

Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Roe
256-883-8950
j_m_roe@yahoo.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Pepper
256-655-9659
jpepper777@msn.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Berry
256-539-2101
jberryn@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Al Renz
256-772-7929
optimist3480@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Martin
256-722-8062
bmartin12@bellsouth.net

VOL. 65, No. 7, November 11, 2010

Pres. Jim Roe called on Jim Berry for today's luncheon prayer. Jim B. prefaced his prayer with a call for a moment of heart-felt silence, following the pledge of allegiance, in honor of our veterans on this day. Duane followed this by reading a devotional appropriate for the occasion. Then, Duane introduced his guest, his Sunday School teacher, Richard Bean.

Pres. Jim asked for a show of hands of those veterans in our midst. There were about a dozen. Later on, after our prepared program, Alberto asked if each of our veterans could briefly state what they did while in the armed forces – and they did.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



ARMY



NAVY



AIR FORCE

DIRECTORS

Tom Casteel
256-714-4677
tom@leetsac.net

Connie Gipson
256-534-1384
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock
256-990-0077
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Buddy Beck
256-837-9722

Gay Pepper
256-617-0742
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

Patti Walker
256-829-1312
patti.walker@bxs.com

Gay introduced today's speaker, Jay Town, whose subject was the Congressional Medal of Honor, signed into law by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. Since then, this most prestigious of American awards has only been presented to a little more than 3,000 recipients in about 150 years and our many wars – a large percentage being posthumously. The number of living recipients is dwindling steadily to fewer than 90.

One, Leo Thorsness, currently resides in Madison. Next week President Obama plans to present the first such honor to a living recipient since the Viet Nam War. Qualifications for this award are selfless dedication and valorous heroic performance of duty in the heat of combat observed by at least two witnesses. The speaker noted that the highest ranking General Officer is expected to salute the Medal of Honor regardless of the recipient's rank. Also, the privilege of meeting with the President is extended to one so honored for his or her heroism. Our Madison holder has met with President Obama.

It is the goal of Jay Town, an ex-Marine, to have Medal of Honor accounts be included in citizenship courses in all high school curricular. Jay showed a video with Brian Williams as spokesman, of testimonies by many living awardees that could form the basis for such courses. Today, all Madison County schools have complied, and by 2012 it is projected that Alabama will be first in the nation to offer this in all high schools. For more information about the Congressional Medal of Honor visit the website <http://www.cmohs.org/>

We sang a tribute to Al Renz for his November 12 80th birthday

. Gay announced the Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 9th, 6:30pm, at the Downtown Holiday Inn with each attendee asked to bring a gift.

Bob Martin won the prize money today which was sweetened by a carryover from last time. Please have the Sandridges in your thoughts and prayers when Gladys undergoes surgery on the 16th.

CALENDAR

- 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
- 12/09 Thurs.6:30 pm Downtown Holiday Inn
Christmas Party - Bring a Gift

W