

**Subject:** May Newsletter

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**From:** Southern Arizona AOG

**To:** soazaogpresident@gmail.com

# May Newsletter

Hello Southern Arizona AOG,

Best wishes for a meaningful Memorial Day, 2020. Please pause to remember all of our brothers and sisters in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice to provide us the freedoms we all enjoy.

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## Memorial Day Service





Yesterday, I received the following e-mail from Karina Ross, Director of Constituent Relations at the AOG:

Hi Chapters,

I wanted to share with you: this Memorial Day weekend the Air Force Academy Society of Washington D.C will host its first ever virtual memorial ceremony.

Each year the Air Force Academy Society of Washington D.C. hosts a memorial ceremony to honor and pay tribute to the USAFA graduates that have passed away that year. Unfortunately, this year they are unable to host their memorial ceremony in person due to the pandemic. However, this has not stopped the Society from honoring the fallen. We are pleased to present to you all the Air Force Academy Society of Washington D.C. virtual memorial ceremony. Please join us this weekend in remembering and honoring our fallen graduates. This video will only be available for viewing through Memorial weekend.

And to the Air Force Academy Society of Washington D.C., we are truly grateful for your above and beyond efforts and support in honoring our graduates during this pandemic.

Video Link - <https://youtu.be/TvO8AwxiuOY>

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## Food Bank Donation Drive





2020 has certainly been a weird year so far. Of course, I'm talking about the [first 100-degree day in Tucson](#) happening in April. Other than that, things have been pretty normal, right? Ok. Maybe not...

What *has* been normal is our chapter's commitment to service. The photo above is from 2016 when the chapter volunteered to help out the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. This year we weren't allowed to help out onsite for obvious reasons. Nor was the Food Bank accepting physical donations of food. All of this against a background of the largest demand for food anyone could remember. Due to those circumstances, rather than volunteering labor, we ran a two-week, online donation drive to get cash directly into the hands of the Food Bank.

And wow, did you guys come through! Chapter members, cadet families and friends of USAFA dug deep and put up over \$11,000 in donations.

Special recognition goes to Zach Peters ('12) and Don Domkowski ('83). Zach and Don are their class reps. They put the word out to their classmates and wound up winning the awards for largest cumulative donation ('12) and largest number of individual donors ('83). Great job, guys!

You can [click here](#) to see the donor hall of fame at the chapter website including the names of all the folks who contributed to the drive.

Next year, we'll get back to normal (for real) and plan on an AOG day at the actual Food Bank. Not only is it a chance to give back in the community, it's also a lot of fun. In the meantime, even though the donation drive is over, you can still make a cash donation through [our portal](#) if you'd like. Once CFB allows for onsite volunteerism, you can inquire through the [form](#) on the website. Someone will get back to you with details.

## Upcoming Events

Unfortunately, the chapter social calendar is still blank thanks to the recent worldwide unpleasantness. The good news is that the trends are heading in the right direction, so hopefully we'll be able to put together something entertaining for this summer. In the meantime, here are a couple of ideas for the distant future:

**Founders Day:** This will wind up on the schedule for the late-April/early-May time frame. This year, we had reserved the Pima Air Museum and had USAFA Commandant, BG Michele Edmondson, lined up as the speaker, but of course we had to cancel that along with everything else that was supposed to happen this spring.

Before we jump into planning for the 2021 edition, we'd like to know your thoughts. In particular, do you prefer a Dining Out-type event at a high-end venue with a speaker and a sit-down dinner? If so, how much would you be willing to pay for an event like that? With the museum, the event would also come with free, all-day admittance to the facility (or at least it was going to for this year). Next month, we'll put up surveys on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) to get some data. In the meantime, you can reply to this e-mail with any ideas you have.

**Arizona Night at USAFA:** Do you remember state nights at USAFA? I don't remember them being a "thing" in the late-80s/early-90s, but they are apparently a big deal now. I asked in the Facebook group and heard from a '15 grad who said that they are hugely popular events. The gist of it is that Parents' Club members decorate the Arnold Hall ballroom to represent their state and then put on an extravaganza that includes games, raffles, entertainment and a big meal for the cadets from that state (and their hungry friends from other states).

Texas and California, in particular, make enough food to "feed the entire cadet wing." Folks from Texas go so far as to tow smokers all the way to USAFA and turn the Arnold Hall patio into a smokehouse.

Arizona USAFA Parents' Club president Amy Davidson and vice-president Melissa Hasson would like to start an Arizona Night tradition and they're looking for ideas or support from the USAFA Family. If you have any ideas or even if you're simply interested in attending the event (or flying over it...) once it exists, let us know.

**Grad Gaggle:** Unfortunately, the second annual grad march back from Jack's Valley with the basic cadets has been cancelled.

**Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Build:** Len Summers has been tracking this since January. It was postponed from its originally scheduled date in April, but it's not cancelled entirely yet. Don't put your tool belt away, and we'll let you know as soon as Len gets a definitive date.

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Stay safe and healthy and we'll see you at an event soon.

Until next month,

***Go, Falcons!***

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