



Bulletin

East Memphis Rotary Club

Cliff Williams, President

October 27, 2021
Photographer: Bill Pickens
2021-2022
Our 33rd Year

www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org

Meeting 12:00 Noon

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

Upcoming Meetings

November 3, 2021

Olin Pickens
WW II Veteran

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



J. BROOKS
PREMIUM COFFEE ROASTERS

Speaker Gift Sponsor

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Olin Pickens

World War II Veteran



Olin Pickens, World War II Veteran, turns 100 years young this month. Pickens, only 20 at the time, joined the Army in 1942. He volunteered before being drafted. After basic training, Pickens was placed in the 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion and sent to the Mediterranean. On January 26, 1943, his unit began approaching North Africa's front line. There they dug in and soon received orders for what Pickens described as a "suicide mission." He said I went over there expecting to die but I didn't expect to be a POW. He was captured by 12 German soldiers standing over him with bayonets fixed and all had guns on him. He said I lost my freedom, my dignity and my pride, but I had my faith and they couldn't take that away. He spent two years in captivity, a time in which he was nearly starved to death, forced to work at hard labor, and finally a risky flight to freedom that led to punishment and re-imprisonment. He was placed in solitary confinement toward the end of his imprisonment.

Pickens said he can't wash the memories of war from his mind, and will share with us the horrors of war.

October 27, 21

Paul Young, Downtown Commission



Very interesting facts were discussed today by Paul Young, president and CEO of the Downtown Commission. Did you know that every building on Beale Street was owned by the city with the Downtown Commission serving as the Property Manager? Did you know that Food Truck Thursday was returning to Court Square on August 5th and will be open every Thursday from 11 to 2? Some good eatin' for those living and working in downtown Memphis. Were you aware that 26,000 people live in downtown Memphis with 72,000 downtown during the work week?

Paul outlined the commission's focus which covers the North District all the way down to the South District and includes the Medical District. This is a 6.5 square mile area with more than \$5 billion in new development projects that are planned, underway, or recently completed. The Commission's staff works closely with investors and developers to help make planned projects a reality.

Paul was very engaging and fielded questions about the development of 100 North Main Building to the need for a grocery store in the area. Under the leadership of Paul Young, there is no doubt the area will grow and prosper.



Happy



President Cliff had a \$5 Happy Dollar to say how pleased he was to be able to return to White Station and mentor students in math.

Milton Knowlton had a \$5 Happy Dollar to announce his 60th wedding anniversary. Said it was the best deal he ever made.

King Rogers had \$3 to announce the appointment of Mark Griffie's son, Mark, Jr., as operational analyst for Lehman-Roberts.

Bill Pickens had \$2 to say he was happy he had the opportunity to go pheasant hunting with Bob Kirk and did not get shot.

Jonathan Spiceland had a Happy Dollar to announce his wife was at a conference in Vegas, and he and the kids were halfway through the week without burning the house down.

Neal Graham recognized the fact that Thomas Jefferson once lived in Dyersburg and was friends with King Rogers growing up.

Terry Dunger was Happy for his daughter and grandson's safe trip driving from Chicago to Ole Miss/LSU game after their flight was canceled.

Guests

King is the star this week with two guests.



Joni Bryan



Joshua Salter

Also visiting today was former member Lyman Aldrich, guest of Ray Brakebill.



“Halloween was confusing. All my life my parents said ‘Never take candy from strangers’ and then they dressed me up and said ‘go beg for it’ “