



Freedom Flyer

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

Nov/Dec
2021

Volume 4 Issue 6

Inside this Edition

- Allendale School STEM Education Visit pg. 1 & 2
- Amazon Smiles pg. 3
- Chairman's Corner pg. 4
- President's Press pg. 5
- To Be a Female Veteran Pg. 6
- New South Carolina JROTC Sponsor pg. 7
- STEM Education Team Report and Schedule pg. 8
- South Carolina Aviation News pg. 9
- VHPA Chapter News pg. 10
- Sponsors pg. 11
- CFF Contact Information pg. 12

Tigers Soar in Allendale with CFF



CFF opened it's fall 2021 STEM Education Outreach Program schedule in Allendale, SC. It began at the Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School with the landing of "Maggie", one of the Foundations five Cobra helicopters, in front of the entire student body. The students witnessed their athletic field turned into an "airport". On hand were the Allendale Sheriff deputies, the fire department and EMS to support the "Airport" operations and to promote their organizations. Throughout the day the CFF STEM team and pilots reinforced the importance of the STEM subjects in the classroom and the many jobs that are available to these students in the future.

Day two in Allendale was split between the Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in the morning and the Allendale-Fairfax High School in the afternoon. At lunch time "Maggie" flew down from Columbia and landed at the high school "airport" for the students from both schools to see. The day was filled with discussing the operations of airplanes, helicopters and drones. A heavy emphasis was placed on the importance of STEM as a foundation to proved the skills required to work for one of our sponsors like Lockheed-Martin, PPG Aerospace, Berkshire Hathaway or Northrup Grumman. The 800 students at all three schools were excited and engaged and they inquired as to when "Maggie" would be back.

We thank Dr. Margaret Gilmore, the Allendale County School Superintendent for providing CFF with the opportunity to expose her students to the many aviation and aerospace career fields. We also thank Amber Houston, the Allendale County School District Communications Specialist for her hard work to coordinate with the schools principles, teachers and the media. Additionally, we appreciate the outstanding help provided by the Allendale County Sheriff, Fire and EMS with the management of the school "airport" activities. A shout-out goes to the Walterboro and Columbia, SC chapters of the Tuskegee Airman Association who joined CFF on day two to share their important story with the students.

Everyone agrees that this was a terrific start to the CFF fall school schedule.

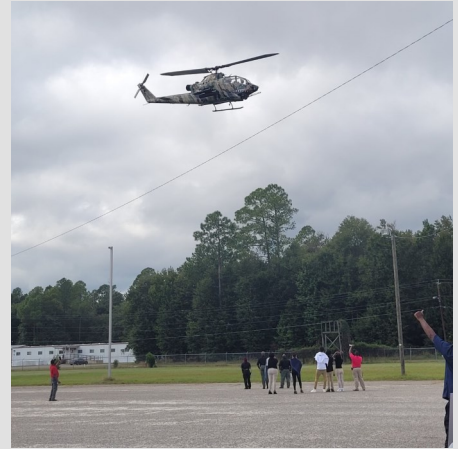
GO TIGERS!!



Tigers Soar in Allendale with CFF cont...



Student Body Waiting for "Maggie" to Land



"Maggie" Coming in for a Landing

Talking with the pilot



STEM Aviation Station



Tuskegee Airman Association



STEM Drone Station

STEM Automotive Station





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 minute 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 in the near future.

Dean Crepes
Executive Director



Chairman's Corner

John Lenti

It's not often in these times to really have good news and not a manufactured news story. I am pleased to announce the acceptance of a new honorary Board member, Mr. Bob Sanford. Bob is the owner and CEO of Zenith Aviation in Virginia. He has been a significant benefactor of CFF for several years. A Vietnam helicopter pilot who has remained closely associated with aviation world-wide through his organization, Zenith, supplying parts for both military and commercial aviation.

