

The Anniston Star

VETERANS DAY

★ With respect, honor and gratitude to those who served ★



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'BE OPEN TO YOUR PATH'

Air Force veteran to speak to C.E. Hanna students

BY SHERRY KUGHN

skughn@annistonstar.com

To celebrate Veterans Day, the fifth- and sixth-graders of C.E. Hanna Elementary School will listen to a veteran who will share his love for America today.

Retired Master Sgt. Clarence Shuford — who is visiting from his home in Camden, S.C. — will not only speak to students. He is also here in Calhoun County to visit his relatives who are descendants of the founder of C.E. Hanna.

A document on the site of the Alabama Historical Commission states that in 1905, a Professor C.F. Hanna organized the first school that became C.E. Hanna Elementary. Amy Henderson, the director of the Oxford Public Library, believes the F is a typographical error. The document states the school's first name was the Hobson City and Oxford Academy and had about 70 pupils.

Several years ago, Shuford's maternal grandmother and aunt, Ester Hanna and Greta Roberson, both served at the school along with his mother, Phyllis. She was a substitute teacher. His father is Clarence Shuford.

"My purpose in speaking is to deal with patriotism," said Shuford. "I grew up as a Christian, and I wanted to serve my country. At first, I wanted to go into the Army and be in the Chaplain Corps."

Instead, Shuford became a member of the Air Force in April 1998. His superiors told him that to become a chaplain assistant, he first had to enlist in what was called 'open general,' which meant he'd take any job the military gave him.

Another part of his speech to the students tells how the stories his grandfather Emmitt told him



Submitted photos

Shuford is a retired Air Force veteran and is currently employed at the United States Army Master Resilience School.

motivated him to join the military.

"The military will make a man out of you and bring you closer to God," he said his grandfather told him, "and the brother- and sisterhood there will be with you forever. I have found his words to be true."

Shuford's grandfather is not the founder of C.E. Hanna. He believes the man who founded the school was an uncle.

Shuford said he wanted to share with the students how the path he preferred took many turns different from those he'd planned, including his service. At the orders of his superiors, he was to become a member of the security forces. He attended the police academy and then found himself going to combat school — also

ordered by his superiors. Next, he was told to go to the M60-weapon school, where he learned to handle a gun that weighs 33 pounds.

Eventually, Shuford was deployed to several places he never dreamed he would go, including Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Germany and Turkey.

"In 1998 at the beginning of my service, I went to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, where I served for four years," Shuford said. "I realized I was being patriotic. I loved the job, and I was leading a Bible study, which I did for four years."

Shuford made the best of his unexpected path afterward, but he held onto his desire to become a chaplain. After the first four years, he asked to be cross-trained and was sent to train in

the chaplain corps as a chaplain assistant, where he served for the next 18 years. After his 22 years of service, he retired.

"I never got to be a chaplain," Shuford said, "but I had become an ordained minister even before I went into the ministry."

Shuford said he wants to share how the path of life the students take, no matter if it is different from the one they plan, can still have many rewards and give them a feeling of patriotism.

"I want them to be open to their path, but not give up on their dream," Shuford said. "If I had it to do again, I'd say yes."

Shuford is currently employed at the United States Army Master Resilience School. He is married to Jean Shuford and has a 27-year-old daughter named

Audry.

In his speech, Shuford also wants to thank Jon Underwood and Bill Barker, the two Oxford High School band directors he had as a student. The skills they taught him when marching gave him the role of 'guidon' in the Air Force, the person who calls the marching orders.

"I carry things those two taught me to this day," Shuford said.

Shuford invites friends to his Facebook page where he does videos called "Scriptures on the Street."

Shuford's lesson to students about never giving up on their dream is true today for him. He is the chaplain for the American Legion Post 17 in Camden.

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JSU honors fallen Vietnam War soldiers

SPECIAL TO THE ANNISTON STAR

JACKSONVILLE — More than 58,000 American soldiers, including 1,208 Alabamians, died during the Vietnam War. The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees passed a resolution on Oct. 19 honoring the six fallen soldiers who were students

or graduates of the university. With a generous gift from trustee Clarence W. Daugette III, a 1974 business graduate of the university, six offices will be named in memory of the soldiers in Rowe Hall — home to the JSU ROTC program. All six soldiers were involved in ROTC on campus and went on to serve in the

US Army.

