

## Job transfer tool sharpens for families on the move

By KARI HAWKINS  
Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

A program is being expanded by the Army Materiel Command to provide Nonappropriated Funds employees better opportunities as they move with their Soldier or civilian through a career that demands mobility.

The NAF Child and Youth Services Employee Assignment Tool developed by the Army G-1 Civilian Personnel NAF Division – open only to employees working in child and youth programs at Army installations – is now the NAF Civilian Employment Assignment Tool open to most employees working in NAF programs. These include the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities such as bowling centers, libraries, gyms and leisure travel offices as well as child and youth services. NAF employees are different from other government civilians in that their salaries are funded by the activities where they work.

The expanded program makes it easier for NAF-employed spouses to continue their own careers, even when they are disrupted by an installation move due to their spouse's highly mobile career.

**See Tool on page 15**



Army photo by Sgt. Melissa Lessard, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade

**Families like Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill's at Fort Hood, Texas, can take advantage of the expanded Nonappropriated Funds Civilian Employment Assignment Tool developed for NAF-employed spouses who need to transfer their employment to another military installation because of their spouse's relocation.**

## Army general to co-lead Operation Warp Speed for COVID-19 vaccine

By DAVID VERGUN  
Defense.gov

President Donald Trump announced on Friday that Army Gen. Gustavo Perna, the commander of Army Materiel Command, will co-lead an effort, dubbed Operation Warp Speed, to find a vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the Defense Department is very excited and committed to partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services, across the government, and in the private sector to accomplish the mission. "Winning matters, and we will deliver by the end of this year a vaccine at scale to treat the American people and our partners abroad," he said.

The goal is to produce about 300 million vaccines by January, said Jonathan Rath Hoffman, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, at a Pentagon press briefing on Friday.

Hoffman mentioned that it's a goal involving a whole-of-

**See operation on page 16**



Photo by Kevin Fleming

**Gen. Gustavo F. Perna, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, talks about his current vision for reform during a quarterly update at Sustainment Command headquarters, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, Feb. 26. Perna will co-lead an effort, dubbed Operation Warp Speed, to find a vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021.**



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Highway cleanup paves way for next repair phase.

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### MILITARY SCENE

Medical logistics mission joins life cycle management command.

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### WIN OR LOSE

Classic replay: Lumberjacks chop down mighty Duke.

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## On this date in history: May 20

**In 2013:** An EF5 tornado struck the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore, killing 24 people and injuring 377 others.

**In 1983:** First publications were made of the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS in the journal *Science* by Luc Montagnier.

**In 1949:** In the United States, the Armed Forces Security Agency, the predecessor to the National Security Agency, was established.

**In 1940:** During the Holocaust, The first prisoners arrived at a new concentration camp at Auschwitz.

**In 1932:** Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland to begin the world's first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean by a female pilot, landing in Ireland the next day.

**In 1902:** Cuba gained independence from the United States. Tomás Estrada Palma became the country's first president.

## Final Salute

Here is a list of Tennessee Valley veterans who have died recently. The Redstone Rocket salutes them for their service.

**John Calvin Martin**, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, died May 10 at his home. He was born Sept. 18, 1923, in Limestone County. Besides the Purple Heart, Martin received multiple commendations during his service in the Army Air Corps and later the Air Force. He served January 1942 to September 1953 and flew numerous missions as a tail gunner on the B-17 and the B-24 during the war.

*Editor's note: If you know a veteran who has passed away, email their information to [jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com) to be included in the next Final Salute.*

## Send your letters to editor

The Redstone Rocket invites your signed letters to the editor and your commentaries. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send your letters and commentaries to [Skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:Skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com).

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## Cutting corners on barber might work ... eventually

The wait was 137 minutes.

So, I decided to live with my mistake a little while longer.

Flashback to four days ago. All of the hair salons and barbershops were still closed.

I was digging around under the sink in my bathroom, and I came across a set of hair clippers.

I vaguely remember buying them. Ever since I started losing my hair, sometime in college, my haircuts have not been complicated. So, I probably thought I'd save some money and do it myself. Like most things I buy, I bought them, put them in a drawer, and continued seeing a barber.

This clipper had been waiting 15 years for this moment. It was its time to shine.

I called out to my wife, and she knew. She knew I was about to do something stupid, and she didn't want any part of it. Her main concern was that she'd mess up my hair.

I told her, first of all, there's not a lot to mess up. Second of all, even if you do, we'll just cut it shorter.

Nevertheless, despite my pleas, she was resolute.

So, I did what any strong, independent, 36-year-old would do. I went to see momma.

I show up at my parents' house, clippers in hand, and knock on the door.

It takes my dad a solid 15 minutes to open the door. He's installed little metal plates behind each door that is supposed to prevent someone from kicking it in.

Why? I don't know, but when he does finally disable all of the security measures – picture a medieval castle opening its main gate and lowering a drawbridge across the moat – he quips some joke about it being a quarantine and that I should go away.

I know it's a joke because up until the week before, nobody was allowed in the house, and at one point during the quarantine, he did in fact tell me to go away. That time he hadn't unbarred the door.

So, I walked through the front door and proceeded to go through the same process

### Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

of breaching a castle to go out the backdoor and onto the deck.

I got everything set up and started cutting my hair.

I started with a longer guard than usual. I figured there would be a learning curve, but things were going so smoothly. I kicked myself for not doing this sooner.

I had the front and sides done, and now it was time for the back.

This is where momma comes in. It's hard to cut the hair on the backside of your head.

So, she takes the clippers and starts cutting.

Again, things are going great. Then the clippers stopped cutting. Three-fourths of the way done, and the clippers die.

No big deal. I'll get some new ones from the store.

There is not a store in Huntsville that has hair clippers in stock.

OK, that wasn't great, but I'll Amazon Prime them, and they'll be here in a couple of days.

Wrong!  
Amazon won't have any hair clippers in stock until later this month.

The good news is between the baldness and using a long guard if I don't show you where the clippers stopped, it's tough to tell – especially if I just keep turning my head, so you never see the spot where they stopped working side-by-side with the last place they worked.

I've waited about a week with this haircut, so I think I'm going to give it a little time for the rush of people to pass at the hair salons and barbershops. Maybe when the wait drops to under an hour. Then I'll sit in my car and wait, but at this point, there's no rush.

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# First responder spotlight

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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*What do you think of your job?*

"I was an ambulance paramedic. I worked for an ambulance service a couple of years (1999 to 2001 in Morgan County and Cullman County)," Brie Livingston, an emergency dispatcher for the NASA Joint 911 Center which serves the entire Redstone Arsenal, said. "I met some police officers that were on the job. They told me about a dispatching job. It was a significant pay raise from what I was doing. And I started working for the Hartselle Police Department in 2001. And I've been police and fire and emergency dispatching ever since. We are honestly the first responders. We are the true first responders. I'm not physically able to do what police officers and fire-fighters do anymore but I can do this to help people."



**Brie Livingston**

Livingston, 44, from Greers Ferry, Arkansas, has worked at Redstone two and a half years. The Priceville resident and her husband of seven years, Keith, have a combined two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren. She said she likes to "sing, go to church and do anything outdoors." Livingston roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents May 3-9:

**May 4:** A Redstone contractor reported vehicle damage to Redstone Police while operating a government vehicle off road in a Test Area. The left front area of the vehicle sustained damage as well as the undercarriage.

**May 5:** Redstone Police were dispatched to a tree falling on a vehicle. Police made contact with the complainant who said a tree fell across Martin

Road impacting the passenger side door and hood of the government vehicle. Seatbelts were used with no reported injuries. Traffic Accident Investigations documented the damage and Fire Services cleared the road of debris.

**May 6:** Two vehicles backed into each other from adjacent parking spaces. Both vehicles sustained minor damages.


Citations included one for driving wrong way on one way street, one for failure to obey traffic control device and three for speeding.

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## Quote of the week

"In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same."

— *Albert Einstein*

## Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

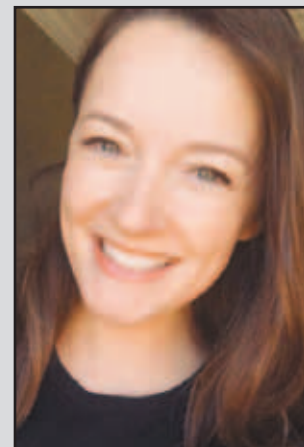
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*Being a military spouse.*

"It's an incredible honor to be a military spouse," Ana Lewis, wife of Maj. Zach Lewis who is an acquisition officer at Redstone, said. "It's also a unique lifestyle because less than 1% of the population make up the military. It's an adventure but there are definitely some challenges and excitement. And one thing that never changes are the incredible people."

Lewis, 34, a Huntsville native, arrived with her family in June 2018 from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. She and her husband of 10 years reside in Meridianville with their two daughters, Eleanor, 7, and Lucille, 5. Lewis is a member of the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club. "It's such a warm and welcoming group," she said. She has started her own business, Native or Not, which connects local businesses with the Redstone community.



**Ana Lewis**

# Know your laws: Proposed expungement of nonviolent convictions

Alabama currently allows the expungement of certain misdemeanor charges. Proposed Senate Bill 14 would allow those who have been convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses and non-violent crimes who have fulfilled all of their parole requirements to have that conviction expunged from their record. This would be the first time convictions could be taken off one's record.

Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, has researched the proposed bill designed to reduce prison recidivism by getting former inmates back to work more easily by not allowing certain offenses to be used against them on job applications.

Under proposed Senate Bill 14, "a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor offense, a violation, a

traffic violation, or a municipal ordinance violation may file a petition in the criminal division of the circuit court in the county in which the charges were filed to expunge records relating to the charge and the conviction if all of the following occur:

"The person has been granted a certificate of pardon with restoration of civil and political rights for the conviction from the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"All civil and political rights that were forfeited as a result of the conviction have been restored.

"Ninety days have passed from the date of the issuance of the certification of pardon.

"The conviction is not a violent offense, as provided in Section 12-25-32.

"The conviction is not a sex offense,

as provided in Section 15-20A-5.

"The conviction is not an offense involving moral turpitude, as provided in Section 17-3-30.1.

"The conviction is not a serious traffic offense, as provided in Article 9 of Chapter 5A of Title 32."

The proposed bill further states the following:

"A person who has been charged with any felony offense, may file a petition in the criminal division of the circuit court in the county in which the charges were filed, to expunge records relating to the charge in any of the following circumstances:

"When the charge is dismissed with prejudice and more than 90 days have passed.

"When the charge has been no billed by a grand jury and more than 90 days have passed.

"When the person has been found not guilty of the charge and more than 90 days have passed.

