



November 8, 2016

CORNELL A. WILSON, JR.

N.C. Department of Military and Veteran Affairs



Angela Broome introduced Cornell Wilson, Jr., Major General, USMC retired and currently Secretary for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the state of North Carolina. His responsibilities include protecting the state's military installations; working with communities around the installations; helping military families and veterans get the support and services they need; and helping connect veterans to jobs. He also chairs the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service

members and their Families to ensure needs are met through coordination and collaboration with the Veterans Administration, state agencies and veterans' organizations.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in Chemistry, he received his commission in the United States Marine Corps through the Navy ROTC program in 1972. He has a long and distinguished record of service to our country in both active and reserve duty assignments. He has commanded Combat Arms and Combat Service Support units at various levels in Tampa, Fl.; New Orleans, La.; Quantico, Va.; Stuttgart, Germany; Norfolk, Va.; Miami, Fl.; and Kuwait.

Secretary Wilson started by quoting George Washington, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." North Carolina is home to the fourth largest military presence in the country with seven major installations, behind only California, Texas and Virginia: Camp Lejeune, Fort Bragg, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Marine Corps Air Station New River, Pope Air Force Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and United States Coast Guard Elizabeth City.

Secretary Wilson reported that the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission have unveiled the state's new Strategic Plan for Supporting and Enhancing North Carolina Military Missions and Installations. He said that Governor McCrory has led numerous successful initiatives to enhance the state's military value including this new strategic plan and the recently approved Connect NC bond package, which will allocate \$70 million to update the aging infrastructure at National Guard armories and future regional readiness centers.

According to Secretary Wilson, the strategic plan provides a framework for state, local governments, agencies and other stakeholders to work together to sustain and enhance the current military posture in the state while pursuing opportunities

to expand the military missions and economic impact on North Carolina. Military-related activities in North Carolina provide a \$66 billion economic impact to the state, which represents the state's second largest economic sector, making up nearly 15 percent of North Carolina's gross state product.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to ensure North Carolina is in an advantageous position as the Department of Defense adjusts to budget constraints. The report outlines a four-pronged strategy to maximize the value of North Carolina's unique military assets accomplish strategic objectives.

North Carolina is not only home to the fourth largest military presence in the country but also has over 100 National Guard and Reserve facilities, over 100,000 Active and Reserve Component personnel, over 50 percent of all Special Operations Forces, and the largest military terminal in the country. North Carolina also offers various off installation areas that support joint military training, including bombing, training, and offshore water ranges, amphibious landing sites, and dedicated airspace.

In support of North Carolina's veterans, Secretary Wilson said that they are working to speed up the time it takes for vets to get work related accreditations and certificates. Vet unemployment in North Carolina has been reduced from 6.2% to 3.1% in the last year, Wilson's department has helped over 1,000 vets to get interviews for jobs and over 700 of those received job offers. They have worked to increase benefits received in the state from \$7.1 billion to \$8.1 billion. He also referenced the 2016 NC4VETS Resource Guide which is produced and published by the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to assist and educate veterans in learning about state and federal veteran benefits. It is available on the department's website. He also spoke proudly of his son who is a Marine reservist and his son-in-law who is a marine.

Speaker Write-Up: *Jim Kelley*

Head Table: *Hank Donaghy, Natalie English, Angela Broome, Rudy Rudisill*; Invocation: *Elizabeth Teagarden*; Visitors & Guests: *Lynn Wheeler*. AV: *Jessica Dupree, Steve Eanes*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*; Piano: *Em Syrewicze*

CLUB NEWS

Approve for membership (comments to Rotary office by 11/15/16)

Robert M. Kirk (Robbie)

SEPI Engineering & Construction (*Engineering, Civil*)

Sponsor: Denise Hallett

Endorsed: Natalie English, Ron Kimble

SERVICE PROJECTS UNDERWAY – Report your participation to Sandy

Clothing drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry will continue throughout the month of November. Thanks to **John Cantrell** and **Daryl Larner** for organizing and delivering the donations.

Reminder of the need to donate frozen turkeys for Charlotte Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Food Boxes...11-15 pounds, drop off between November 8 & 20, 907 W. 1st Street.

Ring the bell at the square to support the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. **Mark Norman** will have his sign-up sheet at next week's meeting.

Greg Reagan's article on Ethics was featured in a publication for the National Association of Certified Valuators & Analysts; **Patricia Shafer** shared a link regarding a grant awarded from

Charlotte Rotary last year to Mothering Across Continents for their proposal for a science teaching project in Rwanda. <https://www.facebook.com/MotheringAcrossContinents>



Nice thank you note from Maria Pacheco and the Wakami team. info@wakamiglobal.com

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING THE **Foundation Banquet** that will be held November 19 at Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Opening reception at 6PM; \$60/Rotarian or \$100/Rotarian & Guest; registration is through the database (sandy can help get you registered). **President Natalie** is on board to MC the event! Thanks to those that have already signed up: **Tom Cottingham, Mark Markanda, Luther Moore, John & Lee Tabor, John zumBrunnen, Peirce Ward, Phil Volponi, Natalie English.**

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS APPROVED

President-Elect 2018-2019 – Mike Hawley

Treasurer 2017-2018 – Phil Volponi

Secretary 2017-2018 – Sandy Osborne

Board of Directors 2017-2019 – Karen Calder, Matthew Greer, Julie Haack, Joe Penner, Emilee Syrewicze, Mark Turner, Travis Vance

100 SERVICE PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS *in red*

Veterans Day Celebration at Matthews Rotary Club – volunteers needed to help serve lunch during the Veterans Day program on **November 14**. Contact Fred Rogers: 704-578-2509.

ONGOING

-Allenbrook Elementary School: North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: eric.davis@wellsfargo.com.

-Platelet Donation: Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **50 donations to date!**

-American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO): Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or Carolyn Carlburg c.carlburg@gmail.com

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (11/11/16 – 11/18/16)

11/14 Frank Martin

11/16 Ryan Taylor

11/17 Todd Arnold

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (11/11/16 – 11/18/16)

11/13 Kathy & Brian Boone; Leah & Luke Maybry

11/15 Valerie & Phil Truesdale; Dale Halton & Fred Wagner

11/17 Ann & Henry Bostic; Lynda & Bob James

Club Members	156
Guests	21
Total	177 (54.8%)

GUESTS: Rick English, Glenn Proctor, Bob McCarter, Aaron Harper, Greg Schembeck, David Laws, Dave Richwine, Beth Zeiss, David Weeks, Jennifer Braun, Lynn Lee, Jake Pierce, Dylan Mask, Katherine Pierce, Peter Anderes, Catherine Teagarden, Scott Anderson

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

11/01/2016 318

Net Increase:

New Members:

Resignations: Mark Crockett

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

(www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

11/15 – Reverend Ollie Rencher, Charlotte: A Beloved Community on the Horizon

11/22 – Thanksgiving Program

11/29 – Allison Houser, Augustine Literacy Project

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on [Flickr](#) [Click here](#)





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Rotary Club of Charlotte