



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF KIAWAH-SEABROOK, SC

Box PMB-J 130 Gardener's Circle Johns Island, SC 29455

Member Meeting 10-18-2023 @Seabrook Island Club

Ray Hoover-President, called the meeting to order at 6:26PM and opened with prayer.

Chris Stephenson honored South Carolina fallen hero Army PFC Cheziray Lashawn Pressley and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. See Bio attached.

New member inducted: Deanna Forsythe, Cathy Cleary, Wes Cleary

Ray made the following announcements:

Informed members that Grant Night will occur at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 1 at Seabrook Island Club

- It will be a great night to celebrate the great work of the charities who serve those in need in our community and the generosity of all of you who help to make it happen.
- If you haven't already, please register, including your significant other. We'll be joined by our grantees. It promises to be fun.
- The five Programs of Service Committees led by Bill Bane, Ed Leary, Dave Berry, Charlie Septer, and Jack Wilson have completed their evaluations. The collective hard work over the last 12 months has paid off; we will award 41 grants totaling over \$ 164,000 to charitable organizations that serve Johns and Wadmalaw Island. Is that a record? Give yourself a hand!
- But there is still time to increase that total. Anyone who wishes to donate individually can get their contributions to Rich Boss by October 27th.

We are shifting to winter dress, and it will begin at Grant Night. For new members who don't know what that means, David Cruse will model. For men, some might call it Business Casual or Club Casual with a jacket. I've asked Lisa McDonald and my wife, Lucy, what that means. They told me not to worry; the women will all know what that means.

Other Announcements:

Roger Steele announced the CSO January 2024 event is sold out

Alan Armstrong: Veterans Day Charitable Golf Event- 619 have thus far signed up

Pat Welch; Bohicket 5k and Half Marathon- November 18th. Volunteers are needed (see Bill Nelson to volunteer).

Have entered "Handbook Season." Need more volunteers for Handbook Ad Sales and other volunteer administration tasks.

After dinner, Bill Nelson introduced our speaker (Isaac Cramer, Executive Director for the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration).

Meeting adjourned 8:15PM

Next Meeting:

11/1/23 @Seabrook Island Club

GRANT NIGHT

Addendums:

Attendance

Fallen Hero

Speaker Bio

Minutes submitted by Lisa McDonald, Club Secretary**ATTENDANCE**

Attended?	Member	Attended?	Guests/Meals
Yes	Todd Anderson		
Yes	Alan Armstrong		
Yes	Bill Bane		
Yes	Phyllis Barber		
Yes	Joe Bauer		
Yes	Wayne Billian		
Yes	Rich Boss		
Added	Kevin Boyle		
Yes	Cathy Cleary		
Yes	Wes Cleary		
Yes	David Cruse		
Yes	Art Dougherty		
Yes	Bob Driscoll		
No	Jim Dwyer		
No	Frank Farfone		
Yes	Dianna Forsythe		
Yes	Joe Foti		
Yes	Derek Fyfe		
Yes	Dennis Giannos		
Yes	Richard Gwyn		
Yes	Stephen Haines		
Yes	Edward Hescamp		
Yes	Christopher Hix		
Yes	Ray Hoover		
No	Ken Kavanaugh		
Yes	Ed Leary		
Yes	Bruce Ludwin		
Yes	Stan MacDonald		
Yes	Alan Madison		
Yes	Tony Mazzola		
Yes	Bill Nelson	Yes	Isaac Cramer - Speaker
Yes	Sally Smith Nicoli		
Yes	Maureen Oberg		
Yes	Thad Peterson		
No	Joel Pondelik		
Yes	Russ Preston		
Yes	Robert Quagliato		
No	Sam Reed		
Yes	Shirley Salvo		
Yes	Bob Schick		
Yes	Charlie Septer		

ATTENDANCE, CONT'D

Attended?	Member	Attended?	Guests/Meals
Yes	John Sesody		
Yes	Roy Sessions		
Yes	Walter Sewell		
Yes	John Smock		
Yes	Roger Steel		
Yes	Ken Steen		
Yes	Chris Stephenson		
No	Marj Stephenson		
Yes	Dick Trent		
Yes	Stan Ullner		
Yes	C. Van de Graaf		
Yes	Bruce Van Voohis		
Yes	Pat Welch		
Yes	Jack Wilson		
Yes	Kevin Winter		
No	David Woodman		

TRIBUTE TO SC FALLEN HERO

Good evening fellow club members and guests.

