

Fairfax Lions Club News

September 2022

The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter
- Fairfax Lions, Serving Since 1951 -



**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND OUR
LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH PRIDE,
COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**

Service

Donation to Food for Others

Food for Others provided our meeting speaker (Hannah Wilson) on August 2nd, and Club members had been encouraged to bring food to the meeting to donate. Several members brought food items; some brought a cash donation.

After the meeting, a couple of Lions helped move canned goods from the meeting location out to Hannah's car, to transport to Food to Others. In the parking lot, Lions discovered that Lion Judith Richter-Murphy had herself brought nearly a car-full to donate. It was a photo-worthy moment.

Great job, Lions, for a worthy cause!

We serve.



Lion Judith (L) and Hannah (R)
with donations for Food for Others

Eyeglass Recycling

In the August newsletter, KL Greg wrote about boxes of donated eyeglasses Lion Scott Dulaney had in temp storage, waiting for the new NoVA Eyeglass Recycling Center (ERC - still not fully operational) to accept them. PROGRESS! Now, the new ERC accepted the eyeglasses Scott had collected from our local donation boxes. FHLC

donated 4,873 pair of eyeglasses, July 29 - Aug 5.
Receipts below. We Serve!



Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia

919 South Monroe Street
Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: 703-671-1919

e-mail: lercnova@gmail.com
501(c)3
FEIN: 81-3035171

Gift of Sight Donor,

Eyeglasses: 675 pair!

Thank you for sending your used eyeglasses to the
Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia.
These glasses will be quickly cleaned, neutralized and
sent on missions around the world.

*Wohoo!
Thank
you!*

THANK YOU

Date: 8/5/2022



Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia

919 South Monroe Street
Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: 703-671-1919

e-mail: lercnova@gmail.com
501(c)3
FEIN: 81-3035171

Gift of Sight Donor,

Eyeglasses: 4,198 pair

Thank you for sending your used eyeglasses to the
Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia.
These glasses will be quickly cleaned, neutralized and
sent on missions around the world.

*And, we have 2 more
boxes to do this
week!*

THANK YOU

Date: 7/29/2020

Director: P. Martinez

*Thank
you,
Fairfax
Lions!*

Fairfax Lions Club Charity Fund Raising

SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS

Get ready for the Fall Festival Food Stand (Oct 8) ...possibly one of our most fun events. Then, the Nov & Dec Fruit Sales.

TO DO NOW: Tell at least one person...

CITRUS FRUIT SALES

November 17-19, 2022; December 15-17, 2022

Fairfax Lions sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, and grapefruit; Vermont maple syrup, and Virginia peanuts to raise funds for our charitable work in Fairfax. The fruit sales are OUR PRIMARY FUND RAISERS. WE DEPEND ON OUR CUSTOMERS, AND EVERYONE LOVES OUR PRODUCTS!!!

Use this QR code to signup for email notices AND discounts for each citrus sale.



Club Meetings

August 2nd Dinner Meeting

As reported on page one, under SERVICE, our dinner speaker was Hannah Wilson, Food for Others' Development and Communications Associate. Hannah told us how food insecurity has become a bigger problem in our community, with a 170% increase in clients the past year. FFO serves about 160 individuals every day. (Clients typically remain in the program for about



Hannah Wilson Speaks to FHLC

6 months.) FFO has several new capabilities; for example, they now work with “Door Dash” to deliver food to about 20 families each week. Those are mostly Afghan refugees who are not able to come to FFO distribution points.

After Hannah’s talk, Treasurer Mike Rumberg discussed our Club’s upcoming donation to FFO. We often present a financial donation to an organization’s speaker on the occasion of their visit to our Club, but on this occasion we are not doing that. Instead, as we decide our Club’s donation amount for FFO, we will apply for a matching grant from VA Lions - which will double the amount donated to FFO.



**Treasurer Mike Talks
About the Budget
Process and
Applying for a
Matching Grant**

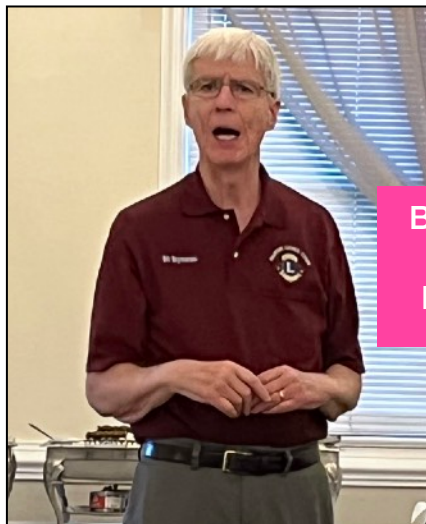
KL Greg presented a Certificate to Mike, recognizing his completing Training for Treasurer.



