



# AFSA CHAPTER 951

## Mt. Rushmore Chapter



Members of your 2020 Chapter 951 Executive Council

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### Membership

*“Membership will be a huge problem across the entire AFSA organization. In 2015, AFSA rolled out a 5-year membership incentive. This incentive greatly increased the organizations overall numbers, however those memberships are all due to expire over the next 12 months. Our local chapter alone will lose 231 of its current members if we cannot retain these personnel. “*

### Legislative Issues

#### Take aways from the 2020 NDAA

- 3.1 percent pay raise
- Repeal of the “Widows Tax”
- Improved Access to Healthcare
- Beginning to tackle the Housing Issues
- Family leave for our civilian counterparts, many who are Veterans.
- Click to see all NDAA



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## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

### *Fireside Chat, Chapter 951 President, MSgt James Beck*



I would like to welcome you to the Mount Rushmore Chapter Newsletter. The new executive council and I are honored to

lead this chapter as we kick off 2020. We look forward to serving the Ellsworth AFB airmen “Big A” and the surrounding community. This newsletter will provide you with details about the organization, how we engage our chapter, family members, and those throughout the Black Hills area.

First and foremost, I would be like to formally thank MSgt Abigale “Abby” Philbrick for the outstanding job that she has done over her two years as chapter president. Under her leadership and guidance, we captured the AFSA International “TSgt Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence”, “The CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Chapter Communication Award”, and “The Chapter Legislative Award”. We have also raised over \$20,000 through the Honoring our Patriots campaign (HoP) and so much more. Her dedication, diligent leadership, and contributions to our chapter will be sorely missed.

I am proud to be affiliated with such a service-based organization and to be selected to represent Chapter 951 as president. This chapter has dedicated much time and service to support various events over the years and hope to see many new faces as

we continue to move forward with some of our notable ventures this year. This newsletter will be your means to view some of the outstanding Chapter 951 has accomplished recently. We remain committed to the Airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base, supporting the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, legislative actions, and local fundraising efforts that enable our chapter to donate to both national and local non-profits dedicated to supporting Airmen.

Our chapter continues to dedicate a lot of time and service to continue its success. We closed out 2019 with a great finish of our Honoring our Patriots Campaign, Combat Fill-the-Boot fundraiser, and the POW/MIA 5K Remembrance run/walk. Our efforts last year raised over \$12,000 in 2019 and we supported 3 national organizations as well as over 16 local organizations. Through a ‘fair-share’ approach our Chapter has donated over \$1,300 each to the following national charities, the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Gary Sinise Foundation, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund as well as the Air Force Assistance Fund.

In 2020 our Chapter will be hosting the Division 3 PAC (Professional Airmen’s Conference) here in Rapid City from 23-25 April 2020. We plan on having many of our local civic and community leaders speak at this year’s conference. We want to bring a more business minded prospective to our personal development portion, and what better way to do this then get an outside perspective on new and initiative ways to move forward. In addition to this change we

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### *Fireside Chat, Chapter 951 President, MSgt James Beck, cont....*

are looking at opening our doors to the public. This will provide more transparency and allows for outsider feedback on ways we can get better at conducting the way we do business. To make this year's PAC a success we will need your support. We need dedicated members like yourself to step into leadership roles.

We have positions available to lead event committees and fundraising events. We will also need members to help man our welcome and information table during the conference. If you are interested in any of these events or would like to request additional information please email our chapter at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com).

The four pillars of AFSA include Membership, Legislation, Communications and Fraternalism. While we continue to move forward building these pillars, we cannot continue our success without your support. We have elected an outstanding membership team that will be hosting drives and reaching out to those members for upcoming events and how to get involved.

Watch for details of how you can engage as we continue to support the Airmen of Ellsworth, the state veteran's home, remain active with our state and local civic leaders and host community engagement/socials.

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. Feel free to view our website at [www.afsa951.org](http://www.afsa951.org), or Facebook page AFSA Chapter 951, The Mount Rushmore Chapter, or email at [afsa951@gmail.com](mailto:afsa951@gmail.com).

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. This past year has been filled with great accomplishments, incredible teamwork and amazing support. AFSA Chapter 951 is truly filled with "Great People doing Great Things"!!! We look forward to an even better outlook for 2020.



### **AFSA Scholarship Program and Grant Opportunities**

Applications for the upcoming academic year are available between **January 1 and March 31**. Completed application packages with all required documents can be sent to AFSA Headquarters NLT March 31. After March 31, applications are ineligible for consideration.

For additional information click [here](#).



