

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes October 21, 2025
at Lutheran Church the by Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: JAG Craig Pierre, 6:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer, Moment of Silence: Chaplain Howard Milhoan.

Present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson, Chaplain Howard Milhoan, JAG Craig Pierre, Treasurer Jim Brady, Secretary Sharon Branigan, Wayne Ehrensberger, Judi Bouchard, David Flom, Theresa Sadowski, Gary Zoldowski, Harry Klug, John Yerdon, Al Cauther.

Visitors: 7 guests and new members, representing: Air Force, Army (2), Navy (3)

Special Guests: The Bley Family, and Mrs. Nancy Tutt.

Len Fouch introduced Citadel graduate Mr. Durham Bley and Mr. George Bley, Durham's father. In 2024, Durham fell from a deer stand and was seriously injured. He has worked hard to overcome his injuries, but needs a wheelchair for mobility. Mrs. Nancy Tutt had donated her late husband Dan's electric scooter and life equipment to MAVA, and MAVA is honored to present that equipment to Durham tonight. Mrs. Nancy Tutt spoke about her husband's military experience (Navy 1964-1968). He was injured by Agent Orange. He had a full life but in 2013 developed congestive heart failure and diabetes and required an artificial pump for his heart. The VA agreed to provide a motorized wheelchair and it changed his world, he even went to the Masters golf tournament in his chair! Dan passed May 31, 2025. Nancy is honored and proud to pass this equipment on to Durham and hopes it improves his life experience as it did for Dan.

MAVA has recently begun to develop a medical equipment library hoping to match donated durable medical equipment with local area veterans in need. Please see Theresa or Bryan if you would like to help with worthwhile program.

Old Business:

Theresa and Craig: Golf tournament, has 5 foursomes slots open, please encourage your friends to sign up, last day to register is Monday, October 26. The 30x60 tent

is being set up at Hickory Knob on Friday 11/7. Theresa: we need LOTS of volunteers on 11/9 Sunday, to move chairs and tables from Sandy Branch FD to Hickory Knob, and set up for the Monday tournament. We also need volunteers on Monday 11/10 at the tournament. A sign up board was circulated with jobs and times required.

Theresa: Holiday party is December 6, sign up with Theresa Fouch tonight to attend. DDL is 11/24, \$22 per person. Pay at the November member meeting. If Wayne is able to attend he will handle music. Bryan is coordinating games. There will be a 50/25/25 raffle, and John Yerdon's famous cake for dessert.

Theresa: Heroes Project - Bob Martin, manager of Lowes, had asked MAVA if we knew of a veteran needing help with such things and minor construction, landscape clearing, drainage, etc. Melissa Mack of the VA recommended Sgt. Henry Banks of Mount Carmel who was recently disabled and unable to care for his property. Lowes asked MAVA to help with manpower, starting at 9 am on Wednesday October 7. Volunteers brought gloves, yard tools, goggles. Food and water provided by Lowes. 15 MAVA volunteers and 13 Lowes employees helped clear old growth, power wash, demolished an unsafe fire escape. Lowes is rebuilding the fire escape stairs and correcting the drainage system. Sgt. and Mrs. Banks, and Bob Martin of Lowes, are invited to the golf tournament as honored guests. MAVA will have everyone at the tournament sign the banner and will present it to Bob Martin with our appreciation for all of the support he has given to MAVA.

Len: Mayor Roy Smith texted Len that they were ready to place the base for the flags in the Veterans Park. Len, Craig and Jim Brady brought the ashes from the 600 flags that MAVA has retired in the past few years, and they held a short ceremony, with Jim Brady blowing Taps on the bugle. The ashes were placed into the base of the flag pole. Estimated date of completion of Veterans Park is September 2023.

New Business:

Len:

1. Thank you to David Flom, Judi Bouchard, Harry Klug, John Yerdon, and Chester Mott, for coming to Mc Cormick Get Connected at Baker Creek Park.

2. Master Sgt. Calloway of the MCHS JROTC advises that the JROTC is performing at the High School on Veterans Day. MAVAs are invited to attend.
3. Greenwood Country Club has invited our own Howard Milhoan to be the Guest Speaker at their Veterans Day event at the Greenwood Country Club. All are invited to attend.
4. Hometown Heroes Banners are returning this year, see Melissa Mack for applications.
5. Next Veterans Home visit is November 19. On 11/11 a vocal group will perform for the veterans. Also, please sign the cards on the tables, they will be given to the veterans.
6. MAVA member Mark Ficocelli's mother passed, please send condolences.

Phil Kinzer: Toys for Tots - collection begins the 1st week of November. Announcements will be in Neighborlink and MAVA. Donation bins will be at the Rec Center, and restaurants in town. All donations stay local to our area.

Gary Zoldowski: Uniform shirts, sweatshirts, hats. See him to purchase.

Judi Bouchard:

1. Looking for moving boxes for the Tatum Foley family. Also Bud Webster of SLV has a large collection of military memorabilia for sale, you should go see his collection.
2. Recommended: a book by David Grogan, "Learning to Live from those Willing to Die," Lessons that military life can teach us. Includes Judi's brother's story.

Sharon: Letters to our state reps are on the tables tonight, supporting reclassifying 911 dispatchers as First Responders. Please sign, then print your name and address. We will send these to our House Rep Daniel Gibson and our Senator Shane Massey to show our support for this change.

Paula:

1. Pantry collection last month was double what we usually bring in. Thank you.
2. Wreaths Across America - Sat. Dec 13 here at LCTBL at noon. She needs a Marine Corps vet to place a wreath at the ceremony. A new member volunteered. She also needs a vet to give a short talk, and a singer to perform at the ceremony.

We are wreathing 5 cemeteries with 410 wreaths this year : City, Overbrook, 2 in Plum Branch, and Willington.

3. Vicki Leonard requesting volunteers on Saturday October 25, to place flags at City Cemetery for Veterans Day. Volunteers please call Vickie.

Buddy Reeves: 5 pm at Greenwood Civic Center, Sen. Garret and Rep. Gibson will be at a BBQ honoring veterans. RSVP online. Also, many thanks for the flowers and cards for Doris, they appreciate it so much.

General James Burke: Nov. 13, 14 and 15, at American Legion in Mc Cormick. Come see a military uniform and equipment display. Free.

50/50 \$127, ticket 912538, donated back to MAVA

Len: Golf meeting at 10 am tomorrow at POA. PLEASE get involved with this group. You won't be sorry. As someone somewhere once said : "Your talents are God's gift to you. What you do with them is your gift to God." Use your talents.

Craig Pierre moved to adjourn, Howard Milhoan second. Meeting closed: 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary