

Fauquier Times

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**It's happening:
Focus on
Warrenton.
See page 21.**

Remembering 9/11



PHOTO BY HEATHER HUGHES

This photo of the Pentagon after 9/11 first appeared in the Loudoun Times-Mirror.

The day the world changed

By Christopher Connell
PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

*First of two weekly articles on the 20th anniversary
of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.*

The memories from that sunny, terrible Tuesday morning are indelible.

At 9:37 a.m. on September 11, 2001, less than an hour after the first hijacked jet struck the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan and 34 minutes after a second crashed into the south tower, terrorists who commandeered a third jet slammed it almost at ground level into the west side of the Pentagon.

Chris Granger, then a firefighter-paramedic in Woodbridge, was nearly four hours into his shift when the call came for help from the Arlington County Fire Department. Then-Lt. Cmdr. Jon Krietz was on the bridge of the USS Enterprise in the Arabian Sea. Bill Glenz, a contractor for the Federal Aviation Administration, was listening to the radio while working on a staffer's computer. Claude Davenport, an investigator for the U.S. Customs Service – now Customs & Border Protection -- was on duty at headquarters a few blocks

from the White House.

Glenz, Davenport and others in the panicked Capitol that morning feared that the White House or U.S. Capitol would be the next target. Later they made long, sometimes circuitous journeys home to Fauquier County, reuniting with loved ones they had struggled to reach in the first hours when cell phones were useless.

With the U.S. war in Afghanistan now ended and the Taliban back in charge in Kabul after two decades, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is prompting many to relive that day and to honor those who paid a price for defending the country in Operation Enduring Freedom, the second Gulf War and beyond.

This week and next, we share some of their stories.

See 9/11, page 6

'I want to stop the suffering... These kids are sick.'

Dr. Joshua Jakum will host Zoom event to address parents' COVID questions

By Robin Earl
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Dr. Joshua Jakum, pediatrician with Piedmont Pediatrics in Warrenton, said his practice is seeing children with COVID-19. "We are diagnosing them, lots of them. From kids in day-care all the way through high school."

The children Jakum has seen have COVID symptoms; some have been hospitalized. He said that one of his COVID patients is only a month old. He added, "Fortunately, I have not lost any patients to COVID."

See DR. JAKUM, page 8

COVID-19 in children

In the Fauquier County School Division, since Aug. 11
170 students have tested positive for COVID
565 are quarantining

In the Rappahannock Rapidan Health District, since March 2020
785 positive cases, 0-9 years old
1,737 positive cases, 10-19
5 children 0-9, hospitalized
5 children 10-19, hospitalized
1 child 10-19, has died

In Virginia, since March 2020
More than 41,000 cases, 0-9 years old
More than 86,000 cases, 10-19
375 children 0-9, hospitalized
463 children 10-19, hospitalized
4 children 0-9 have died
7 children 10-19 have died
SOURCE: VDH AND FCPS

State police say goodbye to K-9 Duke.

See Page 14.



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Remembering 9/11: The day the world changed

9/11, from page 1

Chris Granger, 50, of Warrenton

Chris Granger was four years into his career as a Prince William County firefighter and medic on Sept. 11, 2001, when the Arlington County Fire Department urgently called neighbor departments for more ambulances.

The television in Fire Station 12 in Woodbridge still showed the smoking Twin Towers standing when Granger and his partner sped out and up Interstate 95. On the radio, they were told to head to Arlington Fire Station 1 on Glebe Road, a mile from the inferno at the Pentagon.

“It was wall-to-wall ambulances,” said Granger, now a battalion chief and Fauquier’s Center District supervisor. With nearly all Arlington’s trucks and ambulances already at the Pentagon, the Prince William team and the rest were dispatched to answer other, routine emergency medical calls that morning. But in the afternoon, they joined the search and recovery effort inside the still-burning Pentagon.

“They put together groups of 10 of us to systematically search the place and clear the building of people. That’s what the fire department does – clear out buildings,” he said. Each group included someone familiar with the massive structure. Maps showed the corridor they were to search. The air was heavy with the fumes of jet fuel.

Granger’s team went down the corridor between the C and B rings (A is the innermost) to where the shattered cockpit of the Boeing 757 had made its deepest penetration. “Everybody knew what it was,” said Granger. He got home at 1 a.m. on Sept. 12 but was sent back up early the next morning.

On Wednesday afternoon, Granger watched a crew of fire fighters and soldiers unfurl a huge American flag from the roof of the Pentagon near its gaping, smoldering wound. He was still outside when suddenly “there was a lot of commotion and, before you know it, there’s George W. Bush, right in front of me.”