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## Mt. Rushmore Chapter

## Executive Council

President  
MSgt James Beck



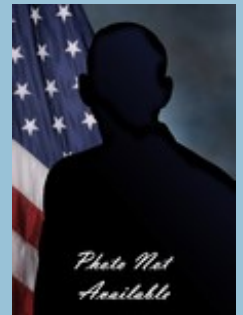
Senior Advisor/  
Communicans  
MSgt (Ret) David Bamberg



Vice—President  
SSgt Jeffery Carley



Secretary  
TSgt (Jessica Brier)



Trustee #1, Membership  
TSgt Dustin Smith



Family Matters Trustee  
Mrs. Marny Bamberg



Trustee #2, Programs  
TSgt Ryan Mitchell



Treasurer  
SSgt Garrett Murray



Trustee #3  
Maria D. Castanela



# Membership Principles



*Jamie A. Erickson,*

*CM Sgt (Sel)*

Chapter 951

Membership Trustee

Click on picture below to take advantage of the Membership Special. If you don't already have another member's AFSA number for the recruiter then use 794003

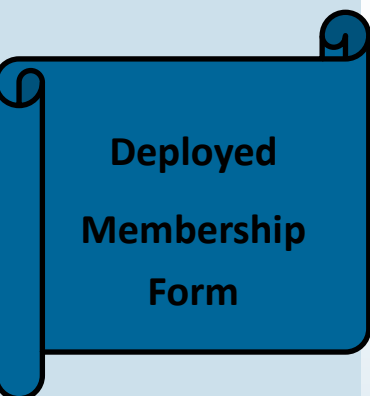
Now that 2019 is in the rearview mirror, let's take a look at how we are membership numbers are as an AFSA Chapter for the year. 2019 was a pretty decent year, our local chapter held 11 membership drives while recruiting 52 new AFSA members. Additionally, we were able to retain 3 personnel. That puts Chapter 951 at 548 active members as we roll in the New Year. 2020 will bring some pretty significant issues for AFSA across the globe.

Membership will be a huge problem across the entire AFSA organization. In 2015, AFSA rolled out a 5-year membership incentive. This incentive greatly increased the organizations overall numbers, however those memberships are all due to expire over the next 12 months. Our local chapter alone will lose 231 of its current members if we cannot retain these personnel.

In an attempt to assist with the re-occurring retention issue, the AFSA Head Quarters executive council has budgeted for and set aside \$66,000 to fund the initial purchase, implementation, and first year maintenance fees for the Auto Pay "Set It Forever" payment option. There is not an official start date for this option as of today's article, but hopes are to have eat rollout early next year. This new auto payment option should assist our organization with maintaining our current membership numbers without the issue of losing over 1/3 of its force due to expiring memberships each and every year. Please take a look at the "Market Place AFSA Demo" power point slide show on the AFSA homepage at HQAFSA.org for more information. Additionally, our local chapter will bring in the new year by planning to conduct monthly membership drives at the main exchange with the first one scheduled for 24 January from 1100 to 1400 hours.

Please come out and assist while spreading the word that becoming a member gives assists in providing the voice we need to take action and assist with various bills being enacted. Throughout the year the organization lobbies for numerous bills in support of our military benefits. Currently, some of the legislations that AFSA is working to push through congress are to repeal the law that reduces military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, repeal the law that reduces military retirement pay for those with members with service-connected disability compensated and received from the Veterans Affairs, acting to stop reductions in military pay raises and to ensure relative comparability with private sector wages, acting to repel all attempts to close or eliminate military commissaries and exchanges and, numerous others.

For the cost of an AFSA membership, \$36 for a one year, \$63 for two and \$89 for three, you can ensure your benefits are being protected. Life memberships are also available: Age 40 and under \$650, Age 41 – 50 \$550, Age 51 – 60 \$450, and age 61 and over at \$350. We urge you to let your voice be heard--become an AFSA member and let's have our issues and concerns be heard and continue to preserve our benefits and privileges.



NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
800-638-0594  
WWW.HQAFSA.ORG/DEPLOYED

# Chapter 951

## Family Matters Letter



*Mrs. Maureen "Marny" Bamberg*  
*Chapter 951, Family Matters*

These last few months of 2019 saw us increase the events supported as compared to last year. My mission with Family Matters has changed from trying to put together events and then try and find the volunteers, to finding events already planned and tagging along. This way we don't have to spend so much time finding a date, planning the event and seeing who will show up.

One of the first events was the Oktoberfest held at the Dakota's Club on Ellsworth. Celebrating German heritage, we joined many local businesses in sitting up an information booth. We gave away some of our remaining POW/MIA shirts and educated people on what AFSA has done for them and what Chapter 951 was doing for the base and local community.