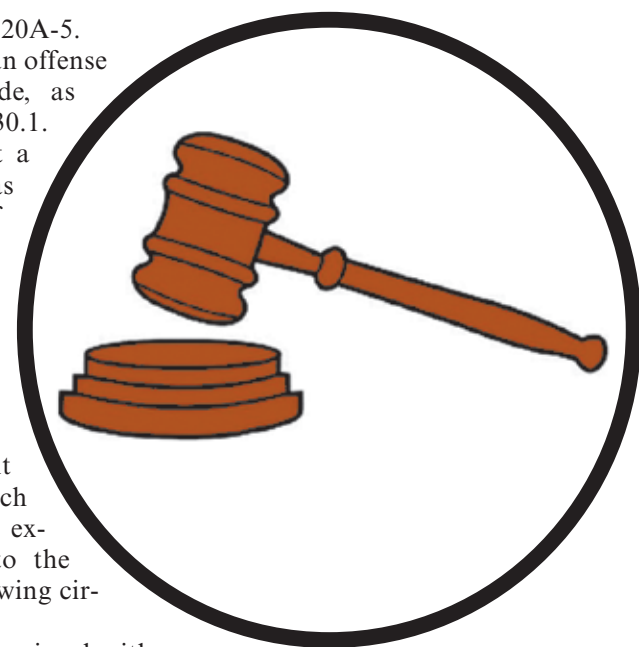
"When the charge has been nolle prossed without conditions, and more than 90 days have passed, and the charge or charges have not been refiled.

"When the indictment has been quashed and the statute of limitations for refileing the charge or charges has expired or the prosecuting agency confirms that the charge or charges will not be refiled.

"When the charge was dismissed after successful completion of a drug court program, mental health court program, diversion program, veterans court, or any court-approved deferred prosecution program after one year from successful completion of the program.

"When the charge was dismissed without prejudice more than five years ago, has not been refiled, and the person has not been convicted of any other felony or misdemeanor crime, any violation, or any traffic violation, excluding minor traffic violations, during the previous five years.

"When the person proves by a pre-



ponderance of the evidence that the person is a victim of human trafficking, that the person committed the felony offense during the period the person was being trafficked, and that the person would not have committed the felony offense but for being trafficked. Evidence that a person is a victim of human trafficking may include, but is not limited to, evidence that the person's trafficker was convicted of trafficking the person under Section 13A-6-152 or Section 13A-6-153."

In summary: Under current law, a person convicted of a criminal offense may only apply for an expungement in very limited circumstances. Proposed SB 14 would allow those convicted of misdemeanors or certain nonviolent felonies to have them expunged from their record. This bill would expand the expungement of criminal records to include convictions of certain misdemeanor offenses, traffic violations, municipal ordinances and felony offenses. A person would be required to wait 90 days after their certificate of parole has been granted before they could apply for expungement.

*Editor's note: Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, did the research and provided the content for this article.*

## DAU Corner

### Coronavirus Impact on DAU Classes

DoD and DAU's first priority is the safety of our workforce and our customers. While DAU is not offering in person engagements during this time, please do not cancel your class attendance yet. We have rescued over half of our courses using a Virtual Instructor Led Training platform. Students will be notified several days in advance of the scheduled start date whether their class will be cancelled or offered online. For latest status on DAU courses see: <https://www.dau.edu/News/Coronavirus-Course-Impacts>.

DAU is committed to working with your organization to adapt our mission assistance workshops, team training, and consulting products and services to the virtual environment to ensure your learning needs are met during this time of restricted face to face contact.

Coronavirus Acquisition Guidance and Resources see: <https://www.dau.edu/News/Acquisition-Guidance-and-Resources>

On 1 Apr 2020 the USD (A&S), Ms. Ellen Lord, granted a 12-Month Extension of Grace Period for meeting Acquisition Position Certification Requirements. "To mitigate the impact on workforce members, effective immediately, the certification completion requirement is extended from 24 months to 36 months for each AWF member. Additionally, this includes all current AWF members with new position requirements and all hires into the AWF within 12 months from the date of this memorandum."

# Highway cleanup paves way for next repair phase

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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A week after opening bids for phase 2 of the U.S. 231 repairs, ALDOT announced Friday that phase 1 had been completed.

This paves the way for phase 2 to begin in June 1.

During phase 1, Reed Contracting cleared about 220,000 cubic yards of debris caused by a landslide on Brindlee Mountain that took place back in February and shut down the portion of U.S. 231.

“We’re grateful to Reed for their hard work and flexibility to meet increasing demands while staying in sync with the timetable for bridge design and project letting for phase 2,” Seth Burkett, a spokesman for Alabama Department of Transportation, said. “Reed certainly finished early in terms of the amount of work accomplished, considering the final quantities to be removed rose as the bridge plan developed. Schedule-wise, it worked out perfectly, clearing the way in time for mobilization of the bridge contractor.”

Over the next two weeks, Brasfield & Gorrie, the contractors who won the \$14.6 million bid for phase 2 of the repair project will start moving equipment in and completing prep-work on the site.

All of the aforementioned work will take place while nearly \$4.2 million in



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Reed Contracting has finished clearing 220,000 cubic yards of debris from the damaged section on U.S. 231 near Brindlee Mountain.**

custom-fabricated bridge materials that ALDOT ordered in advance to help expedite the repairs is starting to

be delivered.

The bridges are expected to be completed and the road reopened before

Dec. 2 and if the contractors finish earlier the company can earn up to \$2.5 million in incentives.

# Emergency medical calls decrease nationally

From HEMSI

Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Inc. is stressing the importance of calling 911 for medical emergencies. Officials are also addressing patient concerns about possible exposure to COVID-19 and emphasizing the critical need for emergency care in acute, life-threatening situations.

In a recent survey of over 860 EMS agencies across the country by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, 69% of respondents reported their EMS responses have decreased, with an average reduction of 34%. Since the onset of COVID-19, Madison County has seen a 20% reduction overall and 25% fewer calls related to cardiac and neuro-related events.

“We are extremely concerned that people not calling 911 because they are afraid of contracting the virus,” HEMSI CEO Jon Howell said. “Unfortunately, waiting to call can deprive patients of critical time for needed for medical intervention, especially for cardiac arrest and stroke victims.

“We want to make sure everyone knows that HEMSI has strict protocols in place

to safeguard our patients. Our crews are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), and all of our equipment receives thorough cleaning following each call before the unit goes out again.”

Howell concluded, “Calling is safe. Don’t wait to get help – minutes matter.”

## In this section...

**PHASED, GRADUAL REOPENING PLANNED FOR MARSHALL WORKFORCE UPDATED ON EXPECTED GATES REOPENING TOWN CREEK NATIVE SERVED WITH MARINES IN VIETNAM BIG RED CRANE IS LEAVING THE BUILDING LEADERS ADDRESS SCREENING FOR WORKERS RETURN MILITARY SPOUSE PROGRAM EXTENDS DEADLINE**

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# Phased, gradual reopening planned for Marshall

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Public Affairs

When Marshall Space Flight Center team members return to on-site work, their health and safety will be paramount.

As COVID-19 conditions improve, NASA will conduct a phased and gradual return to work at agency centers and facilities. NASA has updated its COVID-19 response framework to provide clarifications and additional guidance for moving back through stages. Marshall remains at Stage 4.

NASA leadership worked with center directors to develop plans on how to reopen the agency, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said during a virtual agencywide town hall May 6.

“We as leaders of this agency are putting the health and safety of the workforce No. 1,” he said, “and as we go through this process, we’re going to go slowly. We’re going to go methodically. We’re certainly not going to do anything that puts anybody in danger, and we’re going to have all the mitigating guidelines in place as we move forward.”

At Marshall, planning is underway to transition safely, orderly and transparently as center leadership makes decisions about work that can resume on-site by evaluating local conditions, agency guidance, White House and Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Team Redstone and state guidance.

“The plans will evolve as we learn more about how to mitigate the effects of the virus on our center and community,” Marshall Director Jody Singer told employees in a center-wide message May 8. “The execution of these plans will take time for a reason – it must be a team effort.”

As Marshall restarts on-site work, priority is being given to work that supports critical International Space Station and Commercial Crew Program hardware, tasks on the critical path for the Artemis program, national security and regulatory and other national and international commitments.

Marshall team members should take responsibility for their personal safety. Those who are sick should stay home. Those returning to on-site work should practice social distancing – staying 6 feet apart – and follow other safety guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus. Marshall intends to provide a mask for those coming on-site to work. However, center mask supplies are low and Marshall leadership encourages all team members who can bring their own cloth face covering to do so. Team members should wear their mask or cloth face covering when social distancing isn’t possible.

“Your personal responsibility is sometimes staying home, especially if you have symptoms and/or are sick, to make sure that you’re not infecting others,” Dr. JD Polk, NASA’s chief health and medical officer, said during the town hall. “We’ve shown that we can work from afar, and we need to take that into account. So don’t be afraid to pull yourself out and say, ‘I’m having symptoms. I don’t think it’s good for me to go to work today.’”

Team members who don’t feel safe at work, or who identify a need for any accommodations, should notify their supervisor. Alternate work arrangements will be made without reservation or reprisal. Those who can accomplish their job via telework are encouraged to continue doing so, NASA



NASA photo

**Marshall headquarters building 4200 is located on Rideout Road.**

Deputy Administrator Jim Morhard wrote in an agencywide message.

“Your safety is our No. 1, highest priority,” Bridenstine said during the town hall. “If people don’t feel comfortable going to work, either for themselves or for their loved ones at home, we want to do everything we can to accommodate those challenging circumstances.”

# Workforce updated on expected gates reopening

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

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The numbers of workers on post has increased – ever so slightly – from where it was a couple of weeks ago, which has led some to ask when will Gate 3 and Gate 10 be open.

Redstone leaders closed the gates when the post entered Health Protection Condition Bravo. According to Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith, there are still about two steps the Arsenal needs to take before opening the gates back up.

“When we do open Gate 3 and Gate 10, you will notice that quite a bit of construction has taken place in coordination with the city and Huntsville utilities,” he said. “We’ve repaved Patton Road. So, your entry off of 565, driving all the way up to Gate 10, is going to be smooth. And likewise, the construction going out at Haysland Park that was interfering with Gate 3 is nearing completion. So, when we do open Gate 3, it’ll be a much better transition for all of us.”



Smith elaborated on what had to happen before it’s reopened.

First, the Garrison will increase the number of guards at the gates currently in operation, increasing the ability to process more people through those gates.

Then as those gates see increased demand, Smith said they would seek to open gates 3 and 10.

“So, in the process of keeping that gate closed and inconveniencing some of us, because I use Gate 3, too. Well, we’ll have a better product when we do open back up,” Smith said.

# Town Creek native served with Marines in Vietnam

*Second oldest of seven brothers in the military*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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When their nation needed them, the Scruggs brothers from Town Creek answered the call to service.

All seven brothers served in the military – three in the Navy, two in the Army, one in the Air Force and one in the Marines. Their time in uniform ranged from the Vietnam War through the current conflicts.

Matt Scruggs Jr., the second oldest brother and the third of 12 siblings, served with the Marines in Vietnam. With the draft looming, he decided to join in 1964.

“The Marines were kind of known as the toughest,” he said. “And of course I liked their uniform better, too.”

He said he doesn’t recall the details from the year he spent in Vietnam with the infantry.

“It was a lot of wood areas,” Scruggs said. “And I really don’t remember much about it anymore.”

The combat didn’t happen every day “but you got a lot of surprises at that time,” he said. “You’re always on watch 24 hours a day. You don’t expect a big hit. You might end up with three or four less guys than you had. Sometimes wounded, sometimes killed.”

Scruggs spent most of his time on foot. “The only

time we were on a helicopter was when they were relocating us to a different location,” he said. Some things happened unexpectedly but he said he was well-trained for what the Marines were doing.

He estimates 10 of his friends became combat casualties.

After his Vietnam tour, Scruggs served on the Marine 1 Presidential Security. They would stand guard on the U.S. president’s plane and with his helicopter when it landed on a ship.

