

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 17 – Number 8

August 2015

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1st in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

Speakers



Our **August** guest speaker was Bill Kustes, a ZHA member, who gave us an interesting insight of the life working on the railroad. From explaining the tools that were used, to the living accommodations while laying tracks in Illinois. Another ZHA member, Bob Porter, added in comments as he too once laid tracks in Iowa. We learned everything from the type of shovel used to sleeping in the railroad cars. He shared a nice display of pictures showing some of the equipment used then and now.

For **September**, our program chairwoman, Irene Dobson, says our guest speaker will be a surprise! Make sure to come and find out who it will be.

Thursday, October 29, 2015 will be our next Rosemary Trotman Scholarship Fundraiser Day

Dine anytime that day at **Ruby Tuesday's** in Zephyrhills and give a flyer to your server. The historical association will earn 20% of your purchase for our scholarship fund. We are looking for other restaurants who would like to participate in the Community GiveBack Program as well. For a flyer, email ZHA member, Patty Thompson at PattyCakeClown1@aol.com.

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Email address is on the home page

ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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The ZHA dinner night out this month was at DiMaggio's *That's Amore* Italian Restaurant on Gall Boulevard in Zephyrhills. Each month the member having a birthday in that month has the honor of selecting the restaurant of their choice. For most of us, this was our first time since the new business opened. The food was very good and plentiful. Thank you to the owners for making us awesome tasting cupcakes.



Front: Ann & George Boone

Left to Right: Gail and Nathan Geiger, Jeff White and girlfriend, Bob and Penny Porter, Rose Carrigg, Clereen Brunty, Carolyn Dean, Polly Gill, Bob Kustes, Carol and Rod Rehrig, Terry and Jackie Lindsey, Margie Partain, Patty Thompson, Betty O'Dell, Ken Cummings, Maryhelen Clague, Jo White, and Emilie Mastin

Special prayers for our President, Jerry Pricher, who recently went through a quadruple bypass. Take it easy and may you have a speedy recovery...

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 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Sales & Service</p> <p>Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p> 	 <p>ARMY STRONG <i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p>MICHAEL J. COCKILL Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h) Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m) mcockill@tampabay.rr.com ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p>
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Zephyrhills High School JROTC Program Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Clereen Brunty had a conversation with ZHA member, Colonel Michael Cockill, regarding the upcoming 30th anniversary of the JROTC program at ZHS.

Mike said, "I consider ZHS Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) an important historical happening in Z'hills. This school year (2014-15) is the 30th year of JROTC. The late Command Sergeant Major John J. McMaines, Jr., and I opened the program in August 1985, after being selected by principal, Larry Robison. Mr. Robison had Navy JROTC at Gulf High School and sought after a program for ZHS. I was the commander of Army JROTC in New Jersey and New York, supervising the twenty-seven college programs (and JROTC) in those states".

"Upon learning of the Army's approval of the ZHS opening, I applied for the Senior Army Instructor position. Little known locally, I also applied for the same position at Spruce Creek HS in Port Orange, FL, that selected an officer serving in Daytona Beach on reserve component duty. When my wife Anita, son Patrick and I drove into town for Mr. Robison's interview a bumper sticker announced "would the last person leaving Michigan please turn out the lights." Shortly afterward, we arrived in your great city – Patrick enrolled for 8th grade at the middle school with guidance counselor, Madonna Wise's help, and the Bulldog battalion signed-up over 100 first-year cadets. In the second semester we received Army uniforms. It was a terrific opening year."

"The first battalion commander was Troy Hochstetler, ZHS Class of 1986. He later taught science at his alma mater and coached football under Tom Fisher. Troy is now a science teacher and assistant football coach at Pasco High School.



Madonna and Clereen had the pleasure of interviewing Colonel Cockill and Command Sergeant Major McMaines in 2010 to get the history of how the program was formed at Zephyrhills High school. This would have been the 25th year of the program which is still going strong today. Below is an excerpt from the article printed in the Zephyrhills News.

Celebration of Generations 1910 - 2010

Article #68 - May 20, 2010

By Madonna Jervis Wise and Clereen Morrill Brunty

With the assistance of retired ZHS teacher, Caroline Marlette, former ZHS Principal, Larry Robison, interviews with the first two instructors of the Zephyrhills High School JROTC program, as well as bios from several ZHS grads and news articles on those who lost their lives, we were able to compile a Memorial Day tribute to honor those who served or is currently serving our country. The next couple of weeks will be a discovery of those proud men and women from all of the armed forces.



Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) is a high school-based training program offered as a ZHS elective that focuses on leadership development, problem solving, strategic planning and professional ethics.