For the first time we joined other organizations from the base in sitting up for Truck or Treat and the Pride Hanger on base. We decorated two vehicles, one with an AFSA theme and the other more for Halloween. Along with my husband, Super Dave, my sister and Kevin Ott we gave out candy to probably close to 1,000 kids and passed out information on AFSA and the local chapter.

December is one of my most favorite times as we go to the Veterans Home in Hot Springs, SD and help them decorate for Christmas. We take along a group of you airmen from the base who have a blast decorating and even meeting some of the local residents. Our decorating is no longer limited to the small auditorium but we go to each floor and sometimes even the small residences' rooms to decorate and bring some holiday cheer. Then when we are finally finished they once again treated us to pizza. What a way to end the morning.

To end the year I was reelected as the Chapter's Family Matters Trustee. My plans for 2020 are to find a way to bring in more spouse to be involved with the Chapter. Whether it is encouraging our current members to sign up their spouses or speaking to couples who come up to our table during a membership drive. In case you didn't already know, a family member is everyone from a spouse, kids over the age of 18, parents, siblings and pretty much anyone in your family who does not already qualify to be a regular AFSA member.

Also I want to point out a special opportunity for new members who sign up for AFSA. When you join now you receive a scholarship for one course from Columbia Southern University. That is a \$700 value. When signing up, use my Member number, 830271 as the Recruiter ID. This way the Chapter receives credit. Just click the picture to the right.

I look forward to seeing you down the road and hopefully in April as Chapter 951 is hosting the Division 3 Professional Airmen's Conference here in Rapid City. For more information check out the last page of the newsletter.

**AFSA** FamilyMatters  
Education Connections

Military Veterans/Retirees  
and Family Members...

Join AFSA now to receive  
a sponsored One-Course  
College Scholarship from  
Columbia Southern University



# AFSA Legislative Information

It has been a busy year for AFSA and now it is time to look towards more accomplishments in 2020. If you wish to see all AFSA has accomplished and their Legislative plans for the future there are a few options to get real time information. First make sure you are following their Facebook page by clicking the [LINK](#) and make sure you like their page. Another way is going to their website, [www.hqafa.org](http://www.hqafa.org) and clicking the tab at the top for the information you desire.

Instead of me boring you with all the details in a newsletter that will soon be outdated, use some of the benefits below. First click on the picture below to gain access to AFSA's summary of the NDAA. Also if you click on the picture below you can hear firsthand from AFSA's Legislative Leaders or sign up to get AFSA's Latest Legislative Updates.

To the left are pictures and contact information for the newest members to AFSA HQ's Legislative team. They are hit the Capital Hill pavement on our behalf fighting your current and future benefits.



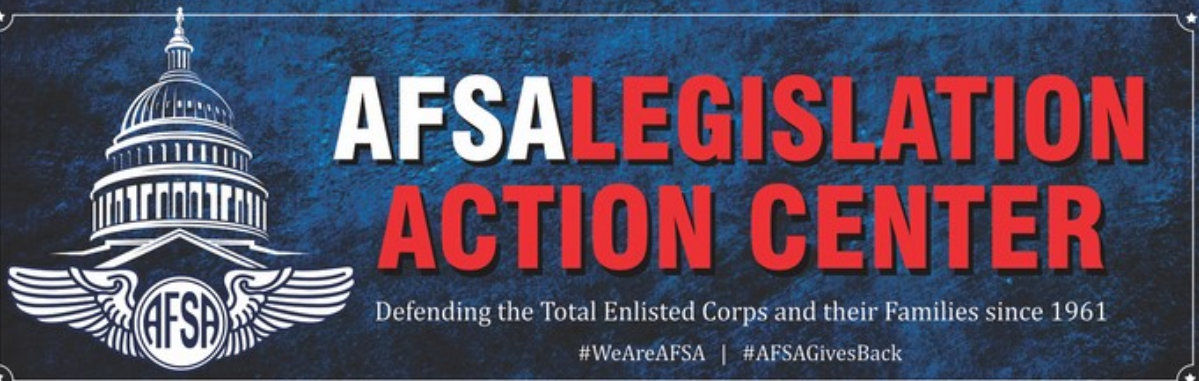
**Matthew Schwartzman**, Military & Government Affairs Policy Adviser, Legislative Affairs

[mschwartzman@hqafsa.org](mailto:mschwartzman@hqafsa.org) or by phone at 301-899-3500 ext. 246.



**Marshall Padgett**, Military & Government Affairs Legislative Comm/Legislative Assistant

[mpadgett@hqafsa.org](mailto:mpadgett@hqafsa.org) or by phone at 301-899-3500 ext. 291.





