



Central Florida
SAR Chapter

Chartered on
May 8, 1961



Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational



The Minuteman

Volume 60, Issue 5

September 2021

Chapter Meeting Sept. 11, 2021

The Central Florida SAR chapter is having an in-person meeting for September. Our speaker will be Dr. David Head of UCF who will speak on the military Presidents including George Washington

This meeting is schedule at the Winter Park Racquetball Club located at 2111 Via Tuscan Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789. Social time will begin at 11:30 AM with dinner at noon. The cost is \$25.00 and payment will need to be made at the time of arrival.

Upcoming State Meeting

FLSSAR Fall Board of Management will be on October 1st to October 2nd at the Embassy Suites Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South (4955 Kyngs Heath Road Kissimmee, Florida, 34746)

National Events

2021 Fall Leadership
September 23-25, 2021 Louisville KY

From the Chapter President

Compatriots, I hope that all our members and their families had a safe and healthy summer, and I look forward to the opportunity of serving as your new Chapter President. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of our Central Florida Chapter SAR, chartered in Winter Park on May 8, 1961. We are very excited as we prepare to celebrate this significant milestone.

After a very challenging year, I am happy to announce that we have secured a new meeting location at the Winter Park Racquet Club, 2111 Via Tuscany Drive, Winter Park 32789. We hope you will join us at our first meeting of the 2021-2022 season on Patriot's Day, Sat. Sept. 11, 2021 by dressing in Colonial attire. A chapter picture will be taken.

A few of our upcoming proposed projects include a new parade and meeting banner, a new and improved Color Guard, securing our new meeting venue, a special sponsored membership drive, and building a stronger working relationship with the DAR and CAR.

I pray that our members stay healthy and have the patriotic courage and

will to keep our SAR chapter strong and prevalent within each of our communities. The history of the American Revolution must be honored, remembered and preserved.

For These We Strive,

Philip Markoe

Printed FLSSAR Magazine Subscription Information

At present, the FLSSAR sends *The Florida Patriot* magazine in digital form to all members on quarterly basis. If you would like a printed / mailed issue sent to you also, it is available for \$15.00 per year.

If interested, please make out a check to the "FLSSAR Treasurer" and send to Scott Breckinridge (FLSSAR Secretary) at 1862 Buckridge Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225-2202.

The typical number of pages of each issue is between 24 to 28 pages. Please consider subscribing today.

Chaplain's Corner Birthday Announcements

On behalf of the Central Florida SAR Chapter, we would like to wish the following individual a Happy and Enjoyable Birthday.

JUNE

Scott A. Cook
Michael Danforth
George Gastfield
Lincoln E. Hall
James W. Holton
Grant M. Hughes

Ian E. Kaminski
Ed McGlynn
Andrew Ruiz-Isasi
Daniel Ruiz-Isasi
Andrew F. Sechler
Brian P. Smith
Jerry L. Tillman

JULY

Randal Allen
Gilmore Daniel
Charles S. Deneen
John G. Flinn
Fred Gaines, Jr.
Robert Hill
Richard Hoffman
John W. Kaster
Don Lajoie
Robert Lanier
Ryan Pittendriegh
Daron J. Sandberg
Sean Silvernail
Gary L. Smith

AUGUST

Orville Allen
Arthur Bullock
Henry F. Dressel
Norman R. Hughes
John McElroy
Michael Moran
Jimmy D. Perry
Jeffrey E. Roberson
Jeff Sizemore
George Sizemore
Robert Smither
Larry Walker
Thomas H. Warlick, Jr.

SEPTEMBER

George Andrews
Marshal Brewton
Mark Buckles
Robert T. Davis
Steven R. Gould
David Higley
Bill McCollum

John Poulson
 Andrew Showen
 Andrew J. Showen

NOTICE

If you have moved, changed phone number, or have a new email address, please let me know right away by mail or email. It will keep your newsletters and magazines reaching you if they have changed.

Gary Smith, Chapter Secretary
 478 Eagle Brook Ct., Debary, FL 32713
trekker01@gmail.com

Emeritus Status in SAR

The following members have been granted Emeritus status at National, for paying their dues for 50+ years... They have all been upgraded to E-1 status in the FL database, and no longer owe any dues at all.

John Newman Dennis (76391) - Naples
 Reid Francis Moore (87505) – Palm Beach
 Eugene Nelson Wellman (94143) - Withlacoochee
 John Addison Williams (94826) - Saramana
 John Griffin Rountree (94883) – St Augustine
 Alexander Bruen Trevor (95504) - Caloosa
 Arthur Locke Craig (97694) - Miami
 Stuart Garrett Green (98492) – Central Florida

Patriot Ancestor Presentations

From time to time, the chapter has had members give a short talk on their Patriot Ancestors. Several will be given at our September meeting. We are looking at having other members that are willing to get up and talk about their ancestors. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Phil Markoe at markoeviking-fan@aol.com.

Chaplain's Message

By Michael J Meyer

This is my first time as Chaplain. My first time as anything concerning the SAR and this Chapter. Therefore, a quick introduction is in order.

