



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

Christmas



“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXX

21 December 2013

We are the Ammo Chiefs Association, a not-for-profit; fraternal Association dedicated to the promotion of camaraderie among active duty and retired **USAF AMMO Chiefs**. Our members work throughout the year to raise funds for worthwhile charitable causes such as the Richard Gauvin Memorial Fund, the Enlisted Widows Foundation, and a Sunshine Committee to respond to members’ time of distress. The ACA contributes to the morale of active duty AMMO troops at the Chapter level through recognition and sports programs. The ACA sponsors awards programs for the AMMO School House Outstanding Performer, and the AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer. ACA has contributed to cultural enterprises such as the RAF Welford AMMO Museum. **We are AMMO, and proud of it!** Please visit the AMMO Chiefs web page for more information at <http://ammochiefs.com>.

Our New Ammo Chief Selects:

DOUGLAS M COLLINS	Andersen	BOBBY E GEORGE JR	Lakenheath
CHRISTOPHER HAZARD	Lakenheath	ANTHONY W LAVERGNE	Lakenheath
JASON B MENZEL	Osan	WILLIAM MOTHERSELL	Osan
PATRICK VANVRANKEN	Kunsan	LYLE M WINNICKI	Darby

We wish our new chief selects the best as they become leaders of the pack. We hope they all get a chance very soon to be the chief of their own Ammo flight; there’s not many things that compare with the honor and challenges of being an Ammo flight chief.

As another year draws to a close we continue to see many changes taking place around us in and out of uniform. The continued uncertainty of funding in our weapons programs and force structure changes are going to be one of our greatest challenges most likely for a few more years. As we roll into 2014, we need our members’ support to get the October 2014 ACA Reunion in Las Vegas on more solid ground. Jack is down range in Las Vegas visiting family and trying to meet with some of the local Ammo troops to nail down the hotel. What we really need from our membership is to convey what activities you would like for us to see if we can arrange with hotel or local community. We need your ideas very quickly so we can start investigating possibilities. We are planning to have the Ammo Call and formal dinner; however, I’m sure there’s other activities you would like to take part in if we can arrange it. The weather should be great in October for getting out to see some of the local sights within a short drive. We look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. The social aspect of our reunions is always a highlight.

I will close by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard Pennington
ACA President

Best Wishes from our ACA Vice President

Marion and I wish all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the entire Ammo Community.

Fred IYA Ammo YAS (Chief.OHern@gmail.com)
ACA Vice President



Holiday Greetings to all my AMMO Brothers! Secretary Update

I hope this finds everyone in good health and getting into some Holiday "spirits" as we move into this special time of the year. It has been a fairly busy one for the ACA and in my estimation, productive. The Audit Committee was able to complete their accounting work and the transfer of Treasurer duties from Darrel to Mike was done very professionally. Thanks to all who participated. We have added over 20 brand new ACA Lifetime and Associate Members since the first of this year, as well as having several of our Annual Members transfer over to Lifetime Membership status. As a reminder to those of you continuing to pay Membership Dues annually, they will be due next month.

Next year's Reunion Hotel selection process and room rate negotiations are being worked as this letter is being put together. As soon as the hotel selection is made and any further accommodation information becomes available, I will pass it to the entire Membership. I wish we were further along in this process but have confidence it will all come together soon.

Wishing you and all of yours a Merry Christmas and all of what's best in the New Year.

Jack IYAAYAS !!!!
ACA Secretary

Treasurer Report

1. AMMO SUPPLY

In the October Shell & Flame I let everyone know about the Ammo Supply Store at the following web page: <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com>. Shortly after I linked it to the Ammo Chiefs Association Face Book Page. I then placed an order for two long sleeve "T" shirts to make sure everything worked as designed. It worked great and except for what felt to me to be a long wait for shipping probably due to the embroidery, the store works fine. Only one other order has been made to date. That's ok, so we are off to a slow start. Remember 5% of every order comes back to the ACA. Check it out and let your significant other know we have a wide variety of items for everyone in the family, rain or shine, summer or winter. Here is a snapshot of the opening page, note that they periodically offer specials as shown here. I tried to add a little Ammo Jargon into the product names (LGB Outerwear & JDAM Buttndowns) but sorry to report I'm not very imaginative.

