



# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter



*Over 20 members of Team Ellsworth (some not pictured) attended the 2018 AFSA/Professional Airman's Conference held 25-29 Aug in San Antonio, Texas. Many of Air Force's top leaders from the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and others, even from our Sister Services spoke at this year's conference. Those in attendance were able to get first hand knowledge of upcoming changes taking place in our Air Force.*

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### Membership

AFSA took a big step at this year's PAC by voting to expand its membership by allowing officers and enlisted for all our Sister Services to be full AFSA members. This means you can reach out to any and all your friends/family who have served or are serving in other Branches of Service and get them to join AFSA. This will give AFSA a bigger voice on Capitol Hill.

### Legislative Issues

November is just around the corner which means elections are coming up. No matter what your party you may identify with it is important to understand the issues that affect those in uniform and us who are retirees. Click [HERE](#) to see AFSA new Legislative Platform for the coming year and reach out to your Senators and Congressman/woman to see how they support us.

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### *Fireside Chat, Chapter 951 President, MSgt “Abby” Philbrick*



I would like to welcome all of you to the Mount Rushmore Chapter Newsletter. This year has flown by and our chapter has accomplished many amazing things with many more planned to finish out the year. As always your executive council stands ready and willing to support the Airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base and the surrounding community. This newsletter will provide you with some updates on our accomplishments this year as well as information for the organization and how to engage our chapter, family members, and those throughout the beautiful Black Hills area.

I could not be more proud to be affiliated with such an amazing service based organization and to be trusted to represent Chapter 951 as president throughout the year. This chapter has dedicated much time and service to support various events including the South Dakota Veteran’s Home in Hot Springs, the combat Fill-the-Boot campaign, the Honoring our Patriots concert series, a POW/MIA 5K Remembrance run/walk, and many more great activities taking us through the end of the year. Our efforts remain focused on outreach and local fundraising that enable our chapter to donate to both national and local non-profits dedicated to supporting Airmen.

The four pillars of AFSA include Membership, Legislation, Communications and Fraternalism. I would like to expand upon two of the four pillars within this newsletter, Legislation and Communication.

Legislation is a strong cornerstone of our efforts as a Chapter. Locally we remain engaged with our state legislative offices providing great information on the unique challenges our Airmen face here at Ellsworth Air Force Base. AFSA remains committed to voicing the concerns of our members to maintain

the quality of life benefits that all individuals have earned through military service as well as improving transparency and supporting the families that sacrifice alongside their service members. Through membership and continued actions that voice becomes stronger as those challenges are presented on Capitol Hill.

Communication is another critical factor for the success of any organization. Our local chapter has seized the opportunity to use social media to engage our target audience with all the great things that occur throughout the year. This has expanded our support network and opened our chapter to our civilian partners in the area. We have received great aid from the local businesses and news outlets as well to highlight our great events and engage with the local community. Through our outreach programs we are able to offer individuals opportunities for networking, personal growth, professional development and charitable work all bundled together while continuing to serve a great organization.

Thank you for being a member of The Mount Rushmore Chapter. As a reminder, our monthly membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 1130 to 1230 at the Dakota’s Club on Ellsworth Air Force Base. Come out to get the latest news on upcoming events for our Airmen and our community. If you are experiencing any issues that you would like to be elevated to our state representatives please contact the chapter at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com) with the details and we will ensure it reaches the proper offices.

Again, thank you for your interest and more importantly your support of AFSA and Chapter 951. I look forward to finishing this year strong!

*Abigail J. Philbrick*

*President, AFSA Chapter 951*

*Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota*

*Member # 97041*

# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

## Executive Council

	President	TSgt Abigail Philbrick	president@afsa951.org
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# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

### How are we Communicating?

Location	Media Type Click on Icons below to access										
AFSA HQ											
Division 3											
<a href="#">Ellsworth AFB, SD</a>											



# THE 2018 AIR FORCE SERGEANT ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL AIRMAN CONFERENCE THROUGH THE EYES OF AN AIRMAN

By SrA Kimberly Gayle; 28 OSS, Weather Journeyman

My boots seemed heavy as of late. Add this punishing Texas heat, and the weight of my sage green combat boots seems the perfect combination for grumbling about this TDY. Is this what I was looking forward to?