In 1985, Zephyrhills High School added the JROTC program to its curriculum. Larry Robison, Principal, added the unit after he had successfully initiated an JROTC program at Gulf High School, where he had previously been principal before coming to Zephyrhills High School in the fall of 1980.

Mr. Robison stated: "Adding the JROTC program to ZHS was one of the accomplishments of which I am most proud." He added "the combination of the two men who started the ZHS program, Colonel Michael Cockill and Command Sergeant Major John McMaines, complemented each other perfectly."

Mr. Robison observed, "Over the years, JROTC has provided young men and women the opportunity to excel in an area that they could eventually select to be their vocation. JROTC provided students the chance to be a leader, a follower, and a team player. Students in the program have the opportunity to receive scholarships to college and to enter the military at a higher pay grade by having been in the program demonstrating their commitment to the military." Mr. Robison summarized by saying, "It is just a great program for young people."



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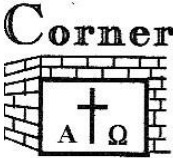


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Colonel Michael Cockill, from Washington, D.C., graduated from Widener University with a BA in English and a commission from its Army ROTC program. He proceeded to Ft. Benning, GA, where he attended the Infantry Officer, Airborne and Ranger schools. He served as an Infantry platoon leader in the 24th Inf. Division, Germany. He was assigned to the Adjutant General's Corps, the human resources branch of the Army, followed by middle manager and executive type jobs in the 101st Airborne Division; US Army, Japan; Dept of Army HQ; Vietnam; Berlin, Germany; then ROTC duty as Professor of Military Science, Old Dominion University, and finally as Brigade Commander of ROTC in NJ-NY, supervising the 27 university programs in those states. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and also received an M.Ed. in counseling/human services from Boston University.

Col. Cockill and his wife, Anita, have a daughter and two sons, with four grandchildren. Among the decorations he received are: Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (3), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2) and Army Commendation Medal.

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) John McMaines is from Baltimore, Maryland. After high school he worked as a race-horse training jockey at Pimlico Race Track, before being drafted into the Army. While attending the University of Texas at El Paso, he met his wife Sun. He has a son and two daughters. CSM McMaines taught ROTC at Western Maryland College and at the Army's Command and General Staff College. He was Commandant of the 5th Infantry Division Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) Academy, a distinguished graduate of the 1st Army NCO Academy, and a graduate of the Army's Sergeants Major Academy.

He served two tours each in Korea and Vietnam and three times in Germany. Before retiring from active service to come to ZHS, he was a Basic Training Brigade CSM at Ft Dix, NJ.

CSM McMaines received numerous decorations and awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (9) and Army Achievement Medal (3), plus the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm/Bronze Star (2).

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Zephyrhills High School owes considerable debt to Principal Larry Robison for selecting such admirable men to establish JROTC in our school and to these men whose medals are but an indication of their value in the service to their country. Our students could not have had better role models or more capable instructors.

Here is information on some JROTC students by graduation year:



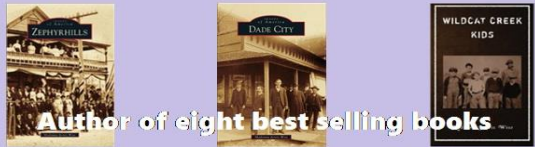

Stephen G. Bunner, 1988 – JROTC 2 years. Enlisted into the United States Air Force as Rank E4 and served 10-years of Active Duty in Desert Storm, Korea and Germany. He is currently in the reserves and a Corporal with the Pasco County Sheriff's Department. He is a wonderful son-in-law, a great husband and the father of two as provided by mother-in-law, Debbie Padgett, ZHS Class of 1976. Stephen is married to Courtney Sullivan from ZHS Class of 1997.

Rodney Rehrig, 1988 - was enrolled in the JROTC program for the first two years it existed at the school (1985-87) and attained the rank of Cadet Captain and was selected as the S-3 Security Officer. He also attended the first summer camp the program offered at Fort Jackson, SC. During my senior year, I enlisted in the Marine Corps and entered active duty in September 1988. Rehrig served 8 years of active duty from 1988-1996 and 6 years voluntarily in the Individual Ready Reserve from 1996-2002. After recruit training at Parris Island, SC and specialty training at Camp LeJeune, NC, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan; Quantico, VA and San Diego, CA. Rehrig attained the rank of Staff Sergeant in 1998. *"As a result of my service in the Marine Corps, I have received many great things in life. Among the tangible things are a wonderful wife (whom I met while at Quantico) and three awesome sons as well as a college degree (paid for mostly by the Government), which led to a career with a global company where I have worked for 14 years. The intangible things I gained from the Marine Corps -- honor, courage, commitment, perseverance, willpower, etc -- have shaped me as a man more than any other aspect of my upbringing or life thereafter. I am forever grateful to my Corps and Country for the opportunities both have afforded me. Thanks for your consideration of using this information and for the effort you are making to honor ZHS veterans." Semper Fidelis!*