AMMO CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Apparel & Accessories for the Ammo Chiefs Association.

0
\$0.00
MY CART

Shop by Product

- Embroidered Apparel
- All Products
- Accessories
- American Made
- Bags
- 40men (Big and Tall)
- JDAM Buttndowns
- 5.56mm (Children's)
- Closets
- Eco-Friendly
- Fleece & Towels
- Golf
- Hats
- LGB Outerwear
- Performance
- Polos
- Mk-82 Polos For Men
- Mk-83 Polos for Wome
- Premium Collection
- CBU Sweatshirts
- 20mm T-Shirts
- Women's
- Workwear

Instant Savings - Take 20% Off Your Entire Order!**
Enter Coupon Code **SF3B27** At Checkout To Save!

We call it Ammo Supply.

You might call it the Storage Igloo, the Munitions Warehouse, a Magazine or even AFK !

- In September I tried to contact every member of record in order to update our membership database. If you did not see an email from me requesting an update review then we probably have a wrong email address listed for you. If so then please contact Jack Seaman or myself so we can update our records. I was able to update 131 of the 189 members' records but there are still 58 of you out there that we are unsure about.

3. Here are a few stats on the ACA membership, as of date shown.

10-Dec-13

Membership by Chapter

Includes 4 Shell and Flame awardees

Emerald Coast	40
Mid Atlantic	23
Mid West	6
None	120
Total	189

10-Dec-13

Membership by Type

AA = Associate Paying Annual Dues
AL = Associate Lifetime
H = Honorary
HS = Honorary Spouse
RA = CMSgt (Regular) Paying Annual Dues
RL = CMSgt Lifetime
SF = Shell and Flame Awarded *

* Includes 3 deceased members

AA	6
AL	17
H	5
HS	5
RA	20
RL	132
SF	4
Total	189

4. We have been updating the membership roster on the ACA web site, you can view it at http://ammochiefs.com/ammochiefs/?page_id=1560. Scroll down once you are there and you will see the members name, membership number, chapter and state. Following this theme we now also list all former ACA members and all known Ammo Chiefs who have departed this world for a better place. That listing can be viewed here: http://ammochiefs.com/ammochiefs/?page_id=1524.
5. I guess as the treasurer I should say something about our finances. We are in good shape financially and that's about as far as I'll go in an open newsletter like this. But if any members want to know balances please send me an email and I will provide a summary of our accounts. Per the constitution the ACA Board of Directors is receiving a quarterly statement. Email remains mikeroylance@comcast.net.

Bonnie and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Mike Roylance
ACA Treasurer
IYAAYAS!!

From the Sheppard AMMO Schoolhouse - 12 Dec 2013

In this latest round of top performers we are happy to present six more AMMO troops who have truly reached for the top in the three A's...academics, aptitude and attitude. Along with the Top Graduate Award that each of these individuals received, they were also presented with the ACA Top Graduate certificate and ACA Spirit Award coin.



Congratulations to all for a job well done!!



Class 13036, A1C Manuel Gaytan,
graduated 9 Oct and is headed to 163rd
AMXS March ARB, CA.



Class 13038, A1C Oliver Hughes, graduated
24 Oct and is with the Kansas ANG.



Class 13039, A1C Rodney L. Gibson,
graduated 31 Oct and is with the 307th
Barksdale AFRC.



