

CHAPTER 34

Greeting from Chapter 34 Pensacola, FL "AO Schoolhouse"

It's been awhile since you have heard from Chapter 34, but we have been hard at work not only in the schoolhouse but throughout the community as well.

Chapter 34 came together and voted to develop and fund a challenge coin that would be given to the students after completion of AO core class during their graduation ceremony. The design of the challenge coin was a collaboration between the Chapter 34 members and H2H coins. Students receiving their first challenge coin upon graduation symbolizes an important memento for completing their in-rate training and a job well done. It represents the hard work the students have invested to be officially called an Aviation Ordnanceman and to keep the challenge coin tradition going for the new sailors and marines.



Chapter 34 purchased \$2,700 worth of coins to hand out to graduating classes in the schoolhouse. If you're interested in purchasing a coin come to the schoolhouse in Pensacola, FL

Being in the Military and missing the Holidays is nothing new to a seasoned Sailor or Marine, but for the young Sailors and Marines at Naval Air Technical Training Center it can be hard being away from home for the first time during the Holidays. So on Wednesday November 22nd we held our annual Thanksgiving event for all students, staff and family members in the AO schoolhouse. There were roughly 250 personnel who attended the event. The evening before the event staff members showed up to prep and cook twenty five turkeys; the meal consisted of: turkey, the fixings and variety of drinks and desserts. For fun, there was corn hole and an inflatable gladiator pit for the students to let off some steam. And the day ended with an abundance of door prizes ranging from gift cards, G-shock watches to a Bose Bluetooth speaker all donated by Chapter 34. The Thanksgiving event would not have been such a success without the leadership and direction of AO1 Joshua Jackson and the support of the Navy and Marine Corp staff.

On December 16th we got to assist many other volunteers in honoring our fallen military personnel by laying down wreaths for Wreaths Across America. This is a day to show the world how much the fallens sacrifice truly means to us. With over 40,000 graves in Barrancas Cemetery it took a while but no time could amount to the sacrifice the men and woman sacrificed for us.

A few days later we got to honor one of our own and show AOAA Bryan Grosso's family and friends that AO's honor their own, by rendering honors in memory and celebrating his life and how he impacted us forever. The family and friends were escorted in by the Patriot Guard on December 19th, 2017.

AOAA Bryan Grosso was born in Portsmouth naval hospital, 13 JAN 1999.

Brian knew when he was just a young boy that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father and become a Navy Master Chief. Bryan had memorized the Sailor's creed by the time he was 10 yrs old.

In high school Bryan played on the Lacrosse team that he helped organize.

He was also an avid fisherman and he loved scuba diving. He was certified in diving by the time he was 14.

Bryan loved animals especially dogs and he also loved a good cigar.

He graduated from west Florida high school of Advanced Technology in the spring of 2017 and then reported to Naval Station Great Lakes for recruit training. After graduating from boot camp, he attended "A" school in Pensacola where he received the rate AO after which he received orders to CVN 76 USS Ronald Reagan. He arrived at Yokosuka, Japan to begin his preparation to join his first ship underway.

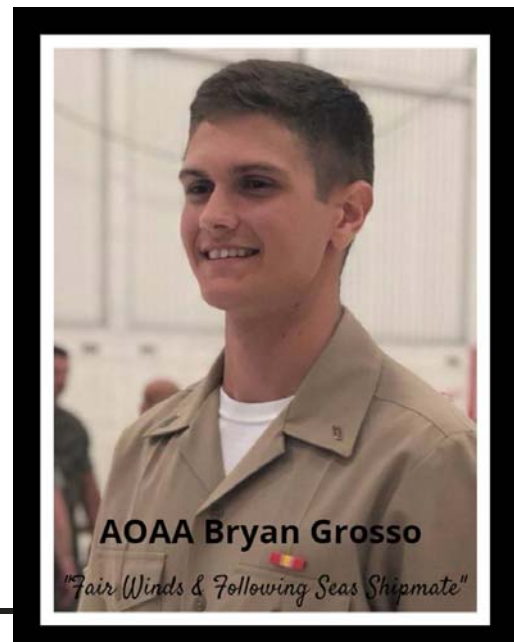
There were 11 crew and passengers aboard the C2A Greyhound when it crashed into the ocean approximately 500 miles southeast of Okinawa. Eight Sailors were rescued within an hour.

Bryan's friend and classmate SHSA Byron Arndt said, Bryan Grosso was someone that was not only a good shipmate but a good friend to me and many other members of our class. What I like about Bryan was that he was a kind and caring person, always willing to be there for his friends and shipmates.