Just before the COVID-19 era, Bob found a relic of the Vietnam war that had generated memories for him that were 50 years old . He found and rescued a HU-1 "Baby Huey" that had service in several roles during the war. Amazing that it was returned home after the war. One of the first of its class to be manufactured and used on missions during the war to include clandestine operations and eventually as a Medevac. Bob asked CFF if it could be restored. The restoration completed, it was delivered to Zenith this week by the CFF volunteers who restored the helicopter over the past year.

Bob joins our other distinguished honorary board members like Senators Graham and Scott of SC . He will bring a level of aviation knowledge to CFF and continue to be one of the foundations chief benefactors. Thanks, Bob, for your service and interest in STEM learning for the next generation.



Historic HU-1 Huey, s/n 25 as it arrives back at home at Zenith Aviation in Va.



"Baby Huey" waiting to be moved inside for long term display.



President's Press

Jack Lovelady

Teamwork

The CFF staff and volunteers are organized into three teams. Our “Home/Ground Team”, the “STEM Team” and the “Air Team”. Common to all three of these teams is that the members are primarily military veterans who are utilizing their skills to inspire the next generation towards careers in STEM.

“Going Back to School 2021”, the first-page story in our Sep/Oct Freedom Flyer noted the many activities taking place to prepare for a very active series of STEM school visits and fly-ins, starting with Allendale, SC.

Success it was at the three Allendale schools where we presented our unique education program to their entire student bodies and we converted the athletic field at two of the schools into airports where we landed “Maggie”, one of CFF’s flying Cobra helicopters. All of the students and teachers saw first hand a wide number of STEM career fields in operation. All of them connected to the classroom learning and to the sustainable STEM literate workforce needed by our sponsors and South Carolina.

Two solid months of work and planning by the “Home Team” went into the coordination with the schools, the local sheriff and fire departments for onsite “airport” support, media interviews, crew lodging, route recons, equipment and training aids inspection and packing and working hand-in-hand with our sponsors to ensure their expectations were met and exceeded. While this activity was underway, the “STEM Team” completed a significant number of safety checks, practiced set-ups and dry run presentations and other action items required for their deployment. In parallel, the “Air Team” pilots studied hard and took and passed their Cobra helicopter check rides and worked with the aircraft technicians to complete inspections and plan for the fly day missions.

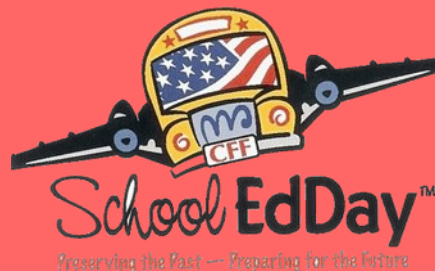
Following the Allendale, SC. school visits, our CFF teams shifted directions and traveled to participate in the Greenwood, SC., STEM career fair, and then another team transported the restored “Baby Huey” helicopter back to Zenith Aviation in VA., where it will remain on display.

The Metrics—How did we do?

All three CFF teams collaborated as they constantly displayed shared values and positive attributes on every mission. Henry Ford is quoted as saying, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success”. Over 1,200 students and teachers actively participated in our STEM program at Greenwood, SC. In total, we reached 2,000 students in two weeks, and we have a series of additional schools to visit into the holidays and beyond. The teachers have invited us back, the students are engaged and want to learn more about STEM career opportunities, and sponsors are supporting an expanded school schedule.

Congratulations to every individual and organization who worked as a team to accomplish these missions. We welcome others to join us in support of this important effort.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.



I am from a family of Veterans. I am a daughter of a Vietnam War Army Veteran, I am also a daughter of Women's Army Corps (WAC) Female Veteran, I am a sister of a Desert Storm Army Veteran, an Aunt of a Marine Veteran, wife of an Operation Iraqi Freedom Army Veteran and a mom of a National Guard Veteran who was deployed to the Middle East. I am also a Veteran, a Female Veteran.

