



Joe Graham Post 119



The American Legion

VETERANS DAY
CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Benjamin J. Spraggins, Brigadier General, USAF (ret)

Musical Presentation.....	Harrison Central High School Mr. Dennis White, Band Director
Welcome and introduction.....	Commander Terry Applebee American Legion Post 119
Invocation.....	John M Grower Chaplin American Legion Post 119
Posting of Colors.....	West Harrison High School ROTC Chief Samuel Smith, Commander
National Anthem.....	Harrison Central High School Band
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Commander Terry Applebee
Proclamation.....	The Honorable Billy Hewes Mayor of Gulfport, MS
Introduction of speaker.....	Commander Terry Applebee
Veterans day featured speaker.....	Benjamin J. Spraggins Brigadier General, USAF (ret)
Placing of Wreaths.....	All who have come to honor the Veterans that sacrificed all
Silent Prayer/blessing of the troops.....	John M Grower Chaplin American Legion Post 119
Three round volley.....	Keesler Air Force Base Honor Guard
Taps.....	Harrison Central High School Band Mr. Dennis White, Band Director
Closing Remarks.....	Commander Terry Applebee American Legion Post 119
Benediction.....	John M Grower Chaplin American Legion Post 119

An old Military toast to the troops
To all those who have fought and won
To the colors that never run
May the wings of liberty never lose a feather

Brigadier General Spraggins is the Chief Operating Officer for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources - As the Chief Operating Officer he is responsible for managing all hands-on operational aspects of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) and assists the Executive Director in the aggressive and successful growth of the organization.

General Spraggins is a Commissioner on the Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport Authority.

He worked with Federal, States, Counties, Cities, Foreign Governments, Military, Non-Government Agencies, British Petroleum, and civil air's organizations to coordinate the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti, Nashville, and Gulf Coast after the earthquake, flood and oil spill.

He was in Haiti immediately after the earthquake and continues today helping with the recovery. He also, was in Nashville, TN immediately following the flood and directed the cleanup and recovery of Nashville

General Spraggins was appointed Director of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and E-911 Commission for Harrison County Mississippi on 29 August, 2005, the day Hurricane Katrina made landfall. General Spraggins directed the response, rescue, and recovery for Harrison County during and after the worst national disaster in American history.

Military Career:

General Spraggins last assignment in the military was the Battle Commander Continental United States Region (CONR) Southeast Air Defense Sector under North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) - Responsible for ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States.

Other military assignments:

Chief of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters Tennessee Air National Guard.

Commander Air National Guard Training Center - Gulfport, MS

Commander 186th Air Refueling Wing, Meridian, MS

Awards Received:

He has received numerous civic awards including Coast Community Leader, Goodwill Inc, Ambassador of the Year, Norman E. Bless Leadership Award, and The Legion of Merit.

General Spraggins is co-chair of the United States- Mexican-Cuban Association.

General Spraggins is also a board member of:

First Baptist Church Gulfport - Deacon

Wounded Minutemen - Executive Board

Knight Non-Profit Center - Board

Gulf Coast Community Foundation - Board

Gulfport Rotary Club - President 2013-2014

General Spraggins, is married to Judy Phillips Spraggins for over 40 years. He has one son Craig, married to Julie Dreher Spraggins, two grandsons Tate (11), Hayden (7), and one granddaughter Olivia (6).