



Freedom Flyer

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

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2022

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Newest Additions to the CFF Air Fleet

Mark Morgan has been named as Project Manager for the addition of our two new Hunter RQ-5A Unmanned Aerial Systems. Mark is a dual service veteran from both the Navy and the Army having served aboard both fleet ballistic missile and fast attack submarines as a Nuclear Machinist Mate, E-6 and then transferring to the US Army as a Marine Field Engineering Officer (CWO), serving on multiple Army seagoing vessels. He also served as a Navy instructor training other crew members and as an instructor at the Army Marine Academy at Ft Eustis, VA.

The new additions to the CFF air wing arrived by flatbed semi transport from Northrop Grumman, California. They are capable of 21 hours of flight duration. Powered by two inline 3-cylinder diesel engines. Their wingspan is almost 35 feet and overall length is 23 feet. These drones can operate at up to 18,000 feet and have a speed of over 100 mph.

These important assets will be utilized in our CFF Aerospace Science education program. We greatly appreciate the support of Northrop Grumman.



NORTHROP GRUMMAN

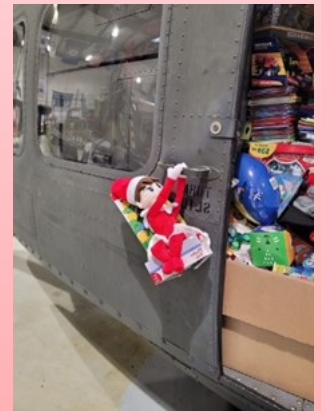


CFF's "Operation Santa Clause" 2021



CFF kicked off on a final campaign bringing in an awarding and exciting end to a successful year for CFF. Aiden Robbins, one of CFF's youngest volunteers, sent out a challenge to CFF's volunteers & staff members, sponsors, friends, and fans to "stuff a Huey" with toys for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) "**Toys for Tots**" yearly campaign. The challenge was sent, and the toys started marching in at all hours! Our elves were kept busy helping the toys find their spot in the Huey.

CFF even had a surprise guest appearance from Chief Warrant Officer Elfie to help with the "stuffing", He hung around for the day, ensuring that we did a good job and to also watch our volunteers making sure they stay on Santa's "Good List". Thankfully, they were all on their best behavior that day.



"Operation Santa Clause" was a huge success!! CFF and the elves here delivered a fully stuffed helicopter to the USMC on December 14th on a bright sunny day. Aiden and the elves here at CFF wish to thank all those who donated a toy and helped CFF to meet the challenge of "stuffing a huey"!

On a final note, CFF wishes to thank everyone for a helping CFF to continue to be successful with meeting our goals and we wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2022!





www.Smile.Amazon.com

YOU SHOP, AMAZON GIVES; YES, THAT SIMPLE.

Everyone, well, almost everyone, uses Amazon.com to purchase items. Convenient, easy, wide variety of products, great prices, and some have free shipping. My family and neighbors have placed many orders on Amazon, and recently I asked all to use Amazon Smile when ordering. A portion of your purchase goes to a charity of your choice. On neighbor is big into Equine and orders all their horse food and tack on Amazon...yes, they are aware of Celebrate Freedom Foundation and Amazon Smile.

Celebrate Freedom Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 and is listed under the “list of charities”. It is simple, in your browser put www.smile.amazon.com in the upper right hand is a “log in” or “create an account.” Simply follow the clicks. Takes about 1 minutes to register, then select Celebrate Freedom Foundation from charities list, and launch into your ordering. I discovered that when ordering a pop-up window informs me Celebrate Freedom Foundation has been selected. Every few months you may have to reselect our charity, but that takes about 30 seconds.

Celebrate Freedom Foundation:
Location: West Columbia, SC

Mission: To Develop And Produce The Nation's Premiere Celebration Of Freedom, To Honor The Veterans Of All Wars And Conflicts, To Encourage And Assist Education Of Elementary, Middle, And High School Children In The Study Of The Constitution And Military Heritage, And To Foster Lasting Patriotism In Citizens Of All Ages Through Cultural And Education Venues, Living History Reenactments, And Military Heritage Displays, Military Statues And/or Memorial Parks, Military Historical Museums, and Youth Programs: Living History Reenactments, Military Heritage Displays, Military Status And/or Memorial Parks, Military Historical Museums and Youth Training Programs (STEM) Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Our STEM program is available for onsite visits to schools to encourage young minds to pursue careers not only aviation related, but also in the science, technology, and engineering fields. We do this by taking an AH-1 Cobra aircraft for display, a drone display, and on occasion, actually fly in a AH-1 Cobra helicopter. Yes, we see that WOW factor when we are flying a helicopter overhead; that WHOP-WHOP sounds always gets their attention, not to mention the excitement of having an actual Helicopter land at their school. Everywhere we go, all are amazed at what we do and are fascinated at how we are able to encourage STEM learning. CFF is an organization of “Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation”.

