



July 2018 Newsletter

KC AUSA

Volume 1, Issue 3
July 2018

The Army Celebrates 243rd Birthday!

KC AUSA celebrated the 243rd Anniversary of the United States Army in a gala on Saturday, June 9th at the Marriott- Muehlebach Hotel.

The Army Birthday Celebration is the chapter's premiere event and has been hosted in Kansas City for the past 15 years. This year had 330 attendees from active, guard and reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force and also included members from industry, local, and state government. The success of the event can be attributed to the support and contributions of over thirty corporate and table sponsors and an all-volunteer planning committee.

Retired Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, executive director of the Kansas Governor's military council and our guest speaker, said this was the best Army birthday celebration he had ever attended. "The induction into the Army of four new soldiers with the oath administered by retired colonel Roger Donlon, first Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War, was particularly noteworthy," said General Wiggins.

Next year's birthday celebration will coincide with KC AUSA's 20th anniversary of the chapter's founding.

Contact Bob Ulin rulin131@gmail.com if you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer!



LTG (R) Perry Wiggins, keynote speaker at the Army Birthday Celebration on

Inside this issue:

Membership Update	2
Community Partner Spotlight	2
Individual Member Spotlight	2
Programs Update	3
From the Young Professionals VP	3
Future Events / Community Activi-	3
Contact KC AUSA	4
Thank You to ABC Sponsors and Do-	4
Membership Bene-	4
fits	

From the Chapter President.



Emma Toops
Major, US Army, Retired

Hello! I hope you are each having a great summer! KC AUSA had a very busy Spring, a great time at Celebration at the Station during Memorial Day Weekend, and a hugely successful Army Birthday Celebration in June!

The leadership team took a short respite after the ABC but we are now gearing back up for a strategic planning session and the next couple of chapter-hosted events: The Purple Connection and a visit

from AUSA National VP of NCO and Soldier Programs, Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) Kenneth Preston, US Army Retired.

Come out and join us at an event soon!

Sincerely,

Emma

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **The Purple Connection**
Wednesday, August 8
6:00 PM–9:00 PM
Sponsor: Sumner One
8058 Flint Ave
Lenexa, KS
[Info and RSVP here!](#)
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE**
Breakfast & NCO Professional Development with
SMA (R) Ken Preston
Friday, September 14
7:30 AM–10:30 AM

Membership Update

Often, individuals, when asked to belong to an organization – ask the question of the benefits gained. Fortunately, AUSA members don't have to go far to know the benefits of membership with AUSA and our Greater Kansas City AUSA Chapter. If you happen to have attended our Army Birthday Celebration – you know exactly what I mean.

But just in case, you need information as to reasons for joining or staying in our organization, here are a few reasons why **YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO AUSA AND WHY WE NEED YOU:**

- **Networking** – a strong membership that connects and supports each other. That includes transitioning from a military to a civilian career.
- **Professional Development & Education** – promoting educational opportunities for the membership and the Kansas City metro through events and publications.
- **Voice on Capitol Hill** – Don't let anyone fool you - AUSA is the VOICE FOR THE ARMY.

As an organization, we proudly support Kansas City AUSA Chapter's Vision – To be the premiere voice for the Army in the Greater Kansas City area.



Special Thanks to our Military Support Organizations (MSO) – reaching out to new audiences.

US Army Warrant Officers Association, Civil Affairs Association, ROCKS, Inc., Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), & Patriot Project

For more details visit www.ausa.org/benefits or contact

Member Support at email: membersupport@ausa.org
phone :
[855-246-6269](tel:855-246-6269)
[703-841-4300](tel:703-841-4300)

A Special Thank You to our New and Renewed Members:

Gratham University
MSG George Colon
Dr. Jeffrey Cropsey
Mr. Michael L. Selck
Ms. Tabitha Davis
Ms. Cynthia F. Lockett

Parade Rest Displays
MG (Ret) Michael W. Symanski

CW3 Paul J. King
Mr. Edward Bergstedt
MAJ John N. Smith Jr.
LTC David W. White

CSM Phyllis K. Popplewell
LT Jacob James Brown
Mr. David Schieffer
Mr. Nick Vasos

Community Partner Spotlight: Honeywell FM&T

Honeywell



Honeywell's 4-Star table at the Army Birthday Celebration.

Honeywell manages the Kansas City National Security Campus for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Department of Defense.

In the community, Honeywell is at the forefront of the fast growing "tiny house" trend. Specifically, thanks to Honeywell, the Veterans Community Project added its first American with Disabilities Act-compliant

tiny home for homeless veterans with disabilities in their Veterans Village of tiny homes.

