

The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance
presents



A Celebration of LGBT Service

November 12, 2010

Westminster, Colorado



Man's flight through life is sustained
by the power of his knowledge.

The Eagle and Fledglings, USAFA Terrazzo

High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds.
And done a hundred things you have not dreamed of –
Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights, with easy grace,
Where never lark or even eagle flew.

And while with silent, lifting mind I've trod,
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.





U.S. AIR FORCE

History of the Air Force Dining-In / Dining-Out

The dining-in represents the most formal aspects of Air Force social life. The custom is a very old tradition. Although its origin is not clear, formal feasts to honor military victories and individual/unit achievements have been customary from pre-Christian Roman legions to King Arthur's knights in the sixth century.

The custom of the dining-in is not exclusively military. The tradition as we know it today is rooted in England where it was a custom in the monasteries. It was later adopted by the early universities and spread to the military when the Officers' Mess was established. With the adoption of the dining-in by the military, these feasts became more formalized. British soldiers introduced the custom to colonial America, where it was borrowed by George Washington's Continental Army.

These dinners have become traditional in all branches of the armed forces. In the Air Force and Navy, it is the dining-in; in the Army, the regimental dinner; in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, mess night. The Air Force dining-out format began in the United States Army Air Corps with General "Hap" Arnold's "Wing-dings." The Air Corps' association with the British in World War II increased its popularity, and since that time it has been modified into its present form. Many of the original traditions are still very much alive.

The only significant difference between a dining-in and a dining-out is that spouses and guests are invited to attend the dining-out.

Evening's Program

Drinks / Networking/ Registration

Dinner Chimes / Call to Dinner

Introductions

History of the Dining-Out

Formal Toasts

Dinner Service

Celebration of LGBT Service

Executive Director's Moment

Break / Networking / Smoking Lamp

Dinner Chimes / Return to Tables

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Keynote Address: Congressman Polis

“One More Roll”

Close of the Mess

“....next year at USAFA”

Representing Colorado's 2nd District



Jared Polis is a successful innovator and entrepreneur. He has founded several successful internet companies, including Proflowers.com and bluemountain.com. He was named Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2000, the same year he ran for and was elected to the Colorado State Board of Education, where he served as both Chair and Vice-Chair during his six year tenure.

Further applying his entrepreneurial spirit to the field of education, Polis founded two innovative charter schools in Colorado, the Academy of Urban Learning and the New America School. He later served as superintendent of the New America School, a public charter school with four locations in Colorado and New Mexico that helps new immigrant students learn English.

In 2008, Polis was elected to the 111th Congress, representing Colorado's second congressional district. He currently serves on the House Education and Labor Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the Rules Committee. He is a charter member and vice-chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition, the Chair of the Immigration task-force of the Progressive Caucus, and a member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

Greg Mooneyham '87
Executive Director, Blue Alliance



Greg Mooneyham is a 1987 graduate of the US Air Force Academy and served for seven and a half years as an Air Force A-10 fighter pilot. After leaving the Air Force, Greg entered Corporate America as an Account Executive with Johnson Controls Inc. He is an entrepreneur and business owner and has been active in supporting LGBT causes. Greg lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Please feel free to contact Greg.



Blue Alliance envisions a time when the service of all Air Force personnel is recognized without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Toward that end we have developed three initial mission statements for our organization.

- ▲ Facilitate peer support, professional networking, and mentorship among LGBT alumni of the US Air Force Academy.
- ▲ Promote respect, through education and advocacy, for LGBT individuals at the Air Force Academy, within the Academy's alumni community, and throughout the entire United States Air Force.
- ▲ Maintain a framework of safety that protects the privacy needs of each individual participant.

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

*Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder,
Sent it high into the blue;
Hands of men blasted the world asunder;
How they lived God only knew!
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer
Gave us wings, ever to soar!
With scouts before and bombers galore. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

*Here's a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky.
To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly.
We drink to those who gave their all of old,
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.
A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force!*

*Off we go into the wild sky yonder,
Keep the wings level and true;
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder
Keep the nose out of the blue!
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,
We'll be there, followed by more!
In echelon we carry on. Hey!
Nothing will stop the U.S. Air Force!*

1. I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

2. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

3. If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

4. If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information, or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

5. When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

6. I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.



Commander Jerry Coffee, Hanoi, 1968

We toast our hearty comrades, who have fallen from the sky,
And were gently caught by God's own hand
To be with him on high.

To dwell among the soaring clouds they knew so well before,
From tail-chase to victory roll at heaven's very door.

As we fly among them there, we're sure to heed their plea:
Take care, my friend, watch your six,
And do one more roll just for me.



....next year, at USAFA!!