



# Sertoma Bulletin

*The Columbia Sertoma Club*

ColumbiaSertoma.org

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## Drafted President's Message

**Sterling Anderson**

I have a lot to talk about with my new adventures as a deployed soldier in the SC National Guard. However, unfortunately, a lot of the "cool stuff" I am not authorized to discuss freely. Let's just suffice it to say that I have a totally new perspective on my life, not only as a soldier, but as a husband, a son, a brother, an uncle, and a citizen of the greatest country in the world. Everywhere I go in uniform, DC or otherwise, I am humbled by the outpouring of kindness that our fellow Americans show. They constantly thank me for my service and make me feel welcome anywhere and everywhere. Anyone that has worn the uniform in recent times can certainly understand what I'm talking about. While I am proud of my efforts when they express their gratitude, it always reminds me that there are many others all across the globe who are putting themselves in the face of danger every minute of every day to allow us to move about and share the freedom that we so often take for granted. Right now, a battalion of SC National Guard soldiers from my home unit is somewhere in Iraq ensuring that the Iraqi people may one day have that same opportunity. While you may not agree with the war, you certainly have to respect and support the commitment and honor that runs deep among those soldiers that are giving their all across the globe. I am simply thankful for the opportunity to be associated with such persons, and, again, I am humbled.

I have had the opportunity to visit many places other than my assigned territory of Washington, D.C. My first experience was Fort Bliss, just outside of El Paso, Texas. For those who do not already know, El Paso is nuzzled just against the Mexican border town of Juarez. While everyone was very nice (as I've found typical of Texas), there was just too much desert and not enough grass for me to have enjoyed my visit there. They had rocks instead of grass in areas

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## Speakers & Events

**May  
20~21**

**18th Annual CCH  
Barbecue @ State  
Fairgrounds**

**23 Robert Miller  
Disabled Vietnam Vet &  
Long-time Blood Donor  
& 6:30 Board Meeting  
at Red Cross on Bull  
St.~ &  
GEM meeting before, at  
5:30.**

**June**

**25 District Leadership  
Conference~**

**6 Installation Banquet @  
Seawell's~ No Meeting**

## Business Meeting

- Board Chairman **Tommy Bryson** gave the Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.



- **MS Barbecue Fundraiser.** Bill Reamer reported that we sold 72 tickets and thanked us for plenty of support.

• **18th Annual Carolina Children's Home Barbecue**, May 20 & 21 @ The State Fairgrounds. Come to "Save the Pigs" Friday night with anything but BBQ, then join us Saturday and enjoy good food, live entertainment and a kid's area. Contact CCH CEO Keith Jones to schedule. (787-2306)

- **Phil Betette** reported good fruit from HIS labors... that's right....a healthy son.



### Guests

**Toby Hoffman~**  
Guest of Joseph Azar  
**Renay Miller**  
Guest of Todd Lewis  
**Debbie Arnold**  
**Deb Culbertson**  
**Peggy Neel~**  
All with South Carolina– Language  
Hearing Association.

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### Sergeant @ Arms Report

36 Members and 5 guests attended. The \$146.82 Roll-Over Pot was again LOST, this time by Chris Burnette.

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Submissions to Bulletin must be received no later than 6:00 PM Tuesday.

that would normally be dust-pits.

I also had the opportunity this past week to travel to Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida. After working hard for two and a half days at a conference with many Air Force counter-parts of mine, I was able to have an enjoyable day on the golf course on a typical beautiful Florida day. I called my wife, Shannon, that afternoon and informed her as follows: "Hey Honey... just wanted to let you know that today I'm playing golf... Tomorrow I'm joining the Air Force!" All jokes aside, the joint efforts of the Army and the Air Force are certainly a spectacle to behold. I'm sure many of you veterans listening to this cringe when you think of having to deal with a member of one of the other branches of service. You know what the Marine Grunt said to the Naval Officer, right? "Sir, I love you Navy guys... every time we have to go fight a war, you always give us a ride there." Just a few weeks ago, I was in a briefing where an Air Force Major not only made a crack about the

3 Army guys in the room, but then later, when talking about the rules of engagement and the JAG's having to sign off of them, he just had to throw in a lawyer joke too! I just can't win! However, on a serious note, the officers and enlisted men I've encountered from the Air Force, Navy, and yes, Marines, too... well, they've all displayed a professionalism and focus that cannot be properly displayed by words alone. It has been fun, though, and amazing to be able to learn so much from another branch of service. I also have to admit that a highlight at Tyndall AFB was being able to see the new F-22 Raptor, America's latest and most advanced fighter jet, in flight. They are due to hit Langley AFB, here in the DC area, soon and will ensure that our country, thanks to the Air Force, will continue

to maintain air superiority against anyone and everyone in the world.

Well, I hope I haven't bored you to tears yet... that was not my intention. Just wanted to say hello and let you know that I'm still living and breathing. I've followed the club's moves the last few months anxiously awaiting Dean's weekly bulletin, which continues to be first class. Thanks to Reggie for mentioning me in his President's note last week... that was very thoughtful. I also want to express my appreciation for everything that you have continued to do in Columbia, and Shannon and I are thankful for your continued thoughts and prayers recently as things are somewhat back to normal at home now thank the Lord. I will continue to keep you updated with an occasional e-mail letting you know how things are going in DC. Please give everyone my best, don't have too much fun in N'awlins in July without me, and (Sorry Neal) GO GAMECOCKS!!!

I know I don't have to talk about service to a group of women and men such as yourselves. I know the dedication, commitment, and honor that each of you share after having served alongside you for the past few years. It is no different than what I am doing now, or what any person in service does... except that it requires an even greater form of service in that it is volunteer service. As I said in my induction speech nearly one year ago to this very club, I first joined Sertoma with the thoughts of expanding my contacts and, eventually, my law practice. However, very quickly, it turned into something very different. Something that I enjoyed. Something that made me feel good. Something that I was proud of.

**Ster...**

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