



# Freedom *Flyer*

Celebrate Freedom Foundation Newsletter

Nov /Dec  
2019

Volume 2 Issue 4

## Inside this Edition

- Press Release pg. 1
- Sponsor Highlight pg. 2
- Chairman's Corner pg.3
- Unit History Highlight pg. 4
- STEM Team Report and schedule pg. 5&6
- Upcoming CFF Community Support Events pg.7
- Meet our staff pg. 7
- Veterans Health pg. 8 & 9
- CFF Contact Information pg. 10
- Sponsors pg. 11

## New School year STEM Offensive Begins

CFF has launched an aggressive 2019-2020 schedule which will take it's unique and important STEM Education Outreach Program to schools, especially Title 1, across SC and beyond. We thank our sponsors for making this possible. Over 10,000 students, teachers , parents, and community leaders are expected to participate.

Some of the school visits already completed during this new school year are highlighted on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Sponsors or schools desiring a visit should contact CFF quickly as the demand for this program is high. Refer to page 5 for more information.

## Reigning Miss South Carolina, Morgan Nichols Has Joined the CFF STEM Team.

Morgan has joined CFF as a honorary board member and as a STEM Education Outreach Program presenter at our school visits.

Her presence will contribute significantly to help inspire and motivate students to take the more difficult STEM subjects in school and to pursue careers in STEM.

She advocated "Strong with STEM" as her social impact initiative. A native of Lexington, SC , she is a 2019 graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Genetics. Miss Nichols will compete for the title of 2020 Miss America 2.0 on December 19, 2019. Let's all cheer for Morgan to win this competition.



## Sponsor Highlight

**Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (FEC) is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative with offices in Blythewood and Winnsboro, South Carolina.

The Cooperative serves more than 29,000 customers in Fairfield, Kershaw, Richland, Chester, and York counties. Fairfield Electric is one of twenty electric cooperatives in South Carolina. Together these cooperatives serve more than 500,000 members in over 70% of our state.

### **Our Mission**

To provide our members quality energy services at a fair and reasonable price. This mission provides the foundation for everything we do, from ensuring system reliability to offering programs to help our members increase energy efficiency in the home. We carry this mission beyond the boundaries of our own business, for we believe that to truly serve our customers, we must also serve our community.

### **Community Commitment**

As an electric cooperative, Fairfield Electric Cooperative is active in the communities we serve. The cooperative is involved in several area organizations and area Chambers of Commerce. The cooperative takes an active role in economic development and has been instrumental in bringing several industries to the area. The cooperative has joined forces with area counties in developing industrial and business parks.

The cooperative encourages its employees to serve their community by serving on boards of civic and recreational organizations.


Fairfield Electric Cooperative strives to be the utility that looks out for its members. We want to be a leader in the communities we serve, helping attract industry, providing first-class programs and services, and working with schools and other organization all in an effort to improve the lives of our members.

**CFF is proud to partner with Fairfield Electric Cooperative in providing school STEM education visits throughout their region.**



Bruce Bacon, CEO of Fairfield Electric Cooperative speaks with students from Lugoff-Elgin High school about STEM topics during the CFF STEM Education Outreach Program visit.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Chairman's Corner

The past several months have been fast and furious to coin a phrase. It was almost like a combat situation during this time; long periods of routine foundation business and hangar activity punctuated by significant new challenges.

Probably the most dramatic action was the almost overnight acquiring of a very high tech Gyro Copter as a gift from an unknown benefactor through the good offices of the Freestream Inc., a multi billion international organization that markets high end private aircraft. The very high tech nearly new (only 18 flying hours) 2017 Cavalon Pro model will be used by CFF as a unique STEM training aid. The donor, who we greatly thank, is an icon in the aviation industry. His desire was that the Cavalon be used to teach children about aviation and aerospace careers. We pledge that this will be accomplished.

We continue to move on Work Force Development activities. Currently, we are engaged with Palmetto Place, a group that assists foster children, to provide life skills to these children.

Lastly, we had the pleasure of hosting the 2019 Miss South Carolina, Morgan Nichols. Morgan is a recent Clemson graduate and her mission and platform is STEM education particularly for young ladies. She has a particular interest in our STEM visits to Title 1 schools since we share the same passion of providing all students the knowledge that will be needed for the jobs of the 21st Century.

All this cannot happen without the continued dedication of CFF volunteers . They provide the catalyst that makes it all work.