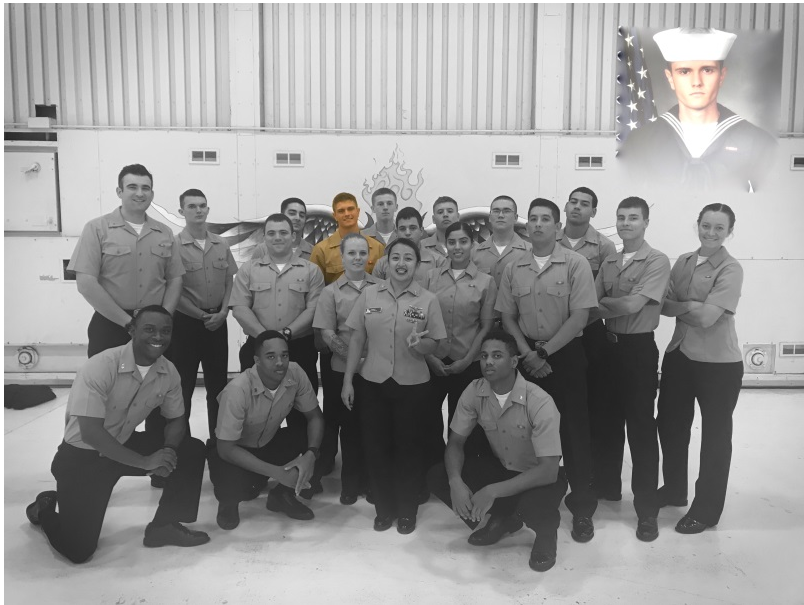
He is survived by his father Jeff, mother Kimberly, brother Jeff Jr, and girlfriend Jessica.

If your ever in the Pensacola area we have are monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at Beef 'O' Brady's and the address is, 22 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL 32502. Or come visit the schoolhouse at 230 Chevalier Field Ave Pensacola, Florida 32508.

SGT Joshua lowery Chapter 34 President
AO1 Eric Winters Chapter 34 Vice President
AO1 Joshua Portillo Chapter 34 Treasurer



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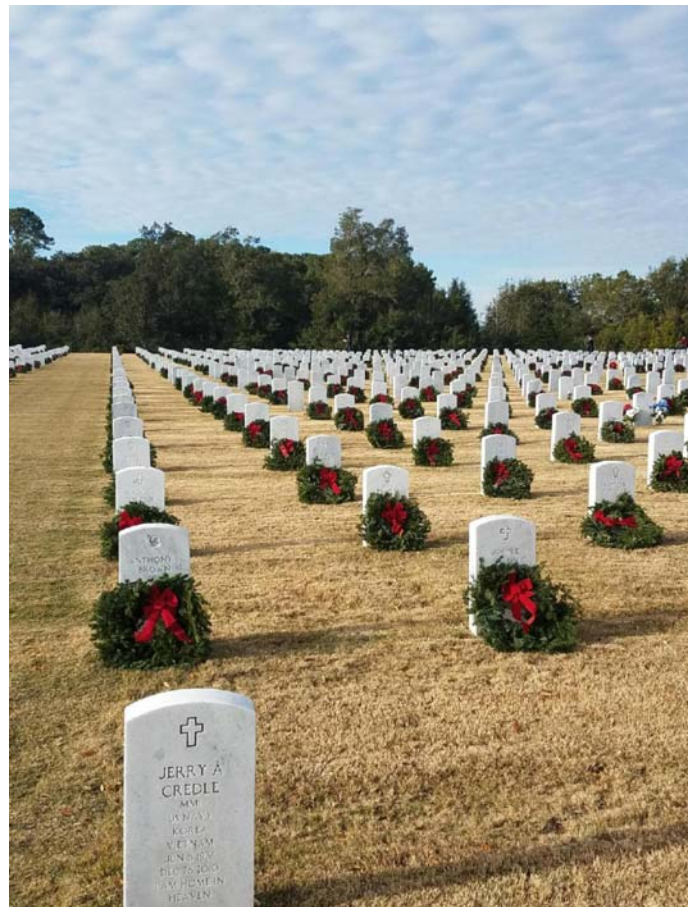
AOAA Bryan Grosso with his graduating class in Pensacola, FL from AO "A" school



GYSGT FORD, AO1 JACKSON and SSGT GLENN prepping the turkeys at 0200.



MSGT CRAIG and the NATTC staff Serving the students and family.



Just a portion of the men and woman we got to honor by laying wreaths



The Thanksgiving event for the students wouldn't have been possible without the help of chapter 34 members.

