

Johns Creek Veterans Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

07/22/2021

Keith Bogle opened the meeting and Chaplain Mark gave an opening prayer.

Peter Manfre led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance

Johns Meurer gave the Secretary/Treasurer report. John is still filling in for Treasurer Rick Beggs until Rick returns.

John reminded the members that the Wall That Heals dedication is scheduled for November 13. The National Vietnam Memorial Foundation folks in Washington have indicated we can expect upwards of 65,000 visitors a year. **With the November 13 date in mind, our leadership is asking members to volunteer to be part of the organizing committee for the Wall That Heals dedication. If interested, please let Mike Mizell or Keith Bogle know as soon as possible.**

John mentioned that the color guard presented colors at the Celebration of Life service for Barry Elson who passed away last month.

We were again treated to a wonderful meal from Sunrise, served members of the Johns Creek Young Men's Service League. As they were leaving, the membership gave them a round of applause.

Keith Bogle reported on recent Color Guard activity: Johns Creek 4th of July kickoff (received local TV coverage/ July 9 Barry Elson Celebration of Life/ July 10 – memorial service for Commander Hodge (very much appreciated by his family)/ July 17/ Afghan plaza dedication (Col. Graham White was the guest speaker).

Future CG events will include the Aug. 7 Annual Old Soldiers Day event. No parade this year, however, American Legion Post 201 in Alpharetta will be hosting. **Opening ceremony at 1145 Saturday morning, April 7. Please refer to the attachment below for details. Roger Wise will be Master of Ceremony.**

There will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Purple Heart Plaza in Newtown Park soon after the Color Guard activity at Post 201.

Sep. 10 – Mt Pisgah Football opening game

Sep. 11 – 20th anniversary of 9/11

Sep. 20 – Knights of Columbus annual Golf Tourney

Keith summarized his new responsibilities with Habitat for Humanity. His goals are many but identifying veterans in need of help and recruiting volunteers are primary.

Several visitors attended the meeting. Constance Lewis brought her father Ed Lewis, 83, Air Force vet. 3 additional visitors were identified but I was unable to get their names. We had 4 ladies in attendance this month.

Keith mentioned that we will be holding elections this October for new officers/board of directors. The board will be looking for nominees. He would like members to step up with new fresh ideas to enhance our meetings and our membership experience.

Due to Barry Elson's passing, we did not have a guest speaker this month.

There was a discussion about bringing in a PA system as the acoustics in Park Place make it difficult for some members to hear speakers.

With the dedication of the Wall That Heals coming up on Nov. 13, Keith stated that we all have a responsibility as JCVA members to promote the Memorial Walk and the Wall. We need to reach out to family and friends and let them know that the memorials are truly special. We need to let folks know that there are 4 members of JCVA that are "qualified" to do private tours: Mike Mizell, Bob Moore, Tom Yearian, and Jim Torbert.

Janice Hiers closed the meeting with a prayer.

Key Dates:

Saturday, August 7 – Old Soldiers Day at American Legion Post 201 in Alpharetta – Opening ceremony at 1145. See attachment below.

Friday, September 10 – Color Guard at Mt. Pisgah's Football game

Saturday, September 11 – Color Guard at the 9/11 ceremony (details to follow)

Monday, September 20 – Knights of Columbus Annual Golf Tourney – CG will present colors

Saturday, November 13 – Dedication ceremony for The Wall That Heals

Alpharetta Post 201

americanlegionalpharetta@gmail.com

69th Annual Old Soldiers Day

Saturday August 7

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Opening Ceremony

11:45 a.m.

Master of Ceremonies

Roger Wise Jr., Post 201 Ambassador

Welcome & Guest Introductions

Fred Mahony, Commander, Post 201

Invocation

*Colonel Rick White, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Dir., Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame*

Presentation of the Colors

*John's Creek Veterans Association Color Guard
accompanied by
The Greater Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers*

Pledge of Allegiance

"Freedom Isn't Free" by Roger Wise Jr.

National Anthem

Keynote Speaker Introduction

U.S. Congresswoman Lucy McBath

Keynote Speaker

Georgia State Senator Ed Harbison

Senator Harbison, District 15, is a USMC vet who served in Vietnam. He was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2014. His combat awards include the Purple Heart. He is the Vice Chairman of the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee. His other committee assignments include: Chairman - State Institutions and Property Committee; Ranking Member - Banking and Financial Institutions, Insurance and Labor, Interstate Cooperation, Reapportionment and Redistricting, and Ethics committees.

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Old Soldiers Day activities at the Post will begin at 11 a.m., Saturday when the grounds of the Post open to the public for the day's activities. Food and beverage service will be available for sale starting at 11 a.m. The start time also includes giving away 500 free hot dogs donated by The Varsity.

The Alpharetta Aviators Baseball Club will be keeping the younger set occupied with activities including a 'bouncy house,' and 6th Marine Corps Recruiting District - Atlanta will have their 'pull up challenge station' available for those who want to try it out. The Greater Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers will also have a display and will be available for photo opportunities with their horses.

The Post membership would like to thank the day's sponsors: The Varsity, Appen Media Group, Carl Black of Roswell, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 201, Auxiliary Unit 201, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12002.

