



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

May 28, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
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U.S. District Court Judge Frank Whitney

By: John Galles



Rotarian Phil Van Hoy introduced Judge Frank Whitney. Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Whitney received a B.A. from Wake Forest University in 1982, and a J.D./M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina School of Law and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. Whitney has served in the United States Army Reserve since 1982. He entered private practice in Washington, D.C., in 1987. From 1988-89 he was a law clerk for the Hon. David B. Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit, returning to private practice from 1989-90. He was an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina from 1990-2001. He was in private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina from 2001 to 2002, and was then the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina from 2002-06.

On the recommendation of North Carolina U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, Whitney was nominated by President George W. Bush on February 14, 2006 to a seat vacated by Brent McKnight as McKnight died while in Judicial Service. Whitney was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 22, 2006 on a Senate vote and received commission on July 5, 2006.

Following is a news story from the *Wake Forest Magazine* about Judge Whitney's service in the Middle East.

For seven months last year, Judge Frank Whitney served as a military judge in some of the most dangerous parts of the Middle East. Under his traditional black judicial robe, he carried a 9 mm pistol in a hip holster. Venturing outside the relative safety of U.S. bases meant "gearing up" in body armor and travelling by armored vehicle.

A reservist in the U.S. Army, Whitney, 52, was deployed last June to preside over courts-martial of U.S. soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. Safely back home now in Charlotte, N.C., he remains grateful to the young soldiers he saw risking their lives.

"The credit should go to the 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds who are over there in harm's way," says Whitney, who has served as a U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of North Carolina in Charlotte since 2006. "I saw another side of that age bracket, and they inspired me. Our country has a great future with those men and women."

His service in Iraq and Afghanistan was unprecedented. Fred Borch, the historian for the U.S. Army JAG Corps, told The Charlotte Observer that Whitney was the first federal judge to become a military judge and preside over courts-martial in a combat theater. He also made history by presiding over the last court-martial in Iraq before the U.S. troop withdrawal last December.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

JUNE 2013

4th **Howard Levine**
CEO, Family Dollar Stores

14th **June 11th meeting is cancelled.**

RSVP required to Attend Governor's Installation on June 14 – 6:00 PM SMS Catering

18th **Tony Almeida, Sr.**
Sr. Advisor to the Governor on jobs and the economy

25th **Thom Tillis**
Speaker, NC House of Representatives

12:30 Tuesday
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

Whitney's journey to the Middle East began at Wake Forest more than 30 years ago. His father and grandfather served in the Army, and he continued the family tradition when he signed up for Army ROTC. He was commissioned in the Army Reserves on May 17, 1982, the day he graduated from Wake Forest.

Courses taught by professors such as David Broyles in politics, David Smiley in history, Robert Helm ('39) in philosophy and William Angell ('41) in religion paid off in the desert. Studying Mesopotamia, ancient Babylon and even Hammurabi's Code — a Babylonian law code on everything from contracts to family disputes — prepared him for "this incredible region of the world," says Whitney, who was a history major. His brother, Grant, graduated from Wake Forest in 1976 and from the School of Law in 1979.

The desire to serve his country kept Whitney in the Army Reserves as he earned his MBA and JD from the University of North Carolina and as he moved up the legal profession ladder — from an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, to U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Raleigh, to federal judge.

As a reservist, he's served in more than 25 countries including Bahrain, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Japan and South Africa. But his tour in Iraq was his most challenging. He was based in Kuwait, but spent most of his time in Iraq and Afghanistan. He typically worked 14-hour days, seven days a week. There's no time off in a combat zone, he notes.

He presided over 25 courts-martial for soldiers facing charges ranging from alcohol and drug possession to rape and robbery, as well as crimes unique to the military, such as disrespect to a senior officer or absent without leave. He held court in hardened buildings on U.S. bases, including Baghdad's Green Zone. When mortar rounds and rockets interrupted court proceedings, he would hit the ground and then run to the nearest bunker.

"I never had a real deep fear for my life or serious injury," he says. "But it was real. Many times I had to recess court because we heard incoming rounds. It was random and unpredictable. I didn't have the same fear for my life that the real heroes did, the young men and women going outside the wire every day."

The most difficult part of the experience was not seeing his family — wife, Catherine, and daughters Annie, 15, and Hunter, 14 — for seven months, other than a one-week vacation in Paris.

