

PIEDMONT CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

JANUARY 21, 2021 LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

The luncheon meeting was held at Occasions and called to order at 1150 by President Wayne Watson who welcomed all members, new members, and guests.

Guests included:

1. Len Abbatiello from MOAA Keowee Chapter who suggested a joint chapter luncheon at the Lighthouse.
2. Tom Von Kaenel, past president of the Golden Corner Purple Heart Homes.

New members included:

1. Wayne Beam Col, USA Retired, Clemson
2. Dick Vail, Col, USA Retired, Pendleton

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Howard Jones.

Speaker Elizabeth Hiott, Anderson County Advocate for Upstate Warrior Solution, was introduced. Liz briefly explained the mission and gave examples of their successes. They partner with Purple Heart Homes as well as other organizations.

Lunch was served.

Wayne spoke about the Scattering Garden at M. J. Dolly Cooper Cemetery. He met with Mary McAlister, a master gardener, who is working up a plan to beautify the area with new plantings.

Wayne then introduced Wade Breaud, (Army retired) the new cemetery superintendent with the SC Department of Veteran Affairs. Wade spoke about the current status of the cemetery. There are currently 4,100 graves. Twenty acres are currently available. There is room for an additional 33 acres for future development.

Wayne introduced the second speaker, Brennan Beck who represents Military and Veterans Engagement, Clemson University. Brennan spoke briefly about his position and then read statements from five students who were honored with MOAA Scholarship Awards. He introduced Matt Morris who is President of the Student Veteran Organization. Matt spoke briefly of his role and accomplishments.

Angie Pellegrini was recognized and thanked for her role as the Chapter Webmaster. The website address is MOAASC.org/piedmont. Wayne asked for membership oldie photos to put on the website.

Warren Lutz mentioned his start-up of "Marine for Life" and is looking for candidates.

Tom Turner commented on his upcoming trip, MOAA Mississippi River Cruise, on American Cruise Line.

George Bailey, a retired flight surgeon, spoke about the importance of being careful during this pandemic and highly recommended getting the vaccine.

Janelle Merritt won the door prize.

Chaplain Jones gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1305.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Jacobs, Secretary

Click [here](#) to see some photos taken during this luncheon.