



# Freedom Flyer



Sep/Oct  
2022

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

## GETTING READY

### By Land and Air for the New School Year

Volume 4 Issue 4

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CFF Pilots Reviewing Checklists



Completing Cobra Helicopter Maintenance



Mechanics inspecting rotor blades



Preparing the Northrop Grumman MQ-5B Hunter Drone for it's first school visit



Fabricating new safety covers



Servicing the HMMWV Drone Transporter

Inspecting the helicopter main rotor head before reassembly





## Chairmans Corner

### John Lenti



We've come a long way," as a Foundation supporting our military, promoting patriotism and inspiring the next generation to emulate the "greatest generation." For those new to CFF, the history of the past two decades of the Foundation, is a tale of the dedication and motivation of a few to maintain the values that has made our nation the envy of the world.

America is not perfect and like any organizations populated by the human species, has its flaws. The original founders of CFF, over 20 years ago, sought to retain the values so remarkably demonstrated by the boys that hit the beaches at Normandy on June 6th, 1944. The endless sea of white crosses in the military cemeteries across the landscape in so many countries in Europe, attest to their valor and patriotism. We should never forget the ultimate price they paid for what we all have today.

CFF's mission is a continuation of the motivation of the soldiers that hit the beaches of Normandy so many years ago. Revisionist history and the current philosophy of the WOKE generation can't change facts. Words are cheap, actions are what matters. CFF moves into a new decade and will continue to stand by it's stated mission.

Patriots will always exhibit the values of the boys of Normandy and the countless other battles stretching from the American Revolution to Afghanistan. CFF counts on your continued support to make the next 20 years as fruitful as the past two decades. Make it happen.

"Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation"



## **Chief Executive Officers Report**

### **Paul Werts**



As you gander over the Celebrate Freedom Foundation newsletter you will find a new name representing Chief Executive Officer– Paul Werts, It is a privilege to represent the Board’s mission to remind everyone the liberties and freedom we have as United States Citizens. I’ve known the Chairman - John Lenti for approximately fifteen years. His strong voice of leadership , as our Chairman; is a derivative meaning to the organizations title, “Foundation”. Thank you General Lenti for being the Celebrate Freedom Foundation Commander in Chief. Your vision to create a structured learning institute within the CFF organization such as the “traveling aerospace field lab” ,is like a farmer planting seeds to grow food. This STEM Education Outreach Program provided by a group of volunteers of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) has planted seeds for the South Carolina, and beyond, youth to learn and become excited about aviation and careers in aerospace science.

Aviation is far reaching, and no one word can contain the industry nomenclature. This leads me to think about the board future of getting ready to expand STEM education. The board, like everyone else, was disrupted by the COVID virus over the past two years , limiting the STEM traveling lab to schools and special events. But as the new school year begins this month, CFF has been contacted by numerous schools to bring the “traveling aerospace lab” which includes an airworthy CFF AH-1 Cobra helicopter along with a large UAV( Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) (drone). These training aids along with other materials demonstrate and teach youth about the physics of flight. If your school district has not yet contacted CFF about a school field visit, please have them contact Lori Wicker, Director of STEM Education and Executive Vice President of CFF.



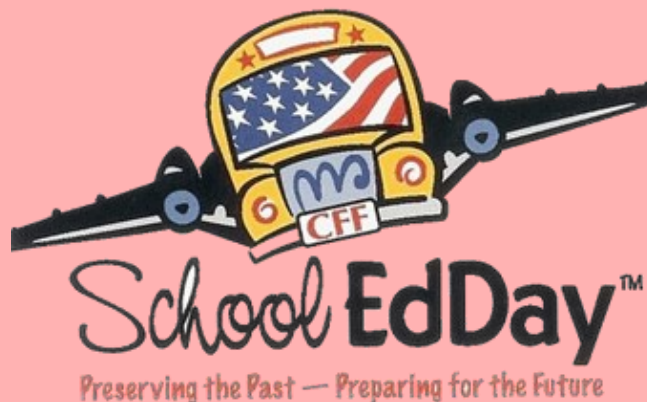


## Chief Executive Officer cont.

### Paul Werts

I have served on numerous organizations and boards. Fifteen years with CFF, but I have never witnessed such an aviation passion to bring the aviation knowledge to schools across the southeastern U.S. Our nonpaid volunteers not only bring aviation knowledge, but they have dedicated their lives to give us individual freedoms to enjoy freedom of flight on land and air. They are the spokes in the wheel hub keeping the organization moving. They dedicate their time and skills to the CFF mission for STEM education. Everyone is indebted to their unconditional time at CFF.

