

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 20 – Number 9

September 2018

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

### Speakers



Our speaker for the September meeting was Mayor of the City of Zephyrhills, Gene Whitfield. He gave a presentation on the history of Zephyrhills mayors which was well received. Gene spoke for a few minutes on his own experience in becoming mayor, and then turned his presentation into something like a trivia contest to reveal the history of the office. We had a great deal of fun. As an example, you may not be aware that James Bailey was mayor of Zephyrhills twice. He was acting mayor when he replaced Dr. Emerson Arnot, and then he was elected on his own after the tenure of Robert Johnson. B. F. Parsons had the longest tenure as mayor (19 years), besting Johnson (15 years) and Arnot (13 years). Perhaps Gene will hang on long enough to best them all! Willa Rice remains our only female mayor.

His final trivia question to us had to do with Willa Rice. He had been given information that she and her husband died on the same day but could find no further information. He asked that folks find the answer. Clereen got to work and determined that his information was mistaken. According to other sources, her husband died in 1952, thirteen years before Willa's death in 1965.

Our speaker for the October meeting is going to be a surprise. I will explain when I introduce the speaker. Come to our meeting to find out, or wait until next month's newsletter. I hope you will come join us!

**Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser**  
at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant** on Hwy. 54 West in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m.  
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 - [pattycakeclown1@aol.com](mailto:pattycakeclown1@aol.com)) for information.



## E54 SELF STORAGE

38461 County Road 54  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813-788-5969

5x5 | 5x10 | 10x10 | 10x15 | 10x20 | 20x20 | RV | BOAT

**Jeff Miller**

**Pasco County Historian**

For a walk down memory lane visit

[www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org)

Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening 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.

<u>Executive Board</u>		
President	.....	Jerry Pricher
Vice President	.....	Rod Rehrig
Secretary	.....	Anna Boone
Treasurer	.....	Andrew Nagy
<u>Board Members</u>		
Tenci Alexander		
Clereen Brunty		
Polly Gill		
Patty Thompson		
<u>Committees</u>		
Ads for Tracks	.....	Clereen Brunty
Hospitality	.....	Tenci Alexander
Refreshments	.....	Polly Gill
Newsletter	.....	Jerry Pricher
		Clereen Brunty
Programs	.....	Jerry Pricher
Scholarship	.....	Louie Holt
		Jerry Pricher
Archivist	.....	Louie Holt

Boardwalk Boosters

Duke Chadwell  
 Michael Cockill  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Greg First  
 Polly Gill  
 Jackie & Terry Lindsey  
 Rod & Carol Rehrig  
 Margaret Seppanen

Scholarship Boosters

George & Anna Boone  
 Clereen Brunty  
 Elsie Burgess  
 Duke Chadwell  
 Maryhelen Clague  
 Michael Cockill  
 Jeffrey Cook  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Polly Gill  
 Gina Granger  
 Louie Holt  
 Thea Johnson  
 Bill Kustes  
 Anne Mester  
 Dr. Richard Moore  
 Andrew Nagy  
 Jerry Pricher  
 Linda Sante  
 Margaret Seppanen  
 Steve Spina

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Tenci Alexander	Duke Chadwell	Betty Hall	Rick Moore	Tim Sanders
Raymond Alvarez	Vera Chenkin	Beverly Holmes	Andrew Nagy	Linda Sante
Darlene Bamberger	Maryhelen Clague	Louie Holt	Margie Partain	Jason Sasser
Beverly Barnett	Michael Cockill	Thea Johnson	Shirley Pillow	Margaret Seppanen
Elaine Benjamin	Jeffrey Cook	James Kaylor	Bob Porter	Steve Spina
Art Besinger	Carolyn Dean	Jean Kaylor	Penny Porter	Al Stone
John Bolender	Irene Dobson	Connie Kirkland	Jerry Pricher	Patty Thompson
Anna Boone	Vicki Elkins	Bill Kustes	Carol Rehrig	Steve Turner
George Boone	Greg First	Jackie Lindsey	Rodney Rehrig	Terry Turner
Lori Brightwell	Gail Geiger	Terry Lindsey	Sharon Reisman	Dave Walters
Clereen Brunty	Nathan Geiger	Anne Mester	Jim Ryals	Ernie Wise
Elsie Burgess	Judy Gibson	Jeff Miller	Tammy Kay Ryman	Madonna Wise
Kathy Burnside	Polly Gill	Barb Moore	Kim Sanders	
Rosemary Carrigg	Gina King Granger	Dr. Rick Moore	Mary Ann Sanders	