CFF's new Cavalon Pro STEM training aid

Miss South Carolina 2019 Morgan Nichols with CFF's Chairman & CEO John Lenti



### 3rd Infantry Division "Rock of the Marne"

The 3rd Infantry Division (nicknamed The Rock of the Marne) is a combined arms and mechanized infantry division of the United States Army based at Fort Stewart, Georgia. It is a direct subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps and U.S. Army Forces Command. Its current organization includes one infantry brigade combat team and two armored brigade combat teams, one aviation brigade, a division artillery and support elements. The division has a distinguished history, having seen active service in World War I, World War II, Korea, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 3rd Infantry Division was activated in November 1917 during World War I at Camp Greene, North Carolina. Eight months later, it saw combat for the first time in France. At midnight on 14 July 1918, the division earned lasting distinction. Engaged in the Aisne-Marne Offensive as a member of the American Expeditionary Force to Europe, the division was protecting Paris with a position on the banks of the Marne River. The 7th Machine Gun Battalion of the 3rd Division rushed to Château-Thierry amid retreating French troops and held the Germans back at the Marne River. While surrounding units retreated, the 3rd Infantry Division, including the 30th and 38th Infantry Regiments, remained rock solid and earned its reputation in the Second Battle of the Marne as the "Rock of the Marne". The rest of the division was absorbed under French command until brought back together under the command of General Joseph T. Dickman and by 15 July 1918 they took the brunt of what was to be the last German offensive of the war. General "Black Jack" Pershing said the division's performance was one of the most brilliant of the United States' military history. During the war two members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor.

In World War II, it landed with Gen. Patton's task force in a contested amphibious landing on the coast of Morocco, North Africa, overwhelming Vichy French defenders in November 1942. In 1943, the division invaded Sicily in July, and invaded Italy at Salerno in September, before fighting in France and finally Germany. Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, featured in the Hollywood movie, "To Hell and Back," was a member. The division also served in the Korean War. From 1957 until 1996, the division was a major part of the United States Army's presence in the NATO alliance in West Germany.

Early in 2003 the entire division deployed in weeks to Kuwait. It was called on subsequently to spearhead Coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom, fighting its way to Baghdad in early April, leading to the end of the Saddam Hussein government. The First Brigade captured the Baghdad International Airport and cleared and secured the airport, which also resulted in the division's first Medal of Honor recipient since the Korean War, awarded to SFC Paul Ray Smith. Second Brigade, Third Infantry division made the much publicized "Thunder Run" into downtown Baghdad.

A number of our CFF members and volunteers have served with pride in the 3rd Infantry Division.



# STEM Team Report

Celebrate Freedom Foundation’s exciting STEM Outreach Program visits dozens of schools across the Southeastern US every year with more than 10,000 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](mailto:stemed@cff-soar.org) or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**



STEM Education Outreach Program visit with “Lena”

## **2019 SCHEDULE**

### **Sep**

- 3 Sep Camden HS, Camden, SC  
Sponsored by US Army and SC State Aeronautics
- 13 Sep White Knoll HS, Lexington SC  
Sponsored by US Army and SC State Aeronautics
- 25 Sept Lugoff-Elgin HS Lugoff, SC  
Sponsored by Fairfield Electric Co-Op and US Army

### **Nov**

- 11 Nov TL Hanna HS, Anderson, SC  
Sponsored by - SC State Aeronautics

### **Oct**

- 8 Oct Piedmont Technical College  
Sponsored by Piedmont Technical College

### **Dec**

Booking now! Contact CFF

# STEM Team Report cont.

On Sept 3 2019

Camden HS we saw 370 students who learned about STEM careers especially in aviation and aerospace

Sponsor by US Army and SC State Aeronautics.



On Sept 13 2019

White knoll HS 428 students participated in our STEM Education Outreach Program

Sponsor by US Army and SC State Aeronautics and special guest ;

Miss South Carolina 2019, Morgan Nichols



On Sept 25 2019

Lugoff-Elgin HS we saw 638 students who now better understand the importance of STEM.

Sponsor by Fairfield Electric Co-Op and US Army.



On Oct 8 2019

Piedmont Technology College, we saw 1000 middle school students for their Business and Industry Showcase of Laurens and Newberry counties event.

Sponsor by Piedmont Technical College



## **CFF Community Support Events**

- 9 Nov Newberry Veterans Day Parade—Newberry, SC
- 11 Nov Columbia Veterans Day Parade—Columbia, SC
- 7 Dec Elgin Catfish Stomp—Elgin, SC

### **Meet the Staff**

Dee Morgan

CFF DATABASE MANAGER

Dee Morgan is one of our dedicated volunteers. She is from Glendale, KY. After finishing high school she joined the US Navy. She served at the Naval Training Center, Service School Command, Bainbridge, MD and at the Educational Services Office, Submarine Base New London in Groton, CT. After leaving the service, she attended college on the GI Bill.

