



Freedom *Flyer*

Celebrate Freedom Foundation Newsletter

May
June
2019

Volume 2 Issue 3

“Operation Fighting Spirit”

On April 6, 2019 Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) welcomed a very special and unique group of people who were from all over South Carolina. There were 29 families, each of which has a child who has been touched by cancer. We were approached by Roger Sullivan of Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas about having a group of children tour our facility. “Operation Fighting Spirit” was born.

Our goal was to provide something a little unique for them. We set up a “mini airshow” to include a parachute jump demonstration performed by the Special Forces Association Parachute Team, which happened to be the first ever done at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE).

So, on a bright and sunny April day we opened the gates up to our esteemed guests. They were greeted by staff from both CFF and Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas. Each child received a “swag” bag with items provided by CFF, SC Aeronautics and CAE. From there they were able to walk around and explore. The first displays they see are “Lena” and “Annie” our AH-1 Cobra Attack Helicopters. Richland County Sheriff’s Department were kind enough to have Deputies from the SWAT Team along with their vehicle, a K9 Deputy and Lt. Brown from Live PD present. Across from them was the CAE Firetruck. Further down was the 1942 MB Jeep, the mule and 2 other Jeeps from the motor vehicle section of CFF. Next was the Special Forces Parachute Team tent, who had set up a corn hole game for the kids to enjoy. Finally, in front of the SC Aeronautics hanger was the SC Governor’s Airplane and a plane from the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Lunch was provided for the children by Chick-Fil-A courtesy of Hubble lighting and for other family members and volunteers meals were provided by Boy Scout Troop 777 from Camden. After lunch the Special Forces (SF) Association Parachute Team performed their daring demonstration from the sky. Soon after, there was a special presentation of a St. Michael medal presented to each child who was currently or had previously battled cancer.

Overall, our goal was met, we provided 29 families with 5 hours of time that they did not have to think about the “C” word. We sincerely need to thank all of our volunteers; every volunteer performed a special role that day. We also thank all of the sponsors and those who helped make this happen, Hubble Lighting, SC Aeronautics, CAE, Sunshine Solutions, RCSD and the Special Forces Association Parachute Team.

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Chairman's Corner

Hopefully by now most have seen the restored T-34B, Navy trainer. This aircraft, received from GSA was fully restored by the volunteers of CFF. In its early years, 1957-1979, the T-34B was the mainstay trainer for pilots in the Navy and Air Force. There are several versions of this airframe still in use today by some countries and are used for counter-terror- operations. In its most recent incarnation, it was used for forest fire operations prior to being restored by CFF to its 1957 colors. The restored T-34B was one of the main attractions at the recent air show at the Marine base in Beaufort, SC.

CFF has embarked on a fund raising campaign that you will hear more details in the near future. We hope you will support this effort as you have done in the past. The campaign plan is well conceived and we expect that it will meet its goals. STEM school visits are winding up this month and will resume in the 4th qtr of the fiscal year.

Now that the T-34B restoration is complete, work will begin on "Kathy", our UH-1H. CFF is fortunate to have volunteers who have experience working with this aircraft since it is no longer in the military inventory. When it comes on line, it will enhance our STEM program and present options that the Cobras cannot fulfill.

Thank you all for your continued active support of CFF.

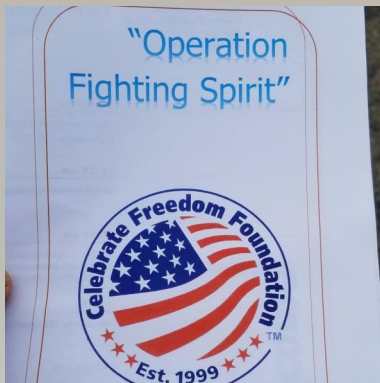
"Operation Fighting Spirit" pictures



Special Forces Parachute team helicopter owned and operated by Joe Rich - Sunshine Solutions Recycling.



Boy Scout Troop 777



Live PD's Lt. Danny Brown from the Richland County Sheriffs Department

MCAS Beaufort Airshow 2019

Celebrate Freedom Foundation participated in the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Airshow April 26 through April 28, 2019. For this event we had on static display CFF's Cobra Helicopter, "Lena", our recently renovated T-34 Airplane, the "Mule", "Mighty Mite" and 2 jeeps representing our motor vehicle section of CFF. The first day of the event, a very windy day, was STEM Day and Military Appreciation Day with that had a huge turnout. Saturday and Sunday were the 2 days of demonstrations of various aircraft, to include the main event "The U.S. Navy Blue Angels". Thousands of spectators were present that day, many of them stopping to check out and admire our display and to speak with our volunteers.

We had a great group of volunteers who all represented CFF well. They all were able to share information about our displays and Celebrate Freedom Foundation. Many military personal and veterans stopped by to admire and for some remanence. One veteran who stopped by, stated "I remember learning to drive this, a long, long time ago", as he looked upon the "Mighty Mite". We do want to send a special "thank-you" to Lori Wicker and Dave Capps. They were present from Wednesday evening, April 24th until April 29th. This was to ensure that "Lena" was delivered in a timely manner and to also assist with the coordination and set up of our area of operation.

