

Happy Holidays and Final Newsletter for 2021

Oct – Dec '21

Dear NDIA RMC Family,

As we close out 2021, on behalf of our entire Chapter, I want to wish you the Happiest of Holidays and best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year.

This is a good time for reflection and to count our blessings. There is no doubt that 2021 was still dominated by COVID. We have all endured stress, grief, and frustration. Yet, when we look back there are things that we can point to with pride and joy. I want to share a few of those with you because you were a part of it, either directly or by your support.

At the beginning of the year, we centered on three values: Value to our Members, Value to our Community, and Value to our Nation. Our Chapter rededicated ourselves to those values to drive our activities and it is worthwhile to see how we did.

Value to our Members

Despite COVID, we were able to host a number of events, both virtual and in person, and teaming with the Space DIV, as well as our fellow Defense Associations including AFA, AFCEA, AIAA, and SFA. These events included a Brown Bag with Bob Thomas, US Space Command J8 in Feb, a Small Business Legislative Roundtable in April; the IMAGE Golf Tournament, Rocky Mountain Ball and Space Symposium in August and a Joint Holiday Party earlier this month.

We also initiated an effort to better serve our members in the Northern Denver area with a new committee led by Karri Palmetier focused on these members. In August, we held a happy hour co-hosted with the Smalls with our sponsor BBSI. In December, we exhibited at the Colorado Space Business Roundtable Space Roundup held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We will continue our efforts to host events in Denver and look forward to meeting more members. Please contact Karri Palmetier at karri@palmetierlaw.com if you want to become engaged or have ideas for new events.

Value to our Community

We are blessed to serve not only our civilian community but also our military community with several large military bases in our Chapter. In 2021 we were able to close a multi-year effort to provide air-conditioners for our service members suffering from oppressive heat in their housing. Our Chapter spearheaded a community effort that resulted in delivering 11 AC units to Ft. Carson and 45 AC units to Peterson SFB. We could not have done that without our community partners. Our goal is to continue to get 45 more for Peterson before next summer and we are discussing with USAFA that has a need for 600.

Recognizing the need for our youth in our Elementary to High Schools, we have pivoted our Workforce Development away from awarding a handful of scholarships to providing resources broadly to more students, earlier in their lives. Our goal is to bring exciting programs to our youth to complement their education, awaken a desire for lifelong learning, and encourage them to good character and citizenship.

- The Workforce Development (WFD) Committee supported two Edge of Space missions in 2021, launching science experiments from several elementary schools, to include from as far away as Pennsylvania. We provide science payload materials (i.e. containers) and instructional guidance to participating schools so they get the best experience from their participation. We showcased this event with a video presentation during the 2021 NDIA Ball to rave reviews. In 2022 we look forward to continuing and expanding our support to this exciting STEM activity for tomorrow's science and Space leaders
- WFD Committee provided financial support to local disadvantaged elementary schools for things like Math Kits, dissection kits, model rockets/engines, and science lab activity supplies – especially a need during COVID when these materials were not available to these students at home.
- We provided support to local STEM competitions and provide judges and sponsorship awards to Local, Regional and State-level Science

Fairs...with an attempt to foster ideas that have potential future relevance to our Nation's vital defense and security industries

- We have participated in local Space Camps at our military installations and supported "Egg Drops" for local Military installation Youth Centers
- We showcased an Apollo astronaut space suit to local youth at Schriever SFB and secured a former Astronaut and USAFA Instructor to meet with the school-aged children to describe life in space and to mentor them on future space needs
- We provide financial assistance to local schools to enable them to participate in virtual field trips to places like the Discovery Center and Challenger Space Center
- Our assistance also enables local schools, based on need, to receive "Cool Science" presentations.
- For 2022, the WFD Committee is looking to expand our support to include sponsorships and volunteer opportunities for Local, Regional, and State level Robotics competitions...to foster increased awareness and participation by our State's youth in the field of robotics, automation, and other critical and collaborative skills that are so important to America's future.

Value to our Nation

Our Chapter is blessed to have the opportunity to provide Value to our Nation with our support to Peterson (NORAD/NORTHCOM, Space Command and USSF), Schriever, and Buckley Space Force Bases, Ft. Carson, and our United States Air Force Academy. Additionally, our 1,835 members are spread over 24 states including APO AE and APO AP - working, volunteering and making a difference in our local communities.

Our Chapter continues to partner with National NDIA and our Space Division to put on programs of national importance such as the Space Warfighting Industry Forum and support to the Space Symposium such as the Space Division Breakfast.

Finally, our Rocky Mountain Ball and the annual presentation of the Hartinger and Patriot Award winners is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together military, government and industry leaders from across the nation. It is a great opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones that never disappoints. By the way, we are currently soliciting nominations for the Hartinger Award.

All in all, it has been an amazing year and we know that we will do even more in 2022. All of this is a credit to our volunteers that selflessly give up their time to make a difference. I want to especially thank our Chapter Officers, Committee Chairs, Board of Directors, and volunteer members. All of you are my heroes.

I want to end with a quote that I came across when thinking about some of our members and their family that passed away this year – some too soon. It is attributed to Muhammed Ali - “Don’t count the days, make the days count.” Thank you for making your days count.

See you in 2022!

Phil