While Dee held some shorter term positions at Lexington School District Five and at AEJMC for the USC College of Journalism, most of Dee's civilian work career was in the insurance and telecommunications industries. She worked at Colonial Life and Accident from 1986 through 1999 where she held several roles while employed at Colonial the last five years was as an Operations Manager, Account Services. In 2000, Dee began work in telecommunications with SunCom Wireless which was later bought by T-Mobile USA. At SunCom, Dee worked with Enhanced 911 (E911) and the implementation of that federal program. The role required working with 911 centers, state wireless boards and various technical vendors to get E911 operational for SunCom and their wireless users across several states. As a collateral duty, Dee also served on the South Carolina 911 Advisory Committee from 2005 through 2010. After SunCom was bought by T-Mobile USA, she continued her E911 work as an E911 Analyst with the T-Mobile Engineering Department. This role required monitoring and analysis of all E911 processes and changes/new implementations to the program for states in the Southeast and PR.

Dee retired from T-Mobile USA in 2014. She and her husband Mark are having fun traveling and volunteering since retirement. They have two adult children (twins) Sean and Sabrina. Kaitlyn and Logan are their beautiful grand-daughters.

At CFF, Dee has developed a detailed database to track and manage all of the parts on our many aircraft which require periodic inspections and maintenance.



## Veterans Health

# Burn pits

Burn pits were a common way to get rid of waste at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At this time, the VA states that research does not show evidence of long-term health problems from exposure to burn pits. The VA continues to study the health of deployed Veterans.

### **Health effects from burn pit smoke**

Toxins in burn pit smoke may affect the skin, eyes, respiratory and cardiovascular systems, gastrointestinal tract and internal organs.

Veterans who were closer to burn pit smoke or exposed for longer periods may be at greater risk. Health effects depend on a number of other factors, such as the kind of waste being burned and wind direction. Most of the irritation is temporary and resolves once the exposure is gone. This includes eye irritation and burning, coughing and throat irritation, breathing difficulties, and skin itching and rashes. The high level of fine dust and pollution common in Iraq and Afghanistan may pose a greater danger for respiratory illnesses than exposure to burn pits, according to a 2011 Institute of Medicine report.

### **Type of waste burned**

Waste products in burn pits include, but are not limited to: chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions and other unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, rubber, wood, and discarded food.

Burning waste in open air pits can cause more pollution than controlled burning, such as in an incinerator.

### **Health concerns?**

If you are concerned about your exposure to burn pits, talk to your health care provider or contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator to help you get more information from a health care provider.

VA health care is available to all combat Veterans for conditions possibly related to service for five years after discharge. Not enrolled in the VA health care system? Apply online.

### **Registry**

Join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and contact your local Environmental Health Coordinator to help you complete the free voluntary medical evaluation. Check your eligibility and sign up through an online questionnaire.

### **Compensation benefits for health problems**

Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to burn pits during military service. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis.

**Visit the VA website for more information.**



## **Veterans Health cont.**

# Agent Orange

Agent Orange was a tactical herbicide used by the U.S. military from 1962 to 1975, named for the orange band around the storage barrel. The military sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides on trees and vegetation during the Vietnam War. Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange include Veterans who were in Vietnam, the Korean Demilitarized Zone, on Thai Air Force bases, and who flew on or worked on C-123 Aircraft. Several decades later, concerns about the health effects from these chemicals, including dioxin, a byproduct of Agent Orange production, continue.

VA offers eligible Veterans a free Agent Orange Registry health exam for possible long-term health problems related to exposure. VA also offers health care, disability compensation, and other benefits to eligible Veterans for certain disease conditions, as well as benefits for children of Vietnam Veterans who have spina bifida. Dependents and survivors may also be eligible for other benefits.

### **Publications & Reports on Agent Orange;**

VA has developed newsletters, guides and other materials for Veterans, the public and health care providers about the health effects of Agent Orange exposure. In addition, at VA's request, the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine produces reports reviewing the research on Agent Orange.

### **Newsletters – Agent Orange Review for Veterans;**

The Agent Orange Review provides information to Veterans and their families concerned about herbicides used in Vietnam or other locations and about VA's programs to respond to these concerns.

### **Research on Health Effects of Herbicide Exposure;**

Dioxin is a highly toxic substance found in Agent Orange and some other herbicides. Studies suggest that this chemical may be related to a number of cancers and other health effects in humans. VA and other Federal Government Departments and agencies have and continue to conduct extensive research evaluating the health effects of Agent Orange exposure on U.S. Veterans.

### **VA epidemiology studies on Vietnam Veterans**

The Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study is a nationwide study on the current health and well-being of Vietnam era Veterans. Researchers will compare their health to similarly aged U.S. residents who never served in the military.

The Army Chemical Corps Vietnam-Era Veterans Health Study is a study of 4,000 Veterans who served in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps sometime between 1965–1973 to determine if high blood pressure (hypertension) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are related to Agent Orange exposure during Vietnam.

VA's Epidemiology Program, a research division of the Office of Public Health, has many publications on the health of Vietnam Veterans.

**Visit the VA website for more information.**

### To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

National 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**



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 or go to 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

