A VETERANS TRIBUTE BY PDG RALPH CUPELLI

In Jeff Romine’s introduction we learned that Ralph has served in various capacities since joining our club in 1990, most recently as 2015-16 District Governor. Ralph retired January 1, 2015 from TSU where he served for 23 years as assistant to the executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. Prior to that he served more than 23 years as a United States Army infantry officer in multiple assignments in Colorado, Georgia, Vietnam [where he commanded a company in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in Germany twice and the Pentagon where he headed the Army’s Antiterrorism Program.

He is a graduate of the Army Rangers Airborne and other Army schools. He earned the Combat Infantryman’s Badge in Vietnam along with the Bronze Star and Air Medal. He has received the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster. He worked for both generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf during this career.

Ralph presented today’s program in honor of Veteran’s Day which has just passed. He said veterans are the backbone of their communities - making contributions, pitching in, providing leadership and setting a good example for the young. Ralph was privileged to tour the European battlefields with WWII veterans, one of whom was his father. He showed us slides of a memorial trip in September 2004, commemorating the Moselle River Crossing on September 11, 1944. The French people greatly appreciated our sacrifices and made it clear to the veterans attending the memorial.

Ralph said he learned from the WWII veterans the savagery of battle, the loss of comrades, the hardships and enduring American spirit. They were truly members of the greatest generation. Just over 600,000 of the WWII veterans remain but what they did to secure our freedom is a lasting memorial to their sacrifice and service.

WWII Veteran Harvey Young then spoke to us briefly. He became emotional speaking about President Harry Truman who he credits with saving his life and the lives of countless others by using the atomic bomb to end WW II. Harvey even got to visit with Truman for 15 minutes on one occasion! Pictured above are Ralph Cupelli and Harvey Young in one photo and Ralph (with his dad on the screen) in a second photo.

50-50 Drawing: James Harmon did not pull the ace of spades; pot now up to $83.

Membership Update: We have 83 members.

Guests:

Mike, Sandy, Russ and Lori Nevins (guests of Jim)
Harvey Young (guest of Danny Pagliai)
Jim Wagner (Thousand Hills club)

Make Up Meetings at 1000 Hills club - NE Regional Medical Center cafe (Thursdays at 7 a.m.) or North Star club - Wooden Nickel (Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m.)

Upcoming Programs:

Nov. 22: NO MEETING (Joint Service Club Luncheon is Nov. 21. A count was taken last week.)
Nov. 29: Dr. Sue Thomas/Truman Update
Dec. 6: Patricia Roberts & Jeff Romine/Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot
Dec. 13: Jim Richardson/Twin Pines Update
Dec. 20: Social Committee/Holiday Program