Dean Crepes
CFF Executive Director



Chairman's Corner

John Lenti

“There is a well known phrase in business, “If you are not growing your market, you are losing it to your competitors “. The CFF target market is the next generation. It’s our duty as a foundation to deliver a STEM related program to students in South Carolina. In recent year, we have extended our reach to other states in the Southeast.

This coming year, 2022, our expansion strategy will include a move out of the current area of operations and expand operations to begin a CFF program in the Southwest. This will be an embryonic beginning that we hope will be supported by volunteers and future funding. Another part of the updated strategy is to put more emphasis on drone technology and the career possibilities that this technology brings to students. CFF is grateful to Northrop Grumman, the maker of the Hunter Drone, and its parent company, Lockheed-Martin, for their donation of two Hunter drones for CFF instructional use as well as their continued commitment to the education of the next generation. Career opportunities in the drone field will continue to expand and CFF is taking the point in SC to make sure our students avail themselves of these career possibilities to fly and maintain these assets.”

President's Press

Jack Lovelady

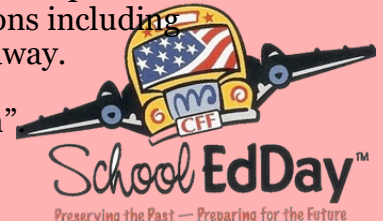
Expanding our 2022 Education Program FAA Part 107 Remote (Drone) Pilot Certificate

Commercial usage of drones is gaining steady momentum as multiple industries are incorporating them into their regular business operation. In fact, it is projected that over 100k drone pilot jobs will be created during the next five years with a median salary of \$85k annually.

Our CFF, FAA licensed pilots, led by Board Member Kendrick Gilliam, will provide employable skills based pilot training to selected high school students in multiple SC school districts, Allendale County and Lexington-Richland County 5. This course of instruction will begin in January 2022 and continue on-site at the schools on a monthly basis. All high school participating students will have the opportunity to obtain the important FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate. In 2022, CFF will again produce an Aerospace Science Summer Camp. The skills learned by the student drone teams will be recognized and transferrable to their Career Cluster of choice.

CFF's' STEM education programs have become an academic template promoting the development of all students including those deemed to be “at risk” and “special needs”. Our new education offering, focusing on Aerospace Science, and drones, is made possible through a partnership between CFF and SC State government, multiple SC school districts, and private corporations including Lockheed Martin, PPG Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, and Berkshire Hathaway.

At CFF, our “Veterans are Inspiring the Next Generation”



A Christmas Reunion

CFF had a special visitor just a few days before Christmas. A gentleman walked into our office and showed us a photo. It was his photo, shown above, taken in October 1980 with his brand new Cobra helicopter, serial number 79-23211, FAA N211AR, which was now assigned to him. This



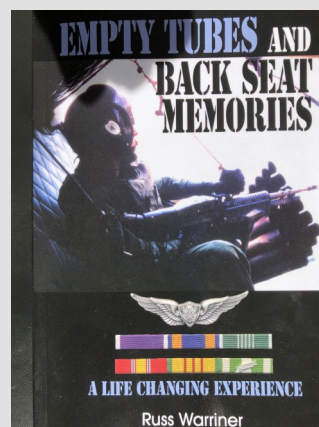
gentleman and Army veteran is Ron Lipsett. He was the very first Crew Chief for Cobra 211, which is now owned by CFF and will be restored to full flying status. Ron named his 211 “Raquel” in honor of Raquel Welsh who supported our military at many USO shows. Someday, in the near future, “Raquel” will be back in the air for everyone to hear her woop-woop and to see her unique profile. Ron now works for Boeing Aircraft at their Mesa, AZ plant producing Apache helicopters.

Thank you Ron, for your Christmas visit and for your military service.



A Special Reuniting of Veterans

For Russ Warriner, a CFF Lifetime Member and Army Vietnam combat veteran, it was an unexpected surprise when he first learned that his Cobra helicopter, serial number 67-15520, had survived the war. It was even more of a surprise to find that his “Annie”, named for Ann Margaret, had completed her many years of service with the Army and had been transferred to CFF. Russ was “Annie’s” first Crew Chief in Vietnam and he has written a terrific book titled, Empty Tubes and Back Seat Memories, of his combat service. Russ states that, “Physical injuries, be they internal or external, caused by a hostile environment and enemy gunfire are visual remnants of war. However, many mental injuries go unnoticed because they are deep inside the minds of our veterans”. How true this is. We encourage you to purchase his book on Amazon Smiles and learn about the life changing events of a young soldier willing to serve his country in the Vietnam war.



