



MEDIA RELEASE

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Civil Air Patrol patch preserved in national archives

RAPID CITY, S.D – A South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol patch was added to the highly secure national archives room at Mount Rushmore National Memorial September 27. The patch will be sealed in the room which also houses both original texts and copies of important American documents and artifacts. Twelve cadets and three senior members from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron of Custer, South Dakota signed the official documents for the patch's entrance into the archives.

"Although Civil Air Patrol has no historical relationship to Mount Rushmore, the wing patch, designed back in 1952, does depict the four famous faces," said 1st Lt. Debbie Davis, squadron commander. "Because CAP provides a service to this state and nation, the curator decided the wing patch would be a valuable item to preserve," she said.

1st Lt. Bill Barley, a current CAP member and National Park Service employee, organized the event. Starting at 6 a.m., CAP members hike up a difficult rocky trail, then up 208 stairs to the main Hall of Records where the wing patch was received by National Park officials. After the presentation, the CAP members were given permission to continue to the top of George Washington's head, just in time for the sunrise.

Later that day, a flag ceremony was held at the Mount Rushmore amphitheater. Lt. Barley has traveled to four different squadrons at locations in Texas, Virginia and South Dakota. As he traveled to different squadrons, he had each squadron sign their own American flag, then raise it along with flags that preceded it. This tradition was continued at Mount Rushmore with Crazy House Composite Squadron being the fourth squadron.

All members that were present signed the flag and proceeded to raise all four flags that had been signed by CAP members at different locations.

Civil Air Patrol is a nonprofit organization with more than 64,000 members nationwide. CAP members perform 95% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years.

On the Web: <http://www.sdwg.cap.gov>

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