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July 2017 Newsletter

Flight 13 presents OWAA

Flight 13 presented the Orville Wright Achievement Award to Capt. Austin Muffly June 29 during a short ceremony with the HMLAT-303 squadron at Camp Pendleton. Captain Muffly earned the award for his flight school performance in the second half of 2016 while assigned to HT-28 under CNATRA.

Captain Muffly was very appreciative of receiving this award and thanked all in his unit while serving at Camp Pendleton. He is now on his way to his next assignment in North Carolina.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sykes, commander of HMLAT-303, and Capt. Jordan Pierce, adjutant of HMLAT-303, were very helpful in coordinating this event and welcomed retired Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Barnett, Daedalians Flight 13 Flight Captain, to be part of this ceremony.



Capt. Austin Muffly, center, holds his Orville Wright Achievement Award with Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sykes, right, and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Barnett, left.



Second Lt. John Graham, center, stands with Gen. Darren W. McDew, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, and Lt. Col. Sheryl Ott, commander, MIT, ROTC Det. 365.

MIT grad bound for Euro NATO training

Second Lt. John Graham recently graduated from MIT with a 4.9/5.0 GPA. The son of Daedalian Col. Glenn Graham at 56th Flight, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Lieutenant Graham received a Daedalian Descendent scholarship his first year, and Egan scholarships his second through fifth years. He was awarded \$16,600 during his five years. He served as vice commander of his ROTC detachment, and helped lead the team to the highest fitness assessment score nationally.

In April 2018, Lieutenant Graham will start training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, with hopes of flying the F-22 Raptor.

"The scholarship allowed me to focus on academics and graduate without having to fret about paying for housing or having to work during the semester to make ends meet," he said. "I am so grateful and extremely thankful for it, as it allowed me to stay academically competitive which contributed to me being selected for the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program."

The Daedalians support and honor more than 1,500 students annually. This generosity leads to a new generation of aviators who will serve our country selflessly.

'Never give up'

Captain credits Daedalian scholarship for achieving his dream

Sometimes a T-shirt is more than just a piece of clothing. Take the case of Capt. Kevin Donovan - he uses his Daedalians T-shirt as a conversation starter.

"Walking around town or in the gym, I've been asked questions because of it and I get to share my story," the captain said.

That story began 11 years ago when he was a senior at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire, and a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC unit. When his instructor told his unit about competing for Daedalian scholarships, he put his name in the jar.

"I have wanted to be a pilot since I can remember, but my family couldn't afford lessons," Captain Donovan recalled. "Later that week I was notified that I did not have the grades and would not receive the scholarship. As fate would have it the top five guys ahead of me all fell out somehow and they gave me the scholarship!"

Captain Donovan attended training at a small municipal airport nearby. His ground school, books, logbook, and flight hours leading up to his first solo were all paid for by the Daedalians.

"I soloed in just over 11 hours! That was just the foot in the door that I needed," he said. "The same story happened again in college. I was a member of the ROTC detachment at the Citadel, and again was told that I did not have the grades or vision required to be a pilot or navigator. I became an Air Battle Manager in the back of a Boeing 707 E-8C for five years." Meanwhile he used every paycheck to earn his private pilot's license in 40.2 hours. Then two years ago the pilot shortage crisis hit.

"I put in my application and was selected! I just graduated U.S. Air Force pilot training and was selected to fly the F-16. None of this would have been possible if not for the Daedalians getting me started when my family couldn't afford it."

Captain Donovan is passionate when he talks about his life's calling.

"I was told I will never be a pilot two times in my life - once for my grades, and once for my vision. To fix the grades I studied hard. I sacrificed weekends studying while friends went out to have fun. I pursued additional lessons from professors and asked for extra help after school. Teachers love that; they are happy to oblige," he said.

He said that he took a big risk when it came to fixing his vision.