He left the Marines as a sergeant in 1968 and subsequently entered the Marine Corps Reserve and then the Army National Guard. From the Marines he received the Sharpshooter Badge M14 rifle, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal with one star, the Vietnamese Campaign Medal with device and the Good Conduct Medal.

Scruggs was deployed with the Army National Guard from November 1990 to April 1991 for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He contracted diabetes from his service in Iraq and he was discharged from the military at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From that war, he received the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

After the military he worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority and then for the Army Corps of Engineers as a hydroelectric power plant operator. He worked for the Corps of Engineers from 1982 until he retired in 2014. The Russellville, Arkansas, resident is rated 100%



Courtesy photo

**Matt Scruggs Jr. was in the Marines 1964-68 and he spent a year in Vietnam with the infantry.**

**See Veteran on page 10**

# Veteran

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disabled by Veterans Affairs.

Matt and Obie Scruggs raised their 12 children in Town Creek. The father owned a farm and he worked a number of years for Reynolds Aluminum in Muscle Shoals until an explosion nearly killed him.

Matt Jr. graduated from Central High School in Courtland at 18. Two years later he finished trade school in Birming-

ham where he learned bricklaying. He was 21 when he entered the Marines.

From the oldest to the youngest, the Scruggs brothers and their military service included: Calvin, Air Force; Matt Jr., Marines; Robert, Navy; David, Navy; Sam, Army; Obadiah, Army; and George, Navy. The siblings' military ties didn't end there. Two of the five sisters married Soldiers, both of whom retired with more than 20 years of service.

Sam Scruggs, of Huntsville, retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2004 after 24 years in the Army. He retired from Fort McPherson, Georgia. He now serves as

## Vietnam revisited Part 270 in series

the Veterans Upward Bound program coordinator at the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence in Huntsville.

"My oldest brother, Calvin, served during the Vietnam era," Sam Scruggs said. "He had a diplomatic assignment in Laos."

Matt Jr. and his second wife, Sonya, have been married 34 years. They have a combined two daughters, four sons (one deceased), seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Scruggs, 77, likes woodworking and gardening. He shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

"I think it's better because back then there were a lot of protests against it," he said. "I feel it's good that they did start doing more about it."

*Editor's note: This is the 270th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*



Courtesy photo

**Retired in Russellville, Ark., Matt Scruggs Jr. is a veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Shield/Storm.**

# Big red crane is leaving the building

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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It was hard to miss the big red crane at the Redstone Gateway construction site before COVID-19 hit. The 1.5 million-pound steel workhorse was scheduled to leave Alabama this week after completing a job that was much more complicated than it looked.

"It's one of the larger cranes we have in our fleet," Micah Butler of Maxim Cranes said, describing the Manitowoc 18000 crawler with a 180-foot-long boom. "We have one other type of crane that's twice as large and typically used on big stadium projects, but this is probably the biggest one you'll see in this neck of the woods."

Greg Hall hated to see the piece of construction equipment, commonly referred to as "the big red crane," leave the site because it attracted a lot of attention for the new 468-acre office park at Redstone Gateway. The crane was used for the tilt-wall construction of Redstone Gateway 8000, a 100,000-square-foot speculative building with no named tenants yet.

The building is one of eight active construction projects near Gate 9 on Rideout Road, said Hall, vice president, commercial development for Corporate Office Properties Trust or COPT, which is developing the office park in a joint venture with Jim Wilson & Associates.

"There are a few tilt-wall buildings in Huntsville that are three stories or less," Hall said. "I believe this is the first four-story tilt-wall in the region."

And that's where the big red crane came in.

After Robins & Morton got the job for Building 8000, the specialized crane was reserved and a Federal Aviation Administration permit application was submitted within two days, said Stephen Flournoy, senior project manager on the site. It can take up to 60 days for the FAA permit review, and the company didn't want to risk delays.

"From a safety and productivity standpoint, in the case of erecting this building, making the decision to use the big red crane was a pretty cut-and-dry decision," Flournoy said. He said the height and weight of the required panels, the physical capabilities of different crane manufacturers, and the radius in which the crane would operate were all factors in deciding the proper piece of equipment needed to meet safety requirements for effective construction. The crane is referred to



Photo by Eric Schultz

**From left are Greg Hall, vice president, commercial development for Corporate Office Properties Trust; Brendan Kenny, superintendent, Robins & Morton; Micah Butler, of Maxim Cranes; and Stephen Flournoy, senior project manager for Robins & Morton. They stand in front of the big red crane at the Redstone Gateway construction site near Gate 9.**

as a crawler because it moves on tracks rather than wheels.

"I will tell you that a lot of planning, coordination and brain power went into the monumental movement of that first panel," Flournoy said.

Brendan Kenny, project superintendent for Robins & Morton, agreed, adding it took months of intricate planning, analysis and technical evaluation to form, pour and erect the concrete panels.

"This crane is capable of doing a



Photo by Eric Schultz

**This is an up-close view of the Manitowoc 18000 crawler crane with a 180-foot long boom lift used to place concrete panels in place at Redstone Gateway 8000.**

lot of different things, but the process starts long before the excitement of lifting the panel," Kenny said. "It takes two and a half to three months of work prior to panel erection. Prior to that, it looks like we're running around the jobsite like ants with minimal progress. Then all of a sudden, in seven days, it looks like the building is up."

Kenny and Butler also had to develop a technical lift plan for the crane's use by analyzing each of the 24 panels that make up the exterior walls

of the building.

"Although they may look the same when you're looking at the building, each panel is unique," Flournoy said. The panels are between 62- and 66-foot tall, and about 30-feet wide. They weigh between 175,000 and 205,000 pounds each.

The big red crane is considered a 600-ton crane, Butler said, but it can be configured to handle 825 tons

**See Crane on page 12**



Photo by Eric Schultz

**The scale of size of the big red crane is obvious compared to box cars and a construction trailer as it sits at the Redstone Gateway construction site Friday before it was to be dismantled and shipped to a new job.**

# Crane

Continued from page 11

if needed.

“When you look at anything to do with a crane, it can pick up a lot more weight when it’s right beside what it’s picking up,” Butler said. “But when what you’re picking up is 100 feet away from the center radius of the crane, the overall rated capacity decreases based upon this distance. As such, the technical lift plan required evaluation of everything from lifting the panels to setting the panels.”

Then you have to factor in the weight of the crane itself.

“It takes 35 truckloads to bring all the parts in so the crane can be put together,” Butler said. Depending on when all of the components arrive, it takes two to four days to put the big red crane together.

Flournoy said geotechnical engineers had to calculate ground-bearing pressure and what type of ground reinforcements would be needed for a 1.5 million-pound crane to pick up 200,000-pound panels.

Kenny said the crane had to sit and move on a crane mat. The mats for the big red crane on the job site were made up of 12-foot-by-12-foot-by-20-foot-long timbers bound together in four-foot sections to create 20-foot-by-40-foot mats under each track.

“That’s another nuance folks don’t pay attention to,” Kenny said. “As we moved around the building, we had four truckloads of crane mats, and we leap-frogged those mats around because the crane could only move on top of those mats.”

Forklifts were used to move the mats around the building as the crane moved the panels into place.

“That was a first for me, using mats of that size,” Kenny said.

Flournoy said it’s one of the larger cranes ever used on a Robins & Morton construction site, outside of tower cranes used on high-rise projects.

“To have a crawler of this capacity is not something you see every day,” he said.

Hall, who is more than 6-feet tall, said it’s hard to grasp the true enormity of its size, until you stand next to it.

“The tracks are taller than me,” he said.



Photo by Mary Sellers, COPT

**An aerial view shows the big red crane next to Redstone Gateway 8000 after wall panels were in place at the tilt wall construction site.**

That’s true, Kenny said. On the first day of panel erection, he called a panel erection safety meeting, and it started to rain a little. All 20 people involved in the task stepped under the counterweights and were able to take shelter from the rain.

“It’s one of the neatest photos,” Flournoy said. “That gives you some idea of how large the crane really is. While you can see it’s a big red crane from the road, you really can’t appreciate the size unless you can get up close.”

# Tool

Continued from page 1

The new Civilian Employment Assignment Tool (better known as CEAT) was expanded due to the Army's and AMC's initiative to better support military spouse employment during a permanent change in station move, with AMC and Installation Management Command leadership officially implementing the expanded program. CEAT better supports the secretary of the Army's initiative to hire and retain military and civilian spouses when their service member or civilian spouse relocates to another Army installation.

"Geographical relocation for Soldiers, Department of Army civilians and their families can be a stressful process, especially when it occurs every two to four years," Max Wyche, AMC's deputy chief of staff for G-1 (Human Resources), said.

"Our ability to enhance the working spouse transfer and placement processes will go a long way to reducing the stress points associated with a PCS move. The expansion of the proven CEAT tool will create a seamless transfer capability for a greater population of these valued team members while sustaining high levels of service for Army Soldier and family programs. The timing of this expansion is also optimal given the current job market constraints."

While the expanded program is a definite benefit for military spouses, it also is beneficial to the Army, which can better retain experienced employees, regardless of where their spouse's career takes them. It is also a recruiting tool for career Soldiers and Army civilians, and also shows the Army's commitment to its families, said Anita Jannsen, chief of IMCOM's Personnel Services Division, G-9.

"We want to retain our trained, dedicated and talented MWR workforce for their entire career," Jannsen said. "The family of MWR employees, whether spouses of civilian or military personnel, or other dedicated professionals, are those who ensure quality support and service to Soldiers and their families, and are the backbone of the organization. They are now able to move between garrisons noncompetitively to continue their career and service without a break in employment. Maintaining our talent allows AMC/IMCOM to deliver quality of life to all Army garrisons."

The original NAF CYS Employee Assignment Tool, implemented in 2018, accounted for 50% of all NAF-employed spouses, said Tara Ackeret, chief of Civilian Human Resources Policy and Programs Division for AMC. To date, CEAT has been used to transfer more than 300 Army NAF employees, 177 of those being military spouses.

The expansion to the NAF Civilian Employment Assignment Tool now covers over 90% of all NAF-employed spouses, only excluding higher career level and supervisor positions. By expanding CEAT, the number of Army NAF employees eligible for the program has gone from 7,000 to 22,000.

"The CEAT was created with an emphasis on employment retention of military spouses in support of relocation outside their current commuting area," Ackeret said. "Because military spouses are employed in various other NAF positions, it was important to expand beyond the original scope in order to reach all eligible transferring spouses. The name change is in line with the expansion beyond the initial scope of child care positions."

One key element of both the previous and now expanded CEAT programs is the ability of spouses to be able to move to a comparable NAF position during a PCS without having to go through the competitive hiring process.

"The expectation is that every military spouse – whether married to a Soldier or a civilian – who must transfer to a new duty station with their spouse will have employment upon arrival at their new duty station and will have a greater opportunity for future employment opportunities," Ackeret said.

"CEAT creates more employment opportunities by allowing relocating Army NAF employees to continue working and training in their current occupation. The employee is able to continue in the same career field that they were employed in prior to their relocation, potentially allowing less interruption to career development. The CEAT eases the transition by aiding spouses in the location of vacancies at the new duty location."

