16th AIAA Member Appreciation Event

December 15, 2026

Please join the members of the St Louis Section as we recognize the membership anniversaries of a number of our longtime AIAA colleagues. Come and show your appreciation for these members who have been with AIAA for 25, 30, …45, and even 60+ years.

Special Presentation:

Stories of a Navy TOPGUN Pilot

- Presented by CAPT Kevin "Proton" McLaughlin

Please join us for a fascinating look into the world of Naval aviation when Kevin McLaughlin relays exciting stories of his days as a Captain in the Navy and TOPGUN Instructor.



Captain Kevin McLaughlin, from Newport Beach, California, enlisted in the Navy in 1989 and began as a Nuclear Electronics Technician after completing Nuclear Power School. Selected for the Naval Aviation Cadet program in 1991, he earned a Bachelor's from the University of Nevada and a Master's from George Washington University. Designated a Naval Aviator in 1993, he served in multiple strike fighter squadrons aboard carriers such as USS Nimitz, USS Constellation, and USS John C. Stennis. He held key roles including Training Officer, Safety and Maintenance Officer, Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer. Under his leadership, VFA-14 won the Battle Efficiency and 2012 RADM Wade McClusky Awards.

Ashore, he was a TOPGUN Instructor, Washington DC Intern Fellow, Organization Policy Officer at NORAD/US Northern Command, and commanded TOPGUN and STRIKE units. His final Navy assignment was as Commander of Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic, responsible for 15 squadrons and over 7,000 personnel.

Captain McLaughlin logged 3,700+ flight hours and 900 carrier landings, earning numerous awards including the Legion of Merit and multiple service medals. He served as President of the Tailhook Association and is currently President of the TOPGUN Association. He now works at Boeing as Executive Director for Navy and Marine Corps Programs.



Please bring an unwrapped toy for

For a chance at the door prize



Schedule

Tuesday, December 15, 2026

5:01 pm – Social time w/ Open Bar!
5:45 pm – Buffet Dinner
6:43pm – Member Appreciation Program
7:07 pm – Presentation
8:39 pm – Adjourn

Reservation Deadline: ***by*** **8:37 am on Tuesday, 8 December 2026**

Where

Orlando's
2050 Dorsett Village
Maryland Heights,
MO 63043
314-453-9000

Cost

$26 per Person

Membership is NOT required to attend this event.
All are Welcome ☺

Dinner Menu:
Braised Beef Bordelaise
Italian Chicken Spedini
Bacon Cheddar Mashers
Cavatelli Broccoli
Farmhouse Green Beans
Italian Garden Salad
Dinner Rolls and Butter
Assorted Holiday Sweets
Coffee station & Tea

Vegan plate option available

Please RSVP using the Jotform Link or QR code:
https://form.jotform.com/263154365766162

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