sale of these benefit our members – AND they look cool! See contact information above.

### Air Force Space “A” Lodging Policy

Air Force officials announced a change to the Air Force Space “A” Lodging Policy. Effective immediately, base lodging managers may accept and confirm reservations for Priority 2 (Space A) guests up to 30 days in advance of the arrival date, for up to 3 night's accommodations, space permitting based on actual and projected occupancy.

### TRICARE

The contract for the new TRICARE Retail Pharmacy (TRRx) was awarded to Express Scripts Inc of Maryland Heights, Missouri. The new program went into effect June 1, 2004. The new single contract integrated the previous regional contracts into one uniform retail pharmacy benefit across all TRICARE regions. Other enhancements generated by the new contract include centralized claims processing so beneficiaries no longer have to mail pharmacy claims to multiple sites for processing.

**Air Force Sergeants Association  
Chapter 858**

Sherrill Beecher – President

**Officers**

President – Sherrill Beecher  
Vice President – Russ Funaro  
Secretary – Chris Neitzel  
Awards Trustee – Open  
Treasurer – Vicky Kuntz  
Senior Advisor – Vicky Kuntz

**Trustees**

934<sup>th</sup> Legislative Trustee –  
Richard Grewe  
133<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Trustee –  
Thomas O'Keefe  
ANG Membership & Affairs Trustee –  
Dave Himmer  
Boy Scout Trustee and Webmaster –  
Dave Hammer  
934<sup>th</sup> Membership Trustee –  
Jody Knight  
Membership Retention Trustee –  
Doug Altrichter  
Veterans Trustee – Tom Foss  
Trustee – Clayton Pyle

**Auxiliary Chapter Officers**

President – Beck Bogardus  
Vice President – Rose Hill  
Secretary/Treasurer – Fern Schneider

**Special Positions**

Events Coordinator – Allison Fieseler

Airfield 858 Editor  
Dawn Flipp

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**Legislative Update**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives passed its version of the FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act. This defense bill included several items of interest for AFSA Members to include:

- Authorize the creation of separate campaign medal for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. (Sec 561)
- Authorize permanent ID cards for spouses and survivors who are age 70 or older. (Sec 583)
- Provide a January 1, 2005, across-the-board basic pay raise for Active Duty, Guard and Reserve members. (Sec 601)
- Approve a \$400 million increase in military housing allowances to eliminate average out-of-pocket housing expenses in respect to the service members grade and location. (Sec 602)
- Authorize DoD to make up a portion of the difference between civilian salary and military pay for mobilized Guard/Reserve members providing up to \$3,000 per month in income replacement for those serving on active duty for more than 12 continuous months, or 18 months in a 5-year period, or any month when mobilized within 6 months of a previous active duty tour. (Sec 605)
- Provide the authority for military members assigned to combat zones over one year to request an advanced payment of not more than three months of their basic pay. (Sec 606)
- Provide a 1 yr. extension for most bonus and special pay authorities (Sec 611)
- Authorize the Secretary of Defense to increase the maximum amount of Hardship Duty Pay from \$300 to \$750 per month (Sec 613)
- Extend the authority to provide critical skills retention bonuses to members of the Guard and Reserve. (Sec 617)
- Approve a phased out elimination of age 62 Survivor Benefit Plan Social Security offset. The plan would raise the annuity to 40 percent on Oct. 1, 2005; 45 percent starting April 1, 2006; 50 percent on April 1, 2008. (Sec 641)

**As of June 4<sup>th</sup> the Senate Continues to work on its version of FY 2005 Defense Authorization Bill.**

***Next Meeting: Saturday, August 7, 2004 - 1700  
934<sup>th</sup> AW NCO Club Lounge***