Treasurer Training Certificate

Lion Bill Syzmanski gave a report on re-starting blood drives for the American Red Cross. The Red Cross schedule is full, so Bill must coordinate with both the Red Cross and with Providence Presbyterian Church (which will provide both a facility for the drive and a congregation with many folks interested in being blood donors). Stay tuned for more information.

PDG Karen Parker circulated a sign-up sheet for the Club Picnic on September 18th, to be held on



**Bill Syzmanski
Talks About
Blood Drives**

the American Legion 2nd floor balcony. Members and guests are invited - please signup in advance to allow for the preparation of the right amounts of food.

The 50-50 cash prizes were won by Lions Judith Richter-Murphy and Bill Syzmanski.

August 16th Dinner Meeting

Club Membership Director Pete Conklin introduced potential new member: Maureen Johnson. Maureen discovered our club by our

web page, and wants to contribute to our service mission.

Our speaker was Sang H. Yi, Councilmember for the City of Fairfax. Sang is currently serving his 2nd term as a member



Maureen Johnson with Membership Director Pete Conklin, and President Greg DeRosa

of the city council. Sang's bio is at this link:



Councilmember Sang Yi

Sang spoke at length on a breadth of topics including civility and political division across the nation (and Fairfax); city developments such as the new Amazon Fresh store, and various

projects to better the community. Sang also gave us insight on how the Council works together and his focus on policy and a strategic review of infrastructure and development plans for Fairfax City.



KL Greg Thanks Sang

There was brief discussion on the status of the American Legion's redevelopment program (see AL report on that, later in this newsletter).

Lions Phil Mayo and Ken Schutz took home 50/50 cash prizes.

A brief meeting of the Fruit Sale committee was held immediately after the dinner meeting.

August 23rd Board Meeting:

The Board met in the AL (ground level restaurant); main topics:

- Thank you letter from Food for Others, for our donation of 170 pounds of food members brought to our Aug 2 dinner meeting.
- Board approved the Club's Charity programs budget for 2022-2023.
- Potential new member Maureen Johnson; membership director Pete will get an application to her. Lion Gary Maxwell remarked - Maureen's sister is a member of a Lions Club in Montgomery County, MD.
- PDG Karen Parker reviewed plans for the Picnic (Sep 18) and December Holiday Party.
- IPP Mike Greeley announced that Lion Bill Syzmanski has scheduled a Blood Drive for Nov 2, and asked for advice on best timing for Blood

Drives next spring; February and May were suggested.

Note: Club members are welcome to attend any Board meeting, if they wish to learn more about Club business processes.

September Events

Sep 1 - Lions Lunch Bunch - 1130am (PCC BB
email: Olive Garden in Fair Lakes Shopping
Ctr)

Sep 6 - Club Dinner Meeting (2nd VDG visits FHLC)

Sep 18 - Club picnic - Watch for email & RSVP

Sep 20 - NO DINNER MEETING

Sep 27 - Club Board Meeting

Coming Up

Oct 8 - Fall Festival Food Booth: Fund Raiser

Nov 2 - Lion Jim Davis burial - Arl Nat Cemetery

Nov 2 - Blood Drive

Nov 17-19 - 1st Citrus Fruit Sale

Dec 15-17 - 2nd Citrus Fruit Sale

Dec 18 - Lions Holiday Brunch

Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC)

The ISCC hosted the Volunteer-of-the-Year ceremony on August 3, 2022. Lion Justin Haight was

recognized as the “Volunteer of the Year” from Fairfax Lions Club.

City Mayor David Meyer opened the “Volunteer of the Year” ceremony by talking about the value of volunteers to our community. He related how he learned as a youngster how fabric “thread count” is a measure of the strength and versatility of the fabric. He then talked about service volunteers providing the extra “thread count” in Fairfax, enabling strong and compassionate community service.

