



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF KIAWAH-SEABROOK, SC

Box PMB-J 130 Gardener's Circle Johns Island, SC 29455

Member Meeting 09-20-2023 @Seabrook Island Club

Ray Hoover-President, called the meeting to order at 6:23PM and opened with prayer.

Chris Stephenson honored South Carolina fallen hero Gunnery Sergeant Ralph E. Pate, Jr. and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. See Bio attached.

Guests were welcomed including Cliff Williams, Larissa Ackerman, and Cooper Williams
New member inducted: Tom Kroll

Ray informed members that Nov 1 is grant night. 43 members are in the process of evaluating 45 grants request. There has been a 29% increase since last year in funds available to grant this year due to handbook ad sales, Bohicket Run, Angel Oak Banquet, etc. And 14 members have made individual donations. Deadline to get everything turned in to Rich Boss is Oct 27.

Kevin Boyle gave a reminder about the CSO outing. 44 of 66 seats are reserved.

Kobe Vander Graff gave an update on the golf outing, which is scheduled for Oct 4, a scramble format. \$45 for members, \$75 for guests. Hoping to have 50 in attendance.

Our new flag coordinator, Todd Andersen, schedule 20 members to install 120 flags over the past Labor Day weekend.

The Bohicket Run is coming up on Nov 18. We already have 530 registered which is a 30% increase over last year.

After the dinner, the evening's speaker, Courtney Plotter of the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired spoke about the specific challenges faced by individuals who are blind or partially blind. That number is approximately 12.5 million. There are only 3,800 certified people to who provide services such as hers to those with vision loss in the U.S. 15 of those are here in Charleston. Her office has a budget of 2.6M. We all applied a blindfold and attempted to eat dessert without sight.

Meeting adjourned 8:06PM

Next Meeting:

10/4/23 @Seabrook Island Club

Speaker will be Nick Adams of FLAG

Addendums:

Attendance

Fallen Hero

Speaker Bio

Minutes submitted on 10/11/23 by Lisa McDonald, Club Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Attending?	Member	Attending?	Guests
X	Victor Agusta		
X	Bill Bane		
X	Phyllis Barber		
X	Wayne Billian		
X	Rich Boss		
X	Kevin Boyle		
X	Ed Brett		
X	David Cruse		
X	Art Dougherty		
X	Bob Driscoll		
X	Bruce Edwards		
X	Frank Farfone		
X	Dick Fleming		
X	Andy Francis		
X	Derek Fyfe		
X	Richard Gwyn		
X	Stephen Haines		
X	Edward Hescamp		
X	Ray Hoover		
X	Maurice Isaac		
X	Phyllis Kaupp-Seas		
X	Ken Kavanaugh		
X	Geoffrey Kroll		
X	Ed Leary		
X	Bob Leggett	X X	Larissa Akerman Cooper Williams
X	Bruce Ludwin		
X	Alan Madison		
X	Bob Mason	X X X X	Courtney Plotner - Speaker Samantha McGovern - ABVI Bryson Young - ABVI Sherrie Mason
X	Tony Mazzola		
X	Lisa McDonald		
X	Rick McDonald		
No	Michael Morris		
X	Bill Nelson		
X	Marty Penkhus		
X	Steve Penkhus		
X	Thad Peterson	No No	Kathy Pompe Jeff Pompe
X	Joel Pondelik		
X	Russ Preston		
X	Sam Reed		
X	John Reock		
X	Ed Rigtrup		
X	Nancy Schibler		
X	Ron Schildge		

Attending?	Member	Attending?	Guests
X	Roy Sessions		
X	Walter Sewell		Karen Sewell
X	Roger Steel		
X	Chris Stephenson		
X	Marj Stephenson		
X	Dick Trent		
X	Stan Ullner		
X	C. Van de Graaf		
X	Bruce Van Voorhis		
X	Pat Welch		7
X	Jack Wilson		
X 55	John Woychick		Cliff Williams 9

57-62 with 64

Attending?	Guest	Host	Type
X	Larissa Akerman	Bob Leggett	Prospect
X	Sherrie Mason	Bob Mason	Wife
X	Samantha McGovern	Bob Mason	Speaker Guest
X	Courtney Plotner	Bob Mason	Speaker
No	Jeff Pompe	Thad Peterson	?
No	Kathy Pompe	Thad Peterson	?
X	Karen Sewell	Walter Sewell	Wife
X	Cliff Williams	John Woychick	Prospect
X	Cooper Williams	Bob Leggett	Prospect
X	Bryson Young	Bob Mason	Speaker Guest

TRIBUTE TO SC FALLEN HERO

Good evening fellow club members and guests.