The president shook the hands of rescue workers, including Granger’s, and said, “I am so grateful to the people who are working here” and at Ground Zero in New York City, which he would visit two days later. “Our country,” he said, will “not be cowed by terrorists ... willing to destroy people’s lives because we embrace freedom.”

Granger captured photos on a disposable camera, but never saw them. The FBI confiscated it.

Retired Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz, 57, of Broad Run

Jon Kreitz enlisted as a sailor right out of high school in California, received a Naval ROTC scholarship to Georgia Tech and on 9/11 was a lieutenant commander and a senior officer on watch on the deck of the USS Enterprise. It was mid-afternoon in the Middle East.

A sailor came onto the bridge with word that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. The aircraft carrier had just embarked on its way home after a six-month deployment. They turned on a television and watched events unfold.

Kreitz picked up a phone, called Capt. James “Sandy” Winnefeld and said, “Hey, Captain, I don’t think we’re going to Cape Town” – its first stop on the homeward voyage. Winnefeld, later vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stopped the carrier and, without waiting for orders from the Pentagon, turned it back around.

“It was like, ‘OK. You bombed America? Well, you’re not going to do it again.’”

REAR ADMIRAL JON KREITZ (RETIRED)



COURTESY PHOTO

The USS New York, known as the Twin Towers Ship, is an amphibious transport dock ship built with 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in its bow. In 2012, Rear Admiral (retired) Jon Kreitz, of Broad Run, took command of the ship.



Retired Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz, of Broad Run, recalls his time in the U.S. Navy.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/
COY FERRELL

“We went into the North Arabian Sea and ended up launching the first strikes into Afghanistan against al-Qaeda and the Taliban,” said Kreitz. On Oct. 7, 2001, at sea hundreds of miles from landlocked Afghanistan, the Enterprise’s four squadrons of F-14 and F-18 fighter jets lifted off to help lead the attack.

“There wasn’t a sailor aboard that ship worried about going home. They wanted to get whoever did it,” said the now-retired rear admiral. “There was a ton of emotion.”

Before loading the ordinance, sailors wrote messages in colored chalks on the missiles. “A lot were tributes to the first responders lost in New York and those (killed) in the Pentagon,” he recalled. “It was like, ‘OK. You bombed America? Well, you’re not going to do it again.’”

In 2012, Kreitz became commanding officer of the USS New York, an amphibious transport dock ship built with 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in its bow. The ship, which can carry up to 1,200 sailors and Marines, has been called the Twin Towers ship.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Kreitz presided over a shipboard 9/11 remembrance ceremony in the Gulf of Aden, sailing between Somalia and Yemen – and that night supported a mission that targeted

al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

Kreitz later was deputy director of the Pentagon agency that recovers the remains of soldiers missing from past conflicts. He retired in 2019 after serving 38 years. He made the Navy his career “because I wanted to help defend America -- and prevent things like 9/11 from happening.”

Bill Glenz, 62, of Sumerduck

Bill Glenz’s workday began as usual Sept. 11, 2001, with a predawn drive from Sumerduck to catch a 5 a.m. commuter bus in Fredericksburg that stopped at the Pentagon before dropping Glenz and other regulars downtown. He was an IT contractor at the headquarters of the Federal Aviation Administration on Independence Avenue across the street from the Air and Space Museum.

He was helping an FAA staffer who had a radio on at her desk “and we heard a news break that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. We first thought that it was a Piper Cub that some new pilot was flying around New York.” But when they heard that a second plane had struck the towers, they knew something terrible was happening.

See 9/11, page 7

Remembering 9/11

9/11, from page 6

Glenz's job included supporting the FAA's own accident investigators who, along with the National Transportation Safety Board, immediately head out to major aviation accident sites, bringing communications gear with them.

Minutes after the Pentagon was struck – from their 6th floor window they could see the smoke rising across the river -- the FAA grounded all flights across the country. "We started working with air traffic to get a crisis room set up," he said. "The laptops weren't that fast and good then, so we set up (computers) in areas where people could work."

Later Glenz evacuated the building. The scene on Independence Avenue and side streets reminded him of an earthquake movie. "Traffic was all over the place and people are honking. Everybody was trying to get out of town," he said. Police would stop traffic to let motorcades through. "It was just very chaotic."

The FAA is a short block from the Mall, midway between the White House and the Capitol. He and two colleagues headed down to the harbor to move farther away from the next possible target.

He tried calling home on his flip phone, but calls were not getting through. "Nobody really knew what was happening," he said.