 <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b>                  ZHS Alumni Contact  <b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b>  <b>813-782-8763</b></p>	 <p><b>chalet flowers</b>                  Kim Tim  Maryann Sanders                  owners                  Ph: 813-788-2874                  chaletflowersfl.com</p> <p>5002 7th Street                  Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
---	--

Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

**From the Desk of the Editor:**

We lost Michael Cockill just a few days ago. He was a member of our organization, an advertiser, a booster, a scholarship supporter, a friend and an encourager. He will be missed. Michael’s friend and fellow member, Greg First, paid tribute to him, and I’m including an article Clereen and Madonna did about the program he helped start at ZHS. May we always remember him.

**The Loss of a Leader, Mentor and a Friend**

*by Greg First*  
 Zephyrhills FreePress  
 September 20, 2018

We meet many men and women on our life’s journey who make a real difference. Many leave a lasting impression that will last a lifetime. It may be through compassion, leadership, friendship, or just simply by being humble and leading by example. Col. Michael Cockill was one of those men who touched thousands throughout his years. He was truly one of the good guys and made a big difference in my life.




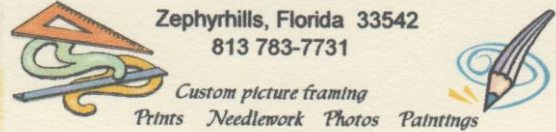
I have known Col. Cockill for what seems like forever. He served in the United States Army. After more than 27 years he retired in 1985 and joined Zephyrhills High School. He worked and volunteered in several capacities and left ZHS in 1996. I remember at every home football game at Bulldog Stadium Mike would personally contact me and let me know every cadet who would be involved at the game. We would go over the list to make sure I pronounced the names correctly. That was a big deal to him.

Looking over the hundreds of comments on Facebook everyone who knew him loved him. He taught his students patriotism and respect and to always do the best you can under any circumstances. He led by example and always practiced what he preached.

It is my understanding that Mike was the founder of the JROTC program at ZHS that still continues today. Even today one of the cadets brings a list of those who will be participating in the presentation of colors and pledge to the press box. We still go over every single name.

I read that during his coaching days Mike sent one of the players to football camp who couldn’t afford to go with the team. That is something he would do. He was not looking for a pat on the back or recognition. He would always go above and beyond to find ways to help those who needed a boost. I also read that he became a pen pal to one of his students who went in the United States Air Force. Again, that was Mike.

I don’t know all of his family that well but I do know he was married to the love of his life, Anita, for nearly 60 years. I do know his son Patrick and his wife Tammy. They are an awesome couple. I remember when they both would check on our house in Homosassa after Hurricane Irma flooded this area. They would send photos and my wife Jenny and I will always appreciate that. I also remember when Jenny was having a procedure at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and they allowed me to go back into the recovery room. I heard someone shout, “The Voice of the Bulldogs.” It was Patrick, who was Jenny’s nurse. That moment was priceless for the both of us.

 <p><b>Gina King Granger</b>                  Social Media &amp; Digital Marketing Strategist</p> <p>(813) 602-1818                  PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539                  gina@offthechartmedia.com</p>	<p><i>Artistic Expressions</i>                  5906 7th Street                  Zephyrhills, Florida 33542                  813 783-7731</p>  <p>Custom picture framing                  Prints Needlework Photos Paintings                  Computer photo editing</p> <p>Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner      aeframer@gmail.com</p>
---	--

As we remember the life of Col. Cockill we will look back and remember. We will remember a man who always had an encouraging word for everyone he met. We will remember many of his funny stories. We will remember his awesome smile. We will always remember it is better to give than to receive. RIP Col. Cockill. Our loss is Heaven’s gain. I’m sure that as Mike looks into the eyes of our Lord and Savior he will hear those awesome words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

A funeral service for Col. Cockill will be at Whitfield Funeral Home in Zephyrhills on September 28 at 11 a.m. and then on to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell at 1:30 p.m.

