

Friday, November 21, 2014

Cobb News Network: Marietta Daily Journal Cobb Business Journal Cobb Life Magazine CobbFootballFriday

contact us
subscriber services
digital sign in

Walmart® wants to match Publix ad prices. Think about it. **Publix** START SAVING

LOVE TO SHOP HERE LOVE TO SAVE HERE

- news
- sports
- editorial
- obituaries
- legal notices
- classifieds
- real estate
- GA Car Source
- e-edition
- venuedog events

mdj sports cobb high school sports cobb football friday reprints and photos

Barnes: 'Chaos' followed Sept. 11 attacks

by Aimee Sachs

September 12, 2014 04:00 AM | 1940 views | 0 | 4 | | |



Roy Barnes

MARIETTA — Former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes was flying home on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

When he was halfway back to Atlanta, the plane's pilot informed him something serious had happened.

"He says, 'They're landing all the planes,'" Barnes recalled Thursday. "He said there was some kind of attack and they don't know what it is."

Speaking to the Kiwanis Club of Marietta, Barnes relived his experience running the state during the day of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Barnes, who hadn't spoken publicly about the day's events until Thursday, gave about 100 attendees at the Cobb County Safety Village an inside look of the day's events from his perspective.

"He told us some things that he never told anybody before," said Buddy Darden, Kiwanis member and former congressman.

Barnes had spent the days leading up to 9/11 in Louisville, Ky., meeting with the Southern Governors' Association. The Georgia General Assembly was in session at the time, and the governor wanted to return home a night early.

But then-Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton convinced Barnes to stay the night to attend the closing dinner and call for an early plane the next morning, Sept. 11. A few minutes after Barnes' pilot told him he needed to land the plane, Barnes said the pilot told him the late Col. Bob Hightower, Georgia's public safety commissioner, Gary McConnell, head of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Georgia National Guard Gen. David Poythress were waiting for him at the airport.

"By that time we knew that a plane had hit the twin towers," Barnes said.

Barnes asked Poythress to call up 2,000 Georgia National Guard troops to Atlanta. Before Barnes arrived at the Capitol, the second plane had hit.

"I got to the Capitol and it was complete chaos," Barnes said. "Everybody was running around."

Legislative leaders approached the governor with plans to adjourn the General Assembly, which he refused. Barnes learned some state employees were fleeing their offices, but put a stop to it, saying,

"You tell any employee that leaves I'm going to fire them. Nobody is going to leave, and we're going to stay and operate the state in some way."

Adding to the chaos was a bomb scare at City Hall. Demolition crews discovered it was just a bag of dirty clothes.

"A young lady was distraught with her boyfriend who worked at City Hall, and she decided to take this very inappropriate time to return his clothes," Barnes said to laughter.

McConnell informed the governor the military called to say President George W. Bush was in the air and Georgia was one

of the four sites chosen for a possible destination.

articles [dropdown] [input] go

NAME BRAND FURNITURE & MATTRESSES
50-80% OFF RETAIL

(404) 545-9479
189 Cobb Pkwy N. A10
Marietta, Ga 30062
www.ABFMarietta.com

ATLANTIC BEDDING AND FURNITURE

GREYSTONE POWER CORPORATION
An Electric Membership Corporation

greystonepower.com

12th ANNUAL MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL
CHEROKEE TRIBUNE
NEIGHBOR NEWSPAPERS

GOBBLE JOG

REGISTER NOW!

Thanksgiving Day
Historic Marietta Square

MUST

CADENZA

LED

\$1,000 Owner Loyalty Offer For Qualified Customers

DEALERS OFFERS INVENTORY

KIA

Friday, Well, that's just what I need now," Barnes said.

Cobb News Network: Marietta Daily Journal Cobb Business Journal Cobb Life Magazine CobbFootballFriday
The president was taken to Omaha, Neb., but Barnes got a call from then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush asking the governor if he'd heard from his brother.

"I said, 'No,' and he said, 'Well my daddy just called, saying, 'If you hear from him, you tell him to get back to Washington,'" Barnes said.

Barnes had more problems to solve with little time to solve them, including evacuating 12,000 people from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport onto buses.

"It was nice to know in the midst of all that chaos on Sept. 11, our government was behind the scenes working diligently to keep us safe," said Kiwanis member Ryan O'Meara of Atlanta.

Barnes said he never imagined the crisis he would face as governor would be a terrorist attack.

"Each generation has a day and time which dominates them, and they remember it," Barnes said. "For the generation of my father, it was Pearl Harbor. For my generation, it was the death of John Kennedy. But to all of us, it was what happened Sept. 11."

NEWSmax

contact us
subscriber services
digital sign in

- Obama Gives 5 million Work Stimulus
- Rate Obama's Job Performance
- Ex-Seal: Why I Shot bin Laden
- Mafia Hit Man: I Killed Kennedy
- Sharpton: I Don't Owe \$4.5 Million
- New Probiotic Fat Burner Takes GNC by Storm
- American Homeowners Are in for an Extremely Big Surprise
- Local Rule to Get Car Insurance As Low As \$29 Per Month

What's This?

sponsored from around the web



30 Celebs Not Afraid to Get Naked for Money



New Loophole Uncovered to Cut Your Mortgage in Half



10 Female Athletes Who've Got Better 'Back' Than Kim K



Unique Engagement Rings



Controversial "Skinny Pill" Sweeps the Nation

?

Share This Article |

similar stories

- [Man charged in Philly, Virginia abductions](#) | 13 days ago
- [Ebola: A crash course in fear and how it hurts us](#) | 28 days ago
- [Security agents train to stop the next Benghazi](#) | 9 days ago
- [Abduction suspect appears in Philadelphia court](#) | 8 days ago
- [Chamber of Commerce area councils announce events](#) | 18 days ago

Comments (0) Post a Comment

No Comments Yet

*We welcome your comments on the stories and issues of the day and seek to provide a forum for the community to voice opinions. All comments are subject to moderator approval before being made visible on the website but are not edited. The use of profanity, obscene and vulgar language, hate speech, and racial slurs is strictly prohibited. Advertisements, promotions, and spam will also be rejected. Please read our [terms of service](#) for full guides

UPWARD SPORTS Sign Up Today!
Exciting Basketball with Cheerleading
 Boys & Girls, pre-K - 10th • \$110 • 770.435.3231
www.smyrnafirst.org

FIRST BAPTIST SMYRNA

Milestones
 click to post:
 engagements
 weddings
 anniversaries

Friday, November 14, 2014

Create an Account

- [Register](#)
- [Subscribe to print edition](#)
- [Subscribe to e-edition](#)
- [Make us your homepage](#)

Help & Information Services

- [MDJ Digital Subscription Q&A](#)
- [Subscriber Services](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Community Links](#)

MDJonline.com

- [Today's Newspaper](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [State/National](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Cobb Legal Notices](#)
- [MDJ Marketplace](#)
- [Milestones](#)
- [GaCarSource.com](#)

Tools & Formats

- [MDJ Photos](#)
- [Post Your Photos](#)
- [Community Calendar](#)
- [Purchase Photos](#)
- [Place Classified Ad](#)
- [Real Estate](#)

Digital Network

- [Marietta Daily Journal](#)
- [Cherokee Tribune](#)
- [Cobb Life Magazine](#)
- [Cherokee Life Magazine](#)
- [Alpharetta Neighbor](#)
- [Clayton Neighbor](#)
- [Bartow Neighbor](#)
- [Dekalb Neighbor](#)
- [Douglas Neighbor](#)
- [Henry Neighbor](#)
- [John's Creek Neighbor](#)
- [Milton Neighbor](#)
- [Northside Neighbor](#)
- [Paulding Neighbor](#)
- [Roswell Neighbor](#)
- [Sandy Springs Neighbor](#)
- [South Metro Neighbor](#)

- [contact us](#)
- [subscriber services](#)
- [digital sign in](#)

software copyright © 2014 Radiate Media Content copyright © 2014 Marietta Daily Journal

this software is in a public beta test phase [read our privacy policy](#)

[Associated Press Terms and Conditions](#)

The Marietta Daily Journal is in Marietta, GA

 Follow us on Twitter!