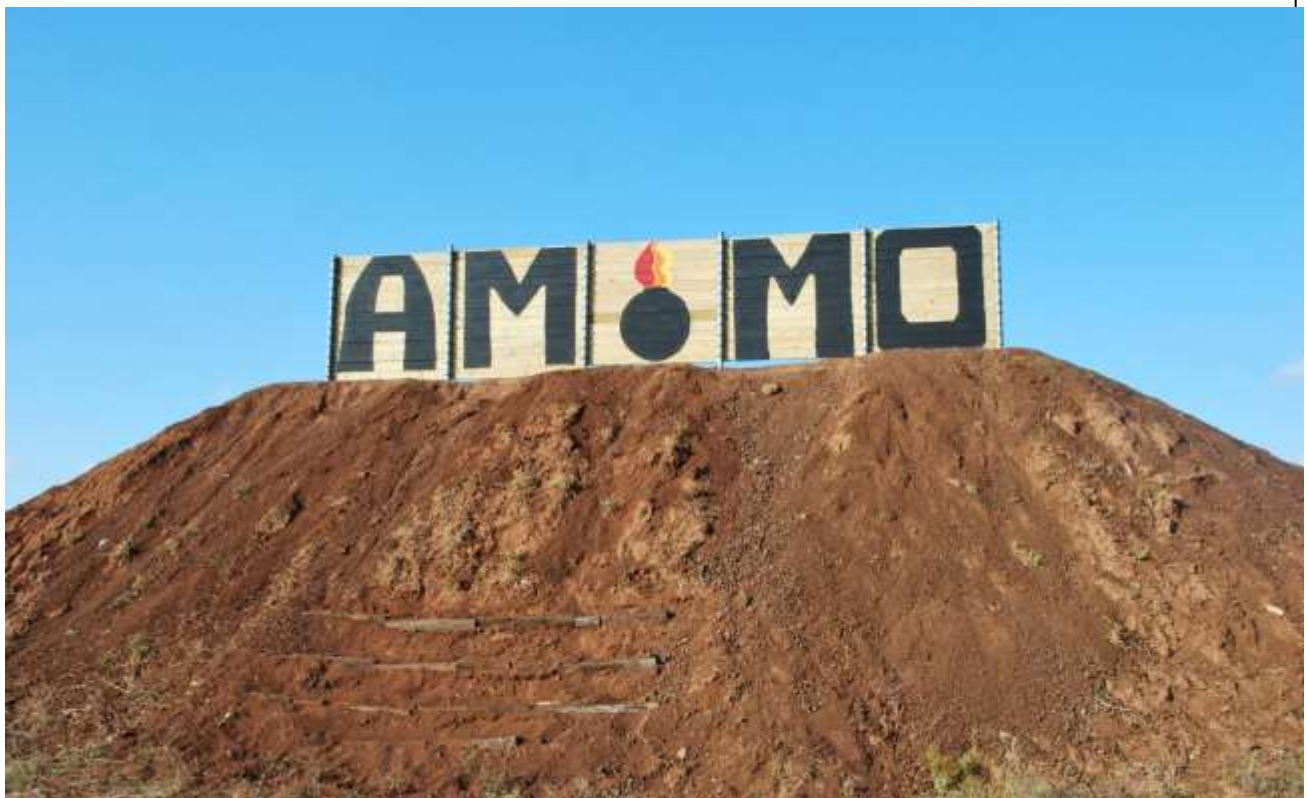
Class 13040, A1C Brian D. Johnson,
graduated 14 Nov and is with the 148th MXS
Minnesota ANG.



Class 13042, A1C Andrew J. Brockman, graduated 26 Nov and is headed to Tyndall AFB, FL.



Class 14001, A1C Anthony D. Perry, graduated 5 Dec and is headed to Tyndall AFB, FL.



OF SPECIAL NOTE! There may be a few folks out there that might recognize AMMO Hill here at Sheppard. As us ole folks know, we tend to wear with age. With some special fundraising and some awesome volunteers, MSgt Adam Stubbs led the charge to rebuild AMMO hill. In all its glory, it should outlast a few more of us. I'm told the previous build was approximately 20 years ago.



AFCOMAC Class 1401 ACA Winner

SSgt Brent B. Cunningham from 366 EMS Mountain Home, ID was nominated by his leadership out of 70 other Airmen, as the AMMO Chief's Association Top Performer during his time here at AFCOMAC.

