



# Exchange Hotline

Exchange Club of  
Sugar Land Newsletter  
November 15th, 2020

## The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

4800 Sugar Grove Blvd. Suite 100  
Stafford, TX 77477  
[www.ecsl.org](http://www.ecsl.org)

## Weekly "Zoom" Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on-line

Formerly at:  
Sweetwater Country Club  
Palm Royale Blvd.  
Sugar Land, Texas

## Officers 2020-2021

President:  
Paul Barnett

President Elect:  
Rick Bell

Secretary:  
Vita Goodell

Treasurer:  
Brad Porter

Immediate Past President:  
Vernon Hunt

## Board of Directors

Jeff Dodson  
Leslie Woods  
Thad Olive  
Chanel Bermudez  
John Heinemann  
Jennifer Boley  
Lori Bisewski  
Sue Sanchez

Spaghetti Chair 2021  
Rick Bell

Webmaster:  
Charlie Braun  
[www.ecsl.org](http://www.ecsl.org)

Newsletter Editor:  
[newsletter@ecsl.org](mailto:newsletter@ecsl.org)

## One Nation Under God



One Nation Under God Luncheon Missouri City

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Exchange celebrates religious freedom, sovereign authority over our political framework, and the special standing of America in the world. We also honor our Veterans, protectors of this right.



One Nation Under God Luncheon Angleton

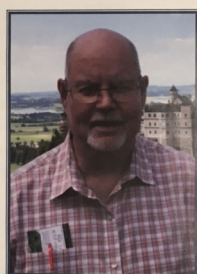


Missouri City



The many Veterans in attendance Missouri City

Celebrating the life of  
Charles Harold Braun, Jr.



February 26, 1952—November 6, 2020

Mass of Resurrection

November 13, 2020 10:00 a.m.  
St. Laurence Catholic Church  
Sugar Land, Texas

There were many friends, family, and Exchange members on hand to celebrate the life of Charlie Braun this week. Charlie was a member of Exchange since June 28, 2012 and was very active in the club. He served as club Secretary and his most important role as our club webmaster. He loved baseball, fishing, his dog Max, spending time with his loved ones, and more than everything, helping others. We'll miss you Charlie.



# Exchange Speaker Series



**Jeanette Maurer**

## November 4th

A Double Header this week with two speakers introduced by **Brooke Thompson**. The decision to start the Joe Joe Bear Foundation was very personal for Jeanette Maurer. After watching her God Son Joe battle Leukemia and experiencing his loss, she knew that carrying on his kindness and love was more important than anything else she could do. The Joe Joe Bear Foundation, a children's charity based in Katy Texas that serves the Greater Houston/ Galveston areas was created to keep Joe's memory alive and to help others in the same situation. The Joe Joe Bear Foundation provides children with life threatening illnesses teddy Bears. It saddened Joe to hear the children crying at night in the hospital when they were alone and scared, he would say, "I wish I could help comfort the sick children."

The Joe Joe Bear Foundation provides teddy bears to 11 Greater Houston/ Galveston area hospitals and hospices. In the past 10 years over 30,000 bears have been given to critically ill children. <https://joejoebear.org/>  
The PowerPoint from this morning can be seen [here](#).

## November 4th

The National Homeless Veterans Housing Program is the result of collaborative innovation integrating technology, housing, and the community; with the medical, mental, and employment services provided by the VA; that creates evidence-based results for our heroes in need. Veterans Matter brings people together to house as many homeless veterans as they can in VA supported **permanent** housing, giving them a fresh start!

Ken Leslie is the Advocate in Chief of Veterans Matter. A formerly homeless alcoholic and addict, Ken Leslie has a 21-year history as CEO of a successful executive search firm, a 30-year history of philanthropy, and advocacy for and with the homeless. Partnered with Exchange, Veterans Matter is working to engage every club in the mission to save veterans lives. At the end of 2015 Ken closed his business to work full-time housing the veterans living on the streets. He is a fellow Exchange member of the Toledo Club #2 and works to foster the message of Exchange locally and nationally. You can find them here. [Www.veteransmatter.org](http://Www.veteransmatter.org)



**Ken Leslie**

## Give a Senior a Flag to Wave/Give a Vet a Flag to Wave



Exchange members hand out American Flags at the Veterans Day Program at Landon Ridge Sugar Land to honor Veterans and recognize seniors.



# Exchange Speaker Series



Meridith Iler



SSG Shilo Harris

## November 11th Veterans Day

Meridith Iler is Chairman Emeritus and SSG Shilo Harris is Advisory Board Co-Chair with Helping a Hero. <http://www.helpingahero.org/>. Helping a Hero helps build specialty equipped homes for severely wounded veterans returning from service.

On Shilo's second deployment with the 10th Mountain Division he served near southern Baghdad. In February 2007, Harris' armored vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED) leaving Shilo with severe third degree burns over 35% of his body and he lost 3 fellow soldiers in the blast. The severity of the burns from the blast resulted in the loss of Shilo's ears, the tip of his nose and three fingers. The crushing explosion fractured his left collarbone and C-7 vertebrae. The devastating injuries required that Shilo remain in a medically induced coma for 48 days, then he spent three years recovering and undergoing intensive physical therapy at the burn unit of Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC now SAMMC) in San Antonio, Texas. He was the first soldier to participate in cutting-edge regenerative stem-cell research to regrow his fingers, and later received prosthetic ears. Shilo's recovery has involved more than 70 surgeries before he was medically retired from the Army in 2010. In 2012, Meredith Iler secured a partnership between Helping a Hero and ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition to build Shilo a new home equipped with sophisticated air purification processes and other safety provisions for Shilo's challenges resulting from his burns.