We also want to recognize Allen Johnson and PPG Aerospace. He and other staff members from PPG joined us on Saturday to share the day with us. Also, PPG and Allen generously provided lunches for our volunteers all three days, along with tents and seating. We enjoyed meeting and getting to know different staff members from PPG and their guests.

Again, thank you to all of our volunteers. Without you and the hours of dedication you bring to CFF, this would not be possible.



SOCOM Para—Commandos



U. S. Navy Blue Angels

Presidents Press

Capital Campaign Initiated - CFF has contracted with the Development International Systems & PAX Global firm to implement a three year, multi-million dollar fundraising initiative which will build the capacity necessary for the Foundation to support more end users of our services, the military veterans and students. Our many customers who sponsor the youth education and workforce development programs are strongly committed to this effort and are lending their support and ideas.

Capacity Building - This includes a professional staff and a cadre of skilled and dedicated volunteers. Lori Wicker, STEM Education and JROTC Director and Dave Capps, Special Projects Director, recently completed two days of professional staff development training in Charleston, SC. Additional personnel will receive specialized training in the coming months. Capacity building will also provide for expanded educational facilities and training aids.

2018 A Banner Year - We are closing the financial books with our CPA for last year and want to report that the Foundation is financially solvent and that our customer base of sponsors continue to grow. We delivered our STEM Education Outreach Program and the Workforce Development Program to a record number of 20,000 individuals across SC., NC., and GA.

Aircraft Assembler and Manufacturing - CFF is finalizing a Plan of Instruction for implementation of two new youth education and technical training programs with the Richland County, SC, School District One. The Foundation will provide hands-on instruction covering all aspects of Aircraft Assembly, electrical, hydraulics, composites and coatings at our Columbia Metropolitan Airport facility. Classes are projected to begin in the fall of 2020. For the Manufacturing students, they will be taught logistics, warehousing and inventory control using the Foundations state-of-the-art WASP Inventory Management System, in a real aviation parts warehouse. Manufacturing classes are scheduled to begin this fall, 2019.

A New South-Central Regional Facility, Dallas, TX. - The Foundation is moving strategically to support a growing number of end user students attending schools spread across the gulf states from TX eastward. CFF's STEM Education Programs are unique and in high demand. Our T-34B Mentor has been flown to TX and now resides in our new Dallas, TX home. CPT Guy White, our CFF Aviation Maintenance Director and pilot will manage the South - Central facility. From this location we will support schools eastward across TX, LA, MS, and AL. From our current SC Headquarters we will continue to support schools in the South-East across SC, NC, GA, TN, and FL.

STEM Team Report

**** Celebrate Freedom Foundation's exciting STEM Outreach Program visited 25 schools across the Southeastern US this year with more than 10,000 students participating. ****

We just finished our 140th school STEM visit since we started the STEM Education Outreach Program in 2012. I would like to give a special thanks for all of the volunteers that have helped out with our STEM school visits this year. CFF wouldn't have been able to do it without you. We will start back up this fall in August for the new school year. Keep a look out for some available training during this summer. If you would like to volunteer some of your time for the new school year let me know.

Thank you again.

Lori Wicker

Director of STEM Education

We have another month to finish our 'JROTC Award For Excellence in Academics'. In our next newsletter we will have the all of the winners of the 2018-2019 JROTC Award listed.

Lori Wicker

JROTC Program Manager

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 "Annie"

2019 SCHEDULE

May

1 May - W. Florence HS, Florence SC.

3 May - Columbia HS, Columbia SC.

7 May - Heyward Career and Tech Center, Columbia, SC.

June

None Scheduled

Special STEM Events

25 May - Aiken, SC. Memorial Day Parade

27 May - VFW Post 6740 Memorial Day Dedication Service, Leesville, SC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS NOTES

I would like to thank all of CFF's hard working volunteers. Because of your efforts, CFF has accomplished so much and has had a positive impact in our state. Here are some of the examples of the things they have done;

T-34B— in less than a years time this plane was mechanically and cosmetically transformed. From it's role a fire spotter plane in the NC Forestry Department, to it's original look when it was in operation in the U.S. Navy.

The Beaufort Marine Air Station Airshow—This was a great show that CFF presented it's diversity in the equipment that we have; ground vehicles, planes and helicopters. It also showed off the hard work of our volunteers and their professionalism. I have heard nothing but great things from the general public at the airshow.

STEM Missions (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) - This is were the rubber meets the road. This younger generation needs mentors and in the lack of positive models, CFF has stood up. Explaining that jobs require this knowledge, to showing the youth of today positive roll models in a time that they are needed most.

T-34B Mentor



Before



After

The Beaufort Marine Air Station Airshow



Lena



Ground vehicles from our motor pool

To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

National Headquarters and
STEM Education Center

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Email: info@cff-soar.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

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



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 National 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!



Find us on Facebook!



Any questions or concerns 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.

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: _____

Student: \$25.00 x _____ General: \$50.00 x _____ Lifetime: \$250.00 x _____ Sponsor: \$ _____

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.