In late November, he conducted the last military trial in Iraq before the U.S. troop withdrawal was completed in mid-December. As troops were shutting down the base around him, he presided over a 16-hour trial in a temporary courtroom in southern Iraq for a soldier charged with disrespect to senior officers. After concluding the trial a few minutes before midnight the day before Thanksgiving, he boarded a C130 at 4 a.m. Thanksgiving Day for a flight to Kuwait, his first stop on the long journey back home.

The deployment to the Middle East was his last; he's retiring this summer as a colonel after serving the maximum 30 years in the Reserves. He has a new appreciation for life in the United States and the judicial system after his experience in the Middle East. "I think I'm a much better judge for having that experience."

Head Table: Martin Waters, Marilynn Bowler, Phil Van Hoy, Chris Thomas, DG Chris Jones, Governor Pat McCrory
Invocation: Carol Jordan; Visitors & Guests: Bill Bradley; Song: Gray Langley; AV: Jessica Dupree

CLUB NEWS

→ Two new Rotarians were introduced this week. *Eric Davis* introduced his friend and Superintendent for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Dr. *Heath Morrison*. Contact Heath at superintendent@cms.k12.nc.us; *Chase Saunders* was pleased to introduce *Greg Sizemore*, director of the U.S. Department of Commerce-Charlotte U.S. Export Assistance Center. Contact Greg at greg.sizemore@trade.gov.

→ Kaycee Gass, daughter of Angela and *Joe Gass*, was recognized as one of The Charlotte Observer's Seniors of the Year; The Mecklenburg Times 50 Most Influential Women include *Natalie English*, *Judge Ty Hands*, *Katie Tyler* and *Cindy Wolfe*. No surprises here! *Emmy Lou Burchette* and *Mary Lynne Calhoun* were photographed at UNC Charlotte's dedication of the new Cato Teaching Discovery Mural.

→ Fishing update from *Ronnie Pruett*: 34 lb. 11 oz. grass carp was caught at his lake in Camden, SC by friend Peter Widdell. The fish was weighed, photographed and released!

HOST FAMILY NEEDED AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 13

Ed Wadsworth and the Youth Exchange Committee need your help to identify a host family for Chrissi Wagner (Germany) between August 15 and October 13. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Ed at ed@wadsworthgroup.net.



Governor Patrick L. McCrory

HONORARY MEMBER

Rotary Club of Charlotte

May 28, 2013

President Marilynn Bowler

President Marilynn Bowler had the honor of recognizing Governor Pat McCrory as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Charlotte. Rotarian Martin Waters explained the prestigious award, as only Martin could do and 7680 District Governor Chris Jones had the honor of naming the Governor Paul Harris Fellow. A special day for this club.

http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/queen_city_agenda/2013/05/gov-pat-mccrory-does-some-uptown.html?ana=e_clt_rdup&s=newsletter&ed=2013-05-29&u=vkeEy+fqdoTE6L0eojzFnGKeiPV&t=1369838479

DISTRICT GOVERNOR INSTALLATION JUNE 14, 2013

Luther Moore will be installed as Rotary 7680 District Governor on Friday, June 14, 2013. The event will take place at SMS Catering, 1764 Norland Avenue, 6:00 PM. Please contact Sandy at the Rotary Office by May 31 if you would like to attend – remember to include the name of your spouse/family/guests that may be attending with you.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments/questions to the Rotary office by 5/4/13)

Satish Chand Markanda (Mark) Wells Fargo Advisors (classification: Financial Advisor)
 Sponsor: Martin Waters Endorsed: Marilynn Bowler and Bill Barnhardt

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do.....

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Attendance	<u>05/28/2013</u>	<u>05/29/2012</u>	Membership	New Members: Chris Connelly, Bryan Mermans
Visitors & Guests	27	34	07/01/2012 316	Mark Duncan, Natalia Russo, Greg Sizemore,
Club Members	153	173	05/21/2013 319	Heath Morrison
Total Attendance	180	207	Net Increase +3	Resignations: Mike Hummer, Mary Lynn
Percentage	53.8%			Calhoun, Holly Ryder Rash
<u>Birthdays June 4 - 10</u>		<u>Anniversaries June 4 - 10</u>		
04 Marc Bogan	06 Patrick MacIsaac	04 Ridgely & John Phillips	05 Kelly & Mike Crum	
07 Mary Rinehart	09 Fernando Ycaza	06 Katherine Pierce & Mike Hawley	07 Patty McKernan & Tod Thorne	
		07 Julie Haack & David Murray	08 Burgl & Ronnie Pruett	
		09 Mary Beth & John Snyder	09 Louise & David Norman	
		10 Nicole & Alex Browning		