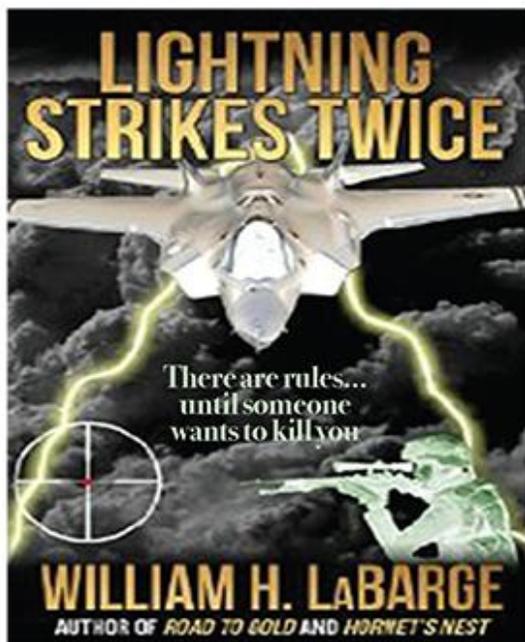
"I took out a \$25,000 loan (as a broke college junior) to pay for LASIK and my last year of college. I had a serious heart-to-heart with myself and determined becoming a pilot was not optional for me. I don't recommend taking such a large risk with such a gamble. I'm simply just trying to illustrate that you will have to sacrifice to achieve your dream," the captain said.

"Maybe you are in a similar situation that I was and you are financially struggling. Don't give up ... it is a mindset. Apply for a Daedalian scholarship! Go to your local airport and ask if they will barter lessons for work around the shop refueling and parking planes, etc. Hang out in the shop with the mechanics and watch them do 100-hour inspections or oil changes. Make sure the only limitation in the way of achieving your dream is how much work you are putting into it. Don't let anybody's comments stop you. They told me no, so I said, "Watch me."

Editor's Note: Captain Donovan is currently attending the eight-week "Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals" course at the 49th Fighter Training Squadron at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. After completing this course he'll attend F-16 training.



Capt. Kevin Donovan wears his Daedalian T-shirt in front of a T-38C at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.



New York Times Bestselling author, William H. LaBarge, brings a fast paced political thriller guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat. The latest advances in military weaponry featured in the story include the Rail Gun, CHAMP Missile, the DDG1000 Destroyer, the SHED, and the F-35C.

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Girls in Aviation Day

Girls in Aviation Day, sponsored by the Women in Aviation International Alamo City Chapter and the City of San Antonio Aviation Department, is scheduled 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 23 at Stinson Municipal Airport, 8535 Mission Road. This event is held worldwide on the same day and hosted by WAI chapters worldwide.

The day camp is for girls 8 to 17 years old. Registration scholarships are available. Any Girl Scout who attends will receive a WAI Girl Scout patch. Each girl will receive an introductory flight offered by the EAA Young Eagles program.

Registration deadline is Sept. 15. For more information visit

<http://www.waialamocity.org/girls-in-aviation-day-camp.html>, email

sanantonio@waichapters.org or contact retired Air Force Lt. Col. Olga Custodio at

ocdaedalian@yahoo.com.

July Trivia!

Let's see how you do with this month's set of trivia questions! If you have some fun facts you'd like to add to next month's newsletter, send them our way by July 31.

1. _____, with _____ as passenger, performed the first official Army flight test at Fort Myer, Virginia, on July 27, 1909.

2. The Army Signal Corps designated the flying field at _____, _____, as the Signal Corps Aviation School on July 3, 1911. The War Department appointed Capt. Charles deForest Chandler as the school's commander.

3. Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell, Martin and Handley Page

bombers from the Army's 1st Provisional Air Brigade bombed and sank the captured German battleship _____ in Chesapeake Bay on July 21, 1921.

4. Maj. John F. Bolt, USMC, flying an _____, became the first Marine jet ace while on temporary duty with the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing on July 11, 1953.

5. _____ became the second U.S. and the first USAF astronaut in space on July 21, 1961.

Answers can be found on last page.

Reunions

Air Rescue Association (ARA)
18-21 October 2017
Melbourne, Florida
POC: Walt Hines
334-272-7927 or whinesiii@cs.com

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July Trivia Answers

1. **Orville Wright** and **Lt. Frank P. Lahm**. They flew for over an hour, meeting one of the specification requirements for a military airplane.
2. **College Park, Maryland**. Among the school's instructors were 2nd Lt. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold and 2nd Lt. Thomas DeWitt Milling, who had just learned to fly at the Wright school in Dayton, Ohio.
3. **Ostfriesland**. The tests proved General Mitchell's contention that airplanes could sink the largest and most powerful naval vessels.
4. **F-86 Sabre**. Major Bolt was the only Marine Corps Ace in both World War II and Korea.
5. **Capt. Virgil I. Grissom**. He attained an altitude of 118 miles and a speed of 5,310 miles per hour in a 303-mile suborbital spaceflight.



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