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## Secretary of the Air Force Hails CAP's 70 Years as Auxiliary

Record 155 Lives Saved by CAP in Fiscal '18

CAP Training Helps Mount Everest Climbers Succeed



# National Awards Honor Top CAP members

By Alexis Faire

**C**ivil Air Patrol recognized its highest-achieving members this August at the organization's 2018 National Conference in Anaheim, California, with the Senior Member of the Year, Cadet of the Year, Air Force Sergeants Association Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Squadron of Distinction leading the list of honors.

**Senior Member of the Year Lt. Col. Brenda A. Reed**, Maryland Wing chief of staff, joined CAP in July 2003. Over the ensuing 15 years she has served at the squadron, wing and region levels.

"I joined because I have two children [who were] cadets, so that's how I got started," Reed said. "When they went through the program, I continued on."

Her service began at the Maryland Wing's Carroll Composite Squadron, where she served as the unit's personnel officer and public affairs officer. In



Lt. Col. Brenda A. Reed is honored as the 2018 Civil Air Patrol National Senior Member of the Year. Presenting her with the award is CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Bowden, CAP National Photographer

2004, she was named the wing's Personnel Officer of the Year.

She later became squadron commander for the Carroll unit, earning both Squadron of the Year in 2010 and the Squadron Commander of the Year Award at the wing level. During her tenure, the squadron grew to be one of the largest in the Maryland Wing and had the greatest growth of aircrew and ground personnel.

She later joined the Maryland Wing staff, then advanced to become director of public affairs for the Middle East Region in 2014.

"CAP has given me a lot as a person and a lot of opportunities for growth," she said. "So, I stay in to give back and make a difference for others."

Maryland Wing Commander Col. Joe Winter, who has known Reed for 10 years, nominated her for Senior Member of the Year.

"Lt. Col. Reed is one of the most well-rounded adult members our organization has ever had," Winter said. "And what I mean by well-rounded is she has the ability to, through her own education and her desire to learn more and be better, get





Cadet Lt. Col. Joshua L. Klosterman, now a senior member carrying the rank of first lieutenant, receives the 2018 Civil Air Patrol National Cadet of the Year award from Smith. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Bowden, CAP National Photographer

Robert Bowden, CAP National Photographer



Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Morgan Marie Balsley, now a cadet second lieutenant, accepts the Air Force Sergeants Association's Outstanding Civil Air Patrol Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award from Smith. Photo by Susan Schneider, CAP National Headquarters

Headquarters

involved in every aspect of our program.”

**Cadet of the Year Joshua L. Klosterman** of the South Dakota Wing, who's now a senior member holding the rank of first lieutenant, joined CAP in March 2009. He subsequently served as the Big Sioux Composite Squadron's cadet commander and represented the North Central Region as Cadet Advisory Council chairman and National Cadet Advisory representative.

He also served as staff at the North Central Region Cadet Competition and National Cadet Competition, as cadet commander at the Region Cadet Leadership School and the

2015 Joint Dakota Encampment and as the region representative on the National Cyber Committee.

Klosterman participated for four years in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot national high school cyber defense competition; his teams were National CyberPatriot Digital Forensics Champion in 2012, Cisco Networking Champion in 2013 and CAP Champion in 2014. In 2015 he became one of only three competitors to receive the CyberPatriot Award of Excellence, and he was a Collegiate Cyber Defense National Finalist in 2016.

As a cadet he was also active as a ground team member, mission radio operator and mission staff assistant. He is a qualified ground team leader, communications unit leader, ground branch director and planning section chief.

“I think one of the best parts is that I've had the privilege of being able to work with all the different cadets in the program — getting to help them grow and lead, seeing them mature,” Klosterman said.

After graduating with a 4.0 grade-point average Klosterman attended Dakota State University as one of about 700 National Science Foundation CyberCorps scholars in the nation. He earned a master's degree in information assurance and computer security from Dakota State University in May and a bachelor's degree in network and security administration with highest honors in 2017.

At only 15, Air Force Sergeants Association **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year recipient Morgan Marie Balsley** — honored as a cadet chief master sergeant and now a cadet second lieutenant — has accomplished much in her CAP career in the Georgia Wing.

“CAP is probably the biggest part of my life outside of school,” Balsley said. “I've spent 3½ years in the program so far, and I've met so many friends through it. It's helped me with basic stuff such as public speaking, as well as more complicated stuff such as teaching me to be a leader, especially at such a young age.”

She served as the flight leader of the Peachtree City Falcon Field Composite Squadron's first two cohort recruiting classes. She also organized, planned training for and successfully executed the CAP Great Start Program for 38 cadets.

As squadron executive officer, Balsley planned and executed Basic Cadet Training, ensuring a professional experience for participants. Her focus on the event resulted in a highly successful exercise attended by a record number of cadets.

