



2019 Florida AFTAC Alumni Association SNOWBALL XXI

By Sean Ryan

Since 1999, The Florida AFTACAA has thrown a themed event called a SnowBall. This festive and social get-together is highlighted with dinner, entertainment, and honoring our previous year's Alumni of the Year (AOY). This year's event was held on 2 February at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Viera, Florida.

The night's festivities kicked off with a Social Hour where guests enjoyed reminiscing about AFTAC and catching up and socializing with old friendships and sharing fond memories of their time in the unit, around-the-world, or in the headquarters building at Patrick AFB thru the years. The bartender "Ryan," once again, was truly superb in serving great cocktails and beverages for the evening. The yearly slide show, organized and developed by Bob Wiley (AOY 2008), with photos by him and Judy Henderson (AOY 1997), of previous SnowBall's, Spring Picnic, Golf Tournaments, and Wind Downs, was continually shown.



Terry Hammond and Carolyn & Arlin Massey



Shown here are some of the trophies presented over the years

This year's theme, was "AFTAC Sports/Recreation," 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 Social Hour, Opening Remarks by AFTACAA President Ed Lindsay, Introductions of Key Staff, our National Anthem graciously and awe-inspiring performance by Rebecca Lehnerz, Sage Salute provided by Lou Seiler, and POW/MIA Recognition and Invocation by Sean Ryan, a very delicious and impressive dinner was served by the hotel staff. The meal choices of Chicken Marsala w/Mushrooms in a Wine Sauce w/Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable Medley or

Grilled Sirloin w/Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable Medley or Portobello Mushroom Napoleon w/Fresh Vegetables and Red Pepper Sauce, accompanied by House Salad w/Dressing, hot Dinner Rolls, Iced Tea, Water, and Coffee. Topped off with a Southern tradition of a delicious Florida to-die-for dessert of Key Lime Pie.

After a brief break following dinner, the AFTAC Commander, Colonel Chad Hartman, provided an outstanding "pocket slide brief" (briefing off 3 x 5 note cards in your hand), and an overview of AFTAC's current activities and status. His Status of Command 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.

Keeping with the theme of sports and recreation, after the briefing, guests were entertained by a Zumba performance group. A number of Alumni and family members joined in the event on the dance floor. A truly physical fitness and a good workout was had by all participating.



AFTACers joined in the Zumba Performance

The evening ended with the announcement of the 2018 AFTAC AOY. Mr **Pete Gilbert** was selected as the recipient. Pete is the Webmaster for the Florida AFTACAA website. The AFTACAA officially announced his name to welcome him into the honored recipients of the prestigious AOY ranks and honorees through the years.

(continued)



AFTAC Commander, Col Chad Chapman, Pete Gilbert 2018 AOY Pete Gilbert, & Chief Mike Joseph

Florida Chapter Alumni President, Ed Lindsay, along with Harm Aning, Don Whitney, and Dr. Mike Young kindly provided sports memorabilia to display. Judy Henderson and Michelle Ryan made sports-related centerpieces to decorate the tables "that were an awesome compliment to the night's table displays." A special thanks to all Team AFTAC Alumni Members and Spouses who volunteered to help with the various tasks and support required to provide for an awesome evening by all in attendance, once again. the various items, tasks, and support required to provide for an awesome evening by all in attendance, once again. We look forward to the 2020 Snowball XXII, In January 2020, when the AFTACAA will gather once



Pete Gilbert

again, to mingle, socialize, and reminisce of the times we were in, and the current AFTAC of today, and recognize the 2019 AOY. Hope you can join us for another grand event and evening, with fellow Alumni and others in attendance next year.

A few of the attendees:



The Josephs & The VanNoords



Ed Lindsay, Jan Whitney, Carol Warfield



Cecelia & Cole Moon



Edna & Frank Calenda



Don Whitney and Karen & Greg England



Tom, Becky, & Zak Lehnerz



AOYs in attendance



Pete & Shirley Gilbert and daughter, Amy Edgerton



Chad and Gina Hartman