Military spouse Yolanda Bermejo and Kierra Davis, both CYS employees working at Child Development Centers, used CEAT in the fall of 2019 when their service member spouses transferred. The Bermejo family moved from Fort Polk, Louisiana, to Fort Hamilton, New York; and the Davis family moved from Fort Hamilton to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

"Once I was in the CEAT system, the process was extremely easy," Bermejo said. "Within a month, I had a position at Fort Hamilton. It is a really good program for military spouses because it's so nice to have a job waiting for us when we PCS with



Army photo by Jaeyeon Sim, Camp Humphreys, South Korea

**An Army installation employment transfer program used by employees working in Child and Youth Services is now expanded for use by military spouses working in various other Nonappropriated Funds positions. The expanded NAF Civilian Employment Assignment Tool allows NAF employees, including military and civilian spouses, to transfer to comparable jobs from one installation to another when relocating.**

our spouses. It shows that the Army really cares about us."

Davis agreed, adding expanding CEAT to include more NAF positions and civilian spouses is better for families and for the Army.

"If you have to relocate, CEAT provides opportunities so you don't have to start all over with your career. It can be very hard for an Army spouse to have to pack up and leave their job, and they go somewhere else and start over. With CEAT, they help you find a job and there's no break in service, how much you are paid or your years of service."

NAF employees can participate in CEAT by registering electronically on the CEAT website, <https://go.usa.gov/xvPtS>. Registration must be accompanied by an endorsement from the employee's current supervisor. The electronic registration notifies a gaining location that an employee is requesting a noncompetitive transfer and the transfer request form notifies both the losing and gaining installations to facilitate the transfer.

While CEAT will require more coordination and communication between Army Human Resources at each installation, the end result of having happier Army families makes it worth it, Ackeret said.

"In the long term, we will have more fluid movement of NAF employees transferring within the Army, resulting in higher retention of mobile talent," she said.

# Leaders address screening for when workers return

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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As workers begin to mentally prepare for returning to work on Redstone Arsenal, they are searching to get a picture of what work life will be like once they are through the gate. Will their daily commute now involve a screening process before they're allowed to enter their place of business?

Will the Arsenal implement some form of antibody testing to see who has had the virus and may – though recent observations may have proved otherwise – be immune to COVID-19?

The short answer to both of those questions is no, but Arsenal leaders addressed some of those concerns last week during a weekly town hall.

"There are rumors around that tenants are requiring screening of their employees before they allow them to enter buildings," Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith said.

Smith went on to say that he's talked to the majority of tenant leaders on post and no one who he's had a conversation with is doing any screening of employees, but added: "I cannot tell you that your tenant organizations aren't going to ask you screening like questions."

The point of those questions, he said, was to remind people that if they're sick, they should stay at home.

It gets complicated when you start talking about buildings like the Sparkman Center, which houses several different organizations under one roof.

Smith elaborated that for the Sparkman Center, AMCOM controls the building, which means it will set the policy on what needs to take place to access the building and to make the reoccupation of Arsenal facilities work, it's going to take a coordinated effort between the tenants in the Sparkman Center and AMCOM and a concerted effort between the tenants and employees.

"I ask you to remember that your tenant organization is the organization who could best answer your questions about the requirements getting in and out of your building," he said. "And I ask all of our organizations to make sure that we are working together to make sure that everyone who works in that building has the same experience and remains safe and healthy."

In addition to wondering if or how they'll be screened for COVID-19, workers also wonder if they'll be tested for antibodies that would show if they've had and recovered from the virus.

"I have not seen, and I'm currently not racking that capability for us here in the medical treatment facilities," Fox Army Health Center's Commander Col. Anthony Meador said.

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## Operation

Continued from page 1

government approach, not just the DOD.

Regarding DOD and the Pentagon, Hoffman said neither has been shut down and daily operations continue, albeit with mitigation steps that include social distancing, face masks, quarantine when necessary and telework if the situation allows.

As for increasing the number of personnel at the Pentagon, Hoffman said it will be conditions-based and informed by medical experts. The Pentagon, he said, is in consultation with the governments of the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. Policy and decisions are currently under review and are expected to be released in a matter of weeks.

Regarding the hospital ships USNS Comfort and Mercy, Hoffman said they have completed their work in New York City and Los Angeles and are standing by if their services are needed elsewhere.

# Military spouse fellowship program extends deadline

By TIFFANY LAWRENCE

*Military Families Magazine*

A program providing military spouses with the opportunity to earn an Accredited Financial Counselor certification has extended its deadline to June 1.

Military spouses continue to grapple with unemployment rates in the double digits, at roughly 16% according to a 2017 survey conducted by U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In response to the ongoing financial hardship created by joblessness, organizations are partnering to offer resources that enable more portable career options.

The Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education and the FINRA Foundation, in partnership with the National Military Family Association created the FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Fellowship program. The program provides military spouses the opportunity to earn the Accredited Financial Counselor certification while providing valuable financial counseling and education to the military community.

Meredith Lozar, director of Military Spouse Programs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is an AF-CPE board member who previously par-



Military Families Magazine photo

**Barbara Chilton, an accredited financial counselor who serves as a personal financial program manager for the Air Force, leading an AFC meeting on base.**

ticipated in the fellowship program and earned her AFC certification in 2012.

“At the time I was working full time. My husband was doing his fourth combat tour in Afghanistan, and I had a 2-and-a-half-year-old. I loved the AFC because I was working in the financial industry and it gave me the flexibility to get a certification that could move with me, knowing that we would not be in one place forever,” Lozar said.

This program is free for military spouses and classes are available online. Lozar says she was able to schedule her studies around her daily responsibilities.

“I went to classes on the weekends. I did the work at night when I wasn’t in school,” she said. “What’s wonderful about the program is that it’s really flexible. So, you could do a couple of hours maybe while a child is napping or you know, whatever ends up working for you. You can do it from your living room.”

The fellowship program exists to: Train a corps of military spouses to provide financial counseling and education within the military community

Help military spouses achieve career goals and aspirations and enhance job-related marketability

Develop personal financial management skills of military families.

Lozar has used her AFC designation to lead other financial counselors and provide financial counseling to service members, military spouses and families from the Marine Corps, Navy and Army. Other opportunities can include working in the finance department at a university or even starting a tax company.

After completing the program, FINRA fellows take part in a mentorship program that often leads to job opportunities. The foundation also offers a dashboard for certified AFCs to register and setup a profile. This allows corporations to identify practicing AFCs and possibly offer contracts or job opportunities.

“If you have a vision and you want to open some more doors for your career then this is definitely for you,” Lozar said. “It is a path of flexibility, portability and it can be a path of career progression.”

The new application deadline to apply for this year’s program is June 1.

For steps to apply check the website: [www.afcpe.org/resource-center/funding-and-recognition/finra-foundation-military-spouse-fellowship/read-first-then-apply/](http://www.afcpe.org/resource-center/funding-and-recognition/finra-foundation-military-spouse-fellowship/read-first-then-apply/).

# Medical logistics joins life cycle management command

By SAMANTHA HILL

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Army Materiel Command is restructuring medical logistics under a two-star life cycle management command.

Army Medical Logistics Command, which is responsible for projecting and sustaining medical materiel capabilities and data, will realign under Army Communications-Electronics Command, effective no earlier than July 1. The transition better enables AMLC to focus on the life cycle management of medical equipment and supplies, and supports Army readiness, said Renee Mosher, AMC director of the Supply Chain Management Directorate, G-3.

“AMLC’s mission to deliver and sustain Class VIII medical materiel around the globe is critical, and it will not change with this transition,” Mosher said.

Aside from the close proximity of both headquarters in Maryland, CECOM is well positioned to provide life cycle management oversight as AMLC further develops and grows, Mosher said.

“The commonality of equipment and similar commodities between medical and electronics can facilitate repair synergies, and CECOM’s experience with Army systems, contracting processes and software engineering will help overcome challenges in integrating Class VIII into the Army enterprise,” she said. “CECOM will enable the pivotal work AMLC is doing, providing strategic oversight and valuable life cycle management expertise.”

The AMLC workforce has experienced many changes over the last few years. The Army directed the transfer of Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to AMC Oct. 1, 2018. MRMC later split, with medical research and development missions moving to Army Futures Command and medical logistics functions staying within AMC. The Army redesignated MRMC as MRDC and established AMLC June 1, 2019.

“AMC leadership recognize that reporting directly to a four-star head-



Army photo by Shawn Hardiek

**Soldiers from the Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea’s 563rd Medical Logistics Company loads Class VIII medical supplies onto a CH-47 helicopter with guidance from the 2ID/2CAB crew chief on March 24.**

quarters adds requirements on AMLC, which is a small command with a vast mission,” AMLC Commander Col. Michael Lalor said. “By reducing some of those requirements, we can focus AMLC’s resources on growing our command as an LCMC.”

Despite the changes, the Army Medical Materiel Agency, Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe and Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea will remain under AMLC.

“AMLC remains a critical part of the Army Materiel Command team,” Mosher said.

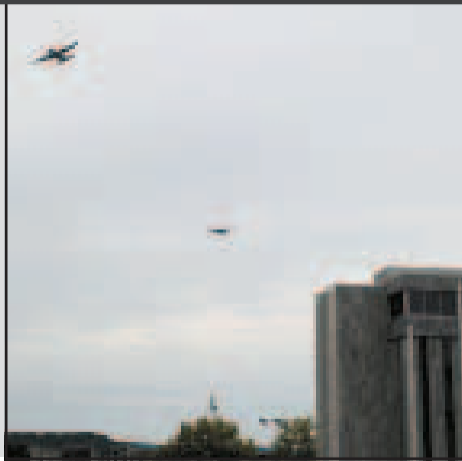
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Photos by ERIC SCHULTZ, staff photographer

# Flyover honor

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 908th Airlift Wing, Alabama's only U.S. Air Force Reserve Wing, flew above Huntsville Hospital and downtown Huntsville May 12. They made a tour of 10 cities throughout the state to honor healthcare workers, frontline heroes in the COVID-19 response.



# Century-old memorabilia box opened at Arlington

By THOMAS BRADING  
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – An interdisciplinary team has unsealed a memorabilia box more than a 100 years old at Arlington National Cemetery, in honor of the Memorial Amphitheater’s centennial.

And now, a peek inside the old copper box, along with its historic relics, are available virtually, as ANC hosts it’s first-ever online exhibit.

“As Arlington National Cemetery remains closed to visitors, the online exhibit will allow the public to explore these hallowed grounds,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Office of Army National Cemeteries and ANC executive director. “Virtual visitation is the centerpiece of the 100th-anniversary commemoration, showcasing the resilience of the historical structure and our nation.”

An accompanying illustrated book, “Arlington National Cemetery: Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of the Unknowns,” by Benjamin D. Brands, an American historian, will be available free-of-charge, as a downloadable file.

“The exhibit will appeal to anyone interested in American history, architecture, or the military’s changing role in society, from international tourists to those within the national capital region who are currently unable to explore Arlington National Cemetery in person,” Ray Alexander, ANC superintendent, said.

The box was tucked inside a marble cornerstone 105 years ago when construction on the amphitheater began. It was carefully removed April 9, and sorted through by a team of conservators, facilities maintenance staff, and historians at the cemetery.

“Our mission is to maintain the institutional knowledge of Arlington National Cemetery for future generations,” Steve Carney, the ANC command historian, said. “(Retrieving the box) took several weeks to do, to ensure everything could be done safely.

“This included removing it from the cornerstone where it was originally placed, cleaning the box, evaluating it and opening it.”

