



21 SEPTEMBER 2023 DINNER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at Clemson Madren Conference Center in Clemson and called to order at 1750 by COL Mel Case. The Invocation was given by LTC Howard Jones, Chaplain, and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance given by COL Dale Ellenburg.

Members and guests were welcomed. Guests were as follows:

- COL CHRIS KISER, USAF & HIS WIFE ALISON
- CPT JONATHAN HUNTER
- LTC (Ret) TOM VON KAENEL & HIS WIFE DORIS (OF SEMPER FI BARN FAME)
- MSG SHAWN OAKES, ARMY JROTC LEADER AT WEST OAK H.S.
- CDT JOHN MURRAY, ARMY ROTC AT CLEMSON
- CDT SOPHIE HOFMANN, AIR FORCE ROTC AT CLEMSON

A new-member lapel pin was given to Don Warmuth, LT COL, USAF (Retired). New member Sam Hammond, former Army 1LT, (Citadel '69) was not in attendance.

COL George Bailey, USAF (Ret) offered a toast to celebrate the USAF's 76th birthday. Official date was 18 September.

Dinner was served.

Mel introduced guest speaker CPT Jonathan Hunter (Army), a West Point graduate who has served ten years as of this date. He spoke of the Clemson ROTC Program which currently has one hundred fifty cadets; thirty percent are women. Clemson has never had a recruiting problem.

The second guest speaker to be introduced was Air Force Col Chris Kiser. Col Kiser has served twenty-three years, flew C130s with 2,200 flight hours with over 200 combat hours. Clemson AF

ROTC currently has about 140 cadets; fifty percent are female. There are 28 cadets in this year's senior class. All are expected to be commissioned into the Air Force at graduation which exceeds the national average. He said, we are "right where we need to be".

Janelle introduced cadets Murray and Hoffman.

Cadet John Murray (a Clemson Senior) is from Marietta, GA. He aspires to become a Medical Service Officer with the Army.

Cadet Sophie Hoffmann (Air Force ROTC at Clemson) is from Maryland. She aspires to follow in her father's footsteps and become an Air Force doctor.

Greenville Chapter Update: Several Board Members have been working hard to reconstitute the Greenville Chapter. The Piedmont Chapter is the sponsoring organization and will hold the organizational meeting for a new Greenville Chapter on 10 October.

JROTC Update: Within the next several weeks, we will host 2 luncheon roundtable discussions for JROTC leaders.

M. J. Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery: A couple of our Piedmont Board members have been successful helping to influence the state legislature to provide almost one million dollars to fund improvements at our veterans' cemetery.

The minutes from 20 July 2023 luncheon meeting were introduced, seconded and approved by the membership.

The raising of the annual dues to \$25 per year was introduced, seconded and approved by the membership.

The Door Prize was won by Marilyn Hollis.

Mel thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 1920.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon Jacobs, Secretary