I am currently stationed at Mountain Home AFB as a member of the 366 EMS. I currently work in Munitions Operations where my primary responsibility is shipping and receiving, this includes not only our stockpile assets but the many various units that come TDY to Mountain Home to train during such exercises as Mountain Round-Up.

As for AFCOMAC it was an all-around great experience. I was unsure of what to expect but was pleasantly to find a very welcoming environment. The course material itself helped

expand my knowledge of what to expect in the possibility of a short notice contingency and provided invaluable hands-on experience that would be difficult to acquire in such a short period of time anywhere else. Overall between the outstanding Cadre, welcoming "AMMO" environment, enlightening course material, and the realistically strenuous Iron Flag, AFCOMAC has been the highlight of my AMMO career thus far.

Respectfully,
Brent B. Cunningham, SSgt, USAF
Munitions Operations Crew Chief

Kyla Murtha Update

I wanted to give an update on Kyla's progress. It's been 5 months since the accident. During the 24 days in the hospital, she endured 6 surgeries and the removal of her forefoot (about 1/3 of the right foot). She was in a wheelchair for the entire month of July and most of August. She started physical therapy in late July, learning



how to balance and walk again. After 12 weeks of PT and with the use of orthotic shoes, Kyla is walking, running, skipping and even cart wheeling. She was released from PT on 24 Oct 13. She saw her orthopedic surgeon on 28 Oct 13 and he was so impressed with her progress that he does not feel the need for anymore follow up visits. Her progress is nothing short of amazing to Becky and me. It was a very trying time that was lessened by the support of you, the Flight and everyone who chipped in to help us. Please pass on Kyla's progress to the AMMO Chiefs Association with our thanks and appreciation for their support.

Patrick J. Murtha, MSgt, USAF

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) membership remains at 19 Ammo Chief members and 4 Associate members. Our newest member is CMSgt Kevin “Shot” Hendershot from Joint Base Langley-Eustis. Chris Arnold PCS’d to Camp Darby in December. We appreciate all Chris and Selina did for the chapter and wish them the best.

Our fundraiser at the Richmond International Raceway NASCAR race on 6-7 Sep proved very successful with almost \$2,200 raised. Due to an erroneous address on the paperwork I sent in, we are still awaiting the funds. However, the money will go far to help support our many programs. We plan on participating in this event at both races next year. Due to a defect in materials, the Christmas ornament fundraiser hit a snag but we would still like to pursue this effort just so we can have an Ammo Christmas ornament available for the community. Shot took the reins from Chris as the head of the fundraising committee and we anticipate great things will happen.

We are still monitoring the progress on SSgt Wilhide’s daughter, Piper, at Seymour-Johnson AFB. She has gone through multiple operations for her neo blastoma cancer. Dave Nixon was not at the meeting so we will get an update on her condition in the near future.

Our December meeting was attended by 10 members at Bill and Marilyn McCullough’s house. With the three proxies we had, we easily conducted business. To our dismay, John and Myong Matthews fell ill and couldn’t make the trip. Additionally, Ricky Hamada wasn’t available since he represented the Chapter at AIC Evan Curbeam’s funeral service. The Chapter passed the hat for donations to help out Evan’s family. Frank Waterman and his wife, Pokson, drove up from South Carolina to attend the meeting, and Jackie and Denise Miller made the drive from North Carolina. It was a busy meeting as we reviewed the proposed 2014 budget and the 2014 events calendar. The reviews yielded a couple of tweaks. We also reviewed the Ammo Troops-in-Need packages and selected two candidates from the Joint Base Langley-Eustis area. We raffled off a 2013 White House Christmas ornament and collected \$47.00 to add to the shopping trip funds. The members also went over the Sharp Ammo Troop awards submittals. The competition was so tight we decided to award both candidates. Our congratulations go out to AIC Chase Bennett from Seymour-Johnson AFB, and AIC Ryan Wertz from Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

During the meeting, we had the after-action report on the Ammo Care Package program. Jackie Miller did the brunt of the work and was able to secure some free packing materials from Lowe’s. In all, we sent over \$1,525 worth over goodies to the troops. We owe a special thanks to the other ACA organizations and individuals who donated funds to the effort. The Chapter membership talked about the 2014 ACA reunion. The group seemed pleased with Las Vegas as the location. There are plenty of things to do there and it is in close proximity to the various munitions operations at Nellis AFB. Some of the local Nellis AFB Ammo troops are helping out and we are looking forward to a great affair.