In all, the process required several months to plan for, not including the time to remove and sort through. In other words, Carney said, “it’s a slow process,” but time is relative when considering the years it waited in darkness.

Inside the copper box were blueprints of the amphitheater, a U.S. coin and postage stamp circulating in 1915, an autographed photo of President Woodrow Wilson, a map of Pierre Charles L’Enfant’s design for Washington, D.C., a U.S. flag, and copies of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and a Bible.

To better understand the memorabilia box, it’s best to take a trip back in time – a time when Americans were buying their first cars, women received the right to vote for the first time, and a young author named F. Scott Fitzgerald published his first novel.

It’s 1920, and just outside of the nation’s capital at ANC, the Memorial Amphitheater finished hosting its first Memorial Day ceremony – then known as Decoration Day.

By that time, the copper box, retrieved by ANC’s team, had been in place for five years.

“The Memorial Amphitheater is important to (ANC) history, because of its connections to Memorial Day,” Carney said. “Arlington became seen as the nation’s premier national military cemetery, and our nation’s most sacred treasure.”

Originally, Decoration Day was a time for mourners to honor fallen service members. The name came from the living who decorated graves with flowers, flags and wreaths. In 1868, roughly three years after the Civil War, the observance was officially held at ANC’s original amphitheater, the Tanner Amphitheater.

But as years passed, Carney explained, “The sheer number of those who came to commemorate that day is why the Memorial Amphitheater was approved (to be built) in 1913.”

In the early 1900s, President William Howard Taft – one of two American



Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser

**Tim Frank, historian, History Office; views coins of the United States of America removed from the Memorial Amphitheater memorabilia box in the Memorial Amphitheater Lower Chapel at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., April 9. The box had just been opened after being placed over a century ago in the cornerstone of the Memorial Amphitheater.**

presidents buried at ANC – signed legislation to construct the new Memorial Amphitheater, which was large enough to accommodate the ever-growing crowd sizes. The construction site was set on top of a hill watching over Washington, D.C.

The amphitheater has a memorial display room, a chapel beneath the stage, and it’s the location of the Tomb of the Unknowns, where a guard has been on duty, around the clock, since 1937.

Before all that, in 1915, as the construction of the Memorial Amphitheater kicked off, then-President Wilson placed the building’s cornerstone – or ceremonial building block – to commemorate the construction.

By Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 1918, nearly all of the building’s exterior was complete, and interior construction wrapped up in June 1919.

Then finally, on May 15, 1920, the roofless, white marble structure was dedicated, and went on to host its first Memorial Day. Since then, every American president has visited the location during their tenure.

The memorabilia box is essentially a time capsule, Carney explained, however, the term “time capsule” wasn’t coined until the 1936 World’s Fair, more than two decades later.

As years have come and gone, the copper memorabilia box remained untouched, behind the cornerstone placed by the 28th president of the United States. Moving forward, in addition to the online exhibit, the team is also putting together a physical one to display the items at ANC, Carney said.

“We have to ensure it’s put on display safely, and there is no chance it will be degraded or damaged,” he added.

Later this year, ANC also plans to install a new time capsule to be opened in 100 years, continuing the tradition of commemoration and preservation for generations to come.

However, the exact date and what the items will be are both still up in the air.

“We want to ensure that the selected (items) are reflective of what the nation, and what Arlington, are going through right now,” Carney said. “We want the items (to be opened in 2120) to reflect a snapshot in our moment in time.”

# Army preaches resiliency to cope with pandemic

By MIKAYLA MAST

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

The fight to stop the spread of the coronavirus has caused many Department of Defense employees to quickly transition from regular work schedules to teleworking, social distancing and homeschooling.

Adapting to a new lifestyle is not easy though and can cause stress and discouragement, said Chaplain Col. Mark Frederick, Space and Missile Defense Command. He emphasized that the key to dealing with difficult times, like the COVID-19 pandemic, is resiliency.

“Resiliency is important because it equips people with a higher ability to cope with difficult situations,” Frederick said. “People with strong resilience can adjust to difficult and stressful events, and accelerate their return to normalcy.”

The Army recognizes resiliency as a necessary skill to maintain health and wellness while facing the challenges presented in daily life, military careers and difficult situations.

“The military is always preaching resiliency,” Frederick said. “We always try to teach our Soldiers ways to be resilient to help them prepare for difficult times like these.”

The Army outlines the road map to resiliency with five pillars of wellness: emotional wellness, physical wellness, spiritual wellness, family wellness and social wellness.

Emotional wellness includes being able to recognize and manage your emotions in a constructive way. Managing emotional wellness can mean journaling feelings, practicing yoga or deep breathing to relax and reduce stress. Another good way to maintain emotional wellness is to practice optimism by taking stressful situations and putting positive spins on them.

Frederick said that while teleworking and social distancing are not ideal, many families are discovering ways to make it a more positive experience, by viewing it as the opportunity to spend more time with their families.

Physical wellness includes choosing healthy and balanced meals, and getting regular exercise. While gyms across the nation are closed during the pandemic, workout options from home are still available for the whole family. Online workouts, jogging outside, taking regular walks and riding bikes are ways to stay active.

SMDC team members are finding ways to be active while challenging others to follow suit. Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Gerner, 53rd Signal Battalion command sergeant major, started a 3,000 burpee challenge April 1. The challenge was to complete 100 burpees every day for the entire month. In addition, Staff Sgt. Trent Huntsinger, SMDC G3 noncommissioned officer in charge, is issuing a weekly fitness challenge and two daily fitness challenges each week to the command’s noncommissioned officer corps to inspire others with ways to stay active.

Spiritual wellness means finding meaning and purpose in life, and creating an awareness and unity with something greater than oneself. Frederick said spiritual resiliency is vital and provides the capability to withstand life’s unexpected challenges.

“It is the ability to find spiritual strength and adjust when one is faced with adver-



Courtesy photo

**Carrie David Campbell, command information officer, Space and Missile Defense Command, watches the May 3 worship and service from her church, Friendship United Methodist in Athens, on her television. Many churches are reaching out to their congregations through live stream or prerecorded services during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain continuity and encourage spiritual resilience among their members.**

sity or tragedy,” he said. “Spiritual resiliency should grow stronger in difficult times.”

Not everyone finds spiritual strength in the same place though – it can be found in nature, personal values or religion. Frederick recommended connecting with faith, family and friends to maintain spiritual resilience, and said his spiritual resilience comes from his faith in God.

“When I read the Bible, I see examples of how God brought people out of difficult times and that gives me hope,” he said. “I know that God is in control. I do not always understand why bad things happen, but I know God has a purpose.”

While some people are spending more time with family and others are unable to see loved ones, family wellness remains vital to resiliency. During uncertain or trying times, friends and family can provide the love and encouragement needed to cope with difficult situations.

“Family has given me strength during troubling times, and friends are paramount to resilience,” Frederick said. “They can walk with you through some of the most challenging struggles in life.”

Frederick said another important factor in staying resilient is avoiding total isolation. Though social distancing is vital to reducing the spread of the coronavirus, social wellness is necessary to stay resilient – being completely shut off from others is not healthy for people.

“If you’re single, widowed or divorced, it’s easy to isolate yourself at this time, but that’s not healthy,” Frederick said. “Reach out to your co-workers, family and friends. We’re all just a phone call away.”

Frederick said video chatting is a great way to stay connected with others and feel less isolated. The chaplain has been making numerous calls himself, reaching out to command team members to check on them. He continues to work daily on his mission to monitor the resiliency of his team members.

While times may seem challenging now, Frederick said, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and resilience during this crisis will make everyone stronger.

“Resilience can make you stronger as you face life’s challenges,” he said. “This pandemic will be a learning and growing experience in many ways.”

# AMCOM takes steps to ensure workplace safety

By GINA BALTRUSCH

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Sanitizing office spaces, reconfiguring some work areas to maintain social distancing and obtaining needed quantities of germ-killing supplies in a high-demand market, rank high on the list of ways Aviation and Missile Command's Internal Logistics (G-4) staff are preparing the command's workspaces in this COVID-19 environment.

In mid-March, most of the 3,000-plus AMCOM headquarters employees who usually occupy more than 50 buildings on Redstone Arsenal and in the Huntsville area, began teleworking from home to maintain social distancing in order to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus. Although, a return date has yet to be announced, AMCOM employees can feel confident they will have a safe work environment awaiting them when they return.

Since the COVID-driven exodus from AMCOM's buildings, AMCOM's G-4 staff focused their efforts on their colleagues' eventual return to normal duty locations, putting measures in place that will help provide a safe and healthy work environment.

G-4 staff worked with the Garrison and their janitorial contractor (Phoenix Industries) to increase frequencies of disinfection in common areas across the command footprint. These additional disinfection measures, including disinfection of door

Photo by Gina Baltrusch

**Shirley Hogan, a G-4 program specialist, tests a newly installed hand-sanitizer station at one of the entrances to the Sparkman Center.**

knobs, elevator service buttons, stairwell hand rails, etc., have been in place since March. In addition, while many people across Redstone Arsenal were teleworking, the Garrison worked with Phoenix to perform disinfection of all facilities, including those where AMCOM employees work and have janitorial service. This effort, which included both fogging and wiping down areas with disinfectant solution, was done to ensure workforce safety and facilitate the return of the workforce.

In addition to the overarching disinfection of all workspace and now-routine disinfection of common areas, the G-4 also oversaw the disinfection of the work areas where a few employees who tested positive for the coronavirus had been working within the Sparkman Center or other AMCOM managed facilities. Contact and location tracing was performed with each incident. Contact tracing is the process of identifying and informing others who may have come into contact with an infected person, so they could take appropriate measures to curb the spread of infection.

**See Safety on page 24**



# Safety

Continued from page **23**

While overseeing the cleaning and disinfection all AMCOM-occupied buildings, the G-4 staff continues to work with AMCOM leadership to develop potential solutions to help facilitate the Centers for Disease Control's social distancing guidance of maintaining 6 feet between people.

The G-4 team experienced the same difficulty as everyone else finding the supplies needed to help curb the spread of germs, but their perseverance paid off, according to Luke Martin, deputy director G-4. "G-4 staff's determination paid off on May 5, when we received the first batch of hand-sanitizer stations that had been on back-order. We quickly installed the stations at AMCOM buildings on Redstone Arsenal to support staff whose duties required them to continue working on site."

Hand-sanitizer stations are located at Sparkman Center entrances and in front of its cafeteria, the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity primary standards and radiation laboratories, and the AMCOM Logistics Center (building 3777 complex). Dozens more hand-sanitizer stations are on order and will be installed at other AMCOM-occupied buildings as soon as they arrive, Martin said. And gallons of refill solution are also on order.

"The protection of our force is our top priority, and we will continue to do our part to ensure a safe work environment and help the command prevent the potential spread of the virus as we transition back to our normal work environment," Martin said. "Our efforts to ensure a sanitary workplace, combined with actions individuals can take to protect themselves and those around them – hand washing, social distancing and staying home if they feel sick – are key factors in maintaining a healthy workforce ready to accomplish AMCOM's mission."

# Chandra: Star survives close call with black hole

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Public Affairs

Astronomers may have discovered a new kind of survival story: a star that had a brush with a giant black hole and lived to tell the tale via bursts of X-rays.