Eventually, late in the day, Glenz was able to find a bus back to Fredericksburg. "I got home way after 9 o'clock. I remember hugging my wife and three kids, thankful we were all safe. Mentally, I was exhausted. But the next day we were back at work."

Glenz, owner of Liberty Tax Service in Culpeper, has helped organize Sumerduck's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony for 15 years to "show appreciation to the firefighters and everybody that sacrificed

"I got home way after 9 o'clock. I remember hugging my wife and three kids, thankful we were all safe. Mentally, I was exhausted. But the next day we were back at work."

BILL GLENZ

9/11 remembrance

When: The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11

Where: Sumerduck Ruritan Club, 5335 Sumerduck Road Sumerduck

Attending: Members of Liberty High School JROTC Honor Guard; Liberty High School Choir; Boys Scouts from Troop 1930; Girl Scouts from Troop 90; Del. Mark Cole; County Supervisor Chris Butler; Sheriff Robert Mosier; local first responders; representatives from VFW Post 7728 in Bealeton; members of American Legion Harold J. Davis Post 247 in Remington; and Sumerduck area pastors.

Praise n' Park celebration

When: Sept. 11, 1 to 4 p.m.

Raindate: Sept. 18, 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Eva Walker Park, 123 Alexandria Pike, Warrenton

Who: Sponsored by Mount Zion Baptist Church

Details: Live gospel music, worship and fellowship, health screenings, kids games; menu includes fried fish, hotdogs.

More information: For more information, contact Betty Ball, (540) 422-9137 or Esther Russell, (540) 878-3197.



Chris Granger
TIMES STAFF PHOTO/
COY FERRELL

that day and everyone who sacrificed since then."

"I've got friends whose sons have come back missing limbs and mentally broken. They volunteered to do that," he said. "Too many people have forgotten."

Claude Davenport, 68, of Warrenton

Claude Davenport, the commander of American Legion Post 72 in Warrenton, spent most of his career as a law enforcement investigator, first for the U.S. Army as a military policeman followed by 27 years with the U.S. Customs Service and what became its parent after 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security.

Then as now, Customs was headquartered in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Pennsylvania Avenue, three blocks from the White House. Davenport spe-

"They put together groups of 10 of us to systematically search the place and clear the building of people. That's what the fire department does – clear out buildings."

CHRIS GRANGER

cialized in international fraud investigations, not work at the borders or airports.

"We got information that the first plane had hit the World Trade Center. When the second plane hit, we realized it wasn't a fluke accident. We went into high security alert," he said. "We sat tight, kept the (Reagan) building secure and started reaching out to other offices. We tried to get in touch with New York to see if they needed any assets. Of course, communications were all shut down and cell phones weren't working. We were able to contact some of our guys through a radio network."

The collapse of the North Tower destroyed the adjacent U.S. Customs House at Six World Trade Center, from which all four Customs officers had already escaped.

They also contacted Customs investigators overseas. Most of the rest of the day is a blur. "We had so much going on," said Davenport, who subsequently took part in Homeland Security searches for weapons of mass destruction and licensing violations in Iraq.

Later in his career – he formally retired in 2007 but spent the next eight years still working for DHS as a federal annuitant and contractor – he investigated computer crimes and child exploitation rings.

Nothing was the same after 9/11, he said. "It changed us from being a safe place to being a place where we have to look over our shoulders all the time. ... It changed the world. It changed everything."

At the American Legion post, the commander said, "Our primary focus now is reaching out to all of our Afghanistan veterans and letting them know there's someone they can talk to, someone they can vent to, if they want. We don't want to leave them out there with no one."



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Claude Davenport is the commander of American Legion Post 72 in Warrenton.

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This photo was taken by Ruth Rosati of Herndon a few minutes after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, on Sept. 11, 2001. © 2001 Ruth Anne Rosati

Fauquier High School remembers shock, confusion – then unity – on Sept. 11, 2001

By Christopher Connell

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

Veteran teacher Dave Smith had risen before dawn that September morning to prepare what he called “News Notes” to spark discussions among the seniors in his U.S. government classes. The choice for the Sept. 11, 2001, Compendium of Civic and Political Developments class was easy. It was primary day in New York City, to choose a successor to Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

His classroom was in the school annex. When the phone rang in his small office, “I thought it was the principal but it was my older son, Joey, who’s an electrician. He said, ‘Dad, I’m alright.’ I said, ‘That’s wonderful.’

“I was supposed to go to the Pentagon this morning but they sent me to the Naval Yard in-

stead,” he said. I still had no clue. ‘You don’t know what I’m talking about? Turn on the TV.’ I had gone through one entire class without knowing anything that was going on,” said Smith.