“It has been 50 years since the Vietnam War, which affected all of our lives,” said Daugette. “This was something that was very close to my heart, and I am proud we are able to honor the sacrifices of these soldiers who gave their lives for their country.”

Daugette is also sponsoring

the naming of the office suite in Rowe Hall in honor of his father, Col. Clarence William Daugette, Jr. The late colonel served in the Army for 40 years and was a decorated World War II veteran who earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Awards to outstanding students are given in his name at the United States Military Academy

and JSU. He was a 1925 graduate of JSU and served on the Board of Trustees. The “Colonel Clarence William Daugette Office Suite” in Rowe Hall will be named in his honor.

For more information on naming opportunities on campus, contact University Advancement at 256-782-5003.



Lt. Charles William Davis

The Tallassee native was a standout on the Gamecock football team and had planned to return to campus to finish his degree after the war. He served as a tank unit commander and died in the Dinh Tuong province of South Vietnam on Oct. 6, 1967, at age 24. His commendations included the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. The “Lieutenant Charles William Davis Office” will be named in his honor.



Capt. Jerry Wayne McNabb

The Gadsden native graduated from JSU in 1959. The helicopter pilot died in an unknown province in South Vietnam on June 27, 1966, at age 29. The “Captain Jerry W. McNabb Office Suite” will be named in his honor.



Lt. Grady E. McBride III

The Gadsden native graduated from JSU in 1968. He served as a petroleum products supply officer and died on June 5, 1970, at age 24 in the Binh Dinh province of South Vietnam. His commendations included the Purple Heart. The “Lieutenant Grady E. McBride III Office” will be named in his honor.



Capt. Richard Charles Miller

The Jacksonville native graduated from JSU in 1965. He served as an infantry unit commander and died in the Quang Nam province of South Vietnam on Sept. 3, 1969, at age 27. His commendations included the Silver Star and Bronze Star. The “Captain Richard Charles Miller Office” will be named in his honor.



Capt. Donald Franklin McMillan

Native to Hopkinsville, Ky., McMillan graduated from JSU in 1961. He died in an unknown province of South Vietnam on April 2, 1966, at age 27. His commendations included the Purple Heart. The “Captain Donald Franklin McMillan Office” will be named in his honor.



Capt. Edward Davis Pierce

The Homewood native graduated from JSU in 1962. He served as a tactical intelligence staff officer and died in the Long Khanh province in South Vietnam on March 13, 1966, at age 27. His commendations included the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. The “Captain Edward Davis Pierce Office” will be named in his honor.



Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File
Area residents lined Noble Street to watch the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Anniston in 2011.

LOOK BACK: 10 YEARS AGO

Due to lack of entries for the event, this year's annual Veterans Day parade put on by the Calhoun County Veterans Organization was canceled. Here is a glimpse into the past at 2011's parade, where citizens lined the streets of Anniston and American pride reverberated through the crowd.



Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File

The Anniston High School marching band plays for the crowd gathered along Noble Street for the Veterans Day Parade in 2011.



Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File

LEFT: A group of veterans belonging to the Marine Corp League ride down Noble Street during the Veterans Day Parade in 2011.



RIGHT: A soldier waves her flag from the hood of a car during the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Anniston in 2011.

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Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File

LEFT: WWII veteran Mary Ellis Bryant, center, waves her flag from the back of a float during the Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Anniston in 2011. ABOVE: A young boy shows his support of veterans. BOTTOM LEFT: The Jr. ROTC cadets from Anniston High School march along in the parade. BELOW: The Grand Marshall of the parade was a Fallen Comrade display on the back of a truck in honor of Major Fouade Aide.





Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File

Area girl scouts wave their flags from the back of a float during the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Anniston in 2011.



Trent Penny/The Anniston Star/File

LEFT: The Elk's Lodge float makes its way down Noble Street during the Veteran's Day Parade in 2011.



RIGHT: The Calhoun County Sheriff's honor guard led the parade with the flags during 2011's Veterans Day Parade in downtown Anniston.

Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Military & Security Affairs Committee

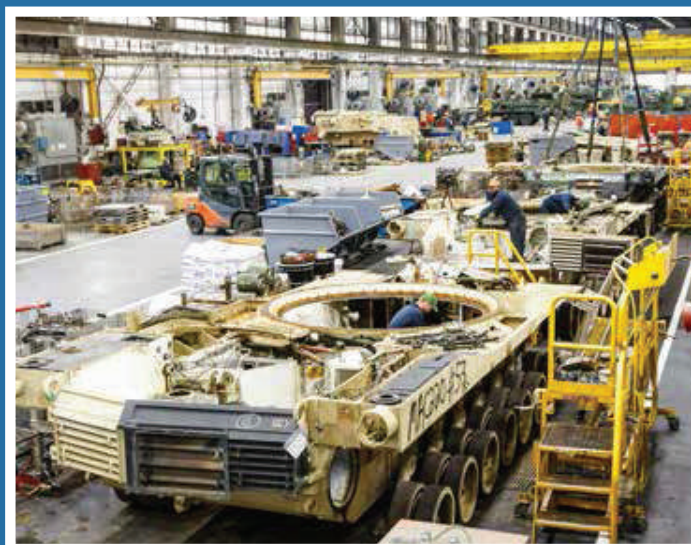
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November 11th is Veterans Day Honoring All Who Served

Foundation to honor those lost in 9/11 military response

BY ANN MARIE BARRON

Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — On Veterans Day, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation will honor more than 7,000 who died in America's military response to the events of Sept. 11 during a name-reading ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The ceremony is open to the public, and will take place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, bringing together military families, Gold Star families and veterans from across the country to read the names of the friends and loved ones they've lost to the Global War on Terror.

Surrounding the reflecting pool, there will be 7,070 luminaries to represent each fallen hero.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which thus far has spent more than \$250 million to honor and support first responders and veterans and their families, was founded by Frank Siller and his family in memory of Siller's

brother, Stephen, an off-duty firefighter who died responding to the World Trade Center on 9/11, after running through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel in his full firefighter "turnout" gear.

During the Veterans Day event, on Thursday, Nov. 11, Siller, of Westleigh, the foundation's chairman and CEO, will make a special announcement, according to the foundation.

The event begins at 8 a.m. and will continue until 6 p.m.

Participating along with Frank Siller, are: Teresa Adams, the widow of U.S. Army Sergeant Roger Leeroy Adams, Jr.; Cassie Lohrey, widow of U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Ryan Michael Lohrey; Jennie Taylor, widow of U.S. National Guard Major Brent Taylor; Nancy Gass, widow of Army SSG Girard Gass, Jr., and Shannon Slutman, widow of USMC SSgt Christopher Slutman.

The entire ceremony will be live-streamed on the Tunnel to Towers Facebook page.



Jennifer Lett / South Florida

A female fire chief stops to take a photograph with a young boy after crossing the finish line for Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk in downtown Fort Lauderdale on Sept. 14, 2019.

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REMEMBERING AFGHANISTAN

Veterans look back on their time serving together

BY SHERRY KUGHN

skughn@annistonstar.com

People are people, no matter their culture. That is the message military soldiers and guard members shared at a recent reunion at the Moose Lodge in Anniston for men and women who had served in Afghanistan. Here are two of their stories.



Tribune News Service

1st Lt. Zachary Peterson of Sharpsburg, Ga., and other U.S. soldiers take part in an operation in support of Afghan soldiers in Wardak province, Afghanistan.



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The men he can't forget

There are two Afghan men whom Col. John Lipscomb of Jemison will never forget.

Lipscomb was deployed to Afghanistan with the Alabama National Guard in 2004-05 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He and others at the reunion were stationed at Forward Operating Site Carlson, an airfield and base in a remote area near the Pakistan border.

There are two Afghan men he will never forget.

An Afghan man the Americans called "Nick" worked as a guard at the base. Lipscomb worked with Nick on multiple occasions, and Nick always asked Lipscomb to take his young son back to the United States so the child could have a better life.

"He was willing to give up his son," Lipscomb said.