I am a Christian and a history buff. I have a degree in geology, and I am a science teacher at a k-12 school in Kissimmee. My patriot ancestor, Thomas Kinnie Palmer, served in the 3rd Regiment, Connecticut. He was present at the battle of Bunker Hill as a volunteer.

For the next few months of newsletters, I would like to explore the relationship of God and our founding fathers.

However, at this time I think we should remember the present and what is going on in Afghanistan.

The following prayers are from Crosswalk.com a Bible study web site.

A Prayer for the People of Afghanistan

Lord, we lift up the people of Afghanistan to you right now. We pray that you would take hold of them and help them walk through this fearful time. Protect them under your wing and help them feel the comfort and peace that only comes from your powerful presence. So many people who have called this place their home have been displaced because of this event. Remind them, Lord, that their true home is in Heaven with you. Give those who believe in you the courage to stand strong in their **faith** and be a strong witness for you. Also, be with those who do not believe in you – help them to see the peace in your followers and allow the Holy Spirit to stir in their hearts as they witness this. Amen

A Prayer for the Troops and Their Loved Ones

Lord, we lift up the military troops that are in or being deployed to Afghanistan right now. Protect them as they give up their safety to protect us. Thank you that we live in a free country, where the choice can be made to fight for this freedom. Thank you for every single person who has dedicated their own lives to protecting this nation and people, as well as the people of other nations. Help them evacuate people with safety and be a source of hope to those feeling trapped and afraid. We thank them for their sacrifice – a sacrifice that you are so familiar with.

Nearly every person knows someone or has a loved one in the military, and so many are fearful for their loved ones being deployed at this moment. Cover each one with a blanket of peace, knowing that you guide each of us to your ultimate victory. Comfort every veteran, family member, friend, and loved one who feels fearful or uneasy right now.

No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17) Amen

A Prayer for the Taliban

Lord, even when it doesn't make sense to our earthly selves, you call us to pray for those who persecute (Matthew 5:44). We lift up the Taliban to you today. We pray that your Holy Spirit would work in them and soften their hearts.

Only you truly know their hearts, Lord. Just as you created us, help us to remember that they are your creation as well and you love them deeply. Help us to desire the restoration of their hearts and welcome them with open arms into the family of Christ when their hearts are changed. You alone can work in their hearts and minds, and we pray that through this process we see a transformation and revival. Let us continue to lift them up to you in love, knowing that you came to save

each and every one of us.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:43-44)

We know that ultimately, God is sovereign over all things. No matter what wars are being waged, won, or lost here on earth, God will have the victory in the end. It's so hard for us to see this reality while we live through fearful and uncertain events. But by turning our eyes to God and lifting up our fears and desires to him, we can truly know that he is in control. Amen

CAR Project

The Fort Gatlin Society NSCAR has developed a project to compliment the FL State CAR Project, "Helping Homeless Heroes". Our goal is to provide resources for 100 homeless veterans through the Lake Baldwin VA Center. We plan to provide a roll-up blanket and drawstring bag full of personal products for each veteran.



How can you help? You can choose to sponsor one or more veterans. You can either make a \$25 donation which will provide a blanket and drawstring bag of personal products for one veteran, or you can donate \$10 for the blanket, and purchase personal products to be turned in to Debbie or Scott Cook, for your veteran.

The personal products requested are:

- pair of socks
- cloth mask
- full-size shampoo
- full-size lotion
- comb
- Toothbrush
- full-size toothpaste
- washcloth
- hand towel
- full-size soap

- shaving cream
- razor

ADDITIONAL WISH LIST

Games (dominoes, checkers, chess (no playing cards))

Acrylic paints (\$1 Apple Barrel paints, for painting birdhouses they make)

Craft paint brushes

Our goal is to have all items donated by Nov. 1, 2021. CAR members will be making up the bags to take to Lake Baldwin VA Center.

Please let Debbie Cook debbiecDAR@gmail.com or Scott Cook mousephone2@gmail.com know if you plan to sponsor a vet. This way we can keep track of how many vets have sponsors and how many we still need.

Our Vets Are Heroes and they deserve to be honored. We hope to honor our vets through this needed project!

Please send with your check, payable to Fort Gatlin Society CAR to: Debbie Cook, Helping Homeless Heroes Project, 3203 Holland Drive, Orlando, FL 32825

8 Things You May Not Know About Our Air Defense on 9/11

by Katie Lange

It's been 20 years since Sept. 11, when terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and flew them into New York's iconic World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in rural western Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 U.S. citizens.

Whether the events of that day were etched in your memory forever, or you were too young to understand it at the time, it's a day all Americans know changed the course of our daily lives. Thanks to the Internet, you can easily find accounts of what happened on 9/11 from survivors, first responders, the victims' families and officials who investigated what happened. Two New York Air National Guardsmen who were at the Northeast Air Defense Sector (now just the Eastern Air Defense Sector) in rural

Rome, New York, give a glimpse into the military's role that day. NEADS was tasked with searching for the missing planes and scrambling fighter jets in response to the attacks.

