



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

May 22, 2023

Program

Our speaker, tonight, introduced by Lion Randy Kraft, was Col. (retired after a 34-year career in the infantry and flying helicopters) Don Fallin. He spoke mainly about current efforts for the establishment of a Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame. Col. Fallin is a member of VFW Post 2214 in Cullman and is a 1988 graduate of Fair View High School, as well as a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. His son is also a USMA graduate.



Col. (retired) Don Fallin speaking about the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame.

Col. Fallin was also on-hand as one of several speakers on Saturday, May 27th for a Memorial Day event commemorating 5 local veterans who were killed in Vietnam during that war. Eulogies were read for those Veterans and a boxed, US flag was presented to their families. This event was held at the Veterans Park area of Sportsmen Lake with over 300 attendees. It also premiered and dedicated a mounted actual Huey helicopter which has just been installed, on-site.

Col. Fallin said that he has felt blessed to have the opportunities afforded by his country and

being from Cullman and has wanted to “give back” with continuing service. After one of his good friends was killed in action, he started this effort by raising funds for scholarships for his friend’s and other veteran survivors’ children through endurance events, like hiking the 2200-mile Appalachian trail for 6 months, hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Inca 80-mile trail in the Andes, and climbing the 2nd highest mountain in the world in the Himalayans. He was also involved in getting the Huey helicopter installed in Veterans Park.

Col. Fallin’s latest focus for giving back, along with the involvement of other local veterans, has been a project for a Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame (CVHOF). Its mission will be to recognize and pay tribute to our Veterans who honorably served our country, displayed great character, and continued a lifetime of service to our Country, our State, and its citizens. CVHOF will not just be a military hall of fame, but also seek to recognize Veterans for their contributions to our community after their service. Furthermore, it aims to educate our local county citizens on the historical service and sacrifice of this county’s veterans, as well as their service to make our community stronger. The concept of a CVHOF came about after studies of such entities in other states and at the National level.

A small committee was established with initial involvement of 3 military organizations: the VFW, the American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans. This committee put together a charter. The committee has expanded and now includes himself, Commander Brian Montes from VFW, Keith Johnson from the American Legion, Claire Stanfield from DAV, County Commissioner Gary



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Marchman, and a civilian, John Raleigh from Cullman Savings & Loan. The committee has put together a packet to help in the nomination and selection of five initial veterans for their installation into the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame. The committee is hoping to get nominations submitted by the 25th of August; then have an induction program on the 27th of October. Criteria for selection and other info can be found in Nomination Packets, which can be picked up at VFW Post 2214 or American Legion Post 4 or downloaded from: <https://www.facebook.com/cullmanVFWPost/> or contact Don at donald.fallin@gmail.com. Col. Don Fallin is doing impressive work and gave us an interesting, great program.

Other Business

Lion Jerry Bonner announced that when Lion Charlie McBrayer passed away, his family asked that instead of well-wishers sending flowers for his funeral, they were asked to make donations to our Lions Club in his memory. Lion Jerry said that the Club had received \$1,750 in response to this bequest.

It was announced that Lion Wendell Copeland's brother-in-law had passed away and to keep Lion Wendell's family in your prayers.

Lion President Parrish read thank-you notes for our financial support from the Good Samaritan Clinic, Unsheltered International, and from one of our Leos, Colin Floyd, who was a recipient of one of our scholarships.

There will be no meeting May 29 in observance of Memorial Day

Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share>. Call Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361 if you need help getting to this site.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 29: No meeting in remembrance of Memorial Day.

June 5: TBD

June 12: New Club members' formal installation.

June 19: New Officer Banquet with installation of new officers, summary of past year's activities, and award presentations. Details to follow.

July 17: Speaker will be Ms. Rhonda McDavid, Executive Director SE Diabetes Education Services, Camp Seale Harris. Photo, below.



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 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).