



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 30, 2026

Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker, Col. Don Fallin who did not need much of an introduction, since he has spoken to our Club at least annually for the past 3 years. As a reminder, he is a graduate from the U.S. Military Academy in New York, as well as Fairview High School. His topic was his favorite, the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame.



Col. (Retired) Don Fallin.

Col. Fallin wanted to do something a little different tonight, but he did want to hit the major points in describing what the Cullman Veteran's Hall of Fame does. It recognizes the six of our local veterans each year at a special dinner and with a plaque permanently displayed in the Cullman County Courthouse. "So that's simply what our mission is, is to honor those local heroes that we have walking around here in our communities. And I'll tell you, it's been a pretty good success, at least, from what the families have told me ... The tangible and permanent goal is to display in our courthouse halls, the stories and the memories of our Military and it's great service members. ... We recognized 18 total people: four posthumous veterans, three World War II Army and one Air Force of

the 18. We recognized five World War II, one Korea and 12 Vietnam. We represent the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the army, both officer and enlisted. And our organization is comprised of three organizations, VFW (veterans of foreign wars), the DAV, and the American Legion." The Col. provided a tangible example of an honoree --- someone we all know in explaining what his organization does. He read the lengthy narrative that was read at the Veterans Hall of Fame dinner last year, honoring our own Lion George Krigbaum.

Quote:

"George Roland Krigbaum, United States Air Force veteran. George is the embodiment of patriotism, leadership, and lifelong service to both country and community. From a young age, George felt a deep calling to serve a purpose rooted in family legacy and a profound love for his nation. The calling led him to enlisting nice East Air Force in July 1960 immediately after graduating high school, it was the beginning of a 20-year military career defined by honor, excellence, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to our country. He completed both basic and technical training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, laying the foundation for a distinguished career that spanned continents and decades. His service record reflects not only technical proficiency, but also exceptional character and leadership. George's assignments come across the globe during pivotal moments in American military history. His first overseas tour was in Kevlar Canary Naval Air Station in Iceland in 1962 from 63 to 65 he was facing Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas, president of the tragic day, President John F Kennedy was assassinated, an event that left



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a lasting impression on his sense of duty and national unity. In 66 George deployed to Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey, followed by assignment to Dias, Air Force Base in Texas. There his unit 4252, strategic air wing was deployed to U-Tapao Air Force Base in Thailand to support the Vietnam War. On April 10 of 1962 B-52 Strata Forces again landed in U-Tapao, and George's unit played a critical role in that operation. Later that year, he was assigned the solemn duty of escorting nine following service members home for the Christmas season, a mission that left a permanent mark on his heart. George's third overseas tour took him to anchor of Turkey 1970 to 72 followed by a critical assignment to march Air Force Base in California. There he joined the elite sac inspector general team responsible for valuing missile defense installations across the United States, a role reserved for only the most trusted and most capable personnel. His fourth overseas assignment brought him to Albrecht Air Force Base in the Panama Canal Zone from 74 to 76 and he concluded his career off at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, retiring in 1980 after two decades of exemplary service. Among his many decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force commendation. Medal, Air Force good conduct. Medal, National Defense Service Medal outstanding Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Republic of Vietnam gallantry called cross with Campaign Medal. Additional awards include the small arms expert marksmanship ribbon, the NCO professional military education ribbon and the Air Force longevity Service Ribbon, each reflecting his excellence in training, leadership, and sustained commitment. These honors speak to his valor, his role in critical operations and

steadfast dedication to duty. However, George's service did not end with the retirement. In fact, it entered a new and equally impacting chapter. In 1998 he became commander of VFW Post 2214, in common, and during his three-year tenure, he led the successful campaign to rename the post Street to veterans drive lasting tribute to those who served. He also spearheaded the restoration of the historic artillery cannon, including the repair of its original wheels. Preserve preserving a piece of military history and installing pride in the local veteran community. George later served as commander at VFW Post, 4190, in Decatur, Alabama, where his reputation for passionate leadership and tireless volunteerism continued to grow. His influence expanded further when he joined the American Legion, eventually rising to department Commander from the state of Alabama in 2013 and 14. In this role, he presented 1000s of veterans. In this role, he represented 1000s of veterans and oversaw statewide initiative that strengthened the organization and his mission. He later assumed command of the American Legion Post 1415, and currently leads post 255, in Fort del, Alabama. His leadership continues today as detachment commander, a role that reflects his enduring commitment to building supporting and inspiring veteran communities. George's impact is not measured solely in titles. It's seen in the lives he's touched. Over the years, he has personally recruited more than 700 new members to the American Legion, earning the prestigious gold brigade medal for 12 consecutive years, an extraordinary achievement that underscores his unmatched ability to connect, motivate and lead. His passion for service extends to the