Mayor David Meyer speaks about the value of volunteer service organizations to the community, in terms of “Thread Count”



Past Lions President Mike Greeley announced Justin’s selection, and Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer presented the certificate. Coincidentally, August 3rd was also Justin’s birthday. So, after

reading the citation recognizing Justin's selection, IPP Mike Greeley announced the birthday, and the whole audience sang HBD to Justin!



IPP Announces Lion Justin as Volunteer of the Year
(Witnessed by "Fab 4" in artwork behind IPP mike)



All Volunteers of the Year

Volunteers-of-the-Year from all service clubs assembled for a group photo (previous page photo).



L-R: Mayor David Meyer, Lion Justin, ISCC President Al Leightley, IPP Mike Greeley

Congratulations

Justin M. Haight

RECIPIENT OF THE
**FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB
2021 INTERSERVICE CLUB COUNCIL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

RECOGNIZING A VOLUNTEER FOR HARD WORK,
LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE



Albert J. Leightley II
AL LEIGHTLEY,
PRESIDENT INTERSERVICE CLUB COUNCIL

3 AUG 2022
DATE

Lions Information...

Lion Ken & Diane Schutz's 50th Anniversary Trip

Lion Ken and Diane and their whole family (including Lion Mike and family), went to Europe to celebrate Ken & Diane's 50th. The trip included a Mediterranean cruise, and then several city tours for Ken & Diane. (Photos below)



Lions Ken & Mike and family in Kotorne, Montenegro



Clockwise from Top L: at the Acropolis; atop Duomo in Milan; Rialto Bridge in Venice; in port (ship in background)



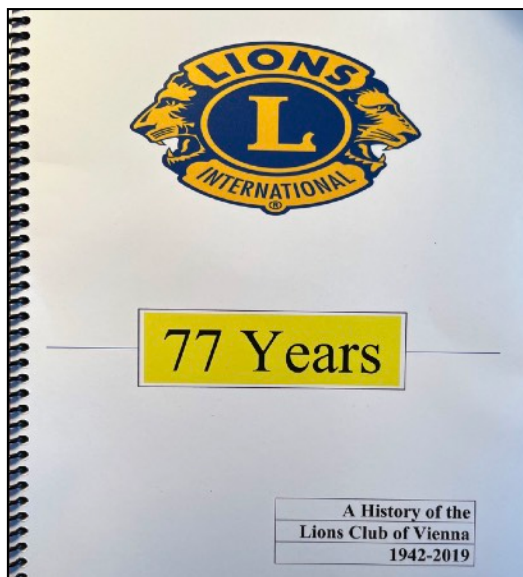
District 24L Webpage

Our district has revamped its webpage...it is colorful and menu tabs cover a lot of topics.

Access the 24L page at: <https://valions.org>

Vienna Host Lions Club: 77 Years Old!

KL Greg picked up a copy of the 77 year history of our host club (coincidentally, the history book is about 77 pages thick!). Vienna Lions Club was the Club that got Fairfax Lions Club started, hence they earned the title of "Host" Lions Club. In turn, Fairfax Lions got Clifton LC started, so we became a Host Club.



A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

for
Elden Wright



October 16, 1931 ~ June 26, 2022

August 27, 2022



**FHLC Flower
Arrangement**

With our deepest condolences
-The Fairfax Host Lion Club

Eulogy

Elden was born in Morgantown, WV in 1931. He had fond memories of riding his tricycle, helping his dad in their home garden, and being active in the outdoors, fishing and hunting with family and friends. He played percussion in the high school band and ran the mile for his track team (a track event he initially struggled to capture, but one he went on to have great success with). He attended West Virginia University initially with a track scholarship and the intent to study dentistry, but he gravitated towards the biology department and the ROTC classes. This led eventually to his entrance into the Army in 1954.

Elden began at the Basic Officers Infantry Course in Ft. Benning, GA, where he later signed up for Airborne School at Ft. Campbell, KY, and then on to Communication Officers School back at Ft. Benning. During this time, he also met his wife, Mary Ellen, while Auburn was up from Alabama playing Georgia Tech in Atlanta. He saw someone steal a flag from an incensed but beautiful redhead driving by in a convertible and knew that she would become his wife. He traveled with a friend to Auburn on the promise of getting a date with her. After about 10

dates and 500 letters, they got engaged and married in 1958.