Our Chapter President, Eddie Fuquay, presented a retirement certificate to Jackie Miller. Jackie is leaving his post as instructor for the Junior ROTC unit in Charlotte, NC. Jackie requested we send a donation to the CMSgt Richard A. Gauvin Memorial Scholarship fund in lieu of a plaque or other memento.

After the meeting, the group had a feast put on by Marilyn and swapped stories for a while. “Nik” Nikolas and Shot had a little pinball competition going. I think the machine beat them both!

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 15th in the Joint Base Langley-Eustis area.

Bill McCullough



ACA Midwest Chapter

The ACA Midwest chapter had another great year. We recognized the four 2012 outstanding AMMO contributors for AFMC. Each winner received a certificate and an ACA Midwest Chapter coin. We supported the local Wright Patterson Chief's group and sponsored a hole at their annual golf outing, spreading the word about the ACA. Don Myers was re-elected as the ACA Midwest Chapter Vice President. Throughout the year we had several AMMO luncheons sharing lots of AMMO stories and AMMO spirit. We finished the year with our annual holiday gathering on 7 Dec.

On a side note, have you ever heard of WOW – Woman Ordnance Worker? While I hadn't until one of my co-workers, Brian Seal, USAF Retired, was up in the Springfield MA area and visited the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, see the image below. During WW II as the men moved on to engage in the war, the women took over most of the support jobs across the country. This one group wanted to distinguish themselves from the other workes so they designed and wore a special bandanna – the AMMO Bandanna. While he was there he purchased one and showed it to me - I had never seen one before, see the other image below. I thought they were real cool so I called them and purchased a few. If your interested send me an e-mail, MGossett@Prodigy.net, and I'll send you the contact information at the Springfield Armory. They're about \$8.00 each.



Springfield Armory National Historic Site
One Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01105

During the great national effort in World War II, women who had not previously been part of the industrial work force were employed in war production at many installations, including the Springfield Armory. The high degree of mechanization and division of labor that the Armory had achieved made it possible for unskilled workers to fill jobs on the production line in a relatively short time. At the wartime peak, 5,210 women (45% of the Armory's work force) helped produce the M1 rifles and other equipment that was vital to the armed forces.

To foster patriotic spirit and encourage women workers to identify with the war effort, the Woman Ordnance Worker (WOW) concept was created. Distinctive posters, badges, and this bandanna in particular gave the WOWs a feeling of pride and accomplishment. In an era when hair styles were long and flowing, the colorful kerchiefs also served a safety function for women working near machinery. During the war the bandannas gave women a chance to show they were "doing their bit," and today they are a reminder to us of American women's achievements during times of national crisis.

Thanks! Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to America's national parks and other public trusts. Please visit our online bookstore at eParks.com



Thanks
Mark Gossett

2013 Emerald Coast Chapter

We were able to raise over \$1900 for the Okaloosa/Walton County Mental Health Association who support the homeless veterans in the local area, from our annual charity golf tournament. (see attached pic-1) Treasurer Johnny Long and President John Greer presented check to Director Mrs. Jinny Barr.

Donated \$100 to local Muscular Dystrophy Group at Tee-it-up-for-Tanner golf tourney.

Donated \$150 to 96th MXS Munitions Flight for their annual Thanksgiving feast

We had our Sep meeting at Chuck Wills' house in Crestview with the wives in attendance. The men conducted the meeting, drank beer in the garage and the ladies played parlor games until the pizza arrived, then we all socialized and finalized the plans for the dinner dance in Oct closed the meeting, went and home.

