



Members recognized at Carroll Dining Out

Carroll Composite Squadron cadets that were awarded top honors at the recent dining out (left to right): Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Joe Mack, Cadet NCO of the Year, Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex Gnau, Air Force Association Cadet of the Year, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Zuleyma Ruiz, Cadet of the Year. (Photo credit: Jenn Reed)

Promotions and awards highlight event

By **Maj. Brenda A. Reed, CAP**

Commander, Carroll Composite Squadron

6/10/2010—**REISTERSTOWN, MD**—Members of the Civil Air Patrol's Carroll Composite Squadron held a dining out to recognize the accomplishments of its members. The annual banquet was held on June 1 at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md. Close to 100 members, families and friends attended the event.

The evening began with traditional military toasts, recognition of those who gave their lives in service to our country through the missing man table, and some fun as the cadet commander, Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex Gnau, led the group in the grog bowl ceremony.

During her remarks, Maj. Brenda Reed, Carroll squadron commander, recognized the graduating seniors of the cadet program for their work and applauded their future plans and college appointments:

- Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Jacob Brooks – Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets
- Cadet Airman Matthew Gentzel – US Air Force Academy
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex Gnau – US Air Force
- Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Jon Koziar – US Marines
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Zuleyma Ruiz – study abroad in Mexico
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Derek Seibel – Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

After dinner, nine cadets were promoted to the next achievement in the cadet program. Among those promoted, four cadets were awarded the Wright Brothers Award: Cadet Staff Sgts. Jordan Chattler, Christopher Davis, Owen McMahan, and Jacob Schollian. Cadet Wendy Zehner was promoted to Cadet Airman, Cadets Christian Hamric and Nicholas Roche were promoted to Cadet Sr. Airman, and Cadet Ali Globus was promoted to Cadet Technical Sgt.

Cadet Zuleyma Ruiz was awarded the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award and promoted to the grade of Cadet 2nd Lt. This achievement signifies her completion of the first half of the cadet program. To earn this award, Ruiz completed a comprehensive aerospace test, a leadership exam, physical fitness evaluation, character development courses, uniform inspections, review board, and actively participated in squadron events.

The evening's special guest was Lt. Col. Bill Parris, Maryland Wing Group 2 commander, who recognized seven Carroll members for their exceptional service by awarding them Civil Air Patrol Achievement Awards.

These members included:

- Capt. Patrick Aaron (Operations Officer)
- Capt. David Alexander (Aircraft Maintenance Officer)
- 1st Lt. Haley Blevins (Aerospace Education Officer)
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex Gnau (Cadet Commander)
- Capt. Kevin McHale (Transportation Officer)
- Capt. Thomas Reed (Deputy Commander for Cadets)
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Zuleyma Ruiz (Cadet Basic Training Instructor)

Several members were recognized for their extraordinary efforts to assist the squadron and the cadet program. 2nd Lt. Joe Manning, squadron safety officer, Sr. Mbr. Karen Fassett, squadron supply officer, and Sr. Mbr. Shearl Seibel, assistant testing officer, support the cadet program year round as CAP members and in addition head up a separate organization, the Friends of Carroll Composite Squadron, that financially supports the squadron.

Two members, one cadet and one senior, were recognized for the continuous behind the scenes participation in helping the squadron to run smoothly. Awarded the Unsung Hero Award, these members were cited for active participation in most activities and regularly volunteering for additional responsibilities above and beyond their regular duty assignment.

- Capt. Joe Moltz, squadron communications officer, was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for seniors and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Hank Endres, Charlie Flight commander, was awarded the Cadet Unsung Hero Award.
- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joe Mack was named the Cadet Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for the squadron for his exemplary service to the squadron. Mack currently serves as the squadron's cadet first sergeant.
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex Gnau was awarded the Air Force Association Cadet of the Year Award for his outstanding leadership as cadet commander. This award was presented by Capt. Thomas Reed, retired USAF Chief Master Sgt., and Capt. David Alexander, former USAF Captain and pilot.
- Capt. Patrick Aaron was named the Carroll Composite Squadron Senior Member of the Year for his continuously outstanding work for the squadron, support and training of the aircrews, and work with the cadets with cadet orientation flights.
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Zuleyma Ruiz was awarded the Carroll Composite Squadron Cadet of the Year Award for her all around leadership, academic achievements, CAP and outside activities, attitude, and outstanding performance as a cadet.

Prior to the close of the evening, there was a cadet change of command ceremony in which Gnau stepped down as cadet commander and Cadet 1st Lt. Rick Stuart assumed command of the cadet corps.

The Carroll Composite Squadron is located in Westminster, Md., and meets weekly on Tuesday nights at the Westminster Armory on Hahn Road. The squadron's website is www.carrollcap.org.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

More than 1,500 members of CAP serve in Maryland. Last fiscal year wing members flew 42 search and rescue missions and were credited with 31 finds. For more information, visit www.mdcap.org.