“Everything she's done for the squadron, she does an

Members of the Twin Pine Composite Squadron — from left, Cadet Col. Matthew Jackson, Cadet 1st Lt. Alexandria Rudolph, Cadet Capt. Benjamin Miloszar and Cadet 2nd Lts. Kevin Hammer and Garrett McClellan — participate in a Safety Day exercise. The squadron was named Squadron of Distinction for its many outstanding accomplishments. Photo by Senior Member Madeline Zizwarek, New Jersey Wing



outstanding job in whatever it is,” said Maj. David Serafin, Balsley’s squadron commander.

“I’m beyond honored,” Balsley said. “I’ve done a lot of things in my CAP career, but I never expected to reach the point where I got a national award.”

Leaders of this year’s **Squadron of Distinction**, the **Twin Pine Composite Squadron**, used the Great Start Program in 2017 to not only retain 32 cadets but also add another 16 to its roster — while emphasizing the importance of bonding among all members.

The New Jersey Wing unit ensured that members participated in community service events, such as food and clothing drives, and maintained communication channels through weekly emails and a mentoring program.

In the past year, eight of the unit’s cadets received the Wright Brothers Award, four received the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award, three received the Amelia Earhart Award, one received the Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award and one received the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award.

As the Twin Pine squadron’s commander, **1st Lt. Robert McClellan** received the **F. Ward Reilly Leadership Award**. He said his team has been working very hard and is deserving of the Squadron of Distinction award.

“We’ve got a great team, and they really deserve to be recognized,” McClellan said. “There’s not like two people



1st Lt. Robert McClellan, right, gives a thumbs-up after receiving the F. Ward Reilly Leadership Award from Smith. McClellan earned the award as commander of CAP’s Squadron of Distinction — the Twin Pine Composite Squadron. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Bowden, CAP National Photographer



Capt. Brian D. Johnston, right, receives the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year from Smith. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Bowden, CAP National Photographer

making it happen — it’s 20 people making it happen. Our senior members are in this, our cadets are in this.”

“It was a complete surprise to us,” he said of the honor. “We’re not looking for awards, we’re just looking for a good program.”

Col. Joe H. Abegg Sr., New Jersey Wing commander, said he is pleased with the recognition the Twin Pine unit and the wing received.

“I was very proud,” Abegg said. “We’re taking the wing to new heights. This was just the icing on the cake to recognize

one of my outstanding squadrons that continues to excel.”

**Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Capt. Brian D. Johnston** serves as the external aerospace education officer and deputy commander for seniors of Georgia Wing’s Barrow-Jackson Composite Squadron.

He led 45 teachers to complete Civil Air Patrol’s Aerospace Connections in Education program at Friendship Elementary School in Buford, Georgia. Friendship Elementary was chosen as the ACE School of the Year, and Johnston was chosen as Coordinator of the Year.

“It is an honor to receive such an award doing something you enjoy,” he said.

Johnston’s active promotion of the aerospace education program includes a request made to the Jefferson City School System to create a STEM class using CAP materials and to offer the ACE program in every elementary classroom in the district. He’s also engaged Spring Hill Elementary in Fayette County in conversations about the ACE program. His long list of audiences for presentations on the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program includes Carroll County and Ware County teachers, a Boy Scout troop and the Forsyth County curriculum director.

He worked with CAP National Headquarters to coordinate the 10th Annual ACE Program Kickoff, which featured STEM and ACE lessons. He also served as an instructor at the 2017 Georgia Wing Encampment and oversees his squadron’s CyberPatriot team. ▲

# CAP Draws Praise from National Conference Air Force VIPs

By Julie DeBardelaben

**O**n the occasion of Civil Air Patrol’s celebration of its 70th anniversary as the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, high-ranking U.S. Air Force officers joined Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson in saluting Civil Air Patrol’s past and present-day contributions as a member of the Air Force Total Force.



**Maj. Gen. Patrick Wade, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia:** “It’s an honor to be associated with the men and women of the Civil Air Patrol, our Air Force Auxiliary. A vital teammate on our Total Force, you support not only Air Combat Command but so many other federal, state and local agencies. Our command is better prepared and more lethal to support America’s interests here and abroad because of the support you provide to

1st Air Force. As important as the work you do in support of defending our nation is the work your volunteers do in educating and generating youth interest in aviation. Thousands of active-duty, guard and reserve Airmen serving today had their first taste of flying in CAP. It’s nice to know that ACC always has the CAP at its wing. We depend on you!”

**Brig. Gen. Kenneth Ekman, vice commander, 1st Air Force and Air Forces Northern Command, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida:** “As the Air Force Auxiliary, CAP does so much for the nation, both day-to-day and at times of great need. I’m grateful for the chance to represent our Secretary of the Air Force as a Board of Governors member, working to maximize CAP’s capabilities and impact. What a great group of Airmen!”

