



# Bulletin

## East Memphis Rotary Club

Cliff Williams, President

November 3, 2021  
Photographer: Bill Pickens  
2021-2022  
Our 33rd Year

[www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org](http://www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org)

Meeting 12:00 Noon

Shady Grove Event Center, 5530 Shady Grove, Memphis, TN 38120

### Upcoming Meetings

November 8, 2021  
Golf Tournament  
Windyke Country Club

November 10, 2021  
No Meeting this Week

November 17, 2021  
Leslie Shankman-Cohn  
Aging in Place

November 24th  
No Meeting  
Thanksgiving Week

December 1, 2021  
Jessica Van Dyke  
Innocense Project

December 8, 2021  
WSE Christmas Luncheon  
at the school



December 15, 2021  
Holiday Party  
Home of  
Paula & Bob Chance

December 22, 2021  
No Meeting  
Christmas Week



December 29, 2021  
No Meeting  
New Year's Week

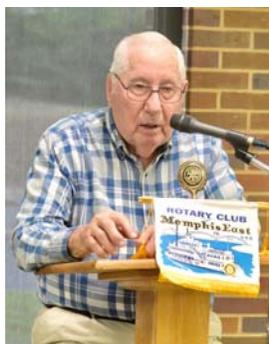


**Speaker Gift Sponsor**

### Wednesday, November 10, 2021 No Meeting at Shady Grove Golf Tournament on the 8th at Windyke CC

You don't have to play golf to join us at Windyke on Monday, November 8th. The weatherman appears to be bringing us good weather for the day - a high of 72. You can come out and socialize with us as we wait for the players to return for the 19th Hole reception compliments of Richard Marsh. It will be fun day so plan to come by.

### November 3, 2021 A Veterans Day Program Featuring World War II Veteran Olin Pickens



World War II was brought to life last week through the eyes of Olin Pickens, 100 year-old veteran, who spent two years of the war as a POW. Olin joined the army in 1942, leaving home telling his parents that he would come back. He said he really thought maybe he would die sometime during the war, but never expected to become a prisoner. He was placed in the 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion. In January of 1943, his unit was sent to North Africa's front line and received orders for what he described as a "suicide

mission."

After a pivotal battle on the North African front, Pickens found himself on his own, where he later found himself facing 12 German soldiers with bayonets fixed on him. He said he lost his freedom, his dignity and pride, but he still had his faith and nothing nor anyone could take that away. He said he spent two years in captivity where he was nearly starved to death and forced to work at hard labor. He did try to escape one time, but was caught and returned to punishment and re-imprisonment where he remain in solitary confinement.

Pickens said he can't wash the memories of war from his mind, but when he returned home, home looked like heaven and you have never been hugged until you have been hugged by your mother who finally sees her son returning from war.

## A Special Birthday



President Cliff presented Olin Pickens a cake to celebrate his 100th Birthday!



A Proud Bill Pickens introduced his cousin Olin Pickens



Ray Brakebill listens as a WWII Veteran Olin Pickens and West Point Graduate John Snyder trade stories.



Everyone wanted to shake the hand of a real hero and thank him for his service.

## A Grateful Audience

