

Johns Creek Veterans Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

Mike Roman led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and Janice Hiers then led the members in a prayer to open the meeting.

John Meurer presented the Secretary/Treasurer reports. John is still filling in for Richard Beggs. We did receive good news that Rick has completed his Chemo treatments and is doing well in his recovery. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him with us soon.

Mike Mizell mentioned that our statute requires that we support community programs as much as we can. When The Wall That Heals is dedicated on November 13 later this year, Mike mentioned that the national foundation believes we can expect 65000 or more visitors a year to the Veterans Memorial Walk and The Wall That Heals. Due to excessive cost, we have canceled our effort to have a Kiosk installed near the wall. Instead, visitors will have the opportunity to use a QR Code Up to find the location of names on the wall and make donations.

Most of you know now that Barry Elson recently passed away. There will be a private Celebration of Life for Barry on July 9. You must have an invitation to attend. Our color guard has been invited to Present Colors at the ceremony. Instead of sending flowers, our Board of Directors has voted to donate \$2000 to the Barry Russell Elson Memorial Fund for Cancer Research from the JCVA.

If you would like to donate to this memorial fund, the link follows:

<https://vffoundation.donordrive.com/campaign/Barry-Russell-Elson-Memorial-Fund-for-Cancer-Research>

Barry will be sorely missed. As you know, Barry was the primary person to set up guest speakers at our meetings. Please consider volunteering to take over this responsibility. Let Mike Mizell or any board member know as soon as possible.

**** VERY IMPORTANT /**

We have been told by the National Wall Foundation that the Veterans Memorial Walk and The Wall That Heals is the most impressive site outside of DCA. The dedication coming up on November 13 is especially important for the city of Johns Creek and for our organization. We need to create a committee NOW to organize the events that will happen that day. Please contact Mike Mizell or any board member to volunteer.

Mike indicated that the landscape beautification plan will soon be implemented to greatly enhance the beauty of the park – hopefully before November 13.

Mike expressed his disappointment that our efforts to permanently host the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony were not successful due lack of a suitable venue. As you know, the Newtown Amphitheatre is being repaired. The Columbus United Methodist Church offered to host the ceremony, as in the past, and that offer was accepted.

Our color guard has been very active. Future participation: July 1: Johns Creek 4th of July luncheon / July 3: Johns Creek 4th of July celebration at Newtown Park / July 9 – Barry Elson celebration of life.

Keith Bogle has accepted the position of North Central Georgia Liaison for Volunteers for Veterans Projects for Habitat for Humanity. He has a Vets only Build on Saturday, July 17, and needs volunteers. Contact Keith if you would like to volunteer and learn more about Habitat for Humanity. Another project will be a First Nail project for Vets only volunteers on September 11. Our color guard will be presenting colors.

Mike introduced Jean (did not get her last name). She is a Master Gardener and will be assisting with the beautification project for the Walk and the Wall. She gave a brief presentation.

Janice Hiers thanked everyone who attended the Women Veterans Day ceremony on June 12. She also introduced two guests: Kim (Navy) and Melissa (Army) – they drove up from Fayetteville to attend our meeting. She also reintroduced her husband Tony who is a new member of JCVA.

Bernie Gaydos suggested that a membership list with email addresses and telephone numbers be created and provided to the membership to foster better communication.

Thanks to Sunrise and The Young Mens' Service League for providing a wonderful meal for us.

Mike Mizell closed out the meeting with a prayer.

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021, 6-8PM. PLEASE RSVP TO ME NO LATER THAN 3PM ON MONDAY, JULY 19, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUNRISE WITH AN ACCURATE COUNT FOR DINNER PLANNING.

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