News of the earlier attacks on the World Trade Center had reached the front office, but there had been no school-wide announcement yet.

“It’s kind of like it was yesterday,” said Kraig Kelican, then assistant principal and now principal.

“I got to school about 6:30 (a.m.) and did the normal things – answer emails and go through some paperwork -- then we started outside duty, talking to and greeting kids as they were coming into the building. It was such a gorgeous day,” Kelican said. The principal and his team gathered for a regular weekly meeting during the first block of classes.

See 9/11, page 6

Black smoke over the gravestones

The limousine driver had not turned the radio on as he drove the Moreau family from Herndon to Arlington National Cemetery that morning for the funeral of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and systems engineer Raymond Moreau. His son Ray – at age 62, still “Little Ray” to his family – was in the limo, on his way to saying a last goodbye to his father.

The first inkling that something was amiss was when he noticed a former coworker of his dad’s holding a radio to his ear as they walked to the chapel.

“What are you listening to – the game?” the son quipped.

See ARLINGTON, page 6

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TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL

Dave Smith was teaching government classes on Sept. 11, 2001. He told his students it would be a defining moment for them.

Fauquier High School remembers shock, confusion – then unity – on Sept. 11, 2001

9/11, from page 1

“We were all sitting around the conference room table and our secretary came in and said, ‘Just wanted to let you guys know that a plane hit the World Trade Center.’ We were shocked but thought it was probably just a freak accident. A little while after that she came in and said, ‘A second one hit.’ That was the dawning moment.”

Seth Enterline, then a senior, remembers Smith reentering the classroom “and you can tell he’s kind of shook. He kind of paused and said, ‘They hit the Pentagon.’”

Immediately students with cell phones started trying to call their parents, mostly to no avail, and parents inundated the school with calls.

“A good chunk of kids have parents that work in and around the Pentagon. They were upset. We were trying to calm them down,” said Kelican. “It got really hectic.”

The front office told teachers to let students go to lunch in shifts as normal starting at 10:30 a.m., which Kelican says was fortunate; it gave students time to be with friends as they grappled with their fears and emotions.

No one in the school, adult or teen, lost a family member that day at the World Trade Center or the Pentagon, but there were anxious moments.

Seth Enterline’s father had gone to the airport that morning on a business trip that took him through New York. “A teacher let me go check on my brother, who was a sophomore. We got him out of French



A flag displayed in Dave Smith’s Fauquier High School classroom lists the name of each victim of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Kraig Kelican, principal of Fauquier High School, was assistant principal on the day terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

class. I was like, ‘Where’s dad at?’ All that did was upset him.” (His father was fine, but couldn’t rent a car to get home for three days.)

Some parents arrived to pull their sons and daughters out of school. The bells still rang on the normal schedule, but no attempt was made to let instruction go on as normal.

“Basically, because of the emotional state of so many of the kids, teachers spent that time trying to talk about what they knew so far and what they all had seen,” said Kelican.

Smith, a Fauquier alumnus – the high school was segregated when he entered in 1967 and integrated when he graduated in 1971 -- told his government students, “This is going to be one of those life events for you. You will remember where you were when you heard about this just like I remembered where I was when I heard about the Kennedy assassination.”

See 9/11, page 7

ARLINGTON, from page 1

“The twin towers were just hit,’ he said. It didn’t register at first.” But a half hour later, the mourners recoiled as a tremendous blast shook the windows and walls of the cemetery’s reception center.

Twenty-seven funerals were scheduled at Arlington on Sept. 11, 2001; honor guards were carrying out the solemn ritual of folding the flag over coffins or urns for those who were cremated.

Those honoring Moreau included colleagues from EDS, a defense contractor where Moreau was a popular manager, as well as fellow Vietnam War veterans and some still working in the Pentagon.

“There are Navy people that were at the service who are alive because they weren’t in their offices at the Pentagon,” said Harold Lutz of Warrenton, a Vietnam veteran who worked for Moreau at EDS.

Moreau’s son said, “As we started the procession to the Columbarium, we get interrupted by the military police. They said the Pentagon was just hit and that there will not be a flag folding ceremony. ‘All these soldiers, all these military people, are going to have to leave,’ they told us.”

Black smoke billowed over the cemetery from the gaping wound in the Pentagon’s west wing, less than a half-mile from where they stood.