Tonight, we're paying tribute to Army PFC Cheziray Lashawn Pressley.

Army PFC Cheziray Lashawn Pressley of North Charleston had been in Afghanistan for just a few days. He was assigned to the Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

On May 16th, 2011, PFC Pressley was part of a NATO force that was seeking out Taliban strongholds in Zabul Province, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom when insurgents attacked their unit using improvised explosive devices. One of the devices tore into Pressley's vehicle, killing him and three other NATO soldiers. Pressley was 21 years old.

On Friday, May 27^h 2011, PFC Pressley's remains arrived at Charleston Air Force Base. The 187th Ordnance Battalion performed full planeside honors. His service was held at the Charleston Area Convention Center on Monday, May 30th, 2011, Memorial Day.

At the service, Lillie Boyd, PFC Pressley's aunt described her feelings. "Just an empty void in my life right now," she says. Her grief is tempered with happy memories of the fun-loving boy everyone knew as "Chezy." "He always had a smile on his face."

Raymond Pressley, his father, said, "He was a fun-loving young man" and that joining the military "was something he really wanted to do - to serve his country, complete his education and see the world. He had a sense of patriotism and duty."

Pressley's 11-year-old brother, King said "He was my brother, but he was also my friend. He did a lot for me. I will miss him very much,"

PFC Pressley was the second of four sons born to Raymond and Jirlie Pressley. He attended high school in Abbeville before the family moved to Charleston in 2007. There he graduated from Fort Dorchester High School in 2008, and studied for two years at Strayer University before joining the Army.

PFC Pressley leaves behind a wife, a daughter, parents, brothers, aunts and uncles. A friend left this note on his online memorial: Cheziray gave the ultimate sacrifice and will be held in the hearts of Americans forever. I cannot and will not let our fallen heroes be forgotten. My deepest sympathy to you. "Some gave all."

In recognition of Pressley's service, Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn awarded PFC Pressley with the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and NATO Medal. Pressley was also promoted to private first class before a crowd of about 600 people at the memorial ceremony.

Lynn had these words to say about Pressley. "Your loss is our loss, too. He was a brother, a fellow soldier. Pressley was absolutely fearless and looked true evil in the eye. He was always ready for combat. Cheziray Lashawn Pressley is an American hero. Because of sacrifices like his, we live in the greatest nation in the world"

As an indication of our respect for PFC Cheziray Lashawn Pressley and others who gave their lives for our country, the club places US flags around our community several times a year. Each flag has a yellow ribbon attached with the name of a fallen hero.

PFC Cheziray Lashawn Pressley, we salute you and your sacrifice on our behalf.

Please stand and join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance.



SPEAKER BIO

Issac D. Cramer

Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections



As the Executive Director of the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, Isaac has assumed a pivotal role in overseeing and guiding the electoral processes in Charleston County.

Isaac's tireless efforts to enhance election administration and accessibility have garnered him widespread respect within the state's election community. His outstanding contributions were nationally recognized when he was honored with the United States Election Assistance "Clearie" Award, a prestigious national clearinghouse award, specifically for his outstanding work in fostering the "Partnership at the Polls" initiative, which encompasses the impactful programs of "Adopt a Polling Location" and "Day for Democracy".

In 2022, Isaac played a pivotal role in passing a landmark reform bill that ushered in early voting in South Carolina.

Isaac's dedication to excellence has earned him the coveted "Excellence in Elections" award from the State of South Carolina, an accolade he has received twice. In 2017, he was recognized for expanding absentee voting and driving higher voter participation through the innovative "Your Vote, Our Veterans" program. In 2021, he was commended for his instrumental role in implementing a Satellite Voting Unit for early voting and spearheading outreach initiatives.

In August of the current year, Isaac was also honored with the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award from the South Carolina Association of Counties for his resourceful approach to mitigating poll worker shortages on Election Day.

At the national level, Isaac's exceptional leadership and expertise have garnered widespread recognition. He serves as the vice chair on the National Association of Counties' elections subcommittee and plays a pivotal role as one of the legislative chairs for the National Association of Election Officials. In addition, Isaac is a valued member of the Board of Advisors for the United States Election Assistance Commission and brings his insights to the Bipartisan Policy Center Elections Task Force, further contributing to the advancement of sound electoral practices.

Isaac holds a BA in Political Science from Wheaton College (IL) and remains steadfast in his commitment to safeguarding every citizen's right to vote while offering unwavering support to election officials in their crucial work.