We had a good turnout at the bi-annual dinner dance where we dined on chicken cordon bleu, prime rib, danced and recognized outstanding Munitions performers from Hurlburt Fld and Eglin AFB Munitions Flights. Recognized from Hurlburt was Amn Hayley Guzman and from Eglin TSgt Sabrina Zugai. (see pic-2)

The Emerald Coast Chapter had its 2013 final meeting on 12 Dec at the newly opened Niceville Helen Back Café where we presented owner Chris Sehman(see pic-3) with a memento for his long time support of the ECC and the Ammo Community in general. Chris has allowed us to remodel the TIKI bar in his Santa Rosa Island location into our own AMMO bar where we have our Annual Ammo calls and ammo troops participate in many other functions such as retirements, receptions and general membership meetings. Chris has been a staunch supporter of all the Ammo Chiefs Association functions and especially the ECC's annual charity golf tourney.

We held our election of officers and John Greer, Darrell Beasley, and Johnny Long retained their positions as Pres, Sec and Tres. Dennis Tagney was elected as the new Vice Pres and will assume that roll in Jan 2014. We all look forward to working with the ACA BOD in making the Association stronger and better.



Update on Airman Mayfield

Rich,

Talked to Kamee yesterday and she sounds like she is doing well. She was actually out in DC helping out with a Wounded Warrior Camp and really enjoying helping out. She said she is now working full time at the Patient Care Squadron and recovery seems to be going very well. She is still dealing with some short term memory issues. She may be going through a MEB, but nothing has been submitted as of yet. We invited her to our AMMO Christmas Party.

IYAAAYAS!

Craig

HAROLD "Craig" WHISLER, CMSgt, USAF

Care Package Support for Ammo Troops

The Ammo community truly appreciates the outstanding work by retired CMSgt Jack Miller for purchasing, packing and mailing care packages to the AOR forward operating locations. The ACA Mid-Atlantic started this effort several years ago as a chapter project and after a couple years donations were received from ACA members as well as ACA Midwest Chapters and the ACA organization. Chief Miller has taken on this project several years and looks forward to doing it again next year if we still have Ammo troops serving in the AOR.



The chapter has received several thank you emails for the AOR Ammo troops expressing their thanks for the care packages. As noted in the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter input over \$1500 was spent on this most worthy cause. We all owe Jack a big thanks for his super efforts in making this another successful event.

Retired Chief Eddie Fuquay presented retired Chief Jackie Miller a Certificate of Recognition as he retired from teaching JROTC. In lieu of recognition plaque Jack requested a donation be made to the AFCOMAC Scholarship Fund in his name.

We wish Jack the best as he truly enters into real retirement.



Historical Archives:



The Christmas Bombing

In December 1972, the B-52 bombers that North Vietnamese missile crews had been waiting for came to Hanoi. Night after night. Over virtually the same track.

A munitions specialist prepares a bomb to be used during Operation Linebacker over North Vietnam.

The link below is from Aerospace Magazine which has nice article on the Christmas bombings that took place in 1972.

http://www.airspacemag.com/military-aviation/christmas-bombing.html?utm_source=airandspacenewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=201312-airspace#



Did you ever wonder what ever happen to those drop tanks?

We need your support to submit articles and picture new or old to share with the Ammo community. Send to my home email account at rpennington7@cox.net that way you don't have to worry about sending through military system.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following Ammo Families:

We try to collect and post this kind of information when we get it, in most cases we will get it posted on the website right away; the newsletter is about every quarter. So whenever you have this kind of information, we would be honored to post and share with the rest of the Ammo community.

Retired Chief Jerry Merichko's brother passed away

Retired Chief John Ray's father passed away

Retired Chief Roger Gagnon's son passed away - he was a retired Air Force TSgt
A1C Evan Curbeam II passed away; his Celebration of Life Program is below

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Ammo families.

