

**NEWS FROM
NARFE CHAPTER 860 CLEVELAND, TN
APRIL 2022**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

***NARFE Est. 1921 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS SERVING ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES***

Danny Britt, President; Bobbie Templeton, Vice-President; Annabel Webb, Secretary /Treasurer; Belinda Rollens, Sunshine; Don Rollens, Service Officer, Dean McAlister, Membership Chair/Newsletter Editor

Special Member Spotlight

During past newsletters, this space has been used to recognize and introduce chapter members and provide information that may assist the membership to better know their fellow members.

This effort has consistently focused on members that regularly attend chapter meetings. However, with this edition, we will begin recognizing another segment of our Chapter membership.

This group of ten-chapter members/retirees may have attended one meeting or maybe not any chapter meetings. The decision not to attend is a personal choice and that is ok. Their decision is supported by different reasons, i.e. traveling; sickness/disability, enjoying time consuming hobbies, or others may say I just need to be alone for a while. The list continues. All of these reasons are legitimate and at times they may even be enticing to fellow chapter members that regularly attend the meetings.

Our special ten members should best be described as **unsung heroes of NARFE**. Each year, they faithfully pay their Chapter membership dues with most maintaining their membership until death. This article pays tribute to one of those members.

James Michael Hendrix was a Chapter member for more than 33 years. After contributing 32 years to his federal agency, Mike continued his dedicated federal service by maintaining his Chapter membership until his death on February 7, 2022.

Mike was born in Powell, (Knox County) TN in 1933, growing up on a tobacco farm in Powell. When Mike wasn't working in the tobacco patch he was busy tending the vegetable crops. These two cash crops made it possible for James's father and mother to provide an education for he and his sister Elizabeth.

After graduating from Karnes High School in Knoxville, Mike furthered his education by attending the University of TN Knoxville. Before finishing college, he answered the call of "Uncle Sam" and was drafted into the US Navy. During his service with the Navy, Mike served as a radioman on the aircraft carrier USS Monterey. While on board the Monterey he witnessed the first landing of an aircraft on the deck of his ship. After his three-year military stint, he returned to school graduating at UT with a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science.

Armed with this earth science degree he was selected by the US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. This position was the beginning of a 32-year career with this soil conservation federal agency.

Mike's first duty station with the Soil Conservation Service was Campbell County, LaFollette TN for 9 years followed by a 5½ year tour in Scott County. A transfer in 1972 brought him to Cleveland TN where he served as the District Conservationist for Bradley County until his retirement in 1988.

In this new position in Cleveland, Mike was responsible for identifying and developing soil conservation projects in Bradley and other surrounding counties. A major part of his duties, as the District Soil Conservationist, was providing leadership to the Bradley County Soil Conservation District. This county organization serves landowners by providing assistance with the installation of conservation practices to prevent soil erosion, improve Tennessee's water quality, and promote the stewardship of our natural resources.

Soil Conservation District Board Chairman John Moore stated, "Mike was an excellent District Conservationist dedicated to the preservation and development of our soils, both farmland as well as industrial and commercial development." Moore stated some of the major projects Mike and the District developed were installation of farm ponds, grass waterways, farm plans, and no-till soybeans. On a personal note, Moore stated, "Mike prided himself in being the first to have beans from his garden."

After serving 20 years as the Bradley County District Conservationist, he retired in 1992 leaving behind a thankful reputation with members of the Bradley County Soil Conservation District. Our own Kay Cox had the pleasure of working with Mike. She too ranks him as an excellent co-worker and agrees with most that James definitely had a "green thumb" when it came to raising vegetables. Also, our Chapter Secretary-Treasurer, a retired Farmers Home Administration employee ranks Mike as a very dedicated federal employee.

Mike was an active member of Westwood Baptist Church serving 35 years as their Sunday School Director and as a Deacon.

Most of you probably did not know Mike. However, as stated earlier, Mike along with nine of his fellow chapter members comprise a group of special chapter members dedicated to preserve the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for Mike's family. Our thanks for a public servant that devoted his life to his family and the protection of our great country.

Couple Items from our President

The election for National Officers is set for August 2022. Keep up with this process for electing our National Officers. Future editions of "The NARFE Magazine" will keep you updated.

This year \$1,560.00 has been deposited to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund.

Our 2022 Federation Annual Meeting is fast approaching and I hope a lot of you will attend. Due to Covid concerns, the meeting will be via ZOOM again this year. Information about the meeting and the Registration Form were included in the February Federation Newsletter.

If you no longer have your newsletter, it is also on our Federation website -- narfetn.org -- under the "Library" tab. There is also an "Annual Meeting" tab on the narfetn.org website which contains a link to the Registration Form, Zoom Conferencing info, and Zoom Etiquette.