Ruthie Rosati, a next-door neighbor to Moreau’s widow Jane in Herndon, ran back to her car, parked along a cemetery road to retrieve her Olympus camera. “This was back in the day when nobody had a camera. I just happened to have mine because after the funeral we were going to go to a condo we were trying to sell and take pictures of it.”

She aimed her lens across the rows of tombstones and captured an image like no other from that tragic morning in Arlington.

The chaplain held an abbreviated service and asked, “Is there anyone here that can stand in for the military folks to fold the flag?”

Many stepped forward to do their part.

“That was so wonderful, seeing these guys that worked for my dad. They all stood and folded the flag,” said “Little Ray.”

Lutz remembers the dazed look on the civilians’ faces that said, “What do we do now?”

They left and slowly made their way to Jane Moreau’s home in Herndon. Stranded relatives who had flown in from Massachusetts camped on cots and sleeping bags in Ray Moreau’s house in Manassas for the next two nights.

Rosati, then a stay-at-home mom, took her roll of film to Costco and had prints of the dramatic moment made for Jane Moreau and others. She let the editor of a weekly newspaper, the Herndon Connection, run it on page 17 of his Sept. 21, 2001, issue. She was not compensated.

Years later, she tried to contact someone doing a book on 9/11 to see if he was interested in reprinting it, but nothing came of that.

Rosati, now a school bus driver, headed straight home from the cemetery that morning. “I was worried about our two boys. When I picked up Kevin, my first grader, he asked what was happening, who would do something like this. I said, ‘Somebody doesn’t like our country.’”

-- CHRISTOPHER CONNELL

Fauquier High School remembers shock, confusion – then unity – on Sept. 11, 2001



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Army Major Seth Enterline, with a K-9 soldier on a mission in Kunar Province in Afghanistan in 2012-2013. Also pictured are Jon Glover and Matt Frost.

9/11, from page 6

Smith keeps a flag on his classroom wall that shows in its blue stripes the names of all those who perished at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania where passengers on another plane thwarted a second attack on Washington by forcing the plane down. Every year he shows his students footage from 9/11, including the awful video captured by a French documentary film maker of the first jet, American Airlines Flight 11, crashing in a fireball into the North Tower. “Kids should never forget what occurred ... but unfortunately it does get kind of forgotten sometimes,” Smith said.

But not at Fauquier High School, where several student organizations paint messages on the large rock in the courtyard and surround it with 3,000 small flags.

Kelican, who became principal two years ago, also flies in the lobby and the front office two Pentagon Freedom Flags, with a single white star surrounded by the five walls of the Pentagon in the blue field.

After 9/11, “the patriotism, the love of country, that came out was just unbelievable,” said Kelican. “It wasn’t bitter anger, but you could see the unity of the kids, wanting to pull together to get us back to what they believed the country is about.”

Affected by the terrorist attack, students enlist

At least five students in school that day subsequently enlisted in the military, including Seth Enterline, who went to the Virginia Military Institute. After graduating, he was commissioned and served a tour in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. Recently, when his 12-year-old son asked for help with an assignment about 9/11, he said, “Parker, I can fill a novel talking about 9/11 and the impact it’s had on my life.”

Enterline, now a physician’s assistant in an orthopedic trauma surgery center in Gainesville, Georgia, hails from a military family. One grand-

father was a gunnery sergeant in the Marine Corps; the other was a full bird colonel in the Army. Enterline, now a major, spent 10 years on active duty and the past seven in the National Guard and Reserves. He and his wife Jamie also have a daughter, Ellie, 10, in fifth grade.

In high school, Enterline had interned with a physical therapist at the Blue Ridge Orthopaedics and Spine Center and thought he would become “a physical therapist in the Army and take care of soldiers that get hurt and get them better.”

The Army had other plans for his first deployment to Iraq in 2007. “They told me they didn’t need another officer in the aid station,” he said. He was assigned to be a leader in a platoon that escorted squads sent out to blow up IEDs. “It was exhausting, but thank God, I never got shot at or blown up,” he said.

After recovering the body of a medic who was blown up, he decided he could do more as a physician’s assistant. The Army sent him to Fort Campbell and Fort Bliss for two years of training.

His good fortune held during the two nine-month tours in Kunar Province in 2012 and Kandahar in 2014. “To call it combat is not exactly fair. I never really got shot at, only indirect artillery rounds,” Enterline said. “I’ve always been lucky. The fighting happens around me, not at me.”

Asked if the United States should have stayed at war in Afghanistan for 20 years, he replied, “I don’t know. For 10 years, every day, every minute of every day, was about getting somebody ready for war. It’s not in me to sit it out.”

