

# **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

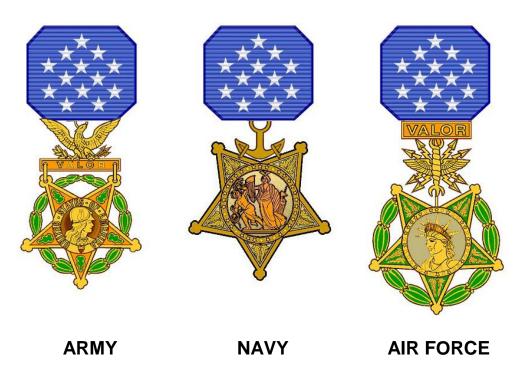
bmartin12@bellsouth.net

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**



### **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  $80^{\rm th}$  birthday

. Gay announced the Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **CALENDAR**

| 11/11                          | Thurs.11:45               | Downtown Holiday Inn       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | Medal of Honor            | r - Jay Town, Pam Gothart  |
| 11/18                          | Thurs.11:45               | Optimist Recreation Center |
|                                | Business Meeti            | ng                         |
| 11/25                          | Thanksgiving              |                            |
|                                | No Meeting                |                            |
| 12/02                          | Thurs.11:45               | Downtown Holiday Inn       |
|                                | Doug Bennett -<br>Systems | Theatrical Lighting        |
| 12/09                          | Thurs.6:30 pm             | Downtown Holiday Inn       |
| Christmas Party - Bring a Gift |                           | y - Bring a Gift           |