Attached is a draft of the program for the meeting. Please note all times shown on the program are Eastern Daylight Time. The meeting begins at 8:00 a.m. CDT / 9:00 a.m. EDT on April 18, 2022. We are fortunate to have four speakers from national headquarters, as well as our Region X Vice President and Region X Alzheimer's Chair. We will also hear from the candidates running for the Region X Vice President position.

As a reminder, there will an early bird drawing from all registrations received by March 31st and the winner will receive \$100. There will also be two \$100 door prize drawings. You must be present on the meeting to win the early bird and door prizes. Please register as soon as possible. Telephone only access is also available. After registering, you will receive an email with meeting access information.

Let me know if you have questions.

DANNY BRITT Chapter President

Cancelled Special Guest Speaker Headlines March Meeting

Our very special guest speaker for this meeting was originally scheduled for August 2021, but due to COVID that meeting was cancelled. Louis Mason is a federal retiree. Louis retired from the U.S. Army as a Sergeant Major after serving 8 years on active duty and 21 years in the reserves. Following his military service, Mr. Mason was employed by the U.S. Secret Service serving our country as a member of the Presidential Protection Division.

During his Secret Service tour Louis worked with the protection of Presidents Carter, Nixon, Ford, and Reagan. He is a native of Salisbury, Maryland and resident of Cleveland since 2006. His wife, Glenda, works in the accounting field, and worked 13 years for the Church of God Theological Seminary. Louis enjoys telling of his time with the presidents and may even tell you his favorite and least favorite.

Potluck Meal Headlines the April Meeting

Our potluck lunch will be at 12 noon. So, crank up your special dish. You know everyone is waiting on it. For our meals the last many years has been potluck. Do you have any interest in discussing other food options? Some options that could be considered are catered similar to our Christmas meal, meet at restaurant, etc. Maybe we can discuss this if there is any interest in a change. Bring your ideas, concerns, and suggestions.

Do not forget to bring canned foods for our host church food closet.

Remembering Our Special Friend Elbert Schrader

On December ??, 2021, our Chapter lost a friend, a faithful and familiar face at all of our Chapter meetings, a heart to help fight the dreaded Alzheimer's, and a devoted husband to his wife Alma Ruth, who passed away on September 3, 2021. Here are the words we used in this column following her passing, "a devoted, loving, happy, hardworking and caring person." Did I say faithful? How many times have you seen Alma Ruth and Elbert at a Chapter meeting? Before declining health, I would say every time the doors were open. Devotion? Yes, to our Chapter, to her Church and to her husband. The many times I have seen her out and about I always saw Elbert. Let's not forget their 70+ years of marriage."

I believe each of us has learned from this special couple. Now we can say they are still inseparable in their heavenly home.

Special Members with Special Needs

Kay Cox, loss of her mother, Dorothy Mae Timberlake, 92 years, Old Lexington, TN; **Christine Bassett**, loss of her husband, Perry Allen Bancroft, 59, Cleveland, TN. Perry was a 20-year Navy Veteran. Others needing our thoughts and prayers are **Don & Belinda Rollens** (Don continues to have mobility concerns), **Bobbie Templeton**, **Charlie Aulds** and **Charles & Sylvia Dupree**.

Since the first of this year, our faithful and dedicated Chapter President Danny Britt and wife Claudene have experienced several deaths in their family. First, Danny lost his **brother Ray** on January 21, 2022. Ray lived in their hometown in MS. February 22, 2022, they lost their **daughter-in-law Paula Britt**, wife of their son Marc. March 2, 2022, Danny lost a **sister-in-law Jackye Britt**, MS. She was predeceased by her husband Joe Britt.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 34 Chapter Members and 7 National members living in Chapter area

Have you purchased the Alzheimer's postage stamps that help defeat this dreaded disease?

CHAPTER RECOGNIZES MILITARY VETERAN DAVID WALKUP

David Walkup enlisted in the US Air Force in 1961. After basic training at Lackland AFB, he was assigned to the 604th Air Force Band, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama as a trumpet player. During his eight years at Maxwell, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Trumpet player's duties included playing "Taps" at military funerals. The funerals were primarily WW-I, WW-II and Korean veterans. His unit also played throughout the southeast in military and civilian parades. In 1962, the band played an honor guard ceremony for President Kennedy at Elgin AFB in Florida. In addition to parades, the 604th also played at area schools throughout Alabama. David was also part of an 18-piece dance band that played at Officers and NCO Clubs on weekends. David was honorably discharged in 1969.

NOTE: The veteran's column featuring another chapter member/family member continues in each edition of the newsletter. Let the editor know if you were in the military and not yet been recognized in the newsletter.

Editor's Notes: Your editor depends on you to submit information to him for the Remembering Members with Needs, Birthdays/Anniversaries, Happy Items and Veterans/Military columns. His phone number is: 336-2330; dmcAlister41@hotmail.com; 693 McAlister Road NE, Charleston, TN 37310.