

# ANGEL'S WINGS<sub>ONLINE</sub>

920TH RESCUE WING

JULY 2018



**920<sup>th</sup> RESCUE WING  
AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD  
2016**

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller announced the winners of the 2016 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, July 9.

“Congratulations on all your efforts! Your continued excellence has been recognized by the Commander of the Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. Miller, with the 2016 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. I’m extremely proud of all you’ve accomplished. Well done!”

-- Col. Kurt A. Matthews, Commander, 920th Rescue Wing

## Remembering Major Heller

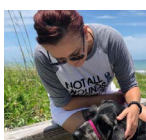


Major Carrie A. Heller, 41, of the 920th Aero-medical Staging Squadron, passed away in her sleep Sunday, June 3, after arriving home from the UTA. The reason has not yet been determined. Maj. Heller served as the lead optometrist since March 20, 2015.

Maj. Heller was recognized posthumously with the following citation:

While serving with the 920th Rescue Wing the outstanding professional skill, leadership, and ceaseless efforts of Heller resulted in major contributions to the effectiveness and success of the 920th ASTS. She was a key contributor during the annual Joint Force exercises MedBeach 2016 and 2017, with 275 participants from 15 different units, involving over 20 different Air Force Specialty Codes, achieving 100 percent readiness skills verification for all and saving the Air Force two million dollars. Partnering with the Air National Guard and Indian Health Services, 480 patients were treated and 71,000 dollars of care provided during Operation Walking Shield. Additionally, under her mentorship, 10 Optometrist Technicians were trained during this operation. She was acknowledged as one of the best in her field, evidenced by her selection as a High Potential Officer and Key Personnel by the Biomedical Service Corps. Recognized as an International Health Specialist, she was recently hand-selected to support Operation NEW HORIZONS 2018 in Panama. Major Heller’s excellent leadership skills and knowledge made her a vital asset to the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and to the 920th Rescue Wing.

## news&features



### AIR FORCE WIDOW VOWS TO BRING AWARENESS

Air Force veteran Stacey Pavenski is on a journey to bring awareness to PTSD and traumatic brain injury disorders that lead 22 veterans a day to take their own lives.



### RESERVE CITIZEN AIRMEN ‘TIDY UP’ BEACHSIDE

Recently, the 920th Mission Support Group Staff became caretakers of a two-mile strip of highway outside of Patrick Air Force Base which they will tend to by clearing it of trash throughout the year.



### PAFB DRINKING WATER SAFE

Recent media reports have created a discussion and caused concern about water at PAFB and CCAFS. Shark 1 addresses this concern.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE





## Air Force Reserve pararescueman laid to rest in Florida

Loved ones and fellow Reserve Citizen Airmen paid respects as Master Sgt. William Posch, 36, of Indialantic, Florida, was laid to rest with full military honors at Florida Memorial Gardens, Rockledge, Florida, Thursday, June 21.

A seasoned combat veteran, Sergeant Posch served as a pararescueman assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron providing combat rescue support for Inherent Resolve when he and seven Airmen were killed in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crash in Anbar Province, Iraq, March 15, 2018.

Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. Derek P. Rydholm, Deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force Washington, D.C.; Maj. Gen. Ronald "Bruce" Miller, 10th Air Force commander; and Chief Master Sgt. James W. Loper, Command Chief both with the 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas; as well as the 920th Rescue Wing commander, Col. Kurt A. Matthews and wing leadership.

Patrick AFB flags flew at half-staff while full military honors were rendered by the Team Patrick Honor Guard at Sergeant Posch's final internment site to include firing one of three volleys. Pararescue teammates from the 308th RQS folded and presented flags to Posch's immediate family members.

Posch was one of three Guardian Angel Airmen the pararescue community lost; The others included Capt. Mark Weber, 29, a combat rescue officer assigned to the 38th RQS, Moody AFB, Georgia; and Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31, assigned to the 308th RQS.

"It is hard to lose members of your team and your community, but the loss of these warriors will take a long time for us to recover from. Bill was an exceptional leader who did everything in his power to ensure his team was ready for any situation. Bill demanded excellence in everyone around him...a remarkable father, operator and leader, and his legacy will live forever in the squadron!" said Lt. Col.



Timothy Hanks, 308th Rescue Squadron commander.

Each Guardian Angel Airmen in attendance followed a time-honored pararescue tradition of pounding the flash from their maroon berets into the lid of the casket. This was followed by the completion of a round of memorial pushups to honor their fallen teammate.

"I've been impressed with all the men and women of the 308th who've been able to honor their fallen heroes and continue to move on with the rescue mission we all serve," said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander. "The greatest tribute to Bill will be how we keep his memory and legacy alive in the ways that we conduct our training, our missions, and ourselves. He helped lead us by example, and still does."

Posch had 18 years of service, the last 10 were with the 920th RQW.