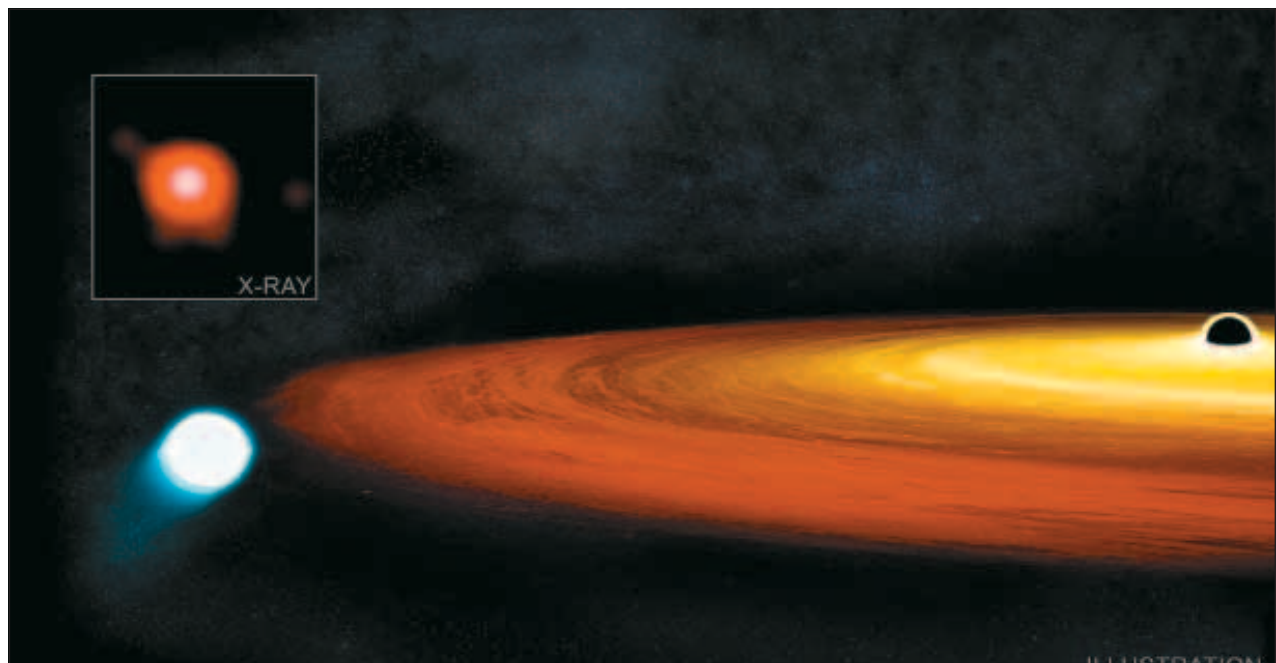
Data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton uncovered the event, caused by a red giant star passing too close to a supermassive black hole in a galaxy dubbed GSN 069, about 250 million light-years from Earth. The black hole has a mass about 400,000 times that of the Sun, putting it on the small end of the scale for such cosmic phenomena.

Once the red giant was captured by the black hole's gravity, the outer layers of the star containing hydrogen were stripped off and careened toward the black hole, leaving the core of the star – known as a white dwarf – behind.

“In my interpretation of the X-ray data the white dwarf survived, but it did not escape,” said Andrew King, of the University of Leicester in England, who performed the study. “It is now caught in an elliptical orbit around the black hole, making one trip around about once every nine hours.”

As the white dwarf makes its nearly thrice-daily orbit, the black hole pulls material off at its closest approach, some 15 times the radius of the event horizon – or the point of no return – away from the black hole. The stellar detritus enters into a disk surrounding the

**See Hole on page 27**



**In this illustration, a giant red star wanders too close to a supermassive black hole in a galaxy some 250 million light-years from Earth. The black hole, situated in a galaxy called GSN 069, has a mass about 400,000 times that of the Sun. Data from Chandra and XMM-Newton identified the event.**

Courtesy graphic

# High school student names NASA's Mars Helicopter

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Public Affairs

Destined to become the first aircraft to attempt powered flight on another planet, NASA's Mars Helicopter officially has received a new name: Ingenuity.

Vaneeza Rupani, a junior at Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport, came up with the name and the motivation behind it during NASA's "Name the Rover" essay contest.

"The ingenuity and brilliance of people working hard to overcome the challenges of interplanetary travel are what allow us all to experience the wonders of space exploration,"

Rupani wrote in her contest submission. "Ingenuity is what allows people to accomplish amazing things, and it allows us to expand our horizons to the edges of the universe."

Rupani's was among 28,000 essays submitted to NASA by K-12 students from every U.S. state and territory recommending names for the next Mars rover. In March, the agency announced that seventh-grader Alexander Mather's essay earned him the honor of naming the rover Perseverance. But with so many good essays, it seemed fitting to also choose a name for the helicopter that will accompany the rover to Mars.

So, NASA officials went back to the submitted essays to choose a name for the helicopter. Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, made the choice for the rover's name, and NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine chose the name for the helicopter.

"As a proud Alabamian, it's fantastic to learn that Vaneeza Rupani has named the Mars Helicopter," Jody Singer, director of Marshall Space Flight Center, said. "'Ingenuity' captures the creative spirit of the Artemis generation, who are going to be taking the next steps into space that lead us to Mars. This inspiring work requires inventiveness to innovate for the unique environment of space, but also the practical knowledge to tackle challenges along the way. It's a delicate balance, but this combination of imagination and skill is at the heart of exploration and discovery."

Perseverance and Ingenuity are undergoing final assembly and checkout at the agency's Kennedy Space Center. They will launch on a United Launch Alliance



NASA graphic

**Vaneeza Rupani, inset, a junior at Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport, came up with the name Ingenuity for NASA's Mars Helicopter, an artist's impression of which is seen here, and the motivation behind it during NASA's "Name the Rover" essay contest.**

Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 at nearby Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida July and land at Mars' Jezero Crater on Feb. 18, 2021.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is building and will manage operations of Perseverance and Ingenuity for the agency. NASA's Launch Services Program, based at Kennedy, is responsible for launch management. Lockheed Martin Space in Boulder, Colorado, provided the Mars Helicopter Delivery System. Caltech in Pasadena, California, manages JPL for NASA.

The "Name the Rover" contest partnership was part of a Space Act Agreement in educational and public

outreach efforts between NASA, Battelle of Columbus, Ohio, and Future Engineers of Burbank, California. Amazon Web Services is an additional prize provider for the contest.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission is part of a larger program that includes missions to the Moon as a way to prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet. Through its Artemis program, NASA intends to land the first woman and the next man on the lunar surface in 2024 and establish a sustained human presence on and around the Moon by 2028, using it as a stepping stone to sending astronauts to Mars.

## Hole

Continued from page 26

black hole and releases a burst of X-rays that Chandra and XMM-Newton can detect. In addition, King predicts gravitational waves will be emitted by the black hole and white dwarf pair, especially at their nearest point.

King anticipates that the combined effect of gravitational waves and an increase in the star's size as it loses mass should cause its orbit to become wider and more circular, slowing its loss of mass and eventually sending the white dwarf spiraling slowly away from the black hole.

"It will try hard to get away, but there is no escape. The black hole will eat it more and more slowly, but never stop," King said. "In principle, this loss of mass would continue until, and even after, the white dwarf became a planet, with a mass similar to Jupiter, in about a trillion years. This would be a remarkably slow and convoluted way for the universe to make a planet!"

Astronomers have found many stars that have been completely torn apart by en-

counters with black holes – dubbed tidal disruption events – but there are very few reported cases of near misses, in which the star likely survived.

Grazing encounters like this should be more common than direct collisions, given the statistics of cosmic traffic patterns, but they could easily be missed for a couple of reasons, King said. First, it can take a surviving star too long to complete an orbit around a black hole for astronomers to see repeated bursts. Black holes much more massive than the one in GSN 069 also may swallow a star whole. In these cases, astronomers wouldn't observe anything.

"In astronomical terms, this event is only visible to our current telescopes for a short time – about 2,000 years," King said. "So unless we were extraordinarily lucky to have caught this one, there may be many more that we are missing. Such encounters could be one of the main ways for black holes the size of the one in GSN 069 to grow."

A paper on the findings appears in the March 2020 issue of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Marshall Space Flight Center manages the Chandra program. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Chandra X-ray Center controls science and flight operations from Cambridge and Burlington, Massachusetts.

# Professional society names four Marshall legacy fellows

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Public Affairs

Four scientists working at or affiliated with Marshall Space Flight Center have been named Fellows of the American Astronomical Society, the major organization of professional astronomers in North America.

The honorees were Gerald "Jerry" Fishman, Chryssa Kouveliotou, Melissa McGrath and Colleen Wilson-Hodge.

"Congratulations to each of these outstanding fellows," Marshall Chief Scientist Renee Weber said. "They have collectively forged multiple paths to new discovery in space science and continue to inspire the Marshall scientists and engineers who build upon their legacy."

The American Astronomical Society Fellows program was established in 2019 to honor members for their contributions toward the society's mission of enhancing and sharing humanity's scientific understanding of the universe. Being named a fellow honors members for extraordinary achievement and service. Fellows are recognized for original research and publication, innovative contributions to astronomical techniques or instrumentation, significant contributions to education and public outreach, and noteworthy service to astronomy and to the society itself.

The society's board of trustees has designated an initial group of more than 200 legacy fellows. These include past recipients of certain awards from the society or its topical divisions, distinguished society elected leaders and volunteer committee members, and previously unrecognized individuals with long histories of outstanding research, teaching, mentoring and service.

Fishman is an emeritus scientist specializing in gamma-ray astronomy. He joined Marshall in 1974 and became principal investigator for the Burst and Transient Source Experiment, an extremely sensitive gamma-ray burst detector that flew on NASA's Compton Gamma Ray Observatory from 1991-2000. He was also co-investigator on the Gamma-ray Burst Monitor, a key instrument aboard the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, which was launched in 2008 and is still in operation.

Kouveliotou is a professor at George Washington University in Washington, and the recently elected physics department chair. She was formerly the senior technologist in high-energy astrophysics at Marshall. Her research has expanded the scientific understanding of fleeting, transient gamma-ray phenomena in the Milky Way galaxy and throughout the high-energy universe. She and her team made the first confirmed detection of neutron stars with extremely powerful magnetic fields, called magnetars – the cinders of stars left over after a supernova explosion. As a NASA scientist from 2004-15, she worked on numerous astrophysics missions.

McGrath was the chief scientist at Marshall from 2005-15. Prior to that, at the Space Telescope Science Institute, she worked for 13 years on the Hubble Space Telescope project. After retiring from NASA, she joined the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, where her primary focus is co-investigator on three instruments selected for the European Space Agency's JUPITER ICY moons Explorer mission to Ganymede, and the NASA Europa Clipper mission to Europa. Her research expertise includes planetary and satellites atmospheres and

magnetospheres, particularly imaging and spectroscopic studies of Jupiter's Galilean satellites.

Wilson-Hodge first came to Marshall as an undergraduate cooperative education student in 1989. She joined the Astrophysics Branch full time in 1992. Her research interests have focused on accretion powered pulsars, the Crab Nebula, X-ray binaries and gamma-ray bursts. In 2016, she became the principal investigator for the Fermi Gamma-ray Burst Monitor. She continues to coordinate gravitational wave counterpart searches, studies accreting pulsars and is the project scientist for the proposed Large Area burst Polarimeter mission.