LAST AMMO CALL

Chief Hamada was able to attend the celebration of life for A1C Evan L. Curbeam II and provided a donation to the family as well as presenting a copy of the Ammo Prayer to the family. There was a repass where family and members of the unit gathered afterwards. Chief Hamada spoke with Mr Rayner Banks, Evan's grandfather who, from what he could tell, was a major influence and mentor in his life. Chief Hamada also presented a gold tone piss pot pin. He also passed on a card expressing our sympathy from the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.



Airman First Class Evan L. Curbeam II

8 March 1984 – 23 November 2013

Chapel 1

Joint Base Andrews, MD

7 Dec 2013

1500



Airman First Class *Evan L. Curbeam II*

Airman First Class Evan L. Curbeam II was born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 8, 1984. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 2002 and later earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. His passion for engineering eventually led him to pursue a master's degree in systems engineering and engineering management from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.. Although these educational accomplishments and pursuits were substantial by any measure, it was Airman Curbeam's decision to serve his country in the armed forces that brought his many professional talents to the forefront.

Airman Curbeam's all-too-brief, but stellar military career began when he enlisted in the District of Columbia Air National Guard – the “Capital Guardians” – in June 2011. Like all his endeavors, Airman Curbeam approached service to his country with drive, integrity, and a determination to excel by supporting the mission and his fellow Airmen. A noted standout in Air Force basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas and later at technical school in Sheppard AFB, Texas, Airman Curbeam earned recognition and praise for his leadership as a Yellow Rope Military Training Leader.

In October 2011, upon joining the 113th Wing on Joint Base Andrews, Maryland as a munitions systems specialist, Airman Curbeam wasted no time in gaining the respect and admiration of his superiors and peers alike. He rapidly pursued his military upgrade training and accomplished numerous benchmarks in the demanding munitions career field well ahead of schedule. In July of 2012, these efforts were on full display when Airman Curbeam helped support the unit's deployment to Alpena, Michigan. His willingness to work long hours and take on leadership roles that exceeded his rank were instrumental in the success of the deployment and earned him the “Ammo Troop of the Quarter” honors. Later, over the first several months of 2013, his hard work as a munitions line delivery driver helped the Wing achieve success in several key readiness inspections.

Airman Curbeam's dedication to service also extended beyond his unit's immediate mission of maintaining readiness and protecting the

airspace over the Nation's Capitol. He was always the first to step forward and volunteer for events in support of both the military and local civilian communities. In addition to activities such as Wing Diversity Day and Air National Guard recruiting events, Airman Curbeam also volunteered to provide traffic and crowd control support for both the 50th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King's March on Washington and the 2013 Presidential Inauguration.

Perhaps no incident better exemplifies Airman Curbeam's commitment to training and technical data than one that occurred on June 20, 2013. By then a full-time technician, Airman Curbeam was tasked with delivering munitions to the flightline in support of daily operations. While en route, he was alerted to a serious problem with the trailer brakes. Acting instinctively, Airman Curbeam radioed munitions control while he and a fellow airman quickly and efficiently resolved the problem using all appropriate safety procedures. His conspicuous and selfless actions helped prevent any adverse effect on the Wing's ability to accomplish its critical mission and earned him a Wing Weapons Safety Achievement Award.

Because of his exemplary performance throughout the year, the 113th Wing bestowed on Airman Curbeam the coveted and highly competitive award of the 2013 D.C. Air National Guard Airman of the Year. In addition to this honor, Airman Curbeam's military decorations include the Basic Military Training Ribbon, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

With his untimely passing on November 23, 2013, Airman Curbeam leaves behind countless friends and a loving family that includes his grandparents, Rayner and Sheila Banks; his brother, Brendan Thomas; his parents David and Tonya Thomas; his father, Evan Curbeam, Sr; his wife Shereese Curbeam; and his 4 year-old daughter, Julia, whom he loved and cherished with all his heart. Airman Curbeam's fellow airmen also share in the family's loss and will always remember him as the very epitome of the Air Force Core Values of “Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.” The entire Wing mourns the passing of this honorable serviceman, loving son, grandson, dedicated husband, devoted father, and an extraordinary American.