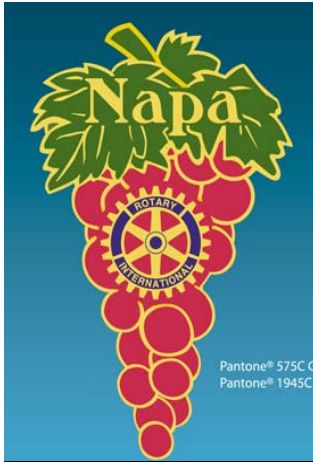


The Napa Rotagram

March 24, 2010



Thought for the Day

“Currahee” is a Cherokee word meaning “Stand alone.” It is a motto that spawned a miracle.”



“He had been in a lifeless coma for almost a month. Then the Cherokee word that became a motto brought him to life. Now Lt. Brian Brennan is standing alone — just like the motto says.”

Guests of Rotarians



Jill introduced _____ Raff of Raff & Associates; and James introduced Lori Anderson of Aegis Assisted Living.

The men of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division ran up that mountain for training so often in 1942 and 1943 that they adopted the name as their battalion’s motto.

For the full Lt. Brian Brennan story go to page 3 of this bulletin at our website.

Stewart Slipiec headed the Pledge of Allegiance.



Ed Barwick and Jeanne Christofferson gave it their best and came up empty handed. Will we have a big winner next week?

Announcements:

WINEVALLEY
CYCLE FOR SIGHT
& ROTARY RIDE FOR VETERANS



April 17th – Mark Your Calendars – 3 ½ Weeks

Gary Rose reminded the Club that we are rapidly approaching our major fund raising event. Special Memorial Mile signs are being prepared to **Lance Cpl. Philip West** and in memory of Past Napa Rotary President **Augie Carrion**. **Stewart Slipiec** offered to fund this donation. Thank you Stewart! Gary also indicated that donations have been made for **Bob Barwick**, **Chris McCarthy** and **Margaret Pranger** who passed away last year.

Gary also reminded the members that he will assign 150-200 volunteers to work the event, and please sign up as soon as possible. Also, **Memorial Mile signs are due in 2 weeks.**

Kent Gardella described the upcoming **Group Study Exchange Program** activities planned for May 3rd, 4th and 5th. The Group Study Exchange program of The Rotary Foundation provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. The exchange group will host Rotarians from India, and may require backup housing for the group. So far, **Kent** and **Jerry Medlin** will be hosting the exchange. If you can help please contact Kent.

Mike Loughran reminded club members that the **Responsible Beverage Class** will be next Wednesday after the Club Meeting (March 31st). If you are not able to attend, please contact Mike ASAP.

John Glaser reminded club members that construction continues at **New Tech Technology High School**, including the relocation of the park facilities (**Rotary Park**). Evidently, even with budgets being reduced, the competitive environment is great for construction. **Larry Wolfe**

was recognized for being the president of the club during the Rotary Park installation.

President Elect Tim Cooney reminded the **2010-2011 Board Members** that a special meeting is scheduled at 10 am at the Elks before the **March 31st** club meeting.

Juliana Inman discussed the Google fibre-optic network which the City of Napa has prepared an application. The project has benefits to business, education, and the environment. For more information go to: [NV Register](#)

Fine Master Jim Riley levied fines for alumni of the NCAA playoffs like a knife cuts through butter. **Brenda Speth** generously donated \$100 on behalf of her daughter's accomplishment of being named Girls Basketball All-County Newcomer of the Year! **Barbara Speth** is Vintage High's sophomore center. Thank you Brenda! Jim also announced that next week he will auction off a **Foursome** entry for the **1st Annual CARE Gold Tournament** on June 7, 2010. Thanks to Jim for this generous contribution.

Today's Program - Stop Falls Coalition



Our speakers today were **Pam Marietti, O.T.** (Occupational Therapist) and **Don Hitchcock, MD** (Medical Director of the Queen of the Valley's Outreach Program).



President Bruce introduced the speakers and commented that falls are the leading cause of emergencies, and has ended many persons golden age of health.

