

## Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

350 West Douglas Avenue  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
www.wichitachamber.org  
(316) 265-7771



**THE CHAMBER**  
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 6, 2019  
Contact: Monica Poe  
316-268-1153  
mpoe@wichitachamber.org

### **Pat Gallagher Selected for Tampa Bay Trophy Award**

*The national award is presented annually by the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance  
Image and bio following*

Wichita, KS – Pat Gallagher, Military Affairs Liaison for the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, was recently presented the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Tampa Bay Trophy Award. Created by the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance in Florida in consultation with Air Mobility Command (AMC) at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, the national award honors a civilian for sustained and enduring service as well as contributions to community, AMC Airmen and families and the United States Air Force.

Gallagher was invited to Florida in October to accept the award during the annual Airlift Tanker Association Convention. Tim Jones, President of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, cited Gallagher's "selfless devotion towards our military and the missions they accomplish" when announcing that she was the 2019 award recipient. Jones said that Gallagher "epitomizes the very best in the leadership and community support that's required to make our Air Force the greatest in the world."

Having served McConnell Air Force Base as an Honorary Commander since 1994, Gallagher received Golden Eagle recognition in 2009. She serves as the Director of the Friends of McConnell (a Chamber affiliate) and serves on the Governor's Military Council, a statewide organization that works to grow and preserve military presence in the state of Kansas. She also serves on U.S. Senator Jerry Moran's Military Council and has been an active member of the Air Mobility Command Civic Council at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

Gallagher joined the Chamber in 1983 and has worked in the Chamber's Government Relations department since 1995. She is recognized throughout the region for her dedication to connecting the business community with McConnell Air Force Base. Gallagher said, "Doing something that ignites my passion and reaps such tremendous personal reward has been my good fortune in life. Being recognized with this honor is heartwarming, to say the least."

Chamber President and CEO Gary Plummer said that Gallagher was well deserving of the award since it recognizes the influence and impact community members have in mobilizing their community to support the mobility and Air Force missions. “Pat is tireless when advocating for McConnell Air Force Base. She’s passionate about doing everything within her power to convince all who serve at McConnell AFB to eventually make Wichita their permanent home. Pat provides the community continuity needed to ensure that the Base leadership feels welcomed and that they feel instantly connected to the region.”

The current President of the Friends of McConnell echoed Plummer’s comments. Jack Pulley said, “Everyone at the Base knows that she’s the first point of contact for critical missions where civilians are needed to play an important role. Several years ago the Friends of McConnell group was pivotal in helping secure the KC46 tanker mission for McConnell Air Force Base. We hosted events to demonstrate the civilian support for that mission and keep the public informed about the economic impact of the Base. We can always count on her to lead the way. Her enthusiasm and love for the Air Force are unparalleled in this community.”

Gallagher’s award will be recognized at the conclusion of a November 11 Federal Issue Forum hosted by the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (400 W. Waterman).

# # #

*The mission of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce is to drive economic growth and community advancement in the Wichita region. Visit our website [wichitachamber.org](http://wichitachamber.org) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and our blog.*

# PATRICIA GALLAGHER

Director, Friends of McConnell  
Military Liaison, Wichita Regional  
Chamber of Commerce



A native Kansan, Pat was born and raised in Fort Scott. Following her education at William Woods College in Fulton, MO and the University of Kansas in Lawrence, she moved to Washington, DC, where she was employed for several years by the Marriott Corporation.

Pat currently serves as the Wichita Chamber's military liaison, interacting in an ongoing basis with the McConnell Air Force Base leadership team and other military entities across the region. She has been responsible for the Chamber's military program for 25 years. Pat serves on U.S. Senator Jerry Moran's Military Council, Kansas Governor's Military Affairs Council, and remains an active alumni of General Maryanne Miller's Air Mobility Command Civic Council. She is a past Honorary Commander and a current Golden Eagle at McConnell Air Force Base.

Pat has been on the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce staff since 1983 and is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's six year Institute for Organization Management. As the Wichita Chamber's Government Relations Manager, she was an integral part of the Chamber's legislative and military affairs programming. In 2014, she semi-retired and narrowed her focus solely to military affairs.

As Government Relations Manager for the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce several years ago, one of Pat's responsibilities was the oversight of the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee. Pat became aware that there was an organization in the community called The Friends of McConnell and after some pretty thorough research, she discovered that she had a couple of FOM members on her Chamber Military Affairs Committee. One of those members invited her to attend a few of the FOM's informal luncheon gatherings, which she did. It didn't take long for her to realize that there was quite a bit of duplication of effort between the two groups and she felt they might work better together than as two separate entities.

In time, Pat was able to merge the two groups and make the FOM the official military support organization in Wichita. The Wichita Regional Chamber shares their 501(c)6 Tax ID and the organization now operates as an affiliate of the Chamber. Pat oversees the daily operation of the FOM and with the Chamber covering several expense, the group has little or no overhead and can sustainably reap the benefits of a well-respected umbrella organization.

As Director of Friends of McConnell Pat interacts with base leaders on a frequent basis attending ceremonies including hails/farewells/changes of command/promotions/picnics and other base activities. She represents the Wichita Regional Chamber and the Friends of McConnell in civic affairs.

## **Key Accomplishments**

### **Command Involvement:**

- Selected as a “Golden Eagle” for outstanding volunteer service; fosters support for 17,169 active duty and reserve personnel – 6<sup>th</sup> person in 22 ARW history to receive this honor
- Friends of McConnell AFB Director; leads support group of local civic leaders/provides organizational/financial support to MAFB Commander directed programs – familiarizes public with Team McConnell’s national defense posture/vital link for senior military leaders and civic counterparts
- Air Force ambassador; Air Mobility Command Civic Leader Council member – communicates AMC role to local community and strengthens total force

### **Community Involvement:**

- Organized community prep/KC-36 Pegasus arrival ceremony; raised \$10K for aircraft arrival events
- Civic leader command tour host; 40+ Travis and Little Rock AFB civics/Wing leadership – enhanced best practices for supporting uniformed personnel and families
- Supported 22 ARW morale and welfare events/functions; raised and donated \$45K – raised Esprit de Corps for 1.7K personnel, spouses, and children

### **Development/Initiatives:**

- Commanders Tent for 2018 Airshow; initiated fundraising/raised \$13K+ -- Event enjoyed by 110K
- Organizational committee for Mission Wichita Initiative; offered unique insight into local business/industry/McConnell AFB mission and vision – paving the way for 2500 young professionals
- Orchestrated CINC IEA Team civic involvement; organized welcome/2 civic dinner events – DoD runner up/400K won for base improvements and support of Airmen and families