

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 17 – Number 9

September 2015

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th 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.

Program

Our **September** program was an open forum with members reminiscing about what Zephyrhills was like in the early years. It was enjoyable to “take a walk down memory lane.”

For **October**, our historical member, Louie Holt, will present another slideshow segment of new pictures not shown before from old postcards of Zephyrhills recently found on the internet. Come and enjoy with us. Refreshments are provided by members.

SPECIAL NOTE

Our Rosemary Trottman Scholarship Fundraisers Events have been changed. Due to local restaurants no longer participating in the Community Give Back Programs, members voted to donate \$5 per person each month to the scholarship fund. This will take place of having two nights out each month as in the past.

We will still continue our birthday dinner night out once a month on the Friday following the week after a meeting.

History is like looking through a “Window into the Past.” Learn about Zephyrhills, its pioneer families and the growth of our area.

Come join us!!!

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www.fivay.org

Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

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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Do you remember where you were and what you were doing on September 11, 2001? Some of the below pictures were provided by Clereen Brunty and former mayor, Cliff McDuffie.

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Never Forget The Lessons Of 9/11



**The Rest
Of The
Story**
Dave Walters



At this time especially we need to take a moment to reflect back to Sept. 11, 2001 – that horrifying day when the world seemed to stop turning.

It seemed as if the United States was one again and we all pulled together to lend a shoulder, hand, comfort, and had each other’s backs during that upsetting time in our history. It was a time when so many people lost loved ones because of the beliefs of others.

Here in the U.S., Patriot Day is observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. This occurs on Sept. 11 of each year in memory of the 2,977 people who lost their lives in the World Trade Center terror attacks in 2001.



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It will forever be a day that all will remember, and that our children will study as part of U.S. history. It was a time when God was believed in by most and the red, white, and blue ran in our blood and stood for everything we did from that day on.

It seems to me that over the years since 2001, the people of America have forgotten just what it means to be “united.” More and more, God is being removed from all that we do.

Riots break out. U.S. flags are being burned while other flags are being removed from state buildings and public places, and being disrespectful to others seems to be the norm.

I have to shake my head as I pray because I think what we need more is prayer and America needs God more than ever.

So, if you can, please take some time out of your busy day on Friday to join in a Sept. 11 Remembrance Event at the Veterans Walkway at Zephyr Park.

The Memorial Service that starts at 11 a.m. will also pay tribute to Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin, the namesake of Marine Corps League Detachment 1124 of Zephyrhills.

Sgt. Maj. Curtin was a U.S. Marine who was also a sergeant in the New York City Police Department and who lost his life when the World Trade Center collapsed on that fateful day.



Rodney Rehrig will serve as Master of Ceremonies and state Rep. Danny Burgess and Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield will be guest speakers. The Solid Gold Barbershop Quartet will sing the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.

The Zephyrhills VFW Post 8154 Honor Guard rifle team will deliver the 21-gun salute and VFW Bugler Gil Shepard will play taps. The opening and closing prayer will be delivered by Marine Corps League Assistant Chaplain Dr. Jim Shultz.

If you cannot get out to Zephyr Park on Friday at 11 a.m., please have a moment of silence for those people and their families who are still mourning their loved ones.

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Scars Remain From 9/11 Tragedy

Remembrance Held At Zephyr Park

Story and photos by **Max Zimmerman**



Friday's Sept. 11 remembrance included members of the VFW Honor Guard, the American Legion and the AMVETS.





For Americans – and the rest of the free world for that matter – it is easy yet no less painful to recall where we were and what we were doing on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Panic, fear and absolute disbelief gripped the nation each time the TV replayed the images in New York and Washington, D.C., where terrorists who hijacked four passenger planes flew them into the twin towers, the Pentagon, and rural Pennsylvania.

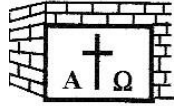
Friday marked the 14th anniversary of the attacks on America and a remembrance service in Zephyr Park recounted the pain of that shocking day and the resolute reaction of Americans on the next day – Sept. 12.

Guest speaker state Rep. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) thanked, first and foremost, the city's first responders for putting their lives "on the line to keep us safe."

Among the special guests were Fire Chief Daniel Spillman and several of his fire/rescue personnel. Police Chief David Shears also brought some of his officers along.

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From son James

God Bless America

Members of the American Legion, AMVETS and the VFW Honor Guard all participated in the ceremony.



“It’s incumbent upon us to teach our children about this day,” Burgess said, referencing his own children that were born more than a decade after that dreadful day.

“When we remember 9/11, let’s remember 9/12,” Burgess said. “Let’s remember that we all witnessed what was best about the American spirit.”

But in the 14 years following that day, Burgess said, he feared the country has drifted away from that “day after” when Americans felt collective pain and resolve.

“It’s a shame that it takes a day like that to bring us together; it shouldn’t be like that,” Burgess said. “It shouldn’t have to take such tragedy to pull us together as a country.”



Mayor Gene Whitfield, who was the Keynote speaker, somberly reminded the nearly 80 in attendance that just under 3,000 people died on 9/11, among them 333 firefighters and 11 unborn children.

The mayor defined heroism by relating the life and death of Michael Curtin. As a first responder in the Emergency Services Unit of the New York City Police Department, Curtin lost his life trying to save those who were trapped inside one of the towers.

Since that heartsick day for America, according to Whitfield, 1,400 more first responders have since died from the toxins they inhaled at the twin towers site.

The local Marine Corps League Detachment 1124 is named in honor of Curtin, a United States Marine Corps veteran. There is a stone commemorating his sacrifice on the Veterans Walk in the park.



The Solid Gold Barbershop Quartet (ZHA member, Rod Rehrig, on the right)

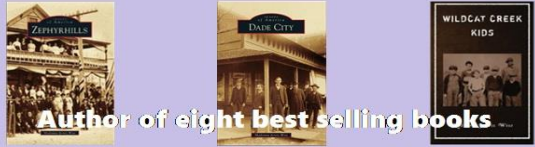



Current Mayor Gene Whitfield
Former Mayor Cliff McDuffie - Former Mayor Danny Burgess

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*Always keep the families of those who died in the 9/11 tragedy
in your thoughts and prayers...*

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