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## Electronic Communications

It is the end of another year and in fact the end of a decade and Chapter 951 set the bench mark for others to follow.

Many of you are already taking advantage of the technology available for social media platforms, including AFSA HQ. For example check out AFSA’s homepage, [www.hqafa.org](http://www.hqafa.org) and see some of their changes. More interactive pages and pictures showcasing what AFSA and its members are doing.

AFSA is using more video platforms to get the information out. I hope everyone has gone out and not only “liked” our Division Facebook page but also the AFSA HQ page. By doing so you can receive the frequent updates send out by Keith Reid, AFSA’s Executive Director.

Even the Legislative side of the house is starting to embrace the video world. If you haven’t already done so check out the introduction video of Matthew Schwartzman, AFSA’s Policy Advisor on the Legislative Team. He can also be seen on AFSA’s Facebook page going over the latest NDAA to pass on Capital Hill.

While some of these changes might be considered “baby steps” they are because of inputs from the members in the field. If we want a better Organization then we have to get the word back to AFSA HQ through answering those dreadful surveys, bring forth ideas at the Conventions and sometimes by just creating it ourselves and pulling AFSA along.

One example will be our upcoming 2020 Division 3 PAC, here in Rapid City, SD. This year’s sessions will be different than in year’s past and hopefully everyone will embrace the changes. Instead of “US” getting briefing everyone we are bringing people in from the local community/business world to brief you. Things such as reaching out in this social media era, how to best grow a Private Organization (Or National Military Association) and other crucial areas.

And, if it is not something you can embrace, make sure to communicate with your Division Leaders what you expect out of a Division Convention. Look forward to seeing everyone here in Rapid City, SD.

MSgt (Ret) “Super Dave”  
Bamburg, Senior Advisor



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



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## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER



2019 has come to a close so now is the time to look back at what Chapter 951 has done over the last four months. After returning from the AFSA PAC there was no

time to rest. In September, Senior Advisor, Super Dave Bamberg and D3 President, CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott attended one of the many Chamber mixers. This gave them a chance to meet business from the local area and start to network for the upcoming 2020 D3 PAC.

Our next big event was the annual POW/MIA 5K, now held each year at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum, right outside the main gate of Ellsworth AFB. This year even saw a squadron come out and run as a group to cadence. As with the last few years the local media also came out to cover the event.



In October, Family Matters Trustee Marny Bamberg involved us in a few events. Her goal this year has been to join events put on by the base rather than to do it all ourselves. First we joined the

Octoberfest, held at Ellsworth's Dakota Club. Joined by her husband, Super Dave and Kevin Ott, they sat up an information table and gave out information on the Chapter and AFSA.

Next she set up two vehicles for Truck or Treat at the Pride Hanger on Ellsworth. Marny, along with her husband, Super Dave, Kevin Ott and her sister, family member Kelly Larson passed out candy to the kids as they walked by and told the parents about AFSA. They were able to get one person interested in joining AFSA and another to transfer their membership.



In November we Celebrated Veterans Day. During the Veterans Day Parade and events in Rapid City, Kevin Ott was one of the speakers and Super Dave was one of three Veterans to speak at their Church, Hills of Grace.



December began as it does every year and with one of our favorite events, us going to the Veterans Home and decorating for Christmas. For the last few years Chapter member Michelle Pabon-Lind has headed up bring people from the Chapter and Team Ellsworth down to Hot Springs to assist. Each year, the staff at the Veterans Home appreciates us coming down to do the work so they can focus on the residents.



Now our focus will be on preparing for the upcoming 2020 D3 PAC to be held April 23-25 at the Rushmore Hotel here in Rapid City, SD. Ott and Super Dave have been hard at work putting together a top of the line Professional even that everyone will enjoy. Keep your eyes glued to Facebook and the Division 3 website, [www.afsadv3.org](http://www.afsadv3.org) for more information. We look forward to seeing everyone at the event and letting us show you some South Dakota hospitality.



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## THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

### February

SD Veterans Home Valentine's Day  
Dance



### April

Division 3 Convention



### May

Fill the Boot



Jan/JUN/Sep

Legislative Awareness



### Jul/Aug

AFSA International Conv/PAC



### August

Honoring our Patriots



### September

POW/MIA Run



### October

BOO Hunt



### December

Decorate SD Vet Home/AFSA Kids Holiday Pajama Party







# **The 2020 D3 Professional Airmen's Conference**

**Hosted by Chapter 951**

**at the**

**Rushmore Hotel and Suites**

**445 Mt. Rushmore Rd.**

**Rapid City, SD 57701**

**(605) 348-8300**

**[Website](#)**

**More information coming soon**