



Freedom Flyer

Celebrate Freedom Foundation Newsletter

Jan/Feb
2021

Volume 4 Issue 1

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

CFF Winter STEM Offensive begins

CFF is busy scheduling trips in response to the many requests being received from schools across South Carolina and Georgia for our unique STEM Education Outreach Program. This high demand for school visits is due in great part to our ability to deliver the program in an outdoor environment where social distancing and other Covid requirements can be met.

In December, 2020 the Foundation conducted several school visits under the watchful Covid restrictions and proved that our concept works.



"CFF STEM visit to Brooklyn Casey High School as a proof of concept, following school Covid guidelines"

We especially thank Mid Carolina Electric Cooperative, South Carolina State Aeronautics, PPG Aerospace and Lockheed Martin for making these school trips possible. CFF enters January 2021 with 131 school visit requests for STEM visits, the most that we have ever received at the start of any new year.



Lori Wicker Promoted to CFF Executive Vice President



Lori Wicker has been promoted to fill the important Executive Vice President position at Celebrate Freedom Foundation. This is in recognition of her excellent work over the past six years for her leadership as the Director of the STEM Education Outreach Program, as the Manager of CFF's national JROTC Award for Excellence Program, and her spearheading the ongoing sponsor support and fundraising initiatives.

Lori is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a B.S. degree in Business Management and Child Psychology. Before joining CFF, Lori previously held positions with Lexington County S.C. Veterans Affairs, she worked at SCE&G as a small business customer services representative. She has volunteered her time at the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross and the USO.

Lori is the mother of 2 Teenage daughters and a member of Mount Horeb Methodist Church in Lexington SC.

Congratulations to Lori on earning your new position.



2021 Board of Advisors Announced

CFF Executive Vice President Lori Wicker announced the membership of the 2021 Board of Advisors at the Foundations December 2020 holiday staff meeting and volunteer work day. We agree with Lori that this is the strongest Board of Advisors that has been constituted in recent years and that they will help guide and contribute to the foundations continued growth and success of it's important missions.

The 2021 Board of Advisors are:

- Major General George Goldsmith , Military Liaison
- Dr. Jack Milavic, PhD, Aviation Consultant
- David Prigge, Career & Technology Education Programs
- Bob Day, Faith Based Education Programs
- CWO Kendrick Gilliam, Military Veteran Recruiting & At-risk Student Education Programs
- Steve Diaz, Military Veteran PTSD & TBI Outreach
- Ken Yamashiro, Drone Consultant
- Stephen Seymour, Strategic Initiatives
- J.B. Beckett, Financial Consultant
- Keith Harris, Media Relations
- Dean Creps, Business & Government Relations



STEM Team Report

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

CFF’s STEM Outreach Program, emphasizes the necessity of STEM Subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in middle schools and high schools. 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 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 Director of STEM Education by email at stemed@cff-soar.org or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**



STEM Education Outreach Program visit with “Lena”
(2020 Pre Covid)

December 2020 Schedule Completed

Operation Phoenix CFF Hanger	Homeschool and Foster Home Kids Dec. 4, 2020 8:00 am until 5:00 pm
Glen Forest School	Special Needs Children, Dec. 9, 2020
Brooklyn Cayce HS	Dec. 11, 2020



Chairman's Corner

These extraordinary times challenge us all in so many ways every day. As in the Military, our staff and volunteers have demonstrated their ability to adapt and overcome. In fact the Foundation has been on the offensive this year by embarking on initiatives for 2021 which support new groups requesting our STEM Education Programs

Our volunteers have faithfully reported to work each week to maintain the Foundations equipment and training aids for deployment in the new year. They have accomplished this in less than ideal work conditions required in response to Covid—19.

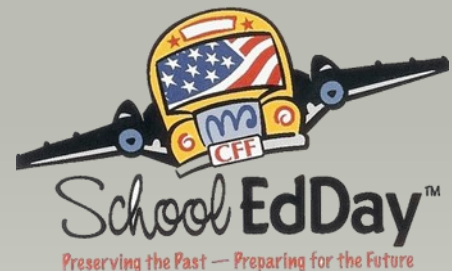
As a team, we are advancing forward along with our sponsors and partners. 2021 is projected to be a good year for CFF.

President's Press

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation with a twenty-two year success records remains strong and solvent during this Covid—19 period.

Our number one priority during 2020 has been the safety of our personnel and the constant communications with our sponsors. Video conferences are conducted weekly with our business community and schools to learn of their plans and to develop and offer our supporting options. As a result, CFF enters 2021 with 131 requests for our STEM Education Outreach Program visits. This establishes a new record for the Foundation at the start of a calendar year and is tangible evidence of the demand for our unique STEM program.

CFF team cohesion and innovation has been a positive outcome from dealing with Covid—19 which will further strengthen the Foundation going forward.



Meet the Staff

Going Back Into Uniform

CFF Executive Director Stephen Seymour is going back into uniform to serve our nation. This time as a member of the Department of Homeland Security - U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Steve joined the ranks of Celebrate Freedom over four years ago after having completed twenty years of distinguished active service in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Ranger, Cobra Helicopter Crew Chief and Aircraft Electrical Systems Instructor. Steve received two Purple Heart decorations for wounds he received in combat against an enemy of the United States.