We just arrived in San Antonio and my only thought is, "where are those feared flat rimmed campaign hats?" My mind begins to fog with memories of fall in San Antonio as I entered Lackland Air Force Base, it's sign boldly stating: "The Gateway to the Air Force".

The air is cool and light. I take a breath, and remember back when the tall man with the stripes on his arm and oddly shaped hat had yelled at us; "Hurry up" and "Pick it up"!

The memory is so clear, yet loud and rushed. I release the breath to the reality of someone shouting at me to quickly pick up my luggage and hurry outside. Some things never change.

I'm back in San Antonio, Texas. Not for Basic Military Training, but for the Air Force Sargent's Association, Professional Airman Conference for 2018. My first thought landing back in Texas is the exact same I had at that main gate: "What am I doing here?"

At Basic, my training instructor told me why I was here. This time, I have to figure that out for myself. At first, it appeared everyone in attendance had more stripes than I have years in the Air Force. Everyone was speaking in code; phrases I didn't understand and organizations I had never heard of.

So here I am, taking part in a conference as one of the lowest ranking individuals in the room. I feel totally out of place. The only thing that felt slightly familiar is the third cup of coffee I hold so carefully in my hand.

My boots are again beginning to feel heavy when the room was asked to welcome the first speaker. The speaker is introduced, then fan-fare music bellows. The Honorable Dr. Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, steps on stage. She is adorned in orange. 'A bold, yet odd, color for a speaking engagement', I think. She speaks. Dr. Wilson is at first humble, beginning her speech with gratitude. She thanks all of the correct people considered distinguished, acknowledges leadership, then describes the diligence of Airman.



She continues speaking; I continue listening. Her words were eloquent, captivating, and solid, matching her presence on stage. She speaks with a simple tenacity and not in code. I begin to understand. She had "faith in my future," and now I was truly listening.

As I write this, I could try and give her topics of discussion a good summary, but my words would not do them justice. Her knowledge of heritage, confidence in capability and faith in the future had me completely captured. My leadership sent me to this conference. They have confidence in me; in my abilities. I was there to fully comprehend, even at a lower rank, that I am held to a high caliber, regardless of my job. I learned that self-deprecation, selfish thoughts, and lazy aspirations had to go if I wanted to perform at the level of strength of those around me.

Just as flint hit steel, Dr. Wilson concluded her discussion. She ended her conversation just as she began; with gratitude. The room erupts in applause and I am left still hanging to her words. This is just what I needed. Chief calls moments like this a "light switch," or an epiphany. I call it fire.

I finally felt fire. The heat that makes people do the extraordinary and to never stay comfortable. The spark which drives innovation. The warmth that protects trust. A flame of power that can both inspire and deter. I had needed more fire.

The color orange is in fire; bold yet odd. Like the color of Dr. Wilson's dress. I stood, realizing the coffee in my hand had grown cold, but that's not what I felt inside.

We walked into the Texas summer, the heat now welcoming after the consistent flow of freezing air that was inside the hotel. I turned Dr. Wilson's words over and over again in my thoughts, trying to analyze every detail and memorizing every line.

I stopped in revelation and looked down. My boots were no longer heavy.

# AFSA International

## Family Matters Letter



**Child Development Center (CDC)** – The CDC offers a child care safe environment and meets professional standards for early childhood education. The CDC offers full-day, developmentally appropriate programs for children of active-duty and authorized civilian parents from infancy to 5 years of age (if not eligible for kindergarten).

**Full Day Care/Weekly Care** – Full-day care meets the needs of parents working or in school on a full-time basis and does not exceed 10 hours a day. Parents using full-time care have a contract with the CDC so they are ensured a childcare slot as long as they remain in full-time work or school status.

**Hourly Care** – Short-term childcare services offer care on an intermittent basis when slots are available.

**Part-day Enrichment** – Part-day enrichment is for children 3-5 years of age and consists of 4 hours or less per day on a regular basis. Most bases offer this program when space is available for children who do not need full-time care. These classes support children's growth and development and help prepare them for kindergarten.

