

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: JAG Craig Pierre 6:00 pm

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

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

introduction of 7 new members and guests.

Special guests: Mr. James Takes, Mrs. Takes, and their two children.

Bryan Richardson led the meeting.

Old Business:

Craig Pierre:

Golf: The 3rd annual MAVA Veterans Day Golf Tournament was held on
Monday, November 10, at Hickory Knob State Park. The weather was cold
and windy but the event was enjoyed by all. After all expenses we have
collected approximately \$15,000 which will be donated to the Gary Sinise
Foundation, and an as-yet undetermined amount will be added onto the
annual budget to support the residents of the Richard M. Campbell
Veterans Home in Anderson, SC.

Theresa Sadowski:

Golf: Huge thanks to our major golf sponsors, Ron and Judi Bouchard,
Self Regional, CIO, Crowe (Golf Cart) Sales and Service, and Lowe's of
Greenwood. Bob Martin of Lowe's has chosen MAVA to partner on all
future Lowe's Heroes projects, a huge honor. All members, please sign the
Lowe's banner at the rear of the room. We will present it to Bob Martin.

Holiday dinner: will be held at this location, on December 6 from 5-9 pm. Dinner, prizes and games are included. Purchase tickets from Theresa tonight.

New Business:

Bryan Richardson: Presented an introduction to the story of SSgt James Takes, US Army. (See official narrative below.)

Judi Bouchard: Prologue, "How he got here" (at MAVA)

Mr. James Takes presented the riveting story of his early years, military enlistment, and the story of his experiences in Afghanistan that led to his nomination and award of the Distinguished Service Cross. The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military decoration, is Army specific, and is awarded for extraordinary heroism in combat. Mr. Takes closed his presentation thanking God, Jesus Christ, and the Angel that was sent to him in the form of his lovely wife.

His story is recounted in two books:

"The Chosen Few: A Company of Paratroopers and Its Heroic Struggle to Survive in the Mountains of Afghanistan" written by Gregg Zaroya, first published Feb. 14, 2017.

"For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, and Sacrifice" - authored by Howard Schultz and Rajiv Chandrasekaran. Audiobook narrated by Rajiv Chandrasekaran.

Judi Bouchard moved to adjourn, Howard Milhoan second, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary