

## William “Bill” Yucuis

## Waterman-Twining Chapter President

William “Bill” Yucuis graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Bill spent 20 years in the Air Force, primarily as a pilot, and flew F-4 and F-16 aircraft. In between flying assignments, Bill attended Purdue University and earned a Master’s degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. Bill then returned to the Air Force Academy where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Astronautical Engineering for three and one-half years. Bill retired from the Air Force in 1994 and moved to Orlando, Florida, where he began a second career in public school education and taught for 20 years.



Bill first taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade math for six years, where he was head of their Math Department for two years. In 2002, Bill was hired by Lyman High School to develop a four-year Aerospace track for the Seminole County Institute for Engineering Magnet program. The Aerospace track required students to take an Aerospace class as an elective each year to explore the many aspects of the Aerospace field. The freshman year focused on basic engineering skills. The sophomore year in Aerospace focused on aircraft while the junior year emphasized astronautics (space). During their senior year, students worked on engineering projects, many which included state or national competitions. In addition to Aerospace related projects, such as rocketry and aircraft design, Bill introduced several types of robotics and was also the Lyman CyberPatriot coach for his last five years of teaching.

Bill has been married since 1989 to Lyn. She was an F-15 and F-16 Maintenance Officer, and we first met at Kunsan, Korea. She served for 12 years and moved to Orlando when Bill retired. On a whim, Lyn applied at Walt Disney World and ended up retiring after 20 years. She held numerous positions and retired as a Security Manager. We have two grandkids (5 and 6) who live in the Tampa area, which keeps us busy between playing golf.

Bill has been active volunteer in the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) for over 20 years, working at the local, state, and national levels. He has served as a Chapter President (in Orlando and now Tampa), a Chapter and State Education Vice President, the Florida State Executive Vice President, and Florida State President. Bill was a member of the AFA Education Council (AEC), which directs and oversees all AFA Education Programs, for over 15 years. In September 2014, just after retiring, Bill was asked by the AEC to be the Chairman of an AFA Space Task Force which developed StellarXplorers, the first, and I believe only, national space design competition, and from 2015 - 2021, he was the StellarXplorers Chief of Academics and Training. In addition to running the competition, Bill developed the curriculum for a 5-day StellarCamp, which was piloted in the summer of 2021.

As the Waterman-Twining AFA Chapter President, he promotes AFA STEM education goals throughout the community, promotes AFA Strategic Advocacy Objectives with community leaders, and supports airmen, guardians, and their families stationed at MacDill AFB, cadets at the USF AFROTC, and local CAP units.

Our Website ([https:// https://waterman-twining.afa.org/](https://waterman-twining.afa.org/)) gives details about our efforts.