Don Hitchcock started with the good news that Falls can be Prevented! The Stop Falls Napa Valley Fall Prevention Coalition has an impressive list of members and was formed to reduce the risk of and injury from falls among Napa Valley older adults.

The programs and coalition members of the Stop Falls are described at the organizations website: <http://www.stopfallsnapavalley.org/index.php> As covered in the program today, here are the highlights found at the website:

The Coalition members focus their efforts on community awareness, public education and policy development to influence changes in institutions, organizations and the community environment. Working collaboratively the Coalition develops and implements community outreach events such as health fairs, media information and contributes and secures resources for program areas including assessment and screening, home modification and physical activity.

Our programs are designed to address the multiple factors that contribute to falling and to encourage and motivate older adults, their family members, community providers and communities to adopt fall safe practices. In order to assure that programs are based on research and best practices, our programs are being developed with technical assistance from the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence. Programs and Services offered include:

- Community Education and Awareness
- Physical Activity to Improve Balance and Mobility
- Home Safety Assessments and Access to Affordable Home Modification
- Falls Risk Assessments and Follow-up
- Training for Senior-Serving Organizations, Facilities and Institutions
- Advocacy

Final Thought: Some days you're the windshield, some days you're the bug.



DZ

The Bulletin

TOP STORIES > BULLET POINTS

'Currahee:' Airborne Motto Is Miracle Word

[Print Page](#)

By **MICHAEL P. TREMOGLIE**, *The Bulletin*

PUBLISHED:
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

Editor's Note: *This is the fifth in a series about the military.*

"Currahee" is a Cherokee word meaning "Stand alone."

It is also the name of a mountain in Georgia, near the town of Toccoa. The men of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division ran up that mountain for training so often in 1942 and 1943 that they adopted the name as their battalion's motto. It was made famous by the 2001 movie "Band of Brothers" about the 506th's exploits during World War II.

It is a motto that spawned a miracle.

Lt. Brian Brennan is a walking, talking miracle. This is how CBS News correspondent David Martin, and everybody else associated with what happened described him.

Last year, Lt. Brennan lost both legs to a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The IED also killed three comrades.

Not only did he lose both legs, Lt. Brennan had a brain injury so severe, he was in a coma from which doctors said he would not recover.

"He didn't wake up," said Joanne, his mother. "That's when the real terror struck us all. Oh my, he may never wake up. They said on scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the worst, he was a 1."

Lt. Brennan was paid a visit at the hospital in June 2008 by General David Petraeus. The former 101st commander was the commander of all forces in Iraq at the time. He became famous for his plan to reduce the carnage in Iraq by increasing and deploying troops in a method consistent with counterinsurgency.

"It was a very, very grim situation, very tough one," said Gen. Petraeus. He tried to speak to the comatose troopers. But there was no response.

"Did you think there was any hope?" Mr. Martin asked him during an interview.

"Not really," Gen. Petraeus said.

Before Gen. Petraeus, left he tried one more thing.

"I just decided to shout out "Currahee. We counted 'One, two, three, Currahee,'" Gen. Petraeus said. "All of a sudden, the lieutenant, his stumps are banging up and down on the sheets. His head is moving around and very clearly responding to his unit's nickname."

"That's when he kind of sat up in the bed as best as he could," said Brennan's dad Jim.

“Like saying, ‘I’m in here, I’m in here,’” his mother Joanne said. “Everybody in the facility was clapping and crying. The doctors who had been working on him and giving us all the bad news came running down the hall, ‘We heard, we heard.’”

He had been in a lifeless coma for almost a month. Then the Cherokee word that became a motto brought him to life. Now Lt. Brian Brennan is standing alone — just like the motto says.

CBSnews.com contributed to this story

Michael P. Tremoglie can be reached at mtremoglie@thebulletin.us

Other Articles By Michael P. Tremoglie In The Bulletin's Special Series About The Military

- [Lest We Forget: Screaming Eagles Know Freedom's Cost](#)
- [They Fought For Freedom At Home And Abroad](#)
- [The Lost Battalion Embodies America As Melting Pot](#)
- [Burholme Boy Becomes The Pride Of The Marines](#)
- ['Currahee:' Airborne Motto Is Miracle Word](#)

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