“We fought alongside people that needed to fight. You can’t tell me that little girls reading in school and women not having to cover their faces is a bad thing,” he said. “It was not in vain. I know there’s going to be more fighting. It’s just a matter of when and where.”

Christopher Connell is a freelance writer, working with the Piedmont Journalism Foundation.



PHOTO BY HEATHER HUGHES

This photo of soldiers shortly after terrorists crashed into the Pentagon first appeared in the Loudoun Times-Mirror.

Fauquier veteran avenges 9/11 and Pearl Harbor in father’s memory

Growing up in Hawaii where his father was a Navy commander, Eric Johnson could look across the water and see the USS Arizona Memorial to the 2,403 American military and civilians killed on the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

His father, Lloyd Reed Johnson, a supply officer who served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, once told him, “Eric, if you go into the military, don’t let that happen again.”

When 9/11 happened, he felt he had let his father down.

Johnson, 60, of Warrenton was a defense contractor then in the middle of a decades-long career as an Air Force officer and civilian with the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, which builds, deploys and operates satellites that gather intelligence for the U.S. military and intelligence community.

He was at his desk when the hijacked planes struck. Told to evacuate, he said, “I went home, watched the news and cried.”

A decade earlier, he’d served in Operation Desert Storm, operating from the Saudi-Iraqi border and helping provide intelligence that helped coalition forces liberate Kuwait



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Eric Johnson points to the military men in his family who preceded him.

and overwhelm Saddam Hussein’s Revolutionary Guard. The captain, later retired on a medical disability, felt he had fulfilled his promise to his father.

“But after 9/11, the job wasn’t over,” said Johnson. He takes both pride and satisfaction in knowing that the National Reconnaissance Office again played a part in tracking down and killing Osama bin Laden in May 2011. “I felt closure,” he said.

His father is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His plan to mark this 20th anniversary of 9/11? “I will probably go visit my dad.”

-- CHRISTOPHER CONNELL



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Eric Johnson with photographs, medals and mementos from his military career.

Next week: The story of decorated Marine Corporal Lance Bailey II, 35, of Sumerduck, who lost both legs and his left arm fighting in Afghanistan and has no regrets.

Supervisors move forward on plan to bring fiber-optic internet to 10,500 homes

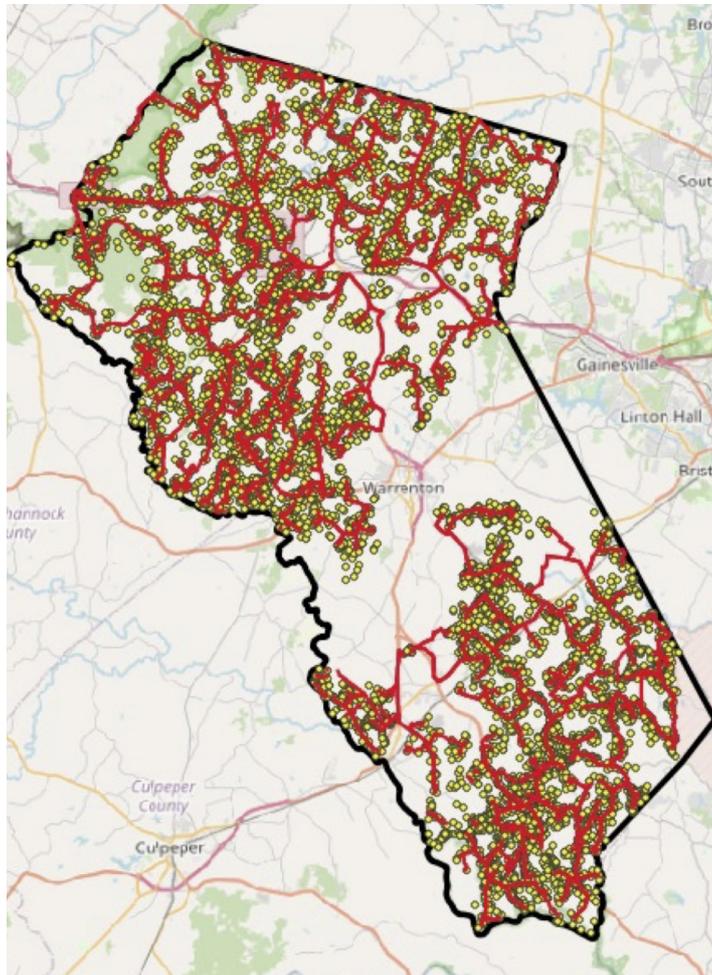
Public-private project depends on success of \$15 million state grant application

By Coy Ferrell
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Fauquier County and a private internet provider are applying for a \$15 million state grant that, if approved, will mean more than 10,000 rural homes in Fauquier County could be served by a fiber-optic internet connection by 2024. Utilizing existing electric power infrastructure, the project would subsidize connections to homes that are not currently in areas served by fiber-optic connections.