Utilizing his military leadership and technical skills at CFF, Steve quickly rose to the position of Executive Director of the Foundation. Steve was instrumental in the design and remodel of our Headquarters and education center and with the supervision of the maintenance of the CFF fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He also established and took the lead instructor role at our Workforce Development Program for inner-city at-risk youth. Under Steve's strong guidance and mentorship of these students, the six month program was completed with a remarkable 100% graduation and job placement success.



Steve serving in combat as an Army Ranger



CFF Executive Director Steve Seymour instructing Workforce Development Students

Meet the Staff cont.

“This is a real testament to Steve’s hard work and desire to see the workforce students succeed and begin a rewarding career”, said Foundation President Jack Lovelady. “When Steve joined CFF he said that he wanted to help make it better”, according to Major General John Lenti, CFF Chairman. “As Steve advances in his professional career, he has achieved his tenant of leaving something better than he found it”!

Steve expects his first duty assignment with Homeland Security to take him to the U.S. Southern border. He will remain the Foundations Executive Director Emeritus and an active member of the CFF Board of Advisors.

We will miss Steve but we know he will be just a phone call away.
Congratulations and we wish you a safe and adventurous journey.



CFF Executive Director Steve Seymour with the
Workforce Development Students

Eagle Scout Project and Aviation Merit Badge Completed

Dustin Anderson, son of Foundation member Chris Anderson, recently completed his Eagle Scout Project with the help of Celebrate Freedom Foundation. Dustin has been in Scouting since a Tiger Cub Scout in the first grade. Eagle Scout is the highest Scout rank that can be obtained. In order to earn the rank, Scouts must complete a project that benefits a non-profit, provides a community service, and they must show leadership in completing the project.

Dustin chose to partner with CFF to put on a Merit Badge Workshop for the Aviation Merit Badge. Dustin met with CFF Executive VP Lori Wicker and together they planned and organized the way the workshop would happen. CFF provided instructors for the different stations set up to teach the different requirements of the Badge. Dustin laid out the lesson plan for each station and on the day of the workshop was completely in charge of the activity, from briefing the CFF Instructors to ensuring each group of Scouts were at their designated stations on time.

The Scouts in attendance were able to learn about topics such as an aircraft's design, how the science and aerodynamics make an aircraft fly, the instruments in an aircraft and what they mean and how important they are to the pilot. Scouts also learned about how airports are operated, what the runways are numbered and what the different designations mean. CFF Instructor Pilots taught the Scouts how to read an aerial navigation chart and how to chart a flight plan. CFF Instructor Mechanics taught the Scouts how an aircraft engine works, and about special tools needed for maintenance. The Scouts were also able to perform a preflight inspection on our T-34 Mentor airplane.

The workshop took place at the CFF headquarters and utilized the T-34, UH-1 Huey, AH-1 Cobra, along with our gyrocopter. Instructors involved were Kendrick Gilliam, Boyd Davis, Woody Heming, Mark Inabinet, Dean Creps, Chris Anderson, and Stephen Seymour. CFF has not been able to put on the STEM Outreach Program this school year due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and putting on the workshop allowed CFF to demonstrate that the STEM Outreach Program could be done as an in-house program as well as on-site at other locations.

Both Celebrate Freedom Foundation and Boy Scout Troop 777 of Camden SC had great time and passed on the knowledge and passion of aviation to a younger generation.



CFF Special News cont.

Bamberg County Honors Veterans With a Memorial Brick Sculpture

Although the sky was dark with intermittent downpours, more than 250 gathered on Veterans Day 2020 for the dedication ceremony of the long-awaited Bamberg County Veterans Memorial on Wednesday morning.

Unveiled a first-of-its-kind brick sculpture "By Land, By Sea, By Air" by sculptor Brad Spencer, and above all, demonstrated respect and gratitude to those who have served our great nation in the United States Military.

Reverend Isaiah Odom, Bamberg County Councilman led the invocation, followed by Bamberg Ehrhardt Highschool JROTC's Presentation of the Colors. The boom of cannon fire from the Revolutionary War Cannon manned by volunteers with the SC Battleground Preservation Trust, introduced the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Bamberg County Councilman Larry Haynes.

Major General James E. Livingston, a Medal of Honor recipient, who distinguished himself by heroic actions during the Vietnam War, gave the keynote address. Major General Livingston is a Marine Corps veteran who actively served for 33 years before retiring on September 1, 1995.

Additional speakers included Senator Brad Hutto, Representative Justin Bamberg, City/County Council Members, City of Bamberg Mayor Nancy Foster, and Bamberg County Administrator Joey Preston.

Program participants included Operation Enduring Honor, South Carolina State Guard, Celebrate Freedom Foundation, South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Quilts of Valor Foundation, Patriots Point Foundation, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve and the Patriot Guard Riders.



Keynote speaker, Major General James E. Livingston, Medal of Honor recipient.

"By Land, By Sea, By Air" by sculptor Brad Spencer,



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:

Headquarters and
STEM Education Center

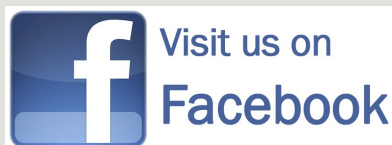
Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170

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**



Celebrate Freedom would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers that 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: _____

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