**Origin of ZHS JROTC Program**

Interview with Colonel Michael Cockill & Command Sergeant Major John McMaines

*Written by Madonna Jervis Wise and Clereen Morrill Brunty*

May 20, 2010

Service is such a vital part of American citizenship and ZHS has honored military commitment throughout its 100 years with modern evidence in the creation of an ROTC curriculum. Alumni and readers have requested that we write about military service and the development of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) at Zephyrhills High School and impact upon our community and country. We humbly assemble this compilation of information in honor of two significant holidays that occur in May: **Armed Services Day now known as Armed Forces Day** celebrated on the third Saturday in May to honor the men and women who serve in the five U.S. military branches, (first begun in 1949) as well as **Memorial Day** aka Decoration Day (first created in 1868) as a sacred observance to honor ‘those who gave their all’ to our country. (At one point a separate Confederate Memorial Day was observed in Florida

on April 26<sup>th</sup> as well near this time or year.) Of late our country has felt the need to re-emphasize the significance of these important days with a 2000 Congressional resolution passed to help re-educate Americans on the meaning of Memorial Day which asks that all observe a ‘national moment of remembrance,’ even suggesting they listen to the emotional melodious wail of *Taps* and spend a moment of reflection.



Reserved Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) 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 ROTC program to its curriculum. Larry Robison, Principal, added the unit after he had successfully initiated an ROTC 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 ROTC 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, ROTC has provided young men and women the opportunity to excel in an area that they could eventually select to be their vocation. ROTC 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.”

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATSON CLINIC</b> <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rick L. Moore, M.D.</b> Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Memory of</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b> And Great Parents <b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">From son James</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>God Bless America</b></p>
--	--

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 MA in counseling/human services from Boston University.



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. Col. Cockill and his wife, Anita, have a daughter and two sons, with four grandchildren.



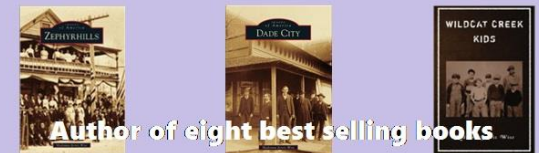

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) John McMaines is from Baltimore, Maryland. After high school he worked as a race-horse training jockey at Pimlico Race Track, before being drafted into the Army. While attending the University of Texas at El Paso, he met his wife Sun. He has a son and two daughters. CSM McMaines 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.

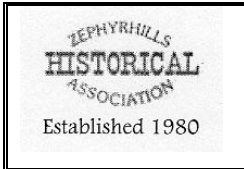
He served two tours each in Korea and Vietnam and three times in Germany. Before retiring from active service to come to ZHS, he was a Basic Training Brigade CSM at Ft Dix, NJ.

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 (9), plus the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm/Bronze Star (2).

Zephyrhills High School owes considerable debt to Principal Larry Robison for selecting such admirable men to establish ROTC 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.



 <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b>                  Author, Research &amp; Consulting                  Madonna Jervis Wise                  Zephyrhills, Florida                  Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p><b>813-469-8627</b>                  MadonnaJWise@gmail.com  <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Garage Doors, Inc.</b>                  Garage Doors                  Sales &amp; Service</p> <p><b>Kerry Ryman</b>                  President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541                  Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:kerry@rymanconstruction.com">kerry@rymanconstruction.com</a>                  License # GDI 09084</p>
---	---



ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2018

President Jerry Pricher called to order the September meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association at 5:30 P.M., who gave the Invocation and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the August Meeting were presented by the Secretary with a motion for approval made by Rod Rehrig, seconded by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by the group.

Treasurer Andrew Nagy gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve was made by Terry Lindsey, seconded by Bev Holmes and accepted by all.

There are no visitors tonight.

Old Business: Patty is not here so Clereen will email her a note to bring flyers when we meet at Sergio's on September 18, 4 P.M. for the Scholarship Fundraiser.

Terry Lindsey asked if there is news regarding the Depot, stating that maintenance people are complaining because of all the stuff in their way. Jerry said he will contact someone at the City.

Other Old Business: Rod reminded about the Marine Corps League 9/11 program, scheduled for September 11 at 11 A.M. at the Veterans' Walk Way in Zephyr Park. Bev Holmes, Marine Corps League chaplain, asked if anyone knows of people in the area who may have lost someone in the Twin Towers.

Andy asked Bev if she has any news regarding the widow whose Marine husband had written in small notebooks while in the in Pacific during WW2 but the lady doesn't seem interested at this time.

New Business: Andrew announced that the Veterans' Day Parade will be on November 10th and that there will be a ceremony at Zephyr Park on November 11th.

A motion for adjournment was made by Clereen, seconded by Rod and agreed to by all.

The meeting concluded at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V, Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association

Guest speaker for tonight will be Mayor Gene Whitfield.

Zephyrhills Museum of Military History
A City of Zephyrhills Facility
Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078

ARMY STRONG
Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"
MICHAEL J. COCKILL
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
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!