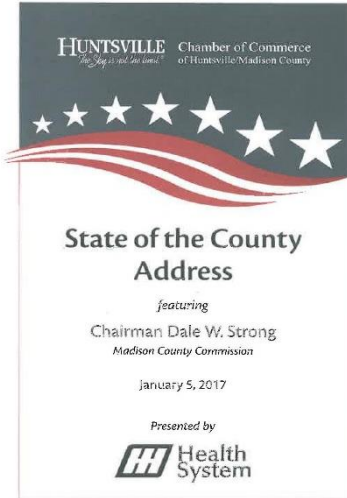


The State of the County

by

Ken Philippart

Images by Lisa Philippart



The Greater Huntsville Section attended the State of the County Address by Madison County Commission Chairman Dale W. Strong. The event was organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. Greater Huntsville Section is a chamber member.

After the National Anthem was sung by Grammy Award winning singer Lee Greenwood, the honored guests were introduced including Marshall Space Flight Center Director and AIAA Associate Fellow Todd May, senior Redstone Army leadership and Alabama state congressmen.

Ken Philippart represented the section at the event. During the lunch, Ken met Interim Superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, Mr. B. T. “Tom” Drake, and his Director of

Community Relations, Ms. Rena Anderson. They discussed ways that AIAA could support the district on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and exchanged contact information for additional discussions.

Following lunch, Chairman Strong recapped the county’s achievements in 2016. He emphasized the economic important of Redstone Arsenal, explaining how Redstone contributes 7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the entire state of Alabama. Chairman Strong detailed the extensive infrastructure improvements underway at Redstone and elsewhere in the county that will benefit Madison



County residents and businesses. He outlined the county’s successful efforts to attract new businesses to Huntsville and Madison County. He ended by publicly thanking all who had made these accomplishments possible.



The event concluded with a musical performance by Lee Greenwood who performed his signature song, “God Bless the USA,” bringing the crowd to their feet in applause.