During his time in Germany with the 11th Airborne, Elden developed skill as a pistol marksman, earning a spot on the Army Pistol Team and trying out for the Olympic team. He didn't make it, but did later win the 82nd Airborne Division Championship. Elden served a tour in Korea and one in Vietnam, where he helped fortify the US defenses and forge alliances with the local Vietnamese and Koreans who were supporting the war. Among other things, he led his men in expanding their quarters, reinforcing their bunker, and wrangling a massive python. He was challenged by tigers in the jungle treetops and helped with everything from making kimchi to leading the building of a 120 foot bridge over the Goi Boy River that could support 40 tons.

After Vietnam, Elden returned stateside for Special Forces School, a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Command and General Staff College, and attended the University of Missouri to earn an MBA. After this, he commanded a Special Forces Battalion in Massachusetts and later moved to Fairfax in 1974 where he was promoted to Colonel. He worked in Army Personnel to transition the Army to a volunteer

force and restructure the personnel management system. He remained in the Army personnel community until his first retirement in 1982.

Of course, this was not his only retirement or the end of his working life; he was self-employed for a time working for a friend's auction house in Tennessee and had a big part in selling off carnival equipment from the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair, worked for government contractors GRC and Hay Systems, and finally for the Fair Oaks Pipe and Tobacco store.

He was also a role model. After his son was brought home by the police for throwing toilet paper on a neighbor's lawn, he whispered, "If you'd involved me in your plans, we wouldn't have gotten caught!" And then he grounded Bill for two weeks.

Bill's other memories of his father include Elden helping him with his paper routes, teaching him to drive a car (a stick shift Ford Bronco in the Providence parking lot), numerous boy scout projects, golf games and blood drives.

He went on to teach his grandchildren how to fish, tie knots, drive a boat, and play golf (though those lessons stopped quickly after Ben hit Isabelle in the head with a mini golf club).

Elden's life was dedicated to service. Service to his country, to his family, to the church, and to the Lion's Club. He believed that the world is a good place, and he made every place better through his service to and for others.

Some of you might think that his claim to fame might be the countless pints of donated blood he organized for the Red Cross. Others might suggest that his legacy was organizing stewardship campaigns. And still others might say that he was famous for the fruit sales that raised money for the Lion's Club or the hundreds of prescription glasses he collected and helped to redistribute to others in need.

And some of you might say that his claim to fame was his legacy through his son and grandchildren.

You would all be right in many ways, but perhaps a lesser known claim to fame (at least to some of you) was his barbeque. Through decades of trial and error, Elden Wright perfected roasting pork and improving on the science of the perfect sauce. Many of you have enjoyed his trials and even his errors. The man would wake at five o'clock in the morning to start roasting that pork. It wasn't done until the

evening, when he presented his labor of love to friends and family.

We remember Elden with fondness and love. He might have left our presence, but he lives on in our hearts, in the we sit in this church that he served in so many ways.

RIP Lion Elden

American Legion Post 177 Development Contract

From Aug-Sep-Oct 2022 Post 177 newsletter-page 7

<http://fairfaxpost177.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Aug-Sep-Oct-2022-Post-177.pdf>

“Report Regarding the Motion to Allow the Sale of Post Property and the Building of a New Post Home”

As of June 21, 2022 Toll Brothers withdrew from our contract with them to co-develop Post 177 property. That contract, which was authorized by a vote of the membership, with 7% quorum, and passing by the minimum 2/3's majority, as required by our Constitution and By- Laws, specifically included: (1) Enter into a contract agreement with Toll Brothers and Good Works LP to develop the post property of 3909, 3929 and 3939 Oak Street; (2) Sell 2.5 Acres of the property to Toll Brothers for not less than 10 million dollars; (3) Lease 2.5 Acres of

property to Good Works LP; (4) (Using funds collected) to construct a new Post Home and provide Work Force (Affordable) Housing under the responsibility of Good Works LP; (5) Oversee the project to build retail pad(s) facing Oak Street and or Panther Way for 15-30K square ft.; (6) With the City of Fairfax, develop Pat Rodeo Park to support the community with Ball Fields for Fairfax Little League. Note. Items 5 and 6 were qualified to be defined through 'the zoning process' and were subsequently disallowed.