The above photo is of Russ in Vietnam with “Annie”. He recently drove up to the CFF facility in Columbia, SC from his current home in FL, to share his 75th birthday with “Annie”. Thank you for your service Russ and for your strong support of CFF.

STEM Education Team Report

**Make Sure Schools in Your County Get the Support They Deserve,
So Your Students Can Receive a Visit They'll Never Forget.**

Celebrate Freedom Foundation's exciting STEM Education Outreach Program visits dozens of schools across the southeastern US every year with more than 10,0000 students participating annually.

CFF's STEM Education Outreach Program emphasizes the necessity of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in K–12 grades. It connects the classroom with real world jobs and career fields. The program's mission is to help build a workforce that can compete globally for jobs in the future and to ensure America's technological advantage in a global environment. STEM subjects provide skills and competencies greatly needed here in the Southeast, across the nation, and globally.

How can you help the CFF STEM Education Outreach Program? We are always looking for volunteers to assist in these visits, and, if you have a school that you want us to visit, let us know. You can reach out to **Lori Wicker**, our Executive Vice President and Director of STEM Education, by email at stemed@cff-soar.org or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**.



“CFF STEM visit to Brookland Cayce High School as a proof of concept, following school COVID-19 guidelines”

CFF STEM Education Outreach Program Visits

3 March 2022 Crossroads Intermediate Middle School—Irmo, SC Sponsor; SC Aeronautics

22 March 2022 Sumter CATE—Sumter, SC Sponsor; SC Aeronautics

CFF Drone Pilot Training

Allendale School District, SC Jan—June

Lexington—Richland School District 5, SC Jan-June

JROTC - NEWS **For South Carolina**

Kilo Charlie Shooting Range is now the a proud Sponsor of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation's JROTC Award for Academic Excellence for South Carolina programs.



**If you are a South Carolina JROTC program, your JROTC Award for Excellence certificate, ribbon, and medal will be provided for free as a commitment from our new SC award sponsor.

Just a little history about our new sponsor

Owner is Marine Kevin Crapps

The CWP class at Kilo Charlie Shooting Range is instructed by Kevin who served in the US Marines from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2004 with the First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. Kevin is very particular when it comes to marksmanship and instructing students. When Kevin isn't teaching CWP classes, he is teaching beginners how to properly operate and fire their firearms.

Other courses that are offered by Kilo Charlie Shooting Range are Intro to Shooting, Private Coaching, Defensive Pistol, and Home Protection.



CFF NEWS
CFF Texas
Chapter Commander—Major Guy White

Hey y'all!

Ok, here is a good news update from our TX chapter.

What a year we have had so far. The TX chapter of CFF is being established slowly but surely. We have been doing a lot of networking and collaborating with local groups and potential sponsors, I am happy to report the following progress.

First and foremost, I must welcome our first lifetime member of the Texas chapter. CDR (ret) Andrew "Gramps" Craycroft from the US Navy has signed on to help us grow. Gramps was a RIO (radar intercept officer) in the F-14 TOMCAT and is currently flying as a Captain for Alaskan Airlines. His aviation and Officer background made him a perfect fit for our organization. Currently, he is spun up as a PC for the T-34B Mentor and working towards getting our foot in the door for local fly-ins and appearances. To continue our recruiting efforts, we are constantly screening veterans with "the right stuff" to make our TX chapter strong. One of these efforts has paid off in dividends with our partnership with Rudy's Flying Service in Rockwall, TX. The owner, Mr. John Brown, has become an amazing friend of the foundation and has not only provided us a great place to house the CFF T-34 but has worked tirelessly to introduce our cause and rally potential support.

On the same partnership horizon, we have found an incredible friend in CW5(ret) Clint Logwood from the US Army, currently the chief research/test pilot for L3 in Greenville, TX. Mr. Logwood spent time as an IP/SP/XP in the AH-1F Cobra before flying AH-64s. He spent a large part of his time working at Redstone Arsenal as an experimental test pilot. With him, we are working up support from and for L3 so that we can continue to operate our aircraft for STEM and flight research. Mr. Logwood will be joining the foundation, and we hope to get him on board as one of our lead AH-1F pilots in TX.

Regarding L3, we have pulled in the support of three former Army aviation mechanics under the direction of my former crew chief (SGT Matthew Buche). These gentlemen are all FAA A&P mechanics and are looking forward to getting their hands on one of our O-1 Bird Dogs and getting her back in the air!