Another time Lipscomb had to accompany one of the Afghan guardsmen on a flight to another base camp for interrogation. The man had reportedly been shooting rockets at the Americans. As the airplane engine began to roar during liftoff, the man, whose hands were in cross-cuffs and whose face was covered to avoid seeing the airplane mechanisms, reached over to Lipscomb sitting next to him and clasped the edge of his pants leg with a shaky hand.

He didn't let go until the plane had landed.

The interrogation proved no crime had been committed against the Americans, and the Afghan guard was returned to his post.

Lipscomb was a field-ordering officer who established contracts with Afghan men. He hired one group to haul water out of the "wadi," a ditch that held the water used for showers. He hired another group to haul in crushed rock for the roads around the base camp. A third group was hired to maintain the camp and serve as guards at checkpoints away from the base.

"The men were eager to work because they needed money," Lipscomb said. "We had about 70 employees who worked every day with us."

The Afghan people near FOS Carlson lived in villages in remote, hilly and rocky terrain. The base camp was in a valley among the hills.

At times, Lipscomb had to leave the base and visit with Afghan leaders in what the locals called a motel, a big room with mud walls and a dirt floor covered with rugs.

"We ate with them, and they served mostly goat meat, rice and a few vegetables," Lipscomb said. "They had pressure cookers and would serve the cooked food from a bowl. They would roll out dough on a board and then cook it."

Lipscomb remembers one day when the leaders wanted to treat him and the other officers. They managed to obtain some beef, although its quality was much lower than any the soldiers had ever eaten.

"They were so proud that day to share it," Lipscomb said.

Lipscomb said he was never afraid when working around the contracted employees, although the Taliban and al-Qaeda sometimes fired rockets toward the base.

The American men never interacted with the Afghan women, but the few female guard members did. At times, the female guard members held a medical clinic for the women in the village.

In addition to running the base, the Americans always tried to do humanitarian work. The base had a civil affairs team that would give the Afghan people money to help with their schools and to dig water wells. At times, the soldiers passed out candy to the children when they went into a village.

Lipscomb is now in the Army Reserves, and he sells farm equipment. His wife is Shawn. His two sons, Pete and Matt, are in the Alabama National Guard, and his daughter, Sara Ruth, is a college student.



Sherry Kughn/The Anniston Star

Col. John Lipscomb of Jemison was deployed to Afghanistan with the Alabama National Guard in 2004-05.

The Anniston Star
ONLINE



Facebook.com/AnnistonStar

Discovering a caring culture

Retired Sgt. Blanch Moates of Clanton entered the U.S. Air Force when she was 18 years old, simply because she wanted to do something for her country. After two years of service, she became a member of the Alabama National Guard.

In 2004, when she was almost ready to retire from her service, she received word that her superiors were sending her to Afghanistan.

"I was shocked because I was only a few months short of having in 20 years," Moates said. "But I wanted to go because I had never served anywhere except on the base near my home."

When she arrived at FOS Carlson, Moates' job was to serve temporarily on an observation post. She also served in the administration office.

"I had some interaction with the Afghan workers," she said. "We took care of their needs, too, and occasionally I did some guard duty."

One day, Moates was escorting some of the Afghan men and told them they had to stay together when working.

The men, not accustomed to taking orders from a woman, looked to one of their leaders. He asked her to show the ring finger of her left hand, which indicated to the men that she was married, and he asked if she had children. She told them she not only had children but she also had grandchildren. He motioned to the men as though he was touching the heads of small children, his way of telling them she was a grandmother. Because her answer satisfied the Afghan leader, he nodded for the men to do as Moates had said.

She also remembered a man who brought his daughter to a nearby medical clinic. The child had an eye infection that was serious enough to require her to be flown to the city of Bagram for treatment.

Because the man had to leave his family for a few days and would have no pay, the members of the guard took up a collection of cash and gave it to him and his family to sustain him during his travels and the family during his absence.

"That showed me he was a caring father," Moates said. "When you think of that culture, we think they don't care about their daughters, but they do."

Moates is now a disabled veteran. She is married to Ronald Moates and is the mother of five children and the grandmother of four.



Sherry Kughn/The Anniston Star

Retired Sgt. Blanch Moates of Clanton entered the U.S. Air Force when she was 18 years old.