**Give Parents a Break** – Sometimes, we need a few hours' break from the stresses of parenting. The Give Parents a Break Program provides childcare for eligible parents who are subject to unique stresses due to the nature of military life including deployments, remote tours of duty, and extended working hours. For those families often separated from spouses and extended family members who might otherwise offer support, this is a great option. Partnering with the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) who pays the cost of childcare, CDC's open once a month in the evening or on weekends for families referred to the program by base agencies such as the Family Support Center, Chapel, Family Advocacy Office, Hospital, First Sergeants, Commanders and the Child and Youth Programs Flight.

**Overnight Care** – While overnight care is not provided in Air Force CDCs, if such care is needed during exercises or deployments, the CDC refers parents to Family Child Care (<http://www.myairforcelife.com/child/FamilyChildCare.aspx>) providers who are licensed by the base to provide care in their government quarters or off-base homes.

**How to Request Care** – To request care for your child, please complete DD Form 2606 (<http://www.myairforcelife.com/child/dd2606.pdf>), Request for Care Record. You can send your completed form to your next base before you arrive to get a jump start on any waiting list. If you're a single parent or a dual military family, you'll also need to complete AF Form 357 ([http://www.myairforcelife.com/child/AF035700\\_Family\\_care\\_Certification.pdf](http://www.myairforcelife.com/child/AF035700_Family_care_Certification.pdf)), Family Care Certification, or equivalent from other services. Information on other forms and the immunizations/tests required are available from your base CDC.

Click on this link to download Adobe Reader for free if you are unable to view the PDF documents -- <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

<http://www.myairforcelife.com/child/ChildDevelopmentCenters.aspx>

**Don't underestimate the value of family.** The fact that Gen Z kids value family more than ever makes it easier to plan intentional family time where you can -- what else -- talk about being a Gen Z military kid. As much as they are connected to their devices, they will likely not complain *after* you have agreed to set all devices down for a game night. Expect full tantrums beforehand though.

**Point them toward wise connections.** Experts I've interviewed have suggested that perhaps the answer for our kids isn't assimilating the way we would "back in the day." In a culture in which bullying and meanness are ramping up, why not encourage our kids toward smaller circles? Having a few close friends is not only realistic, but models what adults do.

**See the leadership potential.** One civilian parenting expert I interviewed (<https://subsplash.com/corieweathers/lifegiver/mi/+9pnknr6>) pointed out that our kids' intensity, while assimilating into the school system, is a sign of their leadership potential. That really encouraged me to redirect my kids' emotional energy toward leading rather than following as a means of fitting in. This next school year, we hope to have the boys be military kid ambassadors for incoming students.

**It really will be OK.** The other day, I spoke with a military brat who is entering her senior year of college. She is brilliant in her social skills and maturity. She told me how prepared she was not only for the academic load of school, but more so for the rhythm she developed over the years to assimilate while civilian students around her fell apart. Even better, she described detaching from an unhealthy peer group because she realized her maturity made her a better leader than a follower. Wow!

I've looked forward to this season with my kids for a long time. I enjoy the dialogue, the jokes around the table and watching them evolve into awesome bigger people.

While parenting the next generation has been a lot harder than I expected, especially with the challenges of the military lifestyle, I know every parent in the history of the world has said that. But I now see the importance of educating myself, even if that means my kids will be the ones to school me -- memes and all.

**Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)** – When your family member has special needs, you have an extra roster of must-do's to be a good guardian of your family. The EFMP offers many services for military families. Here are just a few of the ways it can help guide you to the resources your family needs to thrive.

It's all about helping your family navigate the medical and educational system, so you can have more peace of mind about your family member's care. We assist by:

Identifying and enrolling family members with special medical or educational needs.

Finding out what services are available at your present or new duty station.

- Supporting your family with information, referrals and non-clinical case management to access services.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/-/the-exceptional-family-member-program-for-families-with-special-needs>

Family members with special medical or educational needs should enroll in the EFMP. This includes spouses, children and dependent adults who:

Require special medical services for a chronic condition such as asthma, attention deficit disorder, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, etc.

