



**PATRIOT
PARK**

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT
THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

April 2024
**News
& Updates**

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6150 Lincoln Highway, Stoystown, PA 15563

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ INSPIRE

DoD Identifies Army Casualties

The Department of Defense recently announced the death of three Army Reserve soldiers who were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Staff Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Ga.; Sgt. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Ga.; and Sgt. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Ga., died Jan. 28, 2024, in Jordan, when a one-way unmanned aerial system (OWUAS) impacted their container housing units. The incident is under investigation as of the announcement.

Patriot Park Foundation joins our nation in remembering and honoring the life and sacrifice of these three soldiers in defense of our country in the Global War on Terror and will seek to inspire all to live a life worthy of their sacrifice throughout Patriot Park's expansion and development.

Rivers, Sanders and Moffett were assigned to the 718th Engineer Company, 926th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, Fort Moore, Ga.

President's Report

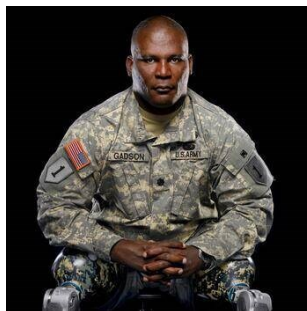
Reflecting on the year 2023, I must extend our sincerest gratitude to all who contributed to Patriot Park's success. On behalf of the Patriot Park Foundation Board of Directors and myself, I thank our donors, volunteers, companies, and visitors whose collective efforts led to the remarkable growth and achievements we witnessed last year. We formed valuable connections and friendships, which we aim to nurture further in 2024. Help us amplify the message of Patriot Park by sharing this newsletter with your friends.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to introduce several new features. We plan to replace many storyboards at the Park with new ones honoring our Global War on Terrorism Veterans and their families. Furthermore, the Board is dedicated to enhancing educational offerings, including the development of the Timeline Trail—an interactive feature that will guide visitors through significant events of the War on Terrorism. If you have a story to share, we invite you to register online so that we may preserve and share it with Park visitors.

2024 promises to be an exhilarating year, and I eagerly anticipate seeing you at Patriot Park.

THANK YOU — *Randy Musser*

GWOT Veteran Keynote Visit Announced



The Patriot Park Foundation is pleased to announce that Colonel Gregory D. Gadson, a 26-year service member of the United States Army, will be the Keynote Speaker at our Remember, Honor, and Inspire Events this August 22nd and 23rd in Somerset and

Pittsburgh. Be sure to save the dates as the Colonel's presentation is not one to miss.

A Chesapeake, Va., native, Col. Gadson's service culminated as the Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir, where he oversaw the daily operations of the post, a strategic sustaining base where more than 50,000 military personnel and employees provide logistical, intelligence, medical and administrative support, and command and control for a mix of more than 140 commands and agencies for the Department of Defense.

Col. Gadson's life is a portrait of courage in the face of great adversity. In May 2007, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, Col. Gadson's greatest challenge came in Iraq, where an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack cost him both legs above the knees

Continued page 3 . . .

Honoring the Fallen:

As President George W. Bush stated in an address to the nation, the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) is unlike any other conflict the United States has fought. The GWOT has spanned over 22 years, with our military personnel still in harm's way. This year, we mourn the loss of Christopher Chambers, SO1, Navy; Nathan Gage, SO2, Navy; William Rivers, SGT, Army; Kennedy Sanders, SPC, Army and Breonna Moffett, SPC, Army in Operation Freedom Sentinel. These five brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice while service their country on our behalf. Additionally, we have seen far too many military personnel lose their lives in non-combat related accidents.

They will be remembered and honored at Patriot Park.

New Additions to Patriot Park Foundation Announced

USAF GWOT Veteran Joins PPF Board:



Brenda Keitzer Captain, USAF GWOT veteran, joined the Patriot Park Board of Directors in February 2024.

Captain Keitzer is a veteran of the Air Force where she navigated the RC-135 for 8 years. Her five primary deployments (Japan, Greece, and Middle East x3) instilled a love for leadership, culture and travel. After

earning her military wings, she decided to move home and grow roots purchasing a 34 acre farmette.

Other accomplishments include traveling to all 50 states and all 100+ Pennsylvania State Parks, self-learning to juggle and complete a Rubix cube, and building a business to help veterans transition from homelessness to happiness.



Executive Director Named:



The Patriot Park Foundation recently approved the engagement of Daniel M. Zalewski, Jr. as the organization's Executive Director to guide the organization through the final organizational and constructional phases of the park and the nonprofit entity.

Dan is a 32 year non-profit professional with expertise in administration, fundraising, planning, and project management, as well as local, regional, and national campaigns and projects.

Zalewski is the founder of DAZA Development which is a Harrisburg, PA based administration and fundraising firm assisting nonprofits through the United States for twenty years as of February 2024. Along with his background and experience, the entire 200+ years of experience possessed by the firm's team of 11 will help achieve the mission and vision of Patriot Park Foundation.