Honeywell also sponsors the Veterans Place portion of the annual Memorial Day Celebration at the Station.

This year, Honeywell was the most significant sponsor and donor for the Army Birthday Celebration with a 4-star sponsor table and two addi-

tional donated tables.

Honeywell has as many as 400 employees who are veterans and has an active Veterans Employee Group.

THANK YOU, Honeywell FM&T for your support to our military community!

Individual Member Spotlight: Staff Sergeant Ezekiel Crozier, US Army, Retired



SSG (R) Zeke Crozier and Mr. Steve Henry at the Army Birthday Celebration.

Staff Sergeant Ezekiel Crozier is a wounded warrior after a helicopter crash led to a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Zeke served nine years in the Reserves; however, after medically-retiring in 2014, his new purpose is giving back to the military community, especially those also struggling with TBI and PTSD.

He serves the community with speaking engagements and by creating custom-designed, painted, and handcrafted bottle-cap artwork through his company, **Handy-Cappin LLC**.

One of his art pieces, portraying the Army Strong logo, was the door prize at this year's Army Birthday Celebration.

Zeke attended the celebra-

tion, drew the ticket for the winner, and presented the artwork to Mr. Steve Henry of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Zeke is now also a student veteran, recently enrolled at Johnson County Community College. He is taking General Studies towards an Associate's Degree.

THANK YOU, Zeke for your outstanding service!



Programs Update: Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Support Programs—Officer Saber Award

Each year, KC AUSA community partner Orbital ATK Small Caliber Systems sponsors the awarding of an engraved Army Officer Saber to the top graduating cadet in each of the four senior Army ROTC programs supported by KC AUSA. The sabers are laser engraved with “For Meritorious Achievement, awarded by Kansas City Association of the United States Army,” ordered through Marlow White in Leavenworth, Kansas.

A KC AUSA chapter leader personally presents each saber to the senior cadet chosen by each Army ROTC program for his or her comprehensive and outstanding

achievements in academics, physical fitness, leadership and personal character. These presentations are made during each senior ROTC program’s Awards Ceremony, some of which are in conjunction with a formal Military Dining Out that celebrates the Commissioning of its graduating Seniors. Whenever possible, a KC AUSA chapter leader is also present at each program’s Commissioning Ceremony.

This year, saber recipient Second Lieutenant Dallas Thomas, Armor, graduated and commissioned in May from Missouri Western State University and was a special guest at KC AUSA’s

243rd Army Birthday Celebration Dinner. He joined our guest speaker Lieutenant General (Retired) Perry Wiggins and Private Michael Joslyn, the youngest Soldier present, in the honor of cutting the Army Birthday cake.

The four senior ROTC programs that KC AUSA supports are: the Pony Express Battalion (hosted / headquartered at Missouri Western State University), Central Missouri University’s Fighting Mules Battalion, Pittsburg State University’s Gorilla Battalion, and Truman State University’s Bulldog Detachment.



LTG (R) Perry Wiggins, 2LT Dallas Thomas, and PV2 Michael Joslyn preparing to cut the Army Birthday Celebration Cake

From the Young Professionals Vice President

The Army Birthday Celebration was great this year! We saw old friends, had great fun, and had a YP-Sponsored table. We should do this every year!

Summer is in full swing and, like many of you, my household is action packed with kids’ baseball, pool parties, summer camps, and vacations. It’s easy to get caught up in it and spend less time

maintaining your professional network; however, use these activities as networking opportunities.

These fun, outdoor, and family oriented events are a perfect way to meet new people. These casual initial meetings may create a relevant professional connection since everyone has a career or job, right?

We have an exciting calendar in the next few months with another Purple Connection event in August and a visit from SMA (R) Ken Preston in September—make sure you put these on your schedule!

I look forward to seeing you out there!



Matt Lawson
Sergeant First Class
US Army Reserve

3QTR / 4QTR 2018 Events / Community Activities

There are many ways to get involved in KC AUSA, whether on the leadership team, as a chapter member, or as a community partner. Join us, meet us, and certainly come out and learn something!

