

**NOTICE
PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

DATE: June 26, 2020
TIME: 1:00PM
LOCATION: Virtual – Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99159261081>

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 991 5926 1081

Call to Order – Donna Bundy

Invocation/ Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Introductions – Donna Bundy

Public Comment

Approval of the Oviedo Navy Plane Crash Historical Marker

Adjourn

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES, ADA COORDINATOR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING AT 407-665-7941.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE, AT 407-665-7224. PERSONS ARE ADVISED

THAT, IF THEY DECIDE TO APPEAL DECISIONS MADE AT THESE MEETINGS / HEARINGS, THEY WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THEY MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, PER SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES.

Revised Draft of the Naval Air Station Marker

[Side 1 – 895 characters]

NAVY PLANE CRASH

JANUARY 15, 1962. Lt. Charles Hodgate, Delton Wilson, John Bush, and Horace Marks struggled to get their A3D-2 Skywarrior plane airborne. Sanford NAS cleared them for take-off on a bombing run, but the tail bumper, starboard engine, and wingtip dragged, leaving marks for 2150 ft. The order came to lower landing gear, dump fuel, and turn east to avoid Orlando. Wilson then reported the starboard engine-fire warning light was on. Two A3J aircraft joined the A3D and confirmed the engine fire. Skimming the treetops while losing altitude, the Oviedo School lay directly in the flight path. An immediate bailout was ordered. Delton Wilson parachuted out and survived, but then the plane's escape chute mechanism failed. As children watched, the plane overshot the school and crashed into Ward Citrus Grove, exploding and killing pilot Charles Hodgate, John Bush, and Horace Marks.

[Side 2 – 897 characters]

JIM JONES: AN EYEWITNESS

“In 1962, I was a high school senior sitting in Jack Calvert’s English class looking out into a crystal-clear sky when I saw three planes skimming the tree tops heading directly towards the school. The two planes on each side peeled away and a parachute appeared under the planes, dropping rapidly to earth. The middle airplane rose vertically, cartwheeled sideways to the right. I could see the underbelly of the plane as it summersaulted nose-down into Ward Citrus Grove. As the enormous fireball rose up, I hoped the people inside would make it. Business teacher Novella Aulin came into the classroom and asked me to drive her car over to check on Mertie and Bill Ward, who were living near the grove. I was the first to arrive at the crash site and I could feel the intensity of the heat from the aluminum plane burning. I knew immediately there could be no survivors.”

Most Recent Update: 05/20/20