Flag Installation for 2024 Season Approaches and other Dates to Note



Saturday, April 27th: Flag installation will commence and continue as needed through Thursday, April 30th, weather permitting. Follow us on Facebook for real-time updates on the installation progress. Local students will once again assist with this significant task. If you or your group wish to participate, please register on our website or contact Randy at 814-233-0351.



Sunday, May 26th: Remembrance Day will honor our fallen Global War on Terrorism heroes at the Park beginning at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker for the evening will be State Senator Devlin Robinson, a Marine Corps veteran who served tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Saturday, July 20th: Patriot Park Day with a variety of family activities including food trucks, live music, and a climbing wall.

Thursday, August 22nd: 2nd Annual Remember Honor and Inspire Gala at the Friesland Event Center with Colonel Gregory Gadson, GWOT and US Army Veteran. See story page 1.

Friday, August 23rd: Remember Honor and Inspire Breakfast in Pittsburgh with Colonel Gregory Gadson, GWOT and US Army Veteran. See story page 1.

PATRIOT PARK FOUNDATION'S MISSION AND VISION

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to remember and honor our Post 9-11 Global War on Terrorism Armed Forces and their families for their sacrifices to preserve and protect our freedom."

Vision Statement

"Through monuments, displays, and learning opportunities, Patriot Park Foundation will inspire visitors to remember and honor the sacrifices made by others to protect our freedom."

Paving Project Update:



The Board of Directors has approved a paving project for the entrance road and parking area at Patriot Park. As part, we will be adding more parking spaces, including

accommodation for buses or oversized vehicles. This initiative aims to create a welcoming and professional entrance, improve ADA accessibility, and cater to motorcycle groups. Parking spaces and traffic flow will be clearly defined with added pavement markings.

. . . Keynote Visit Announced (from page 1)

and normal use of his right arm and hand. Despite this, Gadson remained on active duty in the Army and continued to inspire many with his message of courage, perseverance, determination and teamwork.

Refusing to be defined by the proverbial "hail of bullets," he has since drawn upon the lessons of Pride, Poise and Team, learned as a West Point linebacker, and applied them to his life, career and family.

Commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1989 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Greg served in every major conflict of the past two decades, including Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Kuwait; Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Greg served in various assignments throughout the world. He dedicated himself to leading the Soldiers, civilian employees and family members in living the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

Greg is a passionate advocate for wounded warriors, veterans and those with disabilities; on several occasions, testified before Congress on issues related to these groups.

In 2007, Tom Coughlin, New York Giants head coach, asked Gadson to meet with the then struggling team. Gadson talked to the players about service, teamwork, duty, perseverance and adversity. His message resonated and the New York Giants defeated the 18-0 New England

Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Greg made his silver screen debut in 2012 as a lead actor in the blockbuster movie Battleship; where he portrayed a war-injured veteran that helped save the world from an alien invasion. In 2015, he completed season one of The Inspectors, a family television series on CBS.

Greg continues a very energetic and dynamic lifestyle where he continues to serve his nation as an entrepreneur and managing partner of Patriot Strategies, LLC, a government services company. He is also an accomplished photographer/artist and remains active in cycling, skiing and scuba.

Greg's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (2); Bronze Stars (3); Purple Heart; the Meritorious Service Medal (3) and the Army Commendation Medal (3).

He is a graduate of Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and holds masters degrees in Information Systems from Webster University; and Policy Management from Georgetown University. He holds an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Webster University.

Gadson will be visiting Patriot Park on August 22nd and present a Keynote Address at the annual Fundraising Dinner at the Friesland Event Center in Hooversville, PA. that evening, as well as presenting at the Remember, Honor, Inspire Breakfast in Pittsburgh the next morning.

Full event information will be released shortly.



PATRIOT PARK FOUNDATION

Patriot Park Foundation ---- Board of Directors ---- 2024

Clair Gill – Chairman of the Board – Treasurer – Major General, U.S. Army - retired

Randall Musser, P.E., P.L.S. - President

Robert E. Sembower – Vice President – Brigadier General, U.S. Army - retired Cathy Incardona, - Secretary - Esq.- retired

Katlin Rodriguez – Social Media Coordinator

Robert Munhall – Colonel, U.S. Army - retired J. Pat Terlingo – School Superintendent, - retired

Kathy Walker - Gold Star Mother

Duane Hart – Brigadier General, U.S.A.F. – retired

William Szych – Lieutenant Colonel, U.S.A.F. – retired

Brenda Keitzer - Captain - U.S.A.F. – Veteran

Daniel Zalewski, Executive Director

Advisory Board

G. Henry Cook – Director Emeritus – Somerset Trust Company

David Berkey – President, Berkey Excavating, Inc.

Travis Pheanis – SFC – U.S. Army – retired

Executive Director, The National Ranger Association, 2014-2023

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ INSPIRE

Please consider supporting the Patriot Park Foundation mission. Donate today at

https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1736

Volunteers Needed!

Please CIRCLE the one you want to help with:

Executive Assistant

Grounds Crew/Maintenance

Gold Star Family & GWOT Veteran Stories

Park Visitors Greeter

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email/Phone: _____

Please return your commitment to Remember Honor and Inspire to

Patriot Park Foundation, 6150 Lincoln Highway, Stoystown PA 15563