Receive ongoing services from a medical specialist.

- Have significant behavioral health concerns.

Receive early intervention or special education services through an individualized education program or individualized family service plan.

<https://militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org/2016/02/proposed-changes-to-efmp-what-you-need-to-know/>

Each military service branch has EFMP resources. Here are links by branch:

Air Force EFMP -- <https://www.usafservices.com/home/spousesupport/specialneeds.aspx>

Army EFMP -- <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/familyprograms/exceptionalfamilymemberprogram/default.aspx>

Marine Corps EFMP -- <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/services/family/exceptional-family-member/>

Navy EFMP -- <https://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/SUPPORT/EFM/Pages/default.aspx>

You may also enroll at <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=MI:ENTRY:0>.

Here are a couple of links to EMFP Resource Guides –

<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/ResourceGuides/EFMP-QuickReferenceGuide.pdf>

<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/ResourceGuides/EFMP-Family-Support-Reference-Guide.pdf>

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments, please let me know.

Until next time, thanks so much for all you do for our country and for AFSA!

Take care and God Bless!

*Patti Dalzell*

Family Matters Trustee

[pdalzell@hqafsa.org](mailto:pdalzell@hqafsa.org)

#WEAREAFSA #AFSAGIVESBACK  
*Proud AFSA &  
AIR FORCE  
Family*



# What U “Ott” 2 Know

## OBLIGATIONS

The common definition of the word “obligation” is: “an act or course of action to which a person is morally or legally bound; a duty or commitment.” In legal terminology, there are several forms of obligation, including: 1) absolute obligation, 2) contractual obligation, 3) express obligation, 4) moral obligation, and 5) penal obligation. Four of those five are just clarifying those legally binding obligations and each has strict laws to ensure compliance or to penalize those that fail to obey. However it is those moral obligations that we encounter on a daily basis that are just as, if not more important; but have no legal requirements to obey and no penalties for failure to obey.

One night you are taking your dog for a walk when you see someone breaking and entering into a neighbor's home. Do you pull out your smartphone and call 911, give a description of the suspect, and wait until the police arrive? Or do you look away and continue walking, choosing not to get involved? What is YOUR moral obligation? As children, we begin to develop our moral standards of basic dos and don'ts that affect the ways we behave in our lives. We are taught rules, such as “do unto others as you want done to you,” “play nicely with others,” and “if you see someone in need, you help.” These rules-to-live-by helped shape our moral standards and understanding that we, as human beings, have an obligation to help one another if we see someone or something in need of assistance.

The example above and the reminder of the lessons from our childhood are a simple and easy scenario; and one that I would hope 100% of you would call 911...but what about our moral obligations to our fellow Airmen along with our sisters and brothers in the Army, Navy, Marines Corps, and Coast Guard? Yes, we all took the same oath of enlistment or commissioning (legal obligation), “to support and defend the Constitution”...but what of our moral obligations to those serving today and to those that served before us?

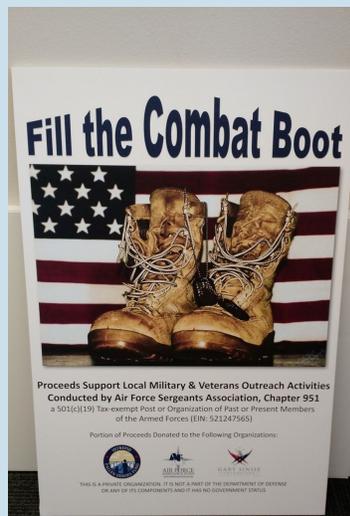
I just had the honor of attending the Air Force Association’s 2018 Air, Space, Cyber Conference in D.C., just a few weeks after participating in AFSA’s 2018 Professional Airman’s Conference. Listening to the words of Secretary Wilson, General Goldfein, and CMSAF Wright at both gatherings was an honor, and each Airman should read or view online our senior leaders remarks. But if you notice I wrote “attending” AFA and “participating in” AFSA...no, this was not a flashback of EPR wordsmithing. Rather this is how I would describe the differences between the two organizations (and I’m a life member in both). The AFA conference is passive in nature: attending and listening to various presentations; while the AFSA PAC is participative in nature: dialogue with AFSA leadership, fellow chapters, and each presentation very interactive with speakers taking many questions from those in attendance.