NASA photos

**Scientists, clockwise from top left, Gerald "Jerry" Fishman, Chryssa Kouveliotou, Melissa McGrath and Colleen Wilson-Hodge, are new fellows of the American Astronomical Society.**

## DOD's COVID-19 Response to Date

**13,000**

U.S. Northern Command is responsible for DoD's support of COVID-19 efforts with approximately 13,100 people deployed, including 2,400 medical personnel.

**46,700**

46,700+ members of the National Guard are supporting COVID-19 response at the direction of their governors.

**\$1.8B**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is executing 38 FEMA Mission Assignments totaling \$1.8 billion, with 15,000 personnel engaged and 1,109 deployed in support of COVID-19 response operations.



# Rocket Pet of the Week

## Mac

This is Mac and his belongs to Parsons employee Ben Eick and his family.

"Mac is a two-year-old Weimaraner. He loves to go on long walks and play outside. His favorite toys are a stuffed frog, a doggy "worn" toy and a ball. He loves sun bathing! When he's tired, he likes to hold his blanket in his mouth."



RedstoneRocket

[www.theredstonerocket.com](http://www.theredstonerocket.com)

## Marshall team prepares for commercial crew launch



SpaceX photo

**The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch the Crew Dragon spacecraft, with NASA astronauts aboard, on the first commercial crew flight to the International Space Station. Launch is targeted for May 27 at 3:32 p.m.**

By **JANET ANDERSON** and **TAYLOR GOODWIN**

*NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center  
Public Affairs*

A new era of human spaceflight is set to begin as American astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley once again launch on an American rocket from American soil to the International Space Station, this time as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program – the first U.S. launch with crew since the end of the Space Shuttle Program in 2011.

The Commercial Crew Program was formed to facilitate the development of a U.S. commercial crew space transportation capability with the goal of achieving safe, reliable and cost-effective access to and from the space station and low-Earth orbit.

The mission, known as Demo-2, is targeted for May 27 at 3:32 p.m. from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Behnken and Hurley will launch atop a Falcon 9 rocket, en route to an extended stay on the station.

“The Commercial Crew Program has challenged the traditional way of developing human spaceflight launch vehicles by shifting the way we think,” said Bobby Watkins, manager of the Human Exploration Development & Operations Office at Marshall. “This is a huge moment for NASA and its partners, and we are proud at Marshall to be a small part of this monumental mission.”

The Human Exploration Development & Operations Office supports the Commercial Crew Program with engineers who have helped review critical design and development documentation. The team also helps provide oversight of safety standards for the spacecraft and verifies data. For the launch, members of the team will be present in the Hunts-

ville Operations Support Center at Marshall and will work closely with teams at SpaceX in Hawthorne, California, Kennedy and Johnson Space Center to monitor launch conditions.

The team has already conducted several simulations in the Huntsville Operations Support Center, and will continue to do so in preparation for launch. During the simulations, participants use headsets and voice loops to communicate with flight control teams at Kennedy, Johnson and SpaceX. Marshall team members help analyze data for the simulations in real time.

“Using the HOSC for the simulations protected our employees by not having them travel during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Steve Gaddis, launch vehicle deputy manager for the Commercial Crew Program. “This recent sim makes the excitement all the more tangible -- especially for the team here at Marshall.”

For almost 20 years, humans have continuously lived and worked aboard the space station, advancing scientific knowledge and demonstrating new technologies that enable NASA to prepare for human exploration to the Moon and Mars. The station's design requires humans living aboard to maintain, operate and upgrade it; thus, space station operations, including commercial resupply and commercial crew, are essential to the mission. Marshall also supports the station by operating the Payload Operations Integration Center, which operates, plans and coordinates science experiments 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

*Editor's note: Janet Anderson is a public affairs officer in Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications. Taylor Goodwin, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

# Rocket readership survey

We want to learn how to serve you better.

That's right. The *Redstone Rocket* staff would like to know what you think of this weekly newspaper and how it can better serve the local military and civilian community.

Return completed surveys to the Garrison Public Affairs Office on the second floor of building 4488. The mailing address is: Garrison-Redstone, Public Affairs Office IMRE-PA, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

For more information, call *Redstone Rocket* editor Skip Vaughn at 876-1500 or email skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

## Media usage

- How do you prefer to get your news? (Circle all that apply)
  - Print newspaper
  - TV
  - Internet
  - Social media
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Which news media do you regularly read/watch/engage with during an average week? (Circle all that apply)
  - Redstone Rocket print edition
  - Redstone Rocket e-edition/website
  - Redstone Rocket social media (Facebook, Twitter)
  - Team Redstone website
  - Team Redstone app
  - Team Redstone social media (Facebook, Twitter)
  - Army.mil
  - FMWR website
  - Other news outlets (ex: AL.com, WAFF 48, WHNT, etc.)
  - None of the above
- What social media do you use? (Circle all that apply)
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
  - Snapchat
  - Pinterest
  - YouTube
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Specific media (*Redstone Rocket*)

- When was the last time you read or looked at the *Redstone Rocket*?
  - Never read or looked at the paper
  - Within last week
  - Within last month
  - Within last three months
  - Within last six months
- How much of the *Redstone Rocket* do you read or look at in an average week?
  - None/almost none
  - One-fourth
  - One-half
  - Three-fourths
  - Almost all/all
- When was the last time you visited the *Redstone Rocket* website?
  - Never visited the website
  - Within last week
  - Within last month
  - Within last three months
  - Within last six months
  - I did not know the Redstone Rocket had a website
- How user friendly would you rate the Redstone Rocket website?
  - Very user friendly
  - Somewhat user friendly
  - Neutral
  - Not very user friendly
  - Not user friendly at all
  - I have never visited the website

- When was the last time you visited a Redstone Rocket social media site (Facebook or Twitter) or saw a Redstone Rocket post in your feed?
  - Within last week
  - Within last month
  - Within last three months
  - Within last six months
  - I am not on social media
  - I do not like or follow Redstone Rocket social media
  - I did not know the Redstone Rocket had social media accounts

- How likely are you to interact (like, share, comment) with Redstone Rocket social media channels? (Facebook or Twitter)

Highly likely  
Somewhat likely  
Neutral  
Not likely  
Not likely at all  
I am not on social media.  
I do not like or follow Redstone Rocket social media.

- When it comes to breaking news related to Redstone (weather related closings, emergencies, etc.), what news outlets do you turn to first? Please rank 1 to 5, with 1 being the place you are likely to turn to first, and 5 being your least likely option.

\_\_\_\_ Redstone Rocket website  
\_\_\_\_ Redstone Rocket social media  
\_\_\_\_ Team Redstone website  
\_\_\_\_ Team Redstone social media  
\_\_\_\_ Other news outlets (AL.com, WAFF, WHNT, etc.)

## Overall opinion

- Overall, how would you rate the *Redstone Rocket*?

Excellent  
Very good  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

- Overall, how would you rate the *Redstone Rocket* website?

Excellent  
Very good  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

- Overall, how would you rate *Redstone Rocket* social media?

Excellent  
Very good  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

## Specific perception

- Please rate *Redstone Rocket* on each of the following characteristics. To answer, use a 5-point rating scale for which a 1 means that it describes the paper very poorly and a 5 means it describes the paper very well. Then please indicate how important each is to you. To answer, use a 5-point rating scale for which a 5 means that is very important to you and a 1 means it is not important at all.

Reflects my personal beliefs: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Makes me think: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Is accurate/free of errors: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Can be used anywhere, anytime I want: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Cares about people like me: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Stirs my imagination/surprises me: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Is relaxing to read: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Has personality: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Is a leader in the community: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Provides valuable content: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Makes it easy to find what I'm looking for: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

## Content

- Please rate *Redstone Rocket* on each of the following kinds of content. To answer use a 5-point rating scale for which a 1 means that is it poor and a 5 means it is excellent. Pick a single number between 1 and 5 to rate how good a job the newspaper does with each type of content. Then please indicate how important each is to you. To answer, use a 5-point rating scale for which a 5 means that is very important to you and a 1 means it is not important at all.

Army/DOD related stories: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Human interest stories: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Community news: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Redstone sports and recreation: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Command policy: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Workforce opinions: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Photos: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
Special inserts (Veterans/Heroes Week, etc.): Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

16. What would you like to see more of in the Redstone Rocket? Please check all that apply:

- Big Army/DOD related stories  
 Technical/science related stories  
 Human interest stories/features on people  
 Community news/local event, entertainment and recreation info  
 Redstone sports and recreation  
 Command information/policy  
 Photos  
 Announcements  
 Classifieds

17. What would you like to see less of in the Redstone Rocket?

- Big Army/DOD related stories  
 Technical/science related stories  
 Human interest stories/features on people  
 Community news/local event, entertainment and recreation info  
 Redstone sports and recreation  
 Command information/policy  
 Photos  
 Announcements  
 Classifieds

### Outcome

18. Please rate *Redstone Rocket* on each of the following kinds of outcomes. To answer use a 5-point rating scale for which a 1 means that is it poor and a 5 means it is excellent. Pick a single number between 1 and 5 to rate how good a job the newspaper does with each type of outcome. Then please indicate how important each is to you. Then please indicate how important each is to you. To answer, use a 5-point rating scale for which a 5 means that is it very important to you and a 1 means it is not important at all.

I like to talk about things I've read in the *Rocket*: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reading the *Rocket* has changed the way I do my job/helps me do my job better: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_  
 My impression of my organization improved due to something I read in the *Rocket*: Satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_; Importance \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional

19. Please share any additional information you would like concerning the *Redstone Rocket*, such as what you like most or like least about the newspaper. If you're interested in speaking to a *Redstone Rocket* representative, this space is also an opportunity to provide your contact information.

### Demographic

20. Which best describes your education?  
 Some high school, no diploma  
 High school graduate, diploma or equivalent (GED)  
 Some college credit, no degree  
 Trade/technical/vocational training  
 Associate degree  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Master's degree  
 Doctorate degree

21. Which best describes your current employment status?

- Government employee  
 Government contractor  
 Service member  
 Employed (non-federal employee/contractor)  
 Student  
 Retired  
 Unemployed

22. Please indicate your age and gender.

- Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_; Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: Under 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 18-24 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 25-34 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 35-44 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 45-54 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 55-64 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 65-74 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
 75 or older \_\_\_\_\_

23. What race do you consider yourself to be?

- White  
 Hispanic  
 Asian or Pacific Islander  
 African-American or black  
 American Indian or Alaskan native  
 Other  
 Prefer not to answer

# Marshall team wins Gears of Government Award

By TAYLOR GOODWIN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center  
Public Affairs

The Property Management Group at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center has received a 2020 Gears of Government Award.

The award recognizes individuals and teams across the federal workforce whose dedication supports exceptional delivery of key outcomes for the American people – specifically mission results, customer service and accountable stewardship. Each May, the Executive Office of the President presents exemplary Agency and Council Award recipients with the Gears of Government Award. The winning Marshall team, comprised of nearly 50 members, was selected for their outstanding performance in the accountable stewardship category.

According to the Gears of Government Awards' Hall of Winners site, the team "improved stewardship, data accountability and communication with stakeholders of government property. Their continued efforts increase NASA's research and development capabilities, saving NASA and taxpayers' money."

The team was recognized for demonstrating excellence in multiple tasks. The award

package outlines the team's accomplishments in auditing, furnishing, testing, network management, training, donation management, communication and partnerships.