Posch supported major military operations at home and abroad including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Joint Task Force Katrina, JTF NASA Space Shuttle launches and recoveries, and most recently JTF Harvey, where he and his fellow rescue warriors rescued 235 hurricane victims in Texas from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, as well as a long-range rescue at sea saving two German citizens whose sailboat caught fire and sunk last summer.

In 2013, Sergeant Posch was recognized as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Among his decorations were the Air Medal with silver oak leaf cluster; an Aerial Achievement Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal with Combat Device posthumously.

[SEE LAID TO REST ON PAGE 3](#)

## Combatting invisible wounds, walking for awareness



Air Force veteran Stacey Pavenski, center, 46, of Palm Bay, Florida, walks on the beach with her therapy dog, Memphis Belle. (Photo courtesy Malcolm Denmark)

Air Force veteran Stacey Pavenski, 46, of Palm Bay, Florida, walks on the beach with her therapy dog, Memphis Belle, along with those who signed up to join her on a post-traumatic stress disorder 3K walk-run she put together June 30, 2018, across from Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Pavenski is on a journey to bring awareness to PTSD and traumatic brain injury disorders that lead 22 veterans a day to take their own lives. Her husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Pete Pavenski, took his own life Sept. 18, 2017. He was a member of the 301st Rescue Squadron.

Pavenski joined forces with Mission 22, a non-profit organization, to put together a PTSD 3K walk-run on Florida's Space Coast during PTSD Awareness Month. Nearly 300 people registered for the first annual events. She plans to hold the event annually to raise awareness for PTSD and veteran suicide.

### LAID TO REST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

(Page 2) Master Sgt. William Posch's portion of a display at a memorial service held at Patrick Air Force Base March 27, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo)

During a memorial service June 21, 2018, each of his teammate Guardian Angel Airmen in attendance followed a time-honored pararescue tradition of pounding the flash from their beret onto the lid of the casket. (Photo courtesy D.J. Struntz)





## Reserve Citizen Airmen support SpaceX resupply rocket launch

By Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 301st Rescue Squadron supported the successful launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket Friday, June 29. The launch of the Falcon 9 marked its fifteenth Commercial Resupply Services mission lifting off at 5:42:42 a.m. EDT, from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

This unmanned mission brought supplies and instruments as well as a floating robotic head called CIMON, which stands for Crew Interactive Mobile Companion.

“This was the first launch I’ve participated in,” said Lt. Josh Civelli, 301st Rescue Squadron Pilot. “Everything went smoothly and I feel very confident in our abilities to do these launches, effectively and safely.”

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing serve to clear and secure the Eastern Range by overflight in Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters during a majority of Space Coast rocket launches.

CIMON, a project from German Aerospace Center, Airbus, and IBM, will act as a flying camera and uses fans and maneuvering fins to move around the station to monitor experiments and repairs. Additionally, CIMON has the ability to chat with the crew using IBM’s Watson AI.

The Dragon spacecraft separated from Falcon 9’s second stage about nine minutes and thirty seconds after liftoff and arrived at the International Space Station July 2.

The Dragon will return to Earth with more than 4,000 pounds of cargo after a one-month stay at the ISS.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Cathleen Snow)

## Disaster training on the Oregon coast!

Recently, Guardian Angel Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon instruct civilian and military first responders in basic navigation and radio skills at the 2018 Pathfinder Minuteman, an annual exercise designed to prepare state and local agencies in the event of an earthquake and subsequent tsunami.



## Reserve Citizen Airmen ‘tidy up’ beachside

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Mission Support Group Staff recently staked their claim to a two-mile plot of land outside Patrick Air Force Base, Florida in Cocoa Beach, to become caretakers through the Adopt-a-Highway program. After their sign was erected during the April 2018 drill training weekend, seven MSG Staff personnel went to work clearing trash and debris along their beachside plot. Their plan is to head out every three months to tidy up, as a team-building event and morale builder. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Trimarchi)





## Education News

One of the perks of being in Education and Training is being able to help people get the services available to them to enhance their education. There are a multitude of services that a service member and their family can use to help them to achieve their education goals. Unfortunately, the word doesn't seem to be getting out to everyone on what services and benefits are provided, how they can access those services, and what the requirements are in order to qualify for them. It is my goal to point you toward those resources and guide you and your families to get the information you need.

MSgt Heidi L. White  
Chief, Education & Training  
321-494-8515



## Post 9-11 GI Bill Key Points

The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Servicemembers to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouse or dependent children. The request to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents must be completed while serving as an active member of the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense (DoD) determines whether or not you can transfer benefits to your family. Once the DoD approves benefits for transfer, the new beneficiaries apply for them at VA. Eligible Servicemembers may transfer all 36 months or the portion of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (unless DoD or the Department of Homeland Security has limited the number of transferable months). If you're eligible, you may transfer benefits to the following individuals:

Your spouse, one or more of your children, or any combination of spouse and child.

### Did you know??

**To transfer your Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits, you are required to agree to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election.**

**For more information go to VA.GOV**

**— Select the Benefits Tab — then GI Bill — Education and Training — For Students — Education Programs — Post-9/11 GI Bill**