Now you’re saying “What about obligations that you started off with?”...In the latest version of the Air Force publication on Enlisted Force Structure (Air Force Handbook 36-2618, dated 5 July 2018), paragraph 4.4.10 lists several basic dos and don'ts (moral obligations) to help shape our military moral obligations. The paragraph states: “Continue to pur-



Kevin Ott  
CMSgt (Ret), USAF,  
AFSA 951, Trustee #3

[Click picture for Details](#)



Honoring our Patriots

[Click picture for Details](#)

# What U “Ott” 2 Know Cont....

sue personal and professional development through education and involvement. Promote camaraderie, embrace esprit de corps and act as an Air Force ambassador (e.g., join professional organizations and/or participate in organization and community events).” While this paragraph does not say “Join AFSA!” I ask “Is there a better organization that fulfills (and then some) the intent of those two sentences?” ...I think not.

So, why is membership (recruiting and retention) always an issue? It is easy for us to say (and something I’ve said)...“If there was a block on the EPR that said AFSA Member Yes/No” we’d have 200,000 active duty members”...however would not be a good thing. Membership, for the right reasons...involvement, for the right reasons...that is our key to future successes. The AFSA provides opportunities, tools, and most importantly guidance (from Headquarters, Divisions, and Chapter Leadership) down to each and every member. We are engaged, involved, advocating and leading around the world...making a difference for Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coasties. But we must communicate to our communities (and to our installation leadership) the “Why” of joining AFSA. I am confident that within 5 minutes of chatting you will hit on an issue of importance to that individual that we have fought (and won) or one that we are fighting until we win.

For when we win a major legislative victory, it does not impact only our 110,000 or so members. Those quality of life impacts are felt across the entire Active Duty population, of all services and their families. When we win for veterans and/or retirees it is not just for AF veterans or retirees, it is a victory for all.

So, what does this have to do with moral obligations? Moral obligations are defined as “A duty which one owes, and ought to perform, but is not legally bound to fulfil. One such moral obligation is to be charitable, which is founded on a natural right; and can never be enforced by law.” When one sees the great things an organization is doing on their behalf, even if that person is not a member of the organization, the seed of a moral obligation has been planted. It is then our moral obligation to sow that seed into our vibrant and plentiful AFSA garden.

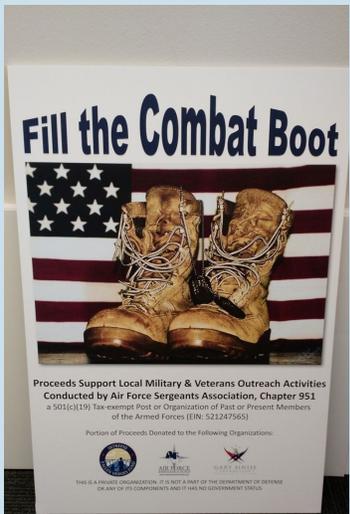
We’re not “shaming” people into joining AFSA...but by reminding folks of who we are and what we do: “We are Good People, Doing Good Things” we’re triggering that moral obligation that goes back to the very first time we raised our right hand and said “I (state your name), do solemnly swear...” And with our 57-year track record of successes along with a bright future under engaged leadership at each level we will continue what four Air Force NCOs (Benny McGehee, Lee Thompson, Virgil Perry and Don Ward) started back in 1961.

AFSA Unlimited Possibilities!