"We can't reach the Moon without logistics to support the supply chain," Gary Humphrey, Marshall supply equipment management officer, said. "The breadth of this award is so vast because it depends on property accountability, property stewardship and data accountability. It's about improving the communication effort to keep our center running the best way it can."

The Property Management Group successfully audited multiple contractors with government-furnished property. As agency leaders, the team maintained accounting for nearly 23,000 critical government assets. With an annual inventory accuracy of 99.97%, the team consistently exceeds the agency objective.

The Marshall team was selected by NASA Headquarters to complete testing and evaluation of the Radio Frequency Identification implementation program and physical inventory pilot program. Following successful testing, the pilot program transitioned to becoming the standard inventory tool for all NASA centers.

The NASA Integrated Communications Services contract – headquartered at Mar-

shall – successfully supported local area network management at all NASA centers with over 14,000 assets. The Property Management Group managed the deployment of government assets across the agency and worldwide via NASA Integrated Communications Services.

The team developed training that standardizes equipment and supply management business practices. They provided this training to centers agencywide.

The Property Management Group maintained relationships with multiple agencies that support diversity and equal opportunity to provide students with disabilities an opportunity to participate in logistics business processes under the guidance of a NASA mentor.

The team manages donations of excess property that most recently included items valued at \$54 million that were donated to eligible schools and educational nonprofits. These donations are a viable method to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational outreach and help the nation's children meet high academic standards.

The team coordinated the furniture selection, purchase and installation of over 430 office spaces in Marshall's building 4221. In spite of construction delays and a govern-

ment furlough, they negotiated the schedules to allow for furniture outfitting without delay or additional costs. The team also established an office furniture ergonomic program that supports employee health by establishing that 20% of all new desks in new office environments have the ability to raise – allowing the employees who have a need to stand while working to do so.

The Property Management Group partners with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind to provide office supplies to Marshall yearly. The institute is a government-sanctioned supplier that supports green purchasing requirements and its Base Supply Center location on Redstone Arsenal provides a partnership opportunity that helps achieve NASA's mission.

The team successfully supported and managed the reutilization of Air Force specialized property from a decommissioned facility through receiving, processing, disposition and temporary storage. This property has a parallel purpose in space research and increases NASA's research and development capabilities, saving NASA and the taxpayers' money.

*Editor's note: Taylor Goodwin, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

# Classic replay: Stephen F. Austin upsets Duke

From combined reports

College basketball powerhouse Duke wasn't supposed to struggle against Stephen F. Austin.

The No. 1-ranked Blue Devils had not lost at home to a nonconference opponent in 150 games, not since 2000 when they lost to St. John's. Their faithful fans were used to winning at Cameron Indoor Stadium on the Duke campus in Durham, North Carolina.

They were a 27.5-point favorite against unranked Stephen F. Austin, the visitor from Nagadoches, Texas.

But the Lumberjacks shocked the basketball world by upsetting Duke 85-83 on

Nov. 26, 2019, in overtime. The game was 81-all at the end of regulation.

The winning basket came with the score tied in overtime. Duke looked to take the last shot, but Tre Jones missed. Wendell Moore got the rebound for Duke but lost the ball in a scramble with three seconds left. Nathan Bain came up with it for S.F.A., and drove the length of the floor for a buzzer-beating layup. Stephen F. Austin had a timeout but didn't use it.

"My family lost a whole lot this year," Bain said after the game. He is a native of the Bahamas, which was hit hard by Hurricane Dorian. "I just want to make my country proud."

Going into the game, Duke was 6-0, with wins over No. 3 Kansas, California (by 35) and Central Arkansas (by 51). Stephen F. Austin was 4-1 coming into the game, with a loss to Rutgers.

"Obviously it's a huge win for our program and Stephen F. Austin," Kyle Keller, the Lumberjacks fourth-year coach, said.

## Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

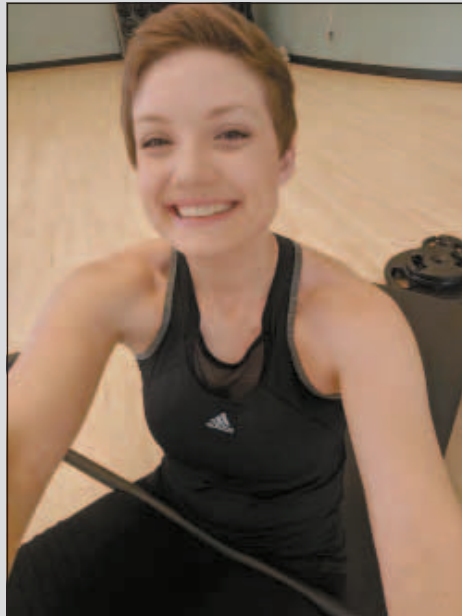
Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

*What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?*

"Becoming cardiovascularly fit enough to be able to yell, teach and lift at the same time so I could teach classes," Raye Bonham Carter, membership director at the Downtown Express YMCA, said. "I teach Strength Train Together at the Downtown Express YMCA. It honestly is a catchall for people at any fitness level. It's a high rep, low weight strength training class with a focus on functional fitness. It is an hourlong class. At this particular branch, at the downtown Y, it is taught three days a week. We are able to fit 12 people in the class and it can be modified for any age, gender, pretty much any demographic. But you have to be at least 12 years old to be able to be in there with a parent. I have been doing it for three years. And I had been strength training for 10 years before I started teaching."

Carter, 33, from Dallas, Texas, has been membership director five years at the Downtown Express YMCA in Huntsville. She graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2011 with a bachelor's in English. She and her husband of seven years, Blake, reside in Huntsville with their three cats. Carter said she does a lot of acting in community theatre. She roots for the Texas Rangers in major league baseball.



Courtesy photo

**Raye Bonham Carter teaches a strength training class at the Downtown Express YMCA in Huntsville.**



## In this section...

WE TEND TO ROOT FOR TEAMS AGAINST ALL ODDS

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# We tend to root for teams against all odds

There's something about the underdog. Imagine folks standing around rooting for the kid with the slingshot against the mighty giant back in the day. We've usually seemed to pull for the lesser talent, the lesser force, the smaller physique.

That's at the root of the sentiment against the old Notre Dame football teams or the New York Yankees baseball teams or the regional bias against the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Southeastern Conference.

Human nature favors the underdog.

Such was the case when the unranked Stephen F. Austin basketball team upended top-ranked Duke last November at Duke. The visiting Lumberjacks had chopped down the unbeaten Blue Devils.

The Rocky movies thrived on the story of the down-on-his-luck Philadelphia fighter who gets his shot against the world champion. Of course we rooted for the underdog.

Maybe our inclination has something to do with ourselves. In this world, we're all underdogs. We have to

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## From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn  
Rocket editor

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meet personal challenges, family challenges, employment challenges. We're all 10-to-1 underdogs in this world, especially now.

All meetings and events are subject to change or cancellation. Please contact organizers directly for latest information.

## Sports & Recreation

### Cotton Row Run rescheduled

Due to concerns for its runners, volunteers and spectators around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Huntsville Track Club has decided to move the 41st Cotton Row Run to a more suitable date. Working closely with the City of Huntsville and the sponsors, they have set the race day for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville. Even though they must postpone this Memorial Day tradition of honoring our military who have lost their lives in service to our country, they are committed to honoring service members' sacrifice and dedicating the race to them on Labor Day. Bill Penney Toyota returns as the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors include Fleet Feet Huntsville, TOC Orthopaedics, Spine & Sports Medicine, and the City of Huntsville. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Huntsville/CottonRowRun>. For more information, email Race Director Donna Palumbo at [runcottonrow@gmail.com](mailto:runcottonrow@gmail.com).

### Bowling tournament

Bowl for Kids' Sake, presented by Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama, is scheduled June 6 from noon to 3 p.m. at Redstone Lanes, building 3424 on Hercules Road. Cost is \$200 per team minimum. Team perks include shoe rental, T-shirts, food and beverages, and prizes. To register, contact Christian Caston at [ccaston@bbbsna.org](mailto:ccaston@bbbsna.org) or 880-2123.

## Conferences & Meetings

### Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 has a monthly meeting every second Saturday at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. Detachment 820 is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The

# Rocket Announcements

league is a veterans/military service organization formed for promoting the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call commandant Stephen Cecil 829-1839, senior vice commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852 or adjutant Charlene Antico 778-7093.

### Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

### Tennessee Valley Corridor

The Tennessee Valley Corridor has announced new dates for its 2020 National Summit celebrating 25 years of innovation in transforming our region. The summit will now be held July 15-16 at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee.

### Infantry division reunion

In Fox Lake, Illinois, the Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the association and its 99th annual reunion in Kansas City, Missouri, from Sept. 23-27, visit [www.2ida.org/99th-annual-reunion/](http://www.2ida.org/99th-annual-reunion/) or contact Bob Haynes at [2idahq@comcast.net](mailto:2idahq@comcast.net) and (224) 225-1202.

### Small business contracting conference

A small business contracting conference and expo will be held Oct. 21 at the Von Braun Center. This event features key government contracting personnel, senior military leaders and industry professionals, matchmaking, contracting classes, networking for defense companies and trade show. The presenter is Contract Ready, based in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and the co-host is Alabama PTAC (Procurement Technical

**See Announcements on page 40**

# Cloth Face Covering Do's & Don'ts:

## DO:



- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

## DON'T:

- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for healthcare workers



# Rocket Announcements

(Assistance Center), from Birmingham. For information email Phil Kiver at [pkiver@contractready.org](mailto:pkiver@contractready.org).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. Call Harry Hobbs at 783-1793 for more information.

### Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit [mystar991.com](http://mystar991.com) or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

### Lance reunion canceled

The 13th Lance Missile and MLRS Veterans Homecoming Celebration scheduled Sept. 3-4 has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The event has been moved to 2021, on May 21-22 or in October, and will remain in Huntsville. For more information, call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams, the organizer, at 210-209-2000 or email [jwilli9014@aol.com](mailto:jwilli9014@aol.com).

### Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult

*All meetings and events are subject to change or cancellation. Please contact organizers directly for latest information.*

time: [www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news).

### Car show canceled

Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners has canceled its 16th annual charity car show June 6 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

### Omega boat ride

Rooze with the Ques annual boat ride, presented by Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., is June 20. Buses will live the Omega center at 181 Import Circle at noon June 20 and return June 21 at noon. Tickets are \$90 nonrefundable and will serve as your boarding pass to and from Chattanooga. Hotel reservations are separate and can be made by calling Marriott Chattanooga Hotel 2 Carter Plaza and ask for "the Omega Psi Phi Boat Ride." Hotel reservation must be made by May 31. For more information and tickets, call 599-6612, 682-1071 or 425-8244.

### PS Magazine website

PS Magazine has received many questions lately like, "Where's the monthly magazine I used to read using a mobile app or at the LOGSA website? What happened to the cartoons? Where the heck do I read PS Magazine now?" The answer to each question is that PS Magazine now informs Army readiness using a fully online, mobile-friendly information portal. Its heritage to present timely and accurate preventive maintenance, supply and safety information directly to Soldiers remains the same, although without cartoons. Check out their new website at [www.psmagazine.army.mil](http://www.psmagazine.army.mil).

### Thrift Shop closed

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thrift Shop is closed until further notice and cannot accept any donations. The management appreciates your understanding during these difficult times.