Tonight, we're paying tribute to Marine Gunnery Sgt. Ralph E. Pate Jr.

The content for these tributes is usually coddled together based on research from various pieces of information from multiple websites. During my research into Gunnery Sergeant Pate, I came across a tribute by a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, an organization founded in 2005 to shield families of fallen heroes from those that would disrupt the services of their loved ones. I felt the sentiment expressed in that tribute was perfect for this segment of our program and wanted to share it with you tonight.

The following is the verbatim tribute as spoken by Patriot Guard Riders member Alan Curtner.

The tribute begins with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "Lest I keep my complacent way I must remember somewhere out there a person died for me today. As long as there must be war, I ask and I must answer was I worth Dying For?"

Then Alan goes on to say: "On July 4, 2011, Independence Day, Gunnery Sergeant Ralph E. Pate Jr. has come home. This was Part 1 of a 3 part Patriot Guard Rider mission that met the plane at Myrtle Beach Airport, SC and provided an honor escort to the Richardson Funeral Home in Marion, SC. The next two days will be a visitation and Memorial Service where Patriot Guard Riders have been asked to setup flag lines.

EJ was 29 years old when he was killed. I call him EJ because that's what his family and friends called him and I've been learning about him and reading about him so much it feels like I know him. EJ was quite a young man, quite a young Marine.

Officially his name is Gunnery Sergeant Ralph E. Pate, Jr. but like I said, his friends call him EJ. He was Killed In Action on Sunday, 26 JUN 11 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

EJ, we are told, wanted to be a United States Marine even when he was just a little boy. And just as soon as he got the chance he became a Marine. This young Gunnery Sergeant was Marine through and through. He wore the title proudly.

In 2004 EJ deployed into a combat zone. He did the same thing in 2006 and in 2008. He deployed again in 2009. And again in 2011. This was not a Marine who shirked what he considered his responsibility, to defend the interests of his country and serve as a shield for his people.

EJ was assigned to the 2nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

At the age of 29 he had already been a Marine for 12 years.

EJ loved life, loved his wife Kimberly, loved his family, loved his Corps and he loved this free America he died protecting.

EJ has been honored with the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars in lieu of fourth award.

EJ was not only a decorated war hero, a son, a nephew, a brother and friend, he also was a husband to Kimberly, who is also a member of the military, and a father to Brianna, 11, and Ashton, 8.

It is my belief that when a young man like EJ vows to protect his people, goes repeatedly into harm's way for that very purpose and loses his life in that effort it is the duty of the protected to come and say 'Thank You'. We are his people.

I call on the Patriot Guard now. Stand for EJ. Stand in the hot sun if it's required. Stand in rain if necessary. This young man stood for us. We will stand with his family and shed tears. We will be EJ's shield of honor.

God bless you Marine. Now, rest. But as you rest.....Listen for the Rumble. The Patriot Guard is coming.”

As an indication of our respect for Gunnery Sgt. Pate and others who gave their lives for our country, the club places US flags around our community several times a year. Each flag has a yellow ribbon attached with the name of a fallen hero.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Ralph E. Pate Jr., we salute you and your sacrifice on our behalf.

Please stand and join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

US Marine GySgt. Ralph E. Pate Escort 07-04-11 | Flickr



**Courtney Plotner
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired**



Courtney Plotner was raised in Charleston, SC where she attended Ashley Hall. She received her B.A. from Wofford College double majoring in English and Government. In 2012, Courtney joined the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired South Carolina (ABVI) and fell in love with the mission. Courtney began her career with ABVI as the Director of Programs, and in April 2016, assumed the role of President & CEO.

Courtney and her development team led an initiative that more than doubled individual contributions for ABVI during Courtney's first 2 full years as CEO. Her team raised grant funding by 30% during the same time period. As a result of this work and the help of an incredible staff and Board, ABVI has vastly expanded vision rehabilitation services for the state of South Carolina.

Courtney serves as a Board Member for VisionServe Alliance, a leadership collective of organizations and individuals located throughout the United States and Canada dedicated to improving the quality of life with and for people with vision loss and served on the Board of Miracles in Sight, one of the largest eye banks in the world. Courtney was a member of the 42nd Leadership class of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and in the Charleston Regional Business Journals 2016 class of Forty under 40.

Courtney and her husband Jeff have three boys, Judson (6), Barnes (4) and Tucker (2).