The \$64 million project would require a \$10.5 million commitment from the county government, which could be provided in large part by federal COVID relief funds. All Points Broadband, a Leesburg-based internet service provider, would provide \$39 million in capital.

The remaining \$15 million could come from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative, a state fund dedicated to providing capital to expand internet access into areas where high-speed



SOURCE: ALL POINTS BROADBAND

A planning map shows how All Points Broadband plans to make fiber-optic internet connections accessible to more than 10,000 Fauquier County homes and businesses. The project would utilize existing electric company infrastructure.

internet is not currently available. Although the county won't know the outcome of that grant application until the end of the year, officials expressed confidence Thursday that the application will be suc-

cessful, pointing especially to an influx of federal funding into the grant program that the General Assembly intends for projects like the Fauquier plan.

See **BROADBAND**, page 4



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Inspired by the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Marine Cpl. Larry Bailey II served in Afghanistan battling the Taliban. He now lives in Sumerduck.

A wounded warrior remembers battling the Taliban in Afghanistan

As told to Chris Connell
PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

A decade after an improvised explosive device left Marine Cpl. Larry Bailey II clinging to life in combat against the Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, the triple amputee and Purple Heart recipient recalls that day. Bailey, 35, lives in Sumerduck in a fully accessible home that a 9/11 charity, the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation, helped construct.

Twenty years ago I was 15, in my freshman year at Zion Benton Township High School in Illinois. I'm from a military family so we moved around a lot. Both my parents were in the Navy; my Dad made it a career.

See **WARRIOR**, page 7

SPORTS:

Kettle Run football wins, plus volleyball, tennis, cross country, field hockey.
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A wounded warrior remembers battling the Taliban in Afghanistan

WARRIOR, from page 1

It was before first period. We had TVs on in the common areas. I was watching when the second plane hit.

After a little bit of college, I started talking to the military recruiters more. The Air Force and Navy offered me two special forces programs for para-rescuers and air combat commandos, but I signed a five-year, security forces contract with the Marines and went to boot camp in California.

In 2011, I deployed to Afghanistan. We had a lot of really ridiculous rules of engagement that kept our hands tied in a lot of cases. The day I got blown up [June 28, 2011] was one of the first times they lifted a lot of those rules of engagement so we could go do an operation.

We hiked five or six hours from our patrol base, on foot most of the time. We stopped and rested twice. I switched off carrying the heavy machine gun with my gunner. There were quite a few IED hits that day, but nothing serious (at first) with the group of riflemen I was with. Nothing life-threatening.

We had just taken what turned out to be the compound of the local Taliban commander. Good intel wasn't passed along, so we didn't know it was his compound. If we had, I can't say we would have been more cautious -- we were always cautious with the amount of IEDs out there — but we might have had a little bit less lax mindset. We were unpacking and pretty much relaxed there for the day.

Most of the time, once we win a gunfight, which we always did, the Taliban leave, and just stay gone and regroup and fight somewhere else a different day. But this time they regrouped and ambushed some Marines we had on the outside of the compound holding security. One of my buddies died from that ambush.

Myself and another machine gunner, we went up to the rooftop of the compound. It was a two-story building made of mud and hay with a flat roof. The Taliban were maybe a good 300 to 400 yards away. They were small dots. If we weren't in a fire fight, we probably would have noticed the roof was discolored where they'd dug it up to put the IED in. Rooftop IEDs are rare.

I turned around and called for some ammo. Really, this is the only part I didn't remember, but apparently as soon as I pivoted back around to reload the machine gun, that's when the IED went off.

It's kind of weird because a little bit of this is kind of like the movies. I could see the spot where I was standing and there was like a clear circle or halo underneath me, then in slow motion, it started to break apart and fall through. Then I hit the roof and the roof caved in.

The next thing I knew I had a bunch of my buddies jumping on top of me, dragging me. I didn't realize it was them at first. I was punching and throwing people off me. I don't know what I was thinking. I might have been snatched up [by the Taliban]. They held my arms until I realized it was them. I go to myself, "OK, that's cool, I don't have to stab anybody or whatever."

"A lot of us got the feeling, 'OK, so the time we spent over there and the buddies we lost, was that pointless now?' I don't think it was pointless."