Kevin Ott  
CMSgt (Ret), USAF,  
AFSA CHAPTER 951, Trus-

[Click picture for Details](#)



Honoring our Patriots

[Click picture for Details](#)

# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Electronic Communications



*MSgt (Ret) Super Dave Bamberg*

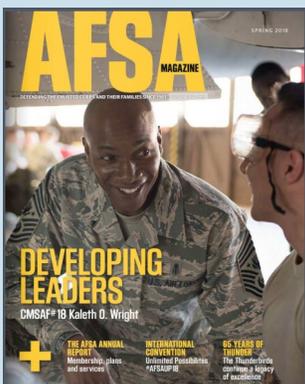
*Right after the Division 3 Convention I hit the ground running, putting revamping our Chapter Newsletter, updating the website, [www.afsa951.org](http://www.afsa951.org) and expanding our Facebook Page, bringing it into compliance for AFSA standards and making sure we were utilizing everything it had to offer..*

*Myself and the Executive Council will we working on better ways to get AFSA/Chapter information out to all the members on our roster. This may include personally contacting some of those members that may not be as savvy with a computer and email as others. These people put in their time serving the Air Force and have continued to support AFSA even in retirement. They too need to know we still appreciate them and their sacrifice.*

*If you have ideas on how we can better communicate with our chapter members or maybe an event we could plan which would help us recognize our past generations, please let us know. You can email us at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com) or post something to our [Facebook page](#), or ask us to give me a call and we can chat.*

*In addition I hope you'll check out our website, [www.afsa951.org](http://www.afsa951.org) and give us some feedback on that as well.*

***Click on the AFSA magazine below left or the picture below and check out what AFSA has to offer.***



# #951



## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER



Just like last year we hit the summer months running starting with our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Fill the Combat

Boot." We held it during Armed Forces Day Weekend, 19-20 May and this year decided to set up on both Saturday and Sunday at 5 different locations. It paid off, with 122 volunteers collecting \$9,482.93 towards our yearly Honoring Our Patriots fundraiser.



We continue to be engaged with the community with our Legislative Trustee, CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott attending both Chamber of Commerce and Military Affairs Committee (MAC) meetings/events and meeting with the South Dakota Veterans Administration director, Larry Zimmerman. The Chamber held a 2018 Military Appreciation Pig Roast on 31 Jul where Ott presented 2 1-year memberships to Ellsworth Airmen being recognized by the MAC as "outstanding performers."

August 2<sup>nd</sup> was our cornerstone event, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Honoring Our Patriots Concert. This year was probably one of our bigger crowds, probably due to the headliner, The Georgia Satellites. Every year this events honors those who have/are serving and the first responders and

we provide a patriotic flag ceremony with the lowering of the colors and a US Flag folding. We provide someone singing the National Anthem, a narrator during the flag folding and this year's Honor Guard was from Ellsworth AFB.



As of the end of August we had raised \$11,308.72. We give to several wounded warrior charities such as the Gary Sinise Foundation and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and 60% of the funds go back to Ellsworth Organizations who have helped us along the way.



Another organization we gave to was the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home who we gave a check for \$1,500 at this year's AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference. For this year's conference, Ellsworth sent over 20 people to attend. Once again the PAC was held in San Antonio, TX and besides all the AF Leadership briefing those in attendance we were able to hear from the top enlisted leaders from the other Services. Also during this year's event AFSA votes to let all officer/enlisted members for every Service become full active members in AFSA. This will give AFSA an even bigger voice on Capitol Hill.

# #951



## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER



In addition, Family Member Marny Bamburg attended the first ever Family Member forum offered at the PAC and Senior Advisor "Super Dave" Bamburg and VP Josh Philbrick were recognized for their contributions, serving as Sergeants of Arms during this year's elections.



Other endeavors the Chapter took on were fundraisers at local establishments, a new project of adopting an aircraft to clean at the Air /Space Museum and offering a financial management seminar to people on Ellsworth.



For those who may have questions about what AFSA or the local chapter does, please contact us at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com) or check us out at our website, [www.afsa951.org](http://www.afsa951.org) and our Facebook Page, look for AFSAChapter951.



# #951



## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

### February

SD Veterans Home Valentine's Day Dance



### August

Honoring our Patriots



### April

Division 3 Convention



### September

POW/MIA Run



### May

Fill the Boot



### October

BOO Hunt



### Jan/JUN/Sep

Legislative Awareness



### December

Decorate SD Vet Home/AFSA Kids Holiday Pajama Party

### Jul/Aug

AFSA International Conv/PAC