VETERANS DAY
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Limestone subdivision hangs banners honoring veterans

BY ERICA SMITH

The Decatur Daily

Sam Holloway served 28 years in the Army, was a brigade commander in Desert Storm and Iraq and retired as a colonel, according to his wife, Lynn.

"He was actually born into the Army," she said of her husband following the footsteps of his father, who also served in the Army.

She said Sam Holloway was proud of his military service and didn't do it for recognition, but he and other former or active duty military personnel are being honored at the Brigadoon Village subdivision in Limestone County.

Paula Gember, who lives in the neighborhood and is a member of its hospitality committee, has organized a tribute as Veterans Day approaches in which 30 banners with pictures of past and present servicemen and women in uniform have been hung on the fence around the neighborhood. The military members either live in the subdivision or have family members living there.

"It was just sparking the idea that veterans are important," Gember said. "And we've had so much political turmoil here lately, I thought, let's go back to honoring what's

made America great and thank our veterans that are past or present, still serving, for their service."

Gember said her dad was in the Marines Corps for 33 years. She got the banner idea when she heard that her cousin in Cadiz, Ohio, was participating in a similar tribute in which banners hang on light posts in that city.

"I got the idea, wow, we have so many veterans in our neighborhood, including sons who are still serving ... fathers, uncles, great uncles, grandfathers that have passed," Gember said. "So, I thought, we wouldn't be here or have the freedoms that we have today, if it weren't for their service."

She designed a banner template and put out word of the project to Brigadoon's hospitality committee, asking them what they thought about offering the banner opportunity to their residents.

The hospitality committee liked the idea, so Gember got the word out to everyone in the subdivision, which is on Wheeler Lake just west of Athens. People wanting to participate gave Gember a picture and information on the military service.

Gember got a discounted price of \$30 per

banner at Athens Sign Co. and each resident paid per banner.

Each banner is 2-by-3 feet, and along with their picture, tells the relationship of the military member to the resident of the subdivision, the branch of service, the years that they served, rank and a special attribute, said Gember.

She expects more residents in the subdivision will still come to her for their family member's banner to be hung with the others.

Lynn Holloway said, "It was a wonderful idea that Paula had, and now that you see the banners up from all the people in the neighborhood, I think it was a really good idea."

Neighborhood resident Carol Whited said, "It's wonderful to recognize those that served our country, some of them for a very long period of time and a very difficult time."

Whited purchased four banners to hang. Her husband and brother were both in the Air Force, and her father and father-in-law both served in the Army during World War II.

Her husband, Glenn Whited, was in communications while her brother, Buddy Simpson, was a pilot and spent 21 years in the service. When the Army found out her father,

Earl Simpson, was a musician, they chose him to lead one of the Army band groups, she said. Her father-in-law, James Whited, served in Okinawa.

"When you think what they gave up to serve our country, and all of them were very, very patriotic, and still are," Carol Whited said. "They still have that feeling of patriotism and doing what you can for the country."

According to Gember, the banners will be hung for two weeks around Veterans Day, and then for the whole month of May. "That's military appreciation month. Because it's V-E Day, Armed Forces Day, and military nurses have a day in there, and then Memorial Day at the end."

She wants the banner idea to spread.

"My hope is ... that other communities will take an initiative on their own and maybe post their veterans along their front entrances, or even hang them on their mailboxes," she said. "Just as a way to say, we are proud of our veterans."

"That's what I was really hoping would happen. That it would kind of sweep across the county and other communities. ... This was just a starting flame."



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Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/File

The Marine Corps League memorializes Alan Ray Chaffin at a Veterans Day ceremony at Centennial Memorial Park in 2011.



LOOK BACK: 10 YEARS AGO

At a Veterans Day ceremony at Centennial Memorial Park in 2011, patriotism could be felt in the air as community members paid tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country.



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/File

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #502 presented a fallen comrade ceremony.



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/File

Mary A. Bryant holds a photo of herself dated 1944, when she was in the Women's Army Corp.



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/File

Spectators observe the Veterans Day ceremony at Centennial Memorial Park in 2011.



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/File

LEFT: Helen Leatherwood looks for her brother's name on the wall at Centennial Park. RIGHT: Howard Norton and Maj. Fouad K. Aide are honored at a Veterans Day ceremony at Centennial Memorial Park in 2011.

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