



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF KIAWAH-SEABROOK, SC

Box PMB-J 130 Gardener's Circle Johns Island, SC 29455

Member Meeting 03-06-2024 @Seabrook Island Club

Ray Hoover-President, called the meeting to order at 6:22PM and opened with prayer.

Chris Stephenson honored South Carolina fallen hero Army Spc Geoffrey A Whitsitt and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. See Bio attached.

Attendance count is attached

- Ray Hoover hosted prospective member Mary Moore Hamrick
- Wayne Mulligan was a guest of Bill Nelson

Ray made the following announcements:

- On behalf of Bob Schick, Handbook sales are underway and 122 contracts for ads worth \$95,000 have been rec'd thus far. Deadline is mid-March. Distribution will be close to Memorial Day.
- Bob Leggett gave a reminder about the Angel Oak Award Banquet on May 15. Nominations are in and the committee now select a winner that will be announced at our next dinner meeting. We do need volunteers to sign up to help organize the event. Sign up sheets are on tables and were also emailed to members a few days ago.
- We recently had withdrawal of a few members due to health reasons: Carmen DiGennaro, Kris Quinn, and Roy Sessions. Kevin Winter passed away.

After dinner, Bill Nelson introduced Exchange Club Member and Seabrook resident Allan Woods who established the Charleston Street Wellness Patrol, also known as Housecalls to the Homeless. He led us through a tour of names and pictures and stories of the individuals and souls he has taken care of on the streets of Charleston SC for the last 13 years. He shared details about the hardships of these people, many of whom are victims of drug addiction and alcoholism. His presentation was very personal and touching and created a lot of questions about how to help. He does not accept monetary donations but can use sleeping bags and clothes and sundries. His contact info is in the "Handbook". He has a small team of MUSC doctors and medical personal who go out with him to diagnose, treat, prescribe and care for these individuals. Metal plaques on the concrete column of an overpass downtown serve to commemorate those who have passed. For most, it is the only evidence of their life.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09PM

Next Meeting:

3/20/24 @Seabrook Island Club

Dean of Education-College of Charleston

Addendums:

Attendance

Fallen Hero

Speaker Bio

Minutes submitted 3/8/24 by Lisa McDonald, Club Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Attending?	Members	Attending?	Guests
Yes	Victor Agusta	Yes	Carol Agusta
Yes	Bill Bane		
Yes	Timothy Barnard		
Yes	Tom Berghausen		
No	Dave Berry		
Yes	Wayne Billian		
Yes	Herb Boehm		
Yes	Kevin Boyle		
Yes	Ed Brett		
Yes	Cathy Cleary		
Yes	Wes Cleary		
Yes	David Cruse		
Yes	Gerrianne Delaney		
Yes	Ambrose Ditloff		
Yes	Bob Driscoll		
Yes	Bruce Edwards		
Yes	Frank Farfone		
Yes	Dick Fleming		
Yes	Derek Fyfe		
Yes	Dennis Giannos		
No	Richard Gwyn		
Yes	Stephen Haines		
Yes	Edward Heskamp		
Yes	Christopher Hix		
Yes	Ray Hoover	Yes	Mary Moore Hamrick
Yes	Bill Huff		
Yes	Maurice Isaac		
Yes	Phyllis Kaupp-Seas		
No	Tom Kroll		
Yes	Ed Leary		
Yes	Scott Lee		
Yes	Bob Leggett		
Yes	Bruce Ludwin		
Yes	Alan Madison		
Yes	Lisa McDonald		
Yes	Rick McDonald		
No	Michael Morris		
Yes	Bill Nelson	Yes	Wayne Mulligan
Yes	Sally Smith Nicoli	Yes	Daniel Nicoli
Yes	Maureen Oberg		
Yes	Marty Penkhus		
Yes	Steve Penkhus		
Cancelled	Thad Peterson		

