

PLANE TALK



AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

AF195 - SHOOTING STAR CHAPTER
NEW JERSEY

September 2025

January 2024
www.afa195.org

HOT NEWS

Join us for our next meeting:
Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 1:00pm
Florham Park Diner

Please RSVP to Howard Leach

WELCOME

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS

NOTE: Not every meeting is on the last Saturday
Please review dates carefully

OCTOBER 25, 2025

NOVEMBER 29, 2025

MEETING AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of new members / guests
- Remembrance: Betty McConnell
- Discuss the latest Air Force Association news
- Lunch and Guest Speaker

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH "BETTY" MCCONNELL

Losing one of our own is always hard and it is with much sorrow that we note that our devoted AFA secretary, Elizabeth "Betty" McConnell, loving wife of Jim, passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025, in Denville, NJ.

Betty was born in Newark, grew up in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School in 1959. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from William Paterson State College. In 1988, she received her Master of Letters degree from Drew University after crafting her published thesis "with a star-like eye..." Betty was a teacher in Randolph Township Schools for over 30 years, and was honored as a "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" in 2002 upon her retirement. She was the quintessential teaching colleague that everyone wanted.

Outside of the classroom and in retirement, Betty was actively involved in the following organizations that were so meaningful to her: the Randolph Rescue Squad, the Morris County Retired Educators Association (MCREA), the Air Force Association (AFA), and the New Jersey State First Aid Council and local 8th district.



AFA OFFICERS - 2025

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SPEAKER: Elizabeth N. Stoddard, LT USN

A native of northern New Jersey, Elizabeth came from a family of public servants and veterans. Elizabeth began her Navy career in 2005 following acceptance to the Naval Intelligence Officers program and she was commissioned an Ensign after completing Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

Her first fleet assignment was onboard USS ENTERPRISE serving as OZ Division Division Officer and SUPPLOT Watch Officer. Her main job responsibilities included indications and warning for the strike group and monitoring enemy order of battle.

After the ENTERPRISE her next duty station was at PATROL SQUADRON 30 (VP-30), the P-3/P-8 training command in Jacksonville, Florida. She was assigned to the Marine Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School (MPRWS) attachment as the staff Intelligence officer responsible for training deploying squadron Intelligence officers in their job duties. She was also responsible for briefing the entire NAS Jacksonville PATRON air wing on current intelligence matters happening globally.

Upon leaving the Navy, Elizabeth embarked on her second career in 2023 as a fitness instructor and personal trainer- a career that she feels fits her lifelong passion of both service and helping the public. One of the great joys of her life now is getting involved with veterans service organizations and supporting female veterans in particular.

For more information about the Shooting Star Chapter, please visit our site at www.afa195.org