I guess I blocked my gunner from taking most of the blast. He was bleeding a little bit, had a concussion, but other than that, he was fine. Oddly enough, my clothes were ripped; all his clothes got blown off.

Even as they were trying to calm me down, I could feel they were putting tourniquets on my legs and arms. My buddy Marino did most of it. We sat there — I lay there — and talked until the birds came in. As soon as the Taliban heard the helicopters come in, they took off.

We had run out of litters from other injuries, so they grabbed a ladder and put a sheet on it and I think put a sheet over me, as well, and carried me to the helicopter that way. It was a British unit that flew in.

They took me to Camp Leatherneck and from there to Landstuhl [Medical Center] in Germany and from there to Walter Reed [where both legs and his left arm were amputated].

I believe they could have salvaged my left leg but, at that point, they had me too drugged up to ask me, which is fine. I see guys who had a salvaged limb; not all, but a majority of them end up coming back and getting that limb amputated because it was causing too much pain.

I got blown up on June 28, 2011, and, in total, I spent almost three years at Walter Reed — a good year of intense rehab, physical therapy, working with the prosthetics and things like that, and after that, more classes including separation classes and next steps. I medically retired in October 2013.

Personally I'm doing pretty good. Just living, living life, trying to work and get my business running and moving. You can call it an advertisement and investment fund type thing. At least, that is what I'd like it to be in the long run.

I still have a lot of stuff to do. I generally don't have a negative outlook on anything. I'm not one of the guys — well, we've had a few guys we had to go and pull out of their basement because they were only leaving the house to buy food and something to drink.

I go to the V.A. for general medical care, but all my prosthetics I still do at Walter Reed. They actually have a prosthetic lab right there where they make all the corrections. The V.A. has to make a cast of the limb, mill it out and wait for it to come back.

I break my hand prosthetic quite often just because I'm pretty active, but not my legs. I got an operation called

an osseointegration where they connect metal to the femurs, and you connect your prosthetic to that. That's a lot better for balance and shoulder prosthetic.

You always see me in prosthetics when I leave the house, but at home, I generally don't have them on. I might have some really short prosthetics on, close to the ground, which are more comfortable and have better balance.

[Before moving to Sumerduck] I used to be really, really short-tempered about people who would break their neck staring at me. Back then I'd say, "You got a question to ask? Stop staring." Now either I won't say anything or ask them a little bit nicer if they have a question.

I have a lot of different thoughts, a lot of emotions [about the pullout from Afghanistan]. A lot of us got the feeling, "OK, so the time we spent over there and the buddies we lost, was that pointless now?"

I don't think it was pointless. I think a lot about the families we were helping. Maybe it's me reaching to find a positive, but there was a time period where it was a lot more peaceful. Families didn't have to hide their daughters all the time. The Taliban wasn't coming around forcing them to do things. The Taliban was coming around trying to cut deals with them, stuff like that.

That bothers me a lot.

Other than that, I have no regrets at all. My only regret is I can't deploy more.



IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

THE 2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED AND ARE DUE TO THE TREASURER'S OFFICE ON OCTOBER 5, 2021.

Failure to receive the bill does not relieve the taxpayer of penalty and interest charges that accrue by law for failure to pay the tax assessment by the due date. If you did not receive your bill(s), please contact the Treasurer's Office immediately at (540) 422-8180 or treasurer@fauquiercounty.gov. If you question your assessment, please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue at (540) 422-8150 or PPT@fauquiercounty.gov (M-F 8:00AM – 4:30PM).

Payments may be made by cash or check at local branches of the following banks:

TRUIST BANK (BB&T)
OAK VIEW NATIONAL BANK
PNC BANK
VIRGINIA NATIONAL BANK (TFB)

You may also pay with eCheck or pay with credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, OR DISCOVER CARD) at treasurer.fauquiercounty.gov (Credit card payments are subject to a convenience fee).

A night deposit box is also available for **CHECK PAYMENTS ONLY**. It is located to the right of the doors entering the courthouse on Ashby Street. Night deposits are picked up daily and processed in the Treasurer's office.

IF YOU ARE MAILING YOUR PAYMENT, IT MUST HAVE A POSTMARKED DATE OF OCTOBER 5, 2021 (OR BEFORE) TO AVOID THE LATE PAYMENT PENALTY.

TREASURER OF FAUQUIER COUNTY
P.O. BOX 677
WARRENTON, VA 20188

Please note that the Treasurer's Office and the Commissioner of the Revenue's Personal Property Office are located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse. Please access the courthouse through the Ashby Street entrance.

Tanya Remson Wilcox, Treasurer