Since the motion that was made and approved by the membership during the May 19, 2019 general membership meeting, included accomplishment in its entirety, and since it can no longer be accomplished in its entirety as written and approved, the motion is now invalid and can no longer be pursued. This decision was supported by aspects of Robert's Rules of Order, agreement by our Judge Advocate, further supported by confirmation of those decisions by the American Legion, Department of Virginia Judge Advocate, and interpretation by most of the Executive Committee Officers of the Post. During the General Membership meeting on July 13, 2022 this announcement was

made for the record. The Corporate Board was informed that they can no longer pursue a contract to sell the property, because the motion is void (dead), but may continue to investigate potential partners and options. To proceed, or not, with such an endeavor, the process must now be comprehensively revisited. The membership will need to be fully informed and re-polled to see if these are still the options they want to accomplish, or whether or not there are now other options (such as refurbishment and/or modifying the current Post Home).

During the last three years several events have occurred that have jeopardized the fulfillment of this motion. Primarily, zoning negotiations with the city basically came to a standstill regarding a number of items: (1) the density to be allowed on the property, both for Toll Brothers and Good Works could not be resolved. (2) The size, design and placement of the buildings was never fully resolved. (3) We didn't have a full five acres that could be developed. (4) The number and placement of parking places was never fully finalized, but close. (5) Co-development with the City of Fairfax and the neighborhood of Rodeo Park, adding a new little league field, totally

renovating our current little league field, construction of a modern state-of-the-art press box and grand stand was denied by the City of Fairfax, and opposed by the neighborhood. (6) Construction of 'Pad' Sites was denied, costing us significant future income. Many members assumed that these would be developed, and did not understand that 'as defined by zoning', meant that development could be and was subsequently denied. (7) A significantly large environmental resource set back area was identified on the east side of our property, prohibiting the use of that property for planned construction within the project. (8) Toll Brothers exercised their option to withdraw from the project on June 21, 2022. Their participation was a requirement and the financial key to this endeavor, as defined by the current motion. The Motion stated specifically that we would deal with Toll Brothers. Since no alternatives were stated in the motion, the motion is void (dead). “

Marisela's Project: Completed!

Marisela Rumberg has completed her creative art work on the Medical Arts Building in Culpeper. The ribbon-cutting was August 19th. Marisela calls her

creation: "She Rises Above." Congratulations Marisela!!



"She Rises Above"



Be Aware of the Latest Scam Activity

From Citi Bank

“We’ve recently seen digital money movement fraud on the rise. A scammer can contact you requesting payment through a Wire Transfer or transfer via Zelle® — these methods allow money to be sent quickly, and the funds are often hard to trace and recover.

You should never wire money or send money using Zelle® to:

- Anyone who claims to be from a government agency
- Any stranger, no matter what reason they give
- A telemarketer trying to sell you something
- Anyone claiming your account is compromised
- Unauthorized, unverified cryptocurrency sites or salespeople
- Anyone asking you to send money to yourself

[Learn More](#): Scammers Encouraging Wire Transfers and Zelle Payments



Let's fight fraud together. Visit and bookmark our new hub for the latest fraud and security insights at citi.com/fraudprevention.

Stay vigilant to protect your personal accounts

- If you get a suspicious call, email, or text, don't disclose any personal information until you verify it's from a legitimate source. If you have any doubt, contact the company directly.
- Only allow remote access to your computer when you've initiated the contact with a company you know through a verified phone number or website.

- Always protect your card and account PIN. Be sure it is not easily guessable, do not enter it on a non-Citi site, and remember that our team will never ask for it.
- Set up 2-factor authentication (multiple ways to identify yourself) with the companies you work with to help keep your device and money secure.
- If you suspect one of your accounts has been compromised, immediately change your user ID and password for your Citi account and other important accounts.
- Bookmark our new site, citi.com/fraudprevention, and visit often for the latest updates on common scams and how to spot them.”

...And

Stay Alert for Investment Scams Involving Cryptocurrency

from Charles Schwab

What do scams look like?

Investment scams target investors by promising quick, guaranteed returns. Although “investment pitches” vary, using fraudulent cryptocurrency investment opportunities to entice targets is a common approach.

Once targeted investors indicate interest, they are often instructed to wire funds abroad or to a third party's personal account, or to transfer cryptocurrency. Fake websites and/or applications often create the illusion of a legitimate trading or investment platform and gain trust. However, once funds have been transferred, they are difficult to trace and retrieve.