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

- Aug 18 Strategic Planning
- Sept 12 Executive Committee
- Oct 8-10 AUSA National Meeting

- Oct 17 Executive Committee
- Nov 14 Executive Committee

Chapter-Organized Events

- Aug 8 The Purple Connection
- Sept 14 Breakfast / NCOPT SMA Kenneth Preston
- Nov TBD Awards Reception

Community/Partner Activities

- Jul 26 ACA Biz Club Social
- Aug 10 ESGR Awards Dinner
- Aug 23 ACA Biz Club Social
- Aug 25 MOAA-HOA Luncheon
- Aug 28 HL AUSA Breakfast w/ GEN Anne Dunwoody
- Sept 22 MOAA-HOA Luncheon
- Sept 27 ACA Biz Club Social

- Oct 25 ACA Biz Club Social
- Oct 27 MOAA-HOA Luncheon
- Nov 8 Sprint Veteran’s Day Celebration
- Nov 17 MOAA-HOA Luncheon
- Dec 8 MOAA-HOA Holiday
- Dec 8 Army vs Navy Game
- Dec 15 Wreathes Across America



Voice for the Army and Support for the Soldier

PO Box 3335
Shawnee, KS 66203

kcausa.org
Facebook.com/kcausa
Facebook.com/thepurpleconnection
LinkedIn.com/company/kcausa

Executive Committee

President	Emma Toops	Executive VP	Scott Weaver
VP Development	Bob Ulin	VP Membership	Jose Davis
Secretary	Grant Montgomery	VP Young Professionals	Matt Lawson
Treasurer	Brogan Farren	General Counsel	Tom Meier
Communications	David Toops	Immediate Past President	Mike Symanksi
Programs Liaison	Don MacCuish		

Contact Emma directly at emmatoops@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas on membership, programs, or want to get involved with the chapter!

THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS AND DONORS OF THE 2018 ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

	CZ-USA	Orbital ATK	Honeywell FM&T	Pioneer Services	Robert Brogden Buick-GMC	
Kauffman Foundation	Brownells	Armed Forces Bank	Duracomm	Park University	Center for Transitional Leadership	Eagle Picher Technologies
Fire Door Solutions	Grantham University	Greymeier Group	Hendrick Acura	Hollis & Miller Architects	JE Dunn Construction	Blue Hat Crane
KC Army Recruiting Battalion	KC AUSA Young Professionals	Hendrick Toyota	Veterans of Foreign Wars	Brig. Gen. (R) Bryan Wampler	National WW I Museum and Memorial	1861 Wealth Advisors
Lt. Col. Brogan Farren	Colonel (R) Lawrence Hannan	Fire Chief (R) Phil Hodgdon	Uniformed Services Benefit Association	Colonel (R) Scott Weaver	Command and General Staff College Foundation	

AUSA Membership Benefits. Renew or have new members join at www.ausa.org

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ARMY'S VOICE & THE SOLDIER IN KC?

Members of AUSA are part of a national organization comprised of over 75,000 people in 121 chapters around the world! As a resident of the KC Metro area, the local chapter with whom you are associated is KC AUSA.

As a current member of AUSA, we want you to engage with us and also introduce AUSA to others who value the strength of our national military and support our men and women who serve!

KC AUSA's programs are developed to serve the needs of our members and community. As we engage with new members and increase our network, we evolve our programs and activities as applicable.

Our premier program event each year is the Army Birthday Celebration in June. Other chapter programs include Meet Your

Army; The Purple Connection; the Young Professionals Leadership Transition Course; and our Support to ROTC.

Our community partners include corporate companies, small business owners, educational institutions, and other non-profit organizations. Our events include support to their interests and needs by way of symposiums, networking and community events, and recognition events.

Our chapter leadership participates every Spring and Fall in leadership and training opportunities at the AUSA Region 5 and AUSA National Meetings, respectively. We learn best practices from other chapter leaders and the national staff on ways to improve our programs and better serve our chapter members and community.

CONTACT US if you have any questions regarding your individual or community partner membership.

BENEFITS	INDIVIDUAL MEMBER	LIFE MEMBER
	2yr - \$40 5yr - \$75	Life - \$400
Individual Members with Full Benefits	1	1
Local Chapter Affiliation	1	1
Professional Network of 75,000+	✓	✓
Career Development Fora (Livestream Available)	✓	✓
AUSA Educational Materials	✓	✓
Ticket Discounts on AUSA Domestic Events	✓	✓
Independent Army Periodicals	✓	✓
Access to Army & Family Programs	✓	✓
Representation on Capitol Hill	✓	✓
Discounts on Office Supplies, Car Rentals, and More	✓	✓
Entry to the Largest Land Power Expo in North America	✓	✓
10% Discount at AUSA Store		✓
Exclusive Welcome Kit		✓

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU SEEK TO SERVE YOUR INTERESTS IN SUPPORTING THE ARMY'S VOICE AND THE SOLDIER IN KC METRO!

WE ARE YOUR CHAPTER IN AUSA!