

Johns Creek Veterans Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021

Chaplin Mark opened with a prayer and Mike Mizell led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Barry Elson introduced our first guest speaker, Rick Thompson.

Rick is the Executive Director of Champions Community Foundation, which recently opened Champions Place located off Nesbit Ferry Road. Rick and the many contributors to the Champions Community Foundation have a vision:

“It is a national problem that can only be solved locally – as young adults with physical disabilities “age out” of high school, they no longer have the social and athletic activities that kept them involved and active in their community. They find themselves totally dependent on their aging parents for personal care and support, and they become isolated at home which often leads to loneliness and depression.

OUR VISION

Champions Community Foundation is a business-minded entity leveraging its unique knowledge base and passions to serve young adults with physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, and physical injury.

WE EXIST TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, ENABLING THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS SELF-RELIANT, PRODUCTIVE, AND FULFILLED CITIZENS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.”

Rick introduced one of the residents at Champions Place who described how, after just a couple of months, Champions Place has changed his life for the better.

Rick indicated that there are volunteer opportunities for any of us that would like to become involved with this program. He specifically said that they are looking for van drivers.

You can find more information online at Champions Community Foundation, 2850 Old Alabama Road Johns Creek, GA 30022

Email: info@championscommunityfoundation.org

After Rick Thompson’s presentation, Mike Mizell mentioned that there are similarities in that handicapped veterans still need our help throughout the country.

Mike introduced our second guest speaker, Tony Moore, who is the regional captain for the Convention of States. Tony gave a brief presentation and indicated that he could use help in his region. You will find more detailed information online at conventionofstates.com.

LtCol Janice Heirs gave a brief preview of the schedule of events for the June 12 Women Veterans Day ceremony to be held at 10AM at the Women in Service Plaza at the Veterans Memorial Walk. Janice will be the keynote speaker and our color guard will be there.

Bob Lehrer and Dick Holcomb presented a check to Mike Mizell from the Knights of Columbus at St. Brigid Catholic Church for sponsorship of the Afghanistan Plaza at the Veterans Memorial Walk.

John Meurer presented the Secretary/Treasurer report. He indicated that the 10th bench has been purchased for The Wall That Heals. He also reminded members to pay their 2021 JCVA dues.

Mike Mizell updated the membership on the status of the grout problem at The Wall That Heals. He is confident the problem will be fixed soon and that there is a good chance the city of Johns Creek will provide the funding.

Mike Mizell expressed his desire to have the membership become more involved with JCVA by suggesting new ideas to expand our visibility in Johns Creek. He encouraged the membership to look for younger veterans who may want to join JCVA. He also indicated that another bench has been purchased to be placed near the WW1 plaza. Mike asked the membership to mark their calendars for November 13 when the dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony will be conducted at The Wall That Heals. More details to come. Mike expressed his hope that the beautification landscape plan for the Veterans Memorial Walk and The Wall That Heals will become a reality soon. A landscape designer will implement the plan and he is hopeful that the vendors will assist with the cost.

Col. Rick White has become the Director/Chairman of the Board for the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 24, 6-8PM. Sunrise will again provide a wonderful meal for us.

Chaplain Mark led the membership with a closing prayer.