Today, Shilo is a motivational speaker and spokesman, sharing his story with groups around the country, raising awareness for PTSD and serving as an inspiration to fellow soldiers. He is married, is a father and grandfather. He is also an author. His book is **"Steel Will: My Journey through Hell to Become the Man I Was Meant to Be"** is available on Amazon and for a signed copy you can go to Shilo's website [here](#).

Helping a Hero is having their Lee Greenwood Patriot Award event December 2<sup>nd</sup>. That information is [here](#).

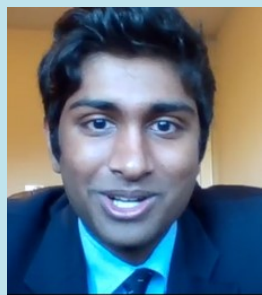
## November 11th Veterans Day

Susan Hunter talked about her book, **"77 Letters, Operation Morale Booster: Vietnam"** just published through Amazon in time for Veterans Day and during the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Susan P. Hunter, a born and raised New Englander, emerged as an author in the still of the COVID-19 era. A mother of three, she was fulfilled as a stay-at-home mother and an active civic volunteer until her youngest reached high school. Heading out into the work force later in life, she was appointed as the only civilian (and only female) on the Sheriff's Office's command staff, serving as the Chief of Staff and the Public Information Officer. This Sheriff's Office was ranked in the top 1% of the country earning the Triple Crown Award all three years she served. She enjoyed this position for three years before moving to Tennessee, where she currently resides. She is an editor and contributing writer to a local magazine.

In 1966, during the Vietnam War, her mother, Joan Hunter, an ordinary housewife, mother of four from the small, idyllic coastal town of Scituate, MA, spearheads Operation Morale Booster, a mission to ensure that every deployed American G.I. receives mail at weekly mail call. Armed only with her typewriter and her vibrant personality, she reaches thousands of soldiers and especially captivates one battle-tested soul, Bob Johnson. She is white, he is black; she is married, he is not. This potentially scandalous relationship transcends society's rules of engagement due to their honest and thought-provoking candor. This found collection of letters, providing a full dialogue in many cases, spanning 7 years (1966-1972), engages the reader, allowing them to vicariously experience what it was like to be a recipient in real-time. With the exchange of letters driving the story's flow, the reader will be taken back in time and into the day-to-day activities of one of the most successful cavalries in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War (1st Cavalry Air, 2nd/7th Cavalry Division, Airmobile). The reader will be privy to the thoughts and undistorted narratives of the war from Bob's perspective, a young soldier from Philadelphia, PA, who was well respected by the ranks and served four tours of Vietnam. Susan discovered the letters while looking through old belongings of her mom's that she hoped would help temper the effects of dementia Joan was suffering from. You can buy the book [here](#).



Susan Hunter



Our Young Citizen of the Month November 4th, Abel John from Clements High School, was introduced by **Carlos Perez**. His counselor Demetria Howard and Dad Saji John also attended. Abel is quite a student scoring 1600 out of 1600 on his SAT and is ranked #30 in his class. Some of the recognitions from a very long list Abel had received is a National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist, the National AP Scholar Award, a National Honor Society inductee & member, and the Academic Excellence Award. Abel is a member of Exchange supported BSA Troop 731 and has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He is also active in Speech and Debate, was the President of the Sugar Land Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, likes drone photography, running, and trail biking. Congratulations and well deserved.



We had a check presentation of \$750 to support American Heritage Scout Aliana Routhier's Foster Village Stars and Stripe project. Foster Village is a group that helps foster children and families in the child welfare system. One of the things they provide are *Welcome Packs* for children entering a foster home. Often times these children come with very few belongings, if any at all. They hope to alleviate some of the stress that comes with those first days after placement by delivering items such as clothing, car seats, cribs, back packs, and other basic necessities. Their warehouse was a mess. For her Stars and Stripes Award, Alaina and the American Heritage Girls troop 1378, which we have supported, built new shelves and organized the storage facility to make storing and assembly of the Welcome packs more efficient. Total cost of the project was \$1,500 with over 150 hours put towards this effort.



Before



After



Spaghetti Raffle winner Richard Jarvis dreams of meals to come with his Grand Prize "Dinner for a Year"



## BIRTHDAYS!

**Kristin Tassin 11/02, Doug Earle 11/9, Richard Early 11/12, Marsha Bower 11/13**

## EXCHANGE ANNIVERSARIES

None

**The Exchange Club of Sugar Land**  
[www.ecsl.org](http://www.ecsl.org)



**Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast District Exchange**  
[tlgcd.portalbuzz.com](http://tlgcd.portalbuzz.com)



**National Exchange Club**  
[www.nationalexchangeclub.org](http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org)