



# The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Starboard Galley

December 10, 2019

[www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org](http://www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org)

President-Erin Fournier, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Barbara Griffith, President Elect-Jane Collins  
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

## Slideshow highlights veterans' issues/stories

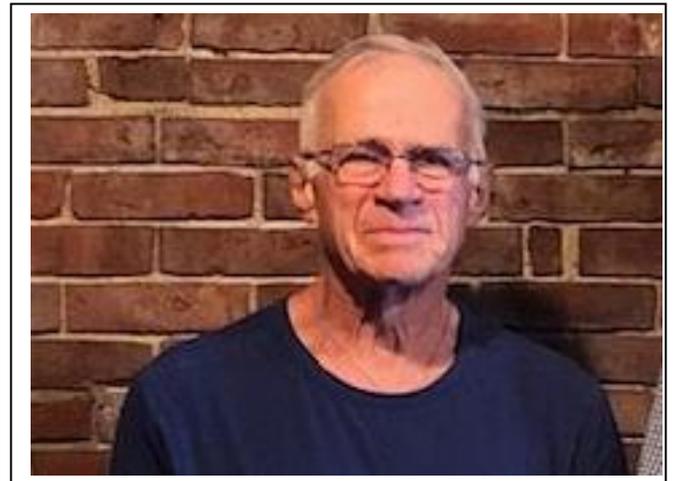
By Stuart Deane

In the aftermath of a double-barreled 11/19 snowstorm, twelve hearty members showed up to watch a slideshow of William Shuttleworth's walk across America this past summer for veterans.

After dinner, with a new entrée of ribs over mashed potatoes and corn, William left the membership in awe with his stories and pictures.

### Highlights:

- Goals were to raise awareness of vets' suicide, homelessness and medical care, to encourage vets to run for office and to raise \$50,000 for the Disabled American Veterans.
- Walked 3,300 miles in 115 days through 14 states and five pairs of shoes.
- "Others feared for my safety. I never feared."
- He was interviewed by both Fox News and MSNBC.
- After Indiana, "I never had to sleep in a tent."
- "I didn't spend more than \$100. People put me up and fed me."
- "I preached a sermon to a full church. Afterward, the minister told me to 'get out of town'" in case the congregation might prefer him.
- One veteran drove out 33 miles to rescue him from a tornado.
- Helped build a home in one day with 200 volunteers for a homeless vet.
- Met two vets who served in three wars – WWII, Korea and Vietnam



- Met two sons of Navaho "Code Talkers" as the "first white man to come to the reservation."
- Heard stories from vets that they had never told to anyone before.
- The last ten days crossing the desert to San Diego were the "hardest of my life, with the temperature never dropping below 100."
- His wife and a boy he met in Indiana both flew to San Diego to greet him.
- "America the Beautiful starts with the people, who are so gracious and kind. If we could access the intelligence found in diners, we could do away with Congress. It was a gift, a privilege to be able to do this."

### Schedule

- Dec. 6: Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army on State and Liberty Streets, from 4 to 9 p.m.
- Dec. 17: Group Home party at Central Congregational Church on Titcomb Street in Newburyport, 5:30 p.m.