As drones continue to evolve into our culture of life, like the cell phone, the CFF board is preparing a strategic plan to assist youth of this advancing robotic technology. As the saying goes, "show me a kid who doesn't like a toy". The majority of us have made paper airplanes, driven a car or boat, taken a picture with a camera, flown a model aircraft, or played a video game. A drone can do all of these within one device and CFF is getting ready to embark upon a platform where a student can take this device and enhance individual prosperity. This gives hope to young students whose hope is limited by a depressed environment, whereby enjoying freedoms beyond economic reach. But, flight freedom brings responsibility, and CFF is a structured organization teaching the value of freedom to students not to infringe on freedom liberties of others in the use of drones. This is a major concern, not only to me but as the industry pursues these aero devices. Done technology is advancing daily and CFF is getting ready to deploy drones in a revolutionized program.



## Volunteer Highlight

### Mike Child

All non-profit organizations rely on volunteers, and here at CFF, we really do. We love to recognize the hard work and dedication of our many volunteers and shine the spotlight on them, as they are what keeps CFF running. For this issue we are recognizing one of our newer volunteers.

Mr. Mike Child was introduced to CFF a little over a year ago by one of our other volunteers here at the Foundation, Tom Glynn, “Gunny”. We at the Foundation welcomed Mike into our fold and recognize the hard work that he puts in here weekly.

Mike started to volunteer at the Foundation to give him a purpose in life again, as it is the same for many of our volunteers. After a medical incident a couple of years ago, Mike was left disabled and unable to continue with his chosen career path. He was a house painter and he refurbished houses all through the midlands of SC.. He has since found a place at the Foundation that he is able to interact with others and contribute. Mike’s wife, Joanne, stated that “his time volunteering at CFF has vastly improved his quality of life being around the rest of volunteers”. Mike has many hobbies, some of them focusing on the military. He and his wife both belong to the Blythewood Historical Society and are heavily involved with the Veterans Day Activities that Blythewood holds yearly. Of special mention, Mike’s father-in-law was a soldier at the Battle of the Bulge during WWII. Mike immigrated from England in 1999. In December of 1999 Mike married his beautiful wife, Joanne. Both he and Joanne now reside in Blythewood, SC. On 1 July 2022, Mike officially became a U.S. Citizen! We at CFF are very proud of Mike and this huge accomplishment.



CFF volunteer, Mike Childs, proudly holds his citizenship certificate.

## **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 programs mission is to help build a workforce that can compete globally for jobs in the future and to ensure Americas 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\*\*](mailto:stemed@cff-soar.org) or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**.

We are booking 28 schools for the 2022/2023 school year to be part of our Celebrate Freedom Foundation STEM Education Outreach School Program. If you have a school that you would like for us to visit just reach out to us. We are always looking for volunteers to assist in these visits or maintain the equipment.

**The following School have already scheduled a visit for the new school year.**

Sandhill Middle School, Gaston, SC

White Knoll High School, Lexington, SC

Pleasant Knoll Middle School, Lexington, SC

Springfield Middle School, Fort Mills, SC

Forrest Creek Middle School, Fort Mills, SC

Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC

McCracken Middle School, Bluffton, SC

Silver Bluff High School, Aiken SC

West Florence High School, Florence, SC

Lugoff -Elgin High School, Lugoff -Elgin, SC

Crest Wood High School, Sumter, SC

# 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.



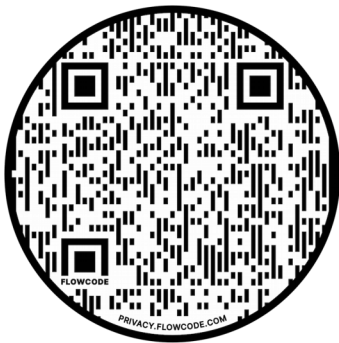


**To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:**

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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**

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