5 Investment Scam Red Flags

- “Guaranteed” high investment returns, supposedly with little or no risk, and sounding too good to be true.
- Unlicensed or unregistered sellers. Use [Investor.gov](https://www.investor.gov) to check out the background of anyone offering you an investment in securities.
- Skyrocketing account values. Investments that appear to rapidly increase in value are often fake.
- Fake testimonials. Scammers often pay people to provide fake reviews, so never rely solely on testimonials in making an investment decision.
- Fake contacts. Take caution if someone approaches you through social media with an investment opportunity. Pretending to be a friend or to have a mutual acquaintance is a common tactic used to gain trust.

A stunning photo & a nice story

By Bill Murphy Jr



Total Eclipse, August 21, 2017

Remember the Great American Eclipse of August 2017? For a few minutes, it seemed the entire country was relaxed and focused on the same thing.

Jon Carmichael was focused all right. But he wasn't exactly relaxed. Instead, he was in Seat 1A on a Southwest Airlines flight, taking more than 1,200 photographs in a two-minute span outside the aircraft's window.

The result? A photographic mosaic that people are calling the most amazing image ever taken from a commercial airplane. I interviewed Carmichael in 2018. Here's the photo, and his story.

Carmichael, 32 at the time, is a professional photographer whose clients have included Twitter, Elton John, and even the Dalai Lama. He's also a self-described "big space nerd" who first realized during seventh grade that he'd have the chance to live through a total solar eclipse.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I always wanted to go to space and be an astronaut. And I thought this might be the closest I get," he told me afterward. "It's the only time you'll ever see our sun on a black sky, which changes your whole perspective."

Carmichael spent a long time trying to figure out how he could possibly get high above the earth in order to take the perfect photograph. He put a lot of time and money into a video to enter an Alaska Airlines contest for a seat on a plane that would fly right through the perfect path--and he was "devastated" when he didn't win.

He started scouring other flight times and paths, and saw that Southwest flight 1368 from Portland to

St. Louis might just be perfect. He flew out from New York to take it, but then realized he had a problem.

He needed a window seat, but his boarding pass on the open seating flight put him in Group C. Solution: He brought \$600 in cash, to pay off other passengers.

Fortunately, no bribes were needed. Carmichael told me he introduced himself at the gate to the Southwest employees, and they immediately bought into his plan. They bumped him up to first in the boarding line, and the captain, Jeffry Jackson, even cleaned the outside of the window at Seat 1A so that Carmichael would have a clear view.

"The only way I can do this, shooting through a little 8-inch window," Carmichael told the captain, "I need a 180-degree view. So, can you possibly turn the plane around when we're in totality?"

"Don't get your hopes up," Jackson replied. But he did get approval, and the plane wound up doing five 180 degree turns at full totality. (A video at the end of this article includes the flight path.)

"Within a matter of seconds, it goes from broad daylight to completely nighttime," Carmichael recalled. "Everybody just kind of gasped and went

silent. And I'm just focusing on getting these shots. I'm utilizing everything I've ever learned with photography in my career, in these two minutes of time...I took over 1,200 photos."

The final image shows the eclipse just as the plane passes over the Snake River, separating Oregon from Idaho. It took close to a year after the flight for Carmichael to assemble the final print.

Meantime, he has regular corporate clients, including Twitter. And when the company learned about his eclipse project, they worked with him to unveil it on the one-year anniversary of the Great American Eclipse.

"They ended up streaming it live to every Twitter office around the world, 33 offices around the world, they all tuned in live. And so it was really just an extremely beautiful moment. It's really miraculous what happened," he told me.

Separately, Southwest Airlines flew Carmichael's family to New York for the unveiling of his image, and produced a video showing how he'd put it all together. It's a bit promotional, but worth watching to see how he pulled this off.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8gEOLjvLcE>

(Finally, at risk of too much content in this newsletter...)

Colin Powell's last words

By Bill Murphy Jr

"It's Alma Powell. She was with me the whole time."

Today would have been Colin and Alma Powell's 60th wedding anniversary. Here's what I wrote in October 2021, right after Colin Powell died, along with a link to something else people really liked, but that I don't think I shared here before.

Last July, while he was battling multiple myeloma cancer and dealing with the effects of Parkinson's disease, Colin Powell, former secretary of state and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff did something he'd done many times in the past.

He got on the phone for a nice long chat with journalist and author Bob Woodward of The Washington Post.

"Don't feel sorry for me, for God's sakes! I'm [84] years old," Powell told Woodward according to a partial transcript, which Woodward shared in the wake of Powell's death Monday, reportedly as a result of COVID-19.

