

## 2020 Florida AFTAC Alumni Association SnowBall XXII

By Sean P. Ryan

Since 1999, The Florida AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) has thrown a themed event called a SnowBall. This festive and social get-together is highlighted with a social, dinner, entertainment, and honoring our previous year's Alumni of the Year (AOY). This year's event was held on 25 January, at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Viera, Florida.

The night's events kicked off with a festive Social Hour where guests enjoyed chatting and reminiscing about AFTAC and catching up and socializing with old friendships and sharing fond memories of their time in the unit, thru the years, around-the-world, or in the headquarters building at Patrick AFB. Guests were also entertained by The Harbor City Harmonizers (A 4-person Quartet). The yearly slide show, organized and developed by Bob Wiley (AOY 2008), with photos by him from Ed Lindsay, and Judy Henderson (AOY 1997), among others, of previous SnowBall's, Spring Picnic, Golf Tournaments, Toilet Bowl, and Wind Downs, was continually shown on the screen.



Alumni of the Year Attendees: Bob Wiley (2008), Sean P. Ryan (2014), Frank Calenda (2015), Dee & Gene Melchior (2012), Pete Gilbert (2018) & Bryce Dunn (2019)



Amy Long, Gina & Chad Hartman

This year's theme was the "Seismic Technique," which joined previous themes honoring Hawaii, Germany, Florida, Wyoming, Thailand, Australia, Korea, Nebraska, and Colorado ... locations, where AFTAC had or has a presence, among other locales, worldwide.

Following the Social Hour, Opening Remarks by the AFTACAA President Phil Godfrey, Introductions of Key Staff, our National Anthem nicely performed by AFTAC's very own "Atomic Blue", Sage Salute provided by Lou Seiler, and POW/MIA Recognition and Invocation by Sean Ryan, a very delicious and appealing dinner was served by the hotel staff.

After a brief break following dinner, the AFTAC Commander, Colonel Chad Hartman, provided an outstanding "pocket slide brief" of the Status of Command (SOC), and an overview of AFTAC's current activities and status. His SOC brief was truly "spot-on," and brought the AFTACAA "in tune and current" with the mission they once served in, and what is on the horizon for AFTAC down the road. Following the brief, The Harmonizers sang again.

The evening ended with the announcement of the 2019 AFTAC AOY. Wallace "Bryce" Dunn from the AFTAC Colorado Chapter in Denver, CO, was selected as the recipient. Bryce was previously recognized at the CO Chapter Worldwide Reunion in June 2019. The AFTACAA officially announced his name to welcome him into the honored recipients of the prestigious AOY ranks and honorees through the years.

Equipment displays were graciously supplied and arranged for the night by Dr. Mike Young, AFTAC Historian. Michelle Ryan and Frank Calenda arranged seismic wiggling related centerpieces to decorate the tables "that were an awesome compliment to the night's table displays." Frank and Edna Calenda, Michelle Ryan, and Pete Gilbert volunteered to man the check-in table. Judy Henderson shot photos for the evening.



Don Whitney, Jim Young, Terry Hammond, Ed Lindsay, and Jim Whidden



Sean P. and Michelle Ryan



The Harbor City Harmonizers