As one can see, I come from a family full of veterans, many of whom have been deployed. We all have served our country proudly through wartime and peacetime. I joined the Army after I went to college for 2 years and figured out that I was not ready for college, and I still wanted to do something with my life, to experience life. I felt that I had to prove something. Not to my family, but to myself. I had to prove that I could "do this". I even had several people who said "I wouldn't make it". The reason being, "because I was a girl". Yes, I was told this. So off I went to basic training in the cooler winter of Fort Jackson, SC. Guess, what? I made it! Through cold temperatures, freezing rain and lots of sand, oh and let's not forget the pine needles. One thing I did not mention, I was going through Basic Training during Desert Shield and then Desert Storm. While I was in training, my sister deployed to Saudi Arabia and my dad was recalled in from his Army retirement to actively serve during Desert Storm/Shield. Which left my mom holding things down at home, but this is another whole story.

As noted earlier, I made it through training. I have to admit, I had great assignments. I started out with Temporary Duty in Indianapolis. From there I went to Fort Sherman, Panama at the Jungle School! This is where I learned about the sisterhood and brotherhood of the military. The soldiers I worked with, along with their families, became my family. We were a small unit, that did a lot. I had many adventures while I was in Panama, and got to know the people who lived in Panama. This is where I met my future husband, a soldier from another base in Panama. From Panama I went to Baltimore (Fort Meade, MD), this is where I reenlisted, and my last duty station was in Atlanta (Fort McPherson, GA).

It was in Atlanta, that I had to make some tough life choices regarding my Army Career and my family. While in Georgia, I had a child. I had a difficult birth, and my son was born pre-maturely. I was a single mom, in other words and single soldier who was a parent, a parent to a child who had some medical issues that made it difficult to be in day-care. And I was hundreds of miles away from family. So, at this point I made the choice to move back home so that I had help for my son and got the medical care he needed. I transferred to an Army Reserve unit in my hometown and joined the workforce.

A few years down the road, I met up with that soldier I met long ago in Panama and we eventually got married. Once my contract ended with the Reserves, I moved to Michigan with him. At this time, I only really talked about my time in the service with him and if a job asked if I was a veteran I marked yes. Then 9/11 happened. My husband transferred from the National Guard back to Active-Duty Army. He quickly was deployed to Iraq for the first of many deployments. Me? Well, this is when I began the weird thing of not really saying anything about being a Veteran, to include filing for disability with the VA due to injuries I did receive while I was in the Army. I kind of lost that identity. Why, you may ask? One reason, I was now an "Army Wife" and was at home taking care of our family and working. And well, I wasn't a war veteran, like my dad, my sister, and my husband. I felt that I didn't contribute. And the recognition for female soldiers was not all that favorable at times.

It took me years, with the insistence of my husband, reconnecting with those "brothers & sisters" and others to feel that link again. I finally started to come out of that shell, which is still a work in progress thing, that includes the time it took me to write this. I am great at talking about how proud I am of my husband, my son, nephew and so on, easily, however, when it comes to my time in the service, it is still difficult. Part of this process was also connecting with other Women Veteran Groups and connecting with other fellow veterans. This also includes working with an organization, Celebrate Freedom Foundation, full of veterans helping veterans.

On a final note, it is not always easy being a female veteran, many forget that women do serve in the military, have been for years, and now many have been to war. It is improving, but there is still room for improvement.

I cherish my time in the Army. And I am now proud to say, "I am a Female Veteran!"

Contributed by a CFF female Veteran—Lifetime Member

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 and ribbon 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 that served in the US Marines from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2004 with 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.

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 10,000 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

11/4/2021 **Fairfield Central High School** sponsored by SC Aeronautics and Fairfield Electric Co-Op

11/10/2021 **Chapin High School** sponsored by SC Aeronautics

11/11/2021 **Chapin Middle School** sponsored by SC Aeronautics and PPG

11/12/2021 **Pineywood Elementary** sponsored by SC Aeronautics

11/16/2021 **North Augusta High School** sponsored by SC Aeronautics and SC National Guard

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, Oct. 25, 2021 – Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) will add more than 300 new jobs for F-16 fighter jet production and sustainment to its Greenville, South Carolina site by the end of 2022. The company is actively hiring today, and interested candidates can apply on [Lockheed Martin Jobs.com](https://www.lockheedmartin.com/jobs).

