



The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

November 28, 2021

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Steve Di Camillo, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Mary Sortal, President Elect-Open
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

Dinner meeting hears story of unique club member

By Stuart Deane

As a follow-up to a YouTube video, "Afternoon Drive Veteran's Day Special with S.Sgt Dudley Farquhar," all attention turned to Dudley upon his arrival at the November 16 meeting.

While he lived in Newburyport for the first seven years of his life, Dudley and his siblings were placed in foster homes because of abuse in the family. Over the years he would live in sixteen foster homes, including the New England Home for Little Wanderers.

After high school, Dudley enlisted in the U.S. Army and was eventually assigned to a tank unit in Germany. There he played on a unit baseball team. But feeling dissatisfied with his assignment, and wanting to be an MP, he volunteered for Vietnam. There he was assigned to a – tank unit. In the course of his service, he developed malaria, but, obviously, survived despite at one point having an ominous toe tag attached. The thing that kept him going, he said, was wanting to get home to his girlfriend Barbara, now his wife, in Ipswich. Upon arrival back in Oakland for discharge, he was warned not to wear his uniform due to all the anti-war demonstrations.

Dudley's career was at AT&T, but he was not done with the impact of Vietnam. He has since had a liver transplant due to the after-effects of Agent Orange. He has also had to deal with PTSD.

But he soldiers on, supporting the POW-MIA cause, sending care packages to active military overseas and supporting troubled youth. And, of course, he is an active member of the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport.



Business

The club sponsored free coffee and doughnuts for veterans at Changing Tides on Veterans Day and then did the same for veterans on Tuesdays in November at the Battle Grounds Coffee in town.

The club will ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program at dates and times TBA. Our annual group home party is still up in the air due to COVID concerns.

Finally, the club is participating with the Lions Club to put on a health fair at the Elks Club on Saturday, April 30. The event was postponed last year due to the pandemic.