

JCVA

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2021

Chaplain Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

Rick White led the member in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Mizell introduced Chaplain Mark's daughter, Lauren, who is 16. She is interested in becoming a physical therapist and perhaps bringing her training to the Air Force.

Scott (didn't get his last name) gave a brief description of a program called Warrior2Citizen which assists married veterans and their families strengthen their relationships. He indicated that they need volunteers to assist with the program. Please refer to the Warrior2Citizen attachment at the very end of the minutes for more detailed information.

Mike Mizell introduced Johns Creek Police Chief Mark J. Mitchell. Chief Mitchell outlined his background in law enforcement and his respect for the JCVA and our goals.

Keith Bogle described the event that was held on November 6 at the Afghanistan Plaza. The purpose was to honor our 13 military members who were killed during the Afghanistan evacuation chaos. The Knights of Columbus placed yellow roses in the plaza in honor of these brave soldiers. Keith reminded the members that there is a Perimeter Church Veterans Day program on November 11 at 9:30AM. In years past they have hosted as many as 2500 veterans.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF VETERANS



Perimeter School continues our 27-year tradition of students and faculty expressing appreciation to veterans for their service!

Please join us in-person or online on Thursday, November 11 at 9:30 AM as we honor all those who have served in the armed forces.

Our program will include the traditional elements of Perimeter School Veterans Celebrations such as the honoring of veterans during the Armed Forces Medley.

We encourage veterans to wear their uniforms or insignias that indicate their branch of service. A reception for our guests immediately follows the celebration. Accessible parking and curbside assistance will be available.

If you choose to participate online, you can watch the celebration at PerimeterSchool.org or by searching "Perimeter Church" on YouTube.

Dick Holcomb has begun the process of planting daffodils for each person on The Wall That Heals. If you would like to assist, please contact Dick.

John Meurer gave the Secretary's report and asked us to keep Rick Beggs in our prayers as he is undergoing additional treatment to fight his cancer battle. John also reminded the membership that because of Covid, the current BOD will remain in office until October of 2022.

John indicated that the BOD would like to purchase 30 wreaths for the Wreaths Across America project scheduled for December 18. A motion to that effect was brought to the floor and passed by a hand vote of approval. John encouraged all members to consider purchasing a personal wreath and consider volunteering to lay wreaths on December 18.

Guest speakers:

Mike Mizell introduced Steve Shiffman, who is the founder of Operation Not Forgotten. He would like to start a Vet Life Community in our area and is looking for Vets like us who might want to be involved. Please refer to the following link for more detailed information:
https://operationnotforgotten.com/sites/default/files/pdf/operation_not_forgotten_brochure_for_2018.pdf#overlay-context=page/about-operation-not-forgotten

Jason Wetzel: Jason Wetzel has an MA in education and history from Georgia State University. The bulk of his working life was in telecommunications, with side forays as a high school teacher and a Department of the Army historian. His interest is in World War II history. He was born in Australia during World War II. His mother was an Australian war bride, and he is an Australian war baby. Dahlonaga, Georgia, is home.

Jason and co-author Kathryn Roe Coker wrote a very interesting book titled "Georgia POW Camps in World War II." Jason presented a very thorough briefing of the story of German and Italian POWs who were sent to Georgia during WWII and how they assimilated while POWs.

WARRIOR2CITIZEN

Announcing a Marriage Retreat for Military Families

Military families are often under a tremendous amount of stress and pressure as military life often brings emotional and psychological stress effecting the veteran, marriage, and the family. Without help relationships are often fractured resulting in frustration, conflict, loneliness, divorce, hopelessness, and the impact of the strife spills onto the children in the family system. Warrior 2 Citizen invites you to participate in a unique experience to address the challenges and to strengthen and heal marriages and families.

Join us on December 4th and 5th at the YMCA Camp High Harbor (Cartersville, GA) to invest in your marriage by participating in our program, where couples will engage in the activities of the W2C marriage retreat in the serene setting of Lake Allatoona

<https://ymcaatlanta.org/ymca-locations/camp-high-harbour/lake-allatoona/>

Warrior2Citizen is a non-profit organization offering marriage retreats for over 12 years to all military members, active duty, veteran, retiree, Reserve and Guard. Our mission is to help restore the bonds of love and trust in marriages and families of service members. Couples have experienced immediate improvement in their relationship after attending our two-day confidential marriage retreat.

December 4th and 5th will be a weekend program that focuses on healing in seven areas of family relationships using counseling, coaching, psychoeducation, experiential exercises, and spiritual activities, all led by professionals who have served in uniform. The agenda for the weekend includes essential issues such as, dealing with conflicts, healthy communication, forgiveness, understanding impact of guilt, and strategies and skills for success. Overall, program attendees independently surveyed reflected that program results show 80% of marriages measurably strengthened, with over 30% of these couples renewing their wedding vows.

An additional unique aspect of the W2C marriage retreat is the follow up counseling offered to couples for up to five months (twice monthly) free of charge.

After attending the W2C Program, participants have given the following testimonials: *"It was far better than any Strong Bonds™ I've been to! It made a big difference in our marriage" "Made me think of better ways to handle the issues of daily life" "The Warrior2Citizen team was outstanding, and our marriage definitely has reached the next level because of the counselor." "I was floored by the positive impact that was laid upon my once-failing marriage. After completing the retreat, we decided to renew our wedding vows in August. One of the chaplains from the retreat will preside over the ceremony." "By combining all of the information I learned at the Warrior2Citizen retreat, I left a better and more confident person."*

Our program is FREE. The entire cost of the program, meals and lodging is paid for by donations and there will be no cost to you. We request a refundable \$150 reservation fee, to be refunded at the end of the weekend. Registration is on a first come first served basis limited to 30 couples and the deadline to register is Nov 29th. Please call 404 941 4101 for further details.