Select roles are eligible for new hire incentives, including up to \$2,000 sign-on bonuses and up to \$5,000 relocation lump-sum payments. Aircraft-specific experience is desired, but not required, for some positions. Robust on-the-job training is available as needed, and employees will have the opportunity to learn new automation and digital engineering technologies as Lockheed Martin continues to invest in the F-16 program.

The site is adding positions including:

- Airframe and power plant mechanics
- Avionics technicians
- Painters
- Quality inspectors
- Sheet metal mechanics
- Tool makers
- Engineers
- Planners
- Supervisors

“These new roles represent Lockheed Martin’s long-standing commitment to meet our customer’s current and future needs, and to bring more jobs to the Greenville area,” says Danya Trent, Vice President, F-16 program. “Many of these positions are on the leading edge of our digital engineering efforts on our F-16 production line. This is an incredibly rewarding opportunity to join the team that sustains and produces the F-16 for armed forces around the world.”

To fill these positions, Lockheed Martin is working closely with the state and local government, as well as community partners, such as Celebrate Freedom Foundation. The company is also participating in several virtual and local career events, including some events that are exclusive to transitioning military service members and veterans.

“Lockheed Martin continues to be committed to military hiring,” says Walt Lindsley, Greenville Site Director. “Currently at the site, approximately 35% of our employees are veterans, and we aim to keep growing that number.”

With approximately 700 jobs currently at the site and hundreds more to come, Lockheed Martin remains embedded in the local community, as it has been for more than 37 years. The company has given millions of dollars in philanthropic donations, contributes an average annual economic impact of \$100M to the area, and its employees have volunteered thousands of hours with local organizations like CFF.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin Corporation is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 114,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.



VHPA NEWS

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association—CFF Chapter
Chapter President—Roger Lone

DUSTOFF 1

“WHEN I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED”

We at Celebrate Freedom Foundation had the privilege of working on an iconic static aircraft; HU-A1 serial number 25. This aircraft is believed to be the oldest surviving of the original batch of 83 aircraft. It was given tail number 58-2084 and went to 57th Med on their first deployment to Vietnam in 1961. **Major Charles Kelly**, call sign "DUSTOFF1", was Commander and this was his aircraft.

The DUSTOFF call sign was simply selected from a list of available calls signs that units could choose. Imagine if Major Kelly could see what, at that time, was a simple call sign, "DUSTOFF" today would be a word that is known by every branch of the military and puts comfort on the wounded when the rotor sound approaches. It may not be the original distinctive sound of an approaching Huey, but even today medevac aircraft like the Blackhawk makes a known sound.

In 1964, "084" was converted to HU-1BF by Bell Helicopter and signed over to Air America as XA-005 and operated that way until 1971.

This historic aircraft is owned by a VHPA member who served with 134th. Even though not historically correct, the AH-IF gave gun cover to the Medevac mission many times.

Here at Celebrate Freedom Foundation our "STEM" program has shifted into a higher gear with STEM school visits scheduled with the young people in SC and NC, inspiring them towards the available career paths in aviation.

On a more side note, we are looking for ground handling wheels for OH-58A/C and TH-13 (Bell 47J)



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

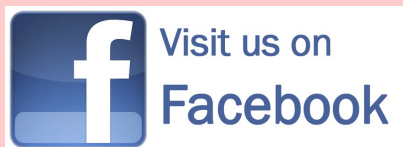
Phone: (803) 822-8812
Email: info@cff-soar.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

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: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Prior Service?: _____ Branch _____

Spouse Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____ Anniversary Date: _____

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