New York Air National Guard Maj. Jeremy Powell was a 31-year-old tech sergeant taking part in Exercise Vigilant Guardian when 9/11 occurred. He was the first military person to learn about the hijackings, having taken the initial call from the Federal Aviation Administration's Boston center. Master Sgt. Stacia Rountree was a 23-year-old senior airman working as an identification technician. Vigilant Guardian was her first major NORAD exercise. Like everyone else, Powell and Rountree remember that day vividly.

There was a lot of initial confusion.

It took some time for NEADS to realize 9/11 was a real-world scenario and not part of the exercise. Once they did, there was even more confusion trying to find the missing planes, which always seemed to be a step ahead of them.

"We were treating all the information we got as real-time, not understanding that it was coming to us late," said Rountree, who basically became a liaison between the FAA and the military for the rest of that day.

"We were trying to figure out departure destination, how many people were on board, how big the aircraft actually was, and factoring all of that stuff in. That way the [F-15 and F-16] fighters, when they got airborne, would know that they had the right plane in sight," she said.

"I stayed on the phone for 12-14 hours, just calling all the bases and asking how quick the fighters could get armed, get airborne, and if they could go to a certain location," Powell said.

There wasn't much time between the first FAA call and the first crash.

Just 10 minutes elapsed between the time Powell took the first call to NEADS about the hijackings to when the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, hit the North Tower – not enough time to get fighters into the air.

According to the 9/11 Commission's report, the call from the FAA's Boston center came into NEADS at 8:37 a.m. "8:46 is when I scrambled the first fighters [from Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts], and then 8:53 they were airborne," Powell said.

But it was too late to help American 11, which hit the World Trade Center's North Tower at 8:47 a.m.

There were several more reports of hijackings that day.

By the time the day was over, Rountree said there were probably 19 or 20 planes that she and the other ID techs had investigating as possible hijackings. Only the initial four – American 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77 and United Airlines Flight 93 – were the real deal. At one point, there were reports that American 11 was still airborne. Air traffic controllers likely confused it with American 77, which was somewhere over Washington, D.C., airspace. Rountree said she tried to contact the FAA's Washington Center to get a position on it, while Langley Air Force Base fighters were trying to get to the capital.

"It was probably only a couple of minutes, but to me, it seemed like a lifetime. Then we got the reports that the plane hit the Pentagon," Rountree remembered. "I was actively trying to find that plane, and I felt that we may have had some time. We didn't."

There had been discussions of fighter pilots making the ultimate sacrifice.

The fighters were meant only to shadow potentially hijacked planes, but Rountree said there was discussion of those pilots making the ultimate sacrifice. "In case their weapons were out, and if we would have had to use force, they were discussing whether or not those guys would have to go kamikaze," she said, meaning some pilots were considering risking their own lives by using their planes to stop hijacked jetliners. "It was scary, when you thought about the possibility of them having to do that."

There was a heartbreaking feeling of hope for Flight 93.

While all of the crashes were shocking, Rountree said that, for her, United 93 was the saddest. They had been trying to find the plane on radar and had called the FAA to get an updated position. "They said, 'It's down,' and we were thinking it landed," Rountree remembered. But when they asked for landing confirmation, the info was clarified – it crashed. "For us, you had that glimmer of hope, and then... "

NEADS was evacuated on Sept. 12 thanks to an unknown aircraft.

The day after 9/11, NEADS was evacuated because there was an unknown plane up at the time, and no one was supposed to be airborne. "There were fighters coming back from air patrol over NYC ... so our commander had them go supersonic over to where we were so they could figure out what it was. They thought it was heading toward us," Rountree said. It turned out to be a harmless floatplane, and it was forced to land.

9/11 changed the role of the air defense sectors.



"Back then, the primary focus was that we were looking out at people coming to attack us from the outside," Powell said. "We weren't really focused on the inside." "Nobody thought that somebody would go ahead and utilize planes that were in the U.S. to do something, so our radar coverage was indicative of that," Rountree explained. "Now, our coverage has definitely increased. It's night and day versus then."

The sector now has new and evolving technology. "Our computer systems are bigger and better. ... You should see all of the radars that are now hooked up. Everything the FAA sees, we see. We are much more actively involved in the identification of all aircraft in the United States," Powell said. Before 9/11, Rountree said they couldn't always get in touch with critical personnel at the FAA centers. Now they can. "We really didn't have to talk to the various Air Traffic Control Center supervisors. Now, we have instant lines with everybody," she said.

The military has been monitoring the skies over the U.S. ever since.

"A lot of people didn't even realize that we were probably there, or what we even do, which could be a good thing," Powell said. "It reinforces the idea that somebody's always watching you, especially in the sky. The FAA's there – that is their airspace – but the military is, too."

(This story was originally published on Sept. 11, 2019. The first paragraph has been updated.)

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/1955624/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-our-air-defense-on-911/>

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