

Airmen take last few steps in Ruck March to Remember

By Kenneth Fine

Published in News on August 25, 2011 1:46 PM

VIRGINIA -- He wasn't wearing an Air Force uniform.

There was no 35-pound ruck sack strapped to his shoulders.

But when Pete Page began marching alongside members of the 4th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron Wednesday afternoon, passers-by took notice.

A new flag -- one designed to ensure 9/11 would never be forgotten -- had entered the fray.

Some, like Page, have made their presence -- and their support for the airmen's cause -- felt by coming face to face with those set to pass the guidon today at noon throughout a journey that began Sunday.

But others only reflected on just what the Ruck March to Remember means to them long after the guidon passed them by.

Tonya Brown had tears in her eyes when she found out that the group that passed her Lynchburg home was on a quest to ensure those who died on 9/11 -- and those who have sacrificed in the decade since the attacks -- were never forgotten.

"That's powerful. Wow," she said. "I think sometimes we do forget."

She leaned over and picked up her 3-year-old daughter, Gem.

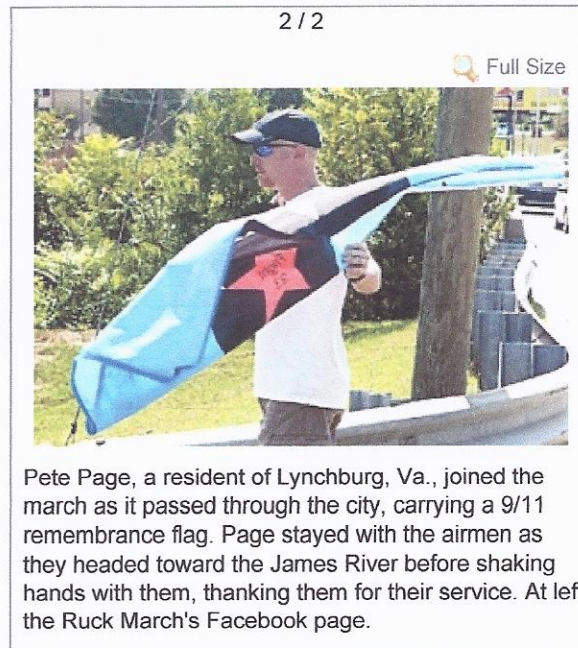
"Did you hear that baby girl?" she said, wiping a tear from her eye.

"Those men are marching for our country -- for our heroes."

Roberta Zambo was on her way back from vacation when she saw, out her car window, police escorting a group of men and women in uniform on the other side of the road.

So she took to the Internet -- hoping to gain an understanding of just what motivated the march.

And when she discovered the "Security Forces 9/11 Ruck March to Remember" Facebook page, she was moved.



Pete Page, a resident of Lynchburg, Va., joined the march as it passed through the city, carrying a 9/11 remembrance flag. Page stayed with the airmen as they headed toward the James River before shaking hands with them, thanking them for their service. At left, the Ruck March's Facebook page.

