

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

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V P Jim Pepper presided over today's luncheon meeting. Jim called on Chaplain Sidney Sandridge for today's prayer and to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Jim Berry introduced his guest Chuck Verdane, who might be our speaker one of these times. I reported talking with Nate Showers, former long-time newsletter writer, by phone. He told me he would probably start meeting with us occasionally, but needs to recover from his bout with shingles, first. Also, I mentioned that Graham (my grandson) and I planned to meet with George Ferrell later in the day to fulfill Graham's Veteran's Day school assignment to interview a veteran. Although George is struggling with getting accustomed to a pacemaker, he graciously agreed to talk with us. George holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters for his 30 bombing missions in WW II – his last 2 missions being on D-Day. As a Sergeant, he was a right waist gunner (50 caliber machine gun) and flight engineer on a B-24 Liberator.



Gay introduced our speaker, Linda Gilmor, from the Arc of Madison County. The Arc is dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities, through many specialized programs, providing therapy across the range from infants to adults. She told of many rewarding examples of the fruitage of their efforts, but today she gave particular emphasis to infants and toddlers showing early developmental delay symptoms. She cited one two-year old, who was unable to speak the simplest words, became able to express herself through full sentences by the time she entered kindergarten.

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It has been shown that early participation by a child in Arc programs results in fewer special services across a lifetime, with greater potential for independence.

The speaker told of many such joyful, proud, achieving adults, that have emerged as community contributors.

Next time, Veteran's Day, Jay Town and Pam Gothart will bring us a timely program on the Medal of Honor. Try to bring a guest to this meeting. We collected prize money today, but were unable to find the box containing our names, so Al Renz will hold the pot and add it to next week's.

CALENDAR

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|-------|--------------|---|
| 11/09 | Tues. 4:00pm | 1 st Commercial Bank
Board Meeting |
| 11/11 | Thurs. 11:45 | Downtown Holiday Inn
Medal of Honor - Jay Town, Pam Gothart |
| 11/18 | Thurs. 11:45 | Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting |
| 11/25 | Thanksgiving | No Meeting |
| 12/02 | Thurs. 11:45 | Downtown Holiday Inn
Doug Bennett - Theatrical Lighting Systems |

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