His days were often filled with tests and treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Powell said, but he was making the best of the situation: “I drive up in my Corvette, get out of the Corvette and go into the hospital. ... I don’t advertise it but most of my friends know it.”

There’s a lot to say about Powell, and a lot of people saying it yesterday and today. (I separately wrote about his 13 Rules for Leaders, which originated in an article in Parade magazine back in 1989, and have become a staple of PowerPoint presentations ever since.)

Powell was one of the most popular and respected American statesmen—until 2003 at least, when he went to the United Nations in his role as secretary of state and argued the case for the invasion of Iraq.

It was almost all wrong, but if it matters, I think Powell did actually believe what he was saying at the time. (At least that’s what I conclude having studied this and worked on Woodward’s 2006 book State of Denial.)

It was a significant “blot” on his record, Powell conceded in later years.

Still, the man was much more than that: first Black person to be a four-star general in command of troops, first to be the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and first to be secretary of state—and married to his wife, Alma Powell, for more than 58 years.

He first became a real household name as a result of being chairman during the Persian Gulf War. As The Washington Post put it yesterday:

It was Powell — tall, robust, dressed in his desert fatigues — who captivated the cameras when he went to visit U.S. troops massing in Saudi Arabia ...

It was Powell, with easel-mounted maps and a masterful style he had learned in military briefing school, who went on television most days to explain what was happening and what it all meant.

Perhaps most intriguing for me, it was also Powell who sat down for “about 50” interviews with Woodward dating back to 1989.

Just think about that for a minute. I have to be careful here because I still honor the confidences I had working for Woodward 15 years ago, but just going from things out there in the public record: That

would mean about 35 hours of interviews over the years (assuming the 42-minute interview he and Woodward did this summer was typical).

Imagine some of your closest friends, your coworkers, your family. If you added it all up, have you talked with them for 35 hours in total over the years?

Even if so, how much of that time was spent asking them open-ended questions, and trying to get them to tell you what they believe, what they remember, and what they think?

Woodward did it of course because Powell never left Washington, and remained a “player” in government even when he was no longer in power.

But what a gift, now, to have that archive of what he was thinking at so many different points in history. Among the highlights Woodward shared Monday from the July interview:

Powell on North Korea:

“North Korea doesn’t bother me. Let the little jerk [Kim Jong Un] have his parades and whatnot. He’ll never try to attack us because he knows it would be assisted suicide.”

Powell on President Biden and Afghanistan:

“I thought we had to get out of there eventually. [We] can’t beat these guys. Well, let’s get it over with. Afghanistan, you’re never going to win. Afghans are going to win.” (Note: this interview was in July; the withdrawal was completed in August.)

Powell on the concept of truth, after Woodward described a student of his who asked in class: “What does the truth accomplish?”

“This is scary. You just scared the hell out of me if this is what our kids are saying and thinking. Where are they getting it from? Media? ... Trump refuses to acknowledge that he wasn’t reelected. He has people who go along with him on that.”

And, I’ll give you one more because it’s the kind of thing I think we’d all like to be both in a position to say, and to actually say if we were asked:

Woodward: “Who was the greatest man, woman or person you have ever known? Not ... a leader, not necessarily, but the inner person ... the moral compass, the sense of propriety, the sense of the truth...”

Powell: “It’s Alma Powell. She was with me the whole time. We’ve been married 58 years. And she put up with a lot. She took care of the kids when I was, you know, running around. And she was always there for me and she’d tell me, ‘That’s not a good idea.’ She was usually right.”

Link: [**Colin Powell’s 13 Rules for Leaders**](#)



Special thanks to...

Several Lions always step up to help make this newsletter happen...thank you for providing ideas

and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos). Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club!

About “The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter”

Bob Stahl was a WW2 veteran (US Navy - Pacific Theater) - part of the Greatest Generation - and a Fairfax Lion for nearly 40 years and a Melvin Jones Fellow (who served as Club Secretary, President, bulletin editor, and shared at each meeting a bit of “Lions Information.”)

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“The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter” is published on the Fairfax Lions web page. Club members are alerted around the 1st of each month to its availability on the web page.

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Send words & photos for the newsletter, anytime. They must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue. We need your help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

That's all folks!

Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.

**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND
OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES...
WITH PRIDE, COMPASSION AND
KINDNESS**

Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve

Since 1951