



The Serving Tray

Rotary Club of Kirksville -- Charter 371 -- District 6040

www.kvrotary.org



November 10
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2020/2021 ROTARY CITATION was presented to Past President Roy Noe (right in left photo). He is pictured with Jeff Romine who brought it back from the District Conference. (Other recognitions including a Rotary Star were also presented.)

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW PLUS 4 pin was awarded to Claire Lloyd today by Foundation Chair Jeff Romine (left in right photo).



IN TIME FOR VETERANS DAY: Tourism Director Debi Boughton is pictured displaying a sign which will be erected at Kirksville's eight hotels to honor veterans.

VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION: Dale Schenewerk explained that the scheduled speaker, Col. Jim Tenpenny, was unable to come to Kirksville today. Instead, fellow member Ralph Cupelli presented in his place. Ralph had an impressive military career, as described below.

LT. COL. RALPH P. CUPELLI, RETIRED, U.S. ARMY INFANTRY:

Ralph was born and lived in Pennsylvania until he graduated in June 1969 from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He was a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Army Reserve Officers Training Corps program and went immediately on active duty as an Infantry Second Lieutenant. He served more than 23 years in multiple Army assignments in Colorado twice and the Pentagon where he headed the Army's Antiterrorism Program. He is a graduate of the Army Ranger, Airborne and many other Army schools. He earns the Combat Infantryman's Badge in Vietnam along with the Bronze Star and Air Medal. He received the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster and Army medals. During his career he worked for both Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf. Ralph's final Army assignment was the Commander of the ROTC Battalion at Truman State University. In September 1992 he retired from the Army and went to work for TSU.



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50-50 Drawing: A WINNER! Ralph Cupelli pulled the ace of spades; he will share the \$72 pot!

Guests:

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:

AREN BARWICH

RAMEYWEICHERT

November birthdays and club anniversaries were read, including 46 years of service by Vern Playle.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

Nov. 17: Police Chief Scott Williamson

Nov. 23: Joint Service Club Luncheon/Newman Center

Nov. 24: NO ROTARY MEETING

Dec. 1: Jeff Romine/Rotary Foundation Committee

Dec. 8: Kirksville HS Choir/Rebecca Murphy

Dec. 15: Brian Hoscheit/Salvation Army/Bell Ringing 12/18

HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

Ralph Cupelli said Veterans Day originated after WWI which officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in France on June 28, 1919. Fighting however had ceased seven months earlier when an Armistice between the Allied Nations and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For that reason, November 11, 1918 is regarded as the end of the first world war.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The original concept for the celebration of Armistice Day was for a day observed with parades, public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 am. The United States Congress recognized the end of WWI when it passed a resolution on June 4, 1926 requesting the President issue a proclamation calling on officials to display the U.S. flag on all government buildings on November 11 and inviting citizens to observe the day in school, churches or other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other people.

An Act approved on May 13, 1938 made the eleventh of November a legal holiday. In 1954, after WWII, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of veterans organizations, amended the Act of 1938 to change the name “Armistice” to “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars and continues to this day.

Veterans Day is a day for all Americans to take time to acknowledge the respect and admiration we have for our veterans.

Millions of people around the world live in peace and freedom today because of the dedication, devotion to duty and sacrifices of our noble veterans.

CLUB MEMBERS' MILITARY EXPERIENCES

In addition to sharing memories of working for Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell, **Ralph Cupelli** spoke about his dad's WWII service. His 37-month deployment overseas included his 12th river crossing on September 11, 1944. There were more casualties that morning in his dad's company than those suffered by the entire Army in the first Gulf War in Iraq. Ralph was able to visit Normandy with his dad in 2004 during the 60th anniversary of liberation. Ralph then opened the program up to other veterans present.

Ruth Bowers spoke about her 13 years of service, mostly in the Reserves. It was at the time of Desert Storm but she was not shipped out. **Larry Lamberson** enlisted in the Air Force after his 1970 “Truman” graduation. He served his entire time in Wichita Falls, TX. Because of his accounting background, he helped design the military pay system “JUMPS.” **Ernie Hughes** served six years in the National Guard and went to college under the G.I. bill. His dad served during WWII and his grandfather, in WWI, although he saw no action. **James Harmon** joined the Army three months after graduation from DePaul University in 1964. He volunteered for three years and served in Germany.