



16 NOVEMBER 2023 LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at the Bleckley Inn in Anderson and called to order at 1145 by COL Mel Case. The invocation was given by Chaplain Gordon Johnson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by COL Dale Ellenburg.

COL Mel Case recognized new members and guests.

New member, Sam Hammond, was given his MOAA/ARMY lapel pin.

Guests:

Ellen Leventis, military nurse and spouse of guest speaker, BG (R) Phil Leventis

Cameron Trent, COL, Army

Mike Hutchinson, Spouse of COL Trent

Juliana Heck, Surviving Spouse

Patricia Pierce

Tony McAlister

Sandy Yates, LCDR, Nurse Corps

Lunch was served.

BG (R) Phil Leventis, former SC Air National Guard F-16 pilot, former Deputy Adjutant General of SC, and former member of the SC State Senate, was introduced by COL Wayne Beam. BG Leventis discussed his personal history and that of his wife of 54 years as well. He saluted the Chapter on its 60th Anniversary and told a story of his father surviving a blast when he stepped on a land mine which took his leg on this date many years ago. He called it a second birthday. He told stories of his extended military career, many of them humorous. He closed by saying, "I am proud to be among many people who served selflessly."

Special recognition was given to MAJ Dan Tollison for his work as Treasurer.

A toast to the USN (248 years) was given by CDR Alan Erisman.

A toast to the USMC (248 years) was given by MAJ Dan Tollison.

COL Mel Case gave a special recognition on the occasion of the Piedmont Chapter MOAA's 60th birthday.

LtCol Howard Stammerjohn commented on the history of the chapter dating back to the year 2000 when there was no organized chapter. Sam Henderson eventually became the president and Howard Stammerjohn became the Newsletter editor. That was a turning point for the chapter. Howard said that chapters are fragile and today the Piedmont Chapter is the best it has ever been. A toast to the Chapter was given.

LtCol Art Phillips gave a toast to the Air Force.

The birthday cake was cut with a 161-year-old saber dating back to the Civil War. The saber which was created in 1862 was owned by Alan Erisman's great grandfather.

Past presidents were recognized: Tom Allen, Steve Ford, Dale Ellenburg, Sam Henderson, and Howard Stammerjohn helped with the cake cutting (Wayne Watson was not in attendance).

Business Updates:

1. Mel encouraged members to wear joined-vic-related articles of clothing to encourage others to become interested in MOAA and eventually join.
2. The Greenville chapter, which had closed, has been reconstituted and now, through the hard work of the chapter board members, it's affiliated with National MOAA.
3. Less than one in four of our youth meets the standards to join the military. Members are asked to encourage our youth to join JROTC and ROTC. We are working with the ROTC and JROTC leadership to improve their programs and increase cadet interest in serving our country.

The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday 6 December at 1000 at the M. J. Dolly Cooper Cemetery.

Future Meeting Dates and Venues:

18 Jan 24, 1130, Luncheon at Tuckers in Anderson. Speaker: COL (R) David M. Rozelle, Director of Operations, SC Department of Veterans Affairs

21 Mar 24, 1730, dinner, Tuckers in Anderson, Speaker, Jenna Galyean, former CIA Analyst and duty officer in the Situation Room at the White House during Iraqi Freedom.

16 May 24, 1730, dinner at Occasions in Central. Speaker: Thomas A. Austin, V; Clemson Offensive Line Coach

The Minutes of the 21 September 2023 minutes were approved.

Art Phillips commented that more donations are needed to supply enough Christmas wreaths for the cemetery.

Betty Lee Turner won the door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 1345.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Jacobs, Secretary