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next generation. Through the American Legion's leadership and youth camps, George has mentored countless young people, teaching them the values of patriotism, civic duty, and public service, whether organizing, organizing logistics, speaking to youth groups, or serving as a hands-on role model, George has helped shape the character of future leaders beyond his military and organizational accomplishment, George is a devoted family man. He is the proud father of three children and a beloved grandfather. His home reflects the values he has lived by, sacrifice, humility, honor, and service to others through every chapter of his life, George has remained a humble, hardworking servant leader. He has never sought recognition for himself, but has always tried to elevate others, giving voice to veterans, preserving history, and building institutions that will endure for generations. George's record is not just a list of awards or assignments, it's a living legacy of what it means to serve an integrity, loyalty, and heart. He exemplifies the core values of the United States military and the enduring spirit of American veterans who continue to serve long after uniform is folded."



Lion George Krigbaum

Col. Don Fallin thanked our Club again for its support and invited our members to submit nominations to his organization by July 26th for this year's honored Veterans, and to call him if you need a nomination packet or help in filling it out. The dinner this year is November 3rd.

Lion George addressed the Club, showing his appreciation in being honored. He also talked about the efforts of the VFW in assisting the families of the 6 Birmingham airmen recently killed by Iranian drones in Kuwait.

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel, who has a heart condition, remains in stable condition, but is currently limited to restricted activities. Pray for him. Lion James Pinyan has been out with a foot-medical issue, but he expects to be back next week.

Lion Steve Murphree announced candidates the upcoming Club officer election after asking for additional nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made, and a vote from members present to accept the current slate of candidates from Lion Steve passed unanimously. This slate of **candidates is provided on page 5** of this newsletter. The election will be held on April 13th. Lion Steve offered the three candidates for Tale Twister an opportunity to make a campaign speech, but none cared to take advantage of that.

President Lion Delane Ray called Lion George Krigbaum to come forward and congratulated him on receiving a 10 years-of-Lions-Service chevron pin, milestone award..



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Tonight was a big night of recognition for Lion George.

Lion Bill Ruehl asked for volunteers for Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic on Wednesday, the 11th at 8:30 at the Good Samaritan Clinic. He usually needs at least 2 other Lions to assist with this mobile clinic. He promised free donuts, too, for helping.

Lion Don Smith says that he has had a “lackluster response” from several Lions in regard to them not cashing reimbursements checks that he issued to them. So, he reminds you again and also offered another option -- to apply the value of any check less than \$100 towards the next quarter’s Club dues. Just let him know what you want to do in this regard.

Upcoming Programs and Events.

April 6: Speaker for this meeting is being determined.

April 13: Cullman’s Mayor, our own Lion Woody Jacobs, will be our speaker. Also, election of Club Officers for 2026-2027 will be held.



Cullman Mayor, Lion Woody Jacobs.

April 20: Club meeting will be at the Agriplex at 5:30PM. The Club has made significant contributions to the Agriplex. We have been invited to the dedication & opening of the Agriplex’s Teaching Kitchen, part of its multi-million-dollar expansion. Address is 1714 Talleyho St., just off Hwy 278 W, near the Cullman Bowling Alley. Freddy Day will provide catering.

April 27: Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.



Ms. Cathy Sloss

May 4: Cullman Power Board Director Allison Bright will be our program speaker.

May 11: Judge Emily Johnson will be our program speaker.

June 15: Club Officer Installation at the Church of Christ on Child Haven Road.

June 29: Club Family Picnic at the Fairgrounds.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).



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Sample Ballot for the *April 13th* Election of the 2026-2027 Board of Directors

President

- Lion Jeff Lawson (I)
- Lion Doug Doggett

1st Vice President

- Lion Craig Gadow (I)
- Lion Clark Rainwater

2nd Vice President

- Lion David Wiggins (I)
- Lion Raymond Williams

3rd Vice President

- Lion Eric Ponder
- Lion Steve Rodgers

Secretary

- Lion Scott Starosta (I)
- Lion Terry Slaten

Treasurer

- Lion Don Smith (I)
- Lion Andrew Manning

Lion Tamer

- Lion Charlie Powell (I)
- Lion Chris Brooks

Tail Twister

- Lion Richard White (I)
- Lion Richard Gurley
- Lion Doug Spradlin

Director

* Vote for two *

- Lion Jeremy Bryant
- Lion Quinten Poulin
- Lion Melinda Schofield
- Lion Brooke Windeknecht

Membership Committee

- Lion David Bussman
- Lion Joe Sivilli