Attending?	Members	Attending?	Guests
Yes	Dustin Plunkett	No	Victoria Pullium
Yes	Joel Pondelik		
Yes	Russ Preston		
Yes	Robert Quagliato		
Yes	Sam Reed		
Cancelled	John Reock	Cancelled Yes Yes Yes	Diana Reock Frank Zaubi Allan Woods (speaker) Linda Woods
Yes	Charles Riehl		
Yes	Ed Rigtrup		
Yes	Shirley Salvo		
Yes	Ron Schildge		
No	John Sesody		
Yes	Walter Sewell		
Yes	Robert Speziale		
Yes	Roger Steel		
Yes	Ken Steen		
Yes	Chris Stephenson		
Yes	Marj Stephenson		
No	Joe Thompson		
Yes	Stan Ullner		
Yes	Bruce Van Voorhis		
Yes	Tom Webster		
Yes	Pat Welch		
Yes	Jack Wilson		
No	Mela Wyeth		
Yes	Chuck Zellerbach		

Total - 66

TRIBUTE TO SC FALLEN HERO

Good evening fellow club members and guests.

Tonight, we're paying tribute to *Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt.

A native of Greenville, S.C., Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt was the son of Steve and Debby Whitsitt of Travelers Rest. In his youth, he was a cross country runner, delivered Meals on Wheels, participated in the Greenville Singing Christmas Tree, and was a member of Furman University Children's Chorus. He was a country boy dreaming of the day he'd finally be a soldier.

*Geoff's father has said that he only ever wanted to be an "Army guy". And, shortly after graduating Greenville Technical Charter High School in 2007, Geoffrey Whitsitt enlisted. He was assigned to the 118th Military Police Company (Airborne), 503rd Military Police Battalion (Airborne), 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. He was deployed to Afghanistan and stationed at the Combat Outpost McClain as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

*In his own bio, Geoff wrote, "My name is Geoff. I'm an MP in the United States Army. I'm also Airborne, so I'm pretty bad as my Sgt. Airborne told me. I love the Army. I honestly can't wait to deploy. People say I'm crazy, but hey, that's what I signed up for, right? I love fishing, hiking, reading (every once in a while), shooting guns, blowing stuff up, PT, I LOVE country music. Camping is always fun. Every man and woman who has ever or who does wear a uniform for the United States military, no matter what branch, they are all my heroes."

On Jan 6th, 2010, Geoff, called home and said. "I'm willing to die for America. I'm willing to die for you to be free. "but if I'm going to die, I want to die with my boots on." A week later, the Humvee that Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt was driving was hit by an improvised explosive device during an attack by enemy forces. On Jan 13, 2010 Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt *died, just two weeks shy of his 22nd birthday.

Steven Whitsitt, who was also serving his country at that time had this to say about his brother Geoff, "My three children will never know their Uncle Geoff this side of heaven, but my wife and I make sure that they know the kind of man he was. He was a man of honor and courage and integrity; compassion and grit and toughness. He loved God first, then family and finally country. And it was with that love he paid the ultimate sacrifice with his life. Geoff will always be my first best friend. And he will forever be my hero.

As an indication of our respect for Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt and others who gave their lives for our country, the club *places US flags around our community several times a year. Each flag has a yellow ribbon attached with the name of a fallen hero.

Private First Class Geoffrey Whitsitt, we salute you and your sacrifice on our behalf.

Please stand as you are able and join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Allan Woods
Biography



Born and raised East New York and Brooklyn

Attended St. John's University majoring in history and philosophy

Captain United States Marine Corps

Served in Viet Nam in 1968 and 1969

Retired Vice Chair Mellon Financial Corporation

Chief Information Officer

Chief Operating Officer

Chief Operations Officer

EMS

Pittsburgh, Dorchester County and Haiti

Medical first responder for a volunteer fire department

Created the Charleston Street Wellness Patrol to serve the homeless population in Charleston County

Part owner of the Martial Arts and Sports Complex

Competed, trained and instructed

Married with 5 daughters and 14 grand children