Wentz Jerome Henry "Baron" Shanaberger, III, 1988 – a former JROTC student at ZHS enlisted at age 18 into the United States Army and was assigned to the 21st Military Police Company stationed in Fort Bragg, NC. Shanaberger also served in Desert Storm in 1998 and was **Killed In Action** on March 24, 2004 while investigating a suspicious vehicle when he was attacked by a group using small arms and an improvised explosive device.

Michelle "Missy" (Moore) Wagner, 1989 - Missy was one of the first few people to complete the first 4 years of JROTC at ZHS with Col. Cockill and Sgt Major McMaines. She graduated as Captain in Company B Commander. Do to allergies she was denied entering any branch of the military. *"I feel the 4 years spent in JROTC helped me to be a leader in all my endeavors."* Col. Cockill told us Missy and her friend, Kathy Dunsmore, were track and cross country running stars for ZHS who attended a JROTC summer camp at Fort Jackson, SC. *"They were among the best cadets in camp as they were both excellent leaders and fast runners."* Cockill further added, *"At a field day type drill meet in Tampa, which was attended by about 15 schools, Missy and Joe McCaslin, a football and wrestling player, both won their 1-mile run for ZHS. Our drill team and color guard did great also so we finished with lots of first-place trophies."*

 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p>  <p>813-782-4001 813-469-3437</p> <p>Joni Gauger owner/stylist</p> <p>6132 Fort King Rd. Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p>
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Trevor Gray, 1990 - a JROTC student for 3 years and Drill Team Commander for 2 of them, served in the United States Marine Corps from February 1995 to May 2006 and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was medically retired after being wounded twice in Iraq. Trevor and his wife, Ruth (Rotstein), ZHS Class of 1991, have been stationed in California, South Carolina, and Okinawa, Japan as well as Iraq.



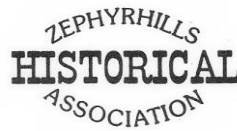

Kim Marie (Ciappetta) Humphrey, 1990 - had 1 year of JROTC at ZHS then joined the United States Marine Corps and ranked as E-4/Corporal with four years of active duty service. Places Kim served include Camp Pendleton, CA in the Military Police Company, 1st Marine Division & Quantico, VA, HMX-1 with the Presidential Helicopter Squadron and in Managua, Nicaragua in 1999.

Nichelle Renee (Robinson) Young, 1990 - Specialist Young joined the United States Army and is stationed at Fort Hood, TX for the second time. She has a total of 10 years of service in the military and is a wife and a mother of two. Nichelle joined the US Army when she was 18 years of age, her senior year at ZHS, and joined the US Army Reserves. She served with them for 6 years and then returned to be a civilian but joined again later on in 1996-1999. At that time, she was stationed on Active Duty at Fort Hood, TX. Nichelle then deployed for 6 months to Bosnia with a medical battalion. Specialist Young left the Army in 1999 but did, of course, sign up and return again for a third time in January 2008 until the present. *"I have just returned from a yearlong tour in Baghdad, Iraq on February 18, 2010 and have just found out that our unit may be going to Afghanistan in April 2011. I belong to the First Cavalry Division on Fort Hood, TX so that explains the rapid deployments. My goals are to progress as far as I can in my military career."*



David Somers, 1991 - He was not in the military but was in JROTC for 4 yrs. *"CSM McMaines did alot of the teaching and was somewhat like a father figure to me. Every year when they would take JROTC pics, he would select two students to take a personal pic with. One year he took one with me and Frank Griley. I have very fond memories of him"* says David. *"CSM McMaines was JROTC to me. He offered a unique approach to teaching using firsthand accounts of his experiences to the lessons. He was not only a stern, fair disciplinarian, but had a great sense of humor, as well."*

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY, JROTC!!!

<p style="text-align: center;">  ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Est. 1980 </p> <p>History is like looking through a "Window into the Past". Learn about Zephyrhills, its pioneer families and the growth of our area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COME JOIN US!!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  the Chart media </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Gina King Granger Social Media & Digital Marketing Strategist </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> (813) 602-1818 PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539 gina@offthechartmedia.com </p>
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