Lastly, we are being given consideration by a local Dallas organization called "Victory Flight Training" to work in concert with them in displaying military training aircraft at local air-shows and fly-ins. This organization is operated by former Navy and Air Force fighter pilots who provide jet training and upsetrecovery for professional pilots. We are collaborating to attend a few events in the spring and summer of 2022. The future is looking bright!

The last task we are working to accomplish is cooperation with the Dallas, TX Army Recruiting Command and Louisiana National Guard recruiting team. Both have recently expressed interest in getting our assets and personnel involved with their events. We are working to build a shared understanding of what we can provide, but I believe that we can easily bring unique assets and personnel to their events. More to follow!

CFF NEWS cont.

CFF Texas

Chapter Commander—Major Guy White

COVID has slowed us down a bit, but we are not halted. This winter we are conducting some maintenance on the T-34 and getting her back into fighting shape for the spring and summer. We will begin work with the T-34 Association and Red Star Pilots Association to accomplish formation training and appearances at events. Our summer goal is to provide support to CONCORDE battery at one of the national air shows and conduct a static display. CONCORDE has been a longtime supporter of the CFF, and the TX crew will find a way to give back to them.

On a personal note from me, Commanding General and Staff College (CGSC) has had me wrapped up in Ft. Leavenworth KS, but the end is in site and it looks like I will be returning to Ft. Hood following graduation from this school. Being the rank of a Major is a new challenge but thankfully, I have had great people around me to show the way and teach the valuable lessons that field grade officers need to know. The new baby is doing great and the lovely Mrs. White is doing fantastic as well.

Please see the below new CFF TX chapter patch. This patch is a derivative from the famed "De Zavala Flag" with an old gold border to signify the US Cavalry that helped tame the wilds of TX. We are proud of this patch and the progress we have made so far. There is much more to come!

Until then, keep the rotor in the green and the greasy side down. Texas is alive and well with CFF!
SCOUTS OUT!

Guy B. White
MAJ, AV
US Army
CFF TX Chapter CDR

**Texans!
Join the CFF Dallas
Chapter,
Membership form is
on page 13.**





Veterans,

You may be eligible for newly enacted service-connected benefits.

Over the course of the last six months, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service. We request your help in making more Veterans aware of these newly added presumptive conditions to help them file a claim and obtain any earned benefits.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file a supplemental claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim* when filing. The claim form should include the name of the condition and specify that the condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental exposures during military service, as VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at www.va.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000

If you know a Veteran who is in crisis,

call the [Veterans Crisis Line](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.



Veterans,

Greetings Airborne Hazards Open Burn Pit Registry Participant,

We would like you to know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) started processing disability claims on August 2, 2021, for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposure during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

You assisted this process by joining the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR). The information that you provided was included in the decision-making for these 3 conditions.

It is important to note that the presumption is based on particulate matter exposure which can be caused by a variety of sources to include sand or dust, exhaust from diesel fuel and other engines, air pollution, and burn pits. We encourage you, if you have symptoms suggestive of the 3 conditions such as a chronic cough or ongoing runny nose and sinus congestion, to get evaluated by a health care professional to make a diagnosis and to file a claim if your condition fits with the presumptive conditions.

You can file a claim by going to this website [How To File A VA Disability Claim | Veterans Affairs](#). In addition, you can visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll free at 800-827-1000 for more information. Also, VA is reaching out to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and providing information on how to apply for benefits.

We also encourage you to ask your battle buddies who have not joined the AHOBPR to consider joining by going to Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry ([va.gov](#))

Please visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll free at 800-827-1000 for more information.

If you know a Veteran who is in crisis,

call the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors who have given donations in order to ensure the education of STEM and to honor our military - past, present, and future.



To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170

Phone: (803) 822-8812
Email: info@cff-soar.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

Educating the Public, Promoting Patriotism, and Honoring the Military - Past, Present, and Future



CFF - QR Code


Celebrate Freedom would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who have given their time and effort to the renovation of the CFF Headquarters and to our Board of Directors for their continued pursuit of progress. Without the countless hours of help, CFF wouldn't be where we are today.
Thank you!



Any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact Tom Robbins at the phone number above or by email - webmaster@cff-soar.org


Donation or Membership Mail-In Slip

If you would like to make a donation or become a member of CFF you can fill in your information below, cut it out and mail it to CFF at the address listed above or visit our website and use PayPal.



Mail-in Donation and/or Membership Slip

Please Print



Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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Spouse Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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College Student: \$25.00 x _____ Annual: \$50.00 x _____ Lifetime: \$250.00 x _____ Sponsor Donation: \$ _____