



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

May 30, 2023

2022-2023 Board Members

President William Bradley

Pres Elect Edwin Peacock

Past Pres Carol Hardison

Secretary Kim Brattain

Treasurer Patrick Baker

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2023

Ann Clark

Ellison Clary

Jesse Hite

Warren Kean

Vanessa Stolen

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



Derek Bazile, Chair, Carolinas Freedom Foundation

by **Bill Bartee**

Derek Bazile, the chair of the Carolinas Freedom Foundation (CFF), helped highlight the meaning of Memorial Day during his presentation to Charlotte Rotary.

Bazile made a point to note that Memorial Day is a somber day of remembrance contrasted to those that unknowingly say "Happy" Memorial Day. First Sergeant Bazile has served in the U.S. Army with distinction. He has served in Germany & South Korea, as well as tours during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Fittingly he leads the Board of Carolinas Freedom Foundation.

The Foundation was started in 1995 by Col. Quincy Collins. His impetus for its creation was concern regarding a lack of promotion of patriotism & the honoring of veterans. Collins served in the U.S. Army & was a POW, alongside Senator John McCain, in Vietnam.

Currently, the Carolinas Freedom Foundation fulfills its missions regarding patriotism & recognizing veterans through several community & youth engagement events.

1. Salute to Veterans Parade
2. Annual Freedom Breakfast
3. JROTC Recognition Ceremony
4. Freedom Award

5. Flags in the Classroom
6. Youth Leadership
7. Patriotism Bowls
8. Wreath Laying Ceremonies
9. Patriotic Art Competition

The annual Freedom Breakfast on Veterans Day (11/9/23 at the Carmel Country Club) and the Salute to Veterans Parade held the Saturday following (11/11/23) uptown makes November a busy month. However, with thousands of veterans in our community and 2900 cadets in JROTC, the CFF remains busy throughout the year.

Their three-pronged goal is to Honor Veterans, Support Soldiers, and Inspire Youth. This was driven home by Bazile's encouragement:

"We live in the greatest country in the world. Don't take it for granted."

To help support the Carolinas Freedom Foundation, you can go to www.carolinasfreedomfoundation.org

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/831629004>
The program introduction begins at 23:05 minutes.