

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 2009

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, November 16, 2009 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 54 members in attendance. President Story called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by James Daniel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Story welcomed new members and visitors. New members are: Pamela Caudell - from the State Court and Cheryl Pratt from Department 911. Also, President had talked with Kitty Kyle and she is doing better.

Mr. Mack Henderson was a special guest today.

SPEAKER: President Story introduced our guest speaker Judge James Bodiford, Judge Cobb County Superior Court. Judge Bodiford graduated from Mercer University and John Marshall Law School.

Judge Bodiford served as Magistrate Judge for eleven years before becoming Superior Court Judge in 1994. Judge Bodiford stated there is a big difference between Magistrate Judge and Superior Court.

Among the high-profile cases Judge Bodiford has handled was the Fred Tokars murder case, the Turner anti-freeze case, the Brent Marsh crematory case and the Brian Nichols case.

Judge Bodiford commented the members of this organization is his type of crowd and he is proud of his association with Cobb County as there have been no lay-offs or furloughs for employees and that's very different from other counties and the State.

He stated he had received an E-Mail early 2008 asking for volunteers to take over the Brian Nichols case and he did not volunteer. Later he received a telephone call requesting he take over this case. He felt with 13 months and 1100 jurors on hold, the case needed to be moved along.

The biggest problem was being unable to move case to another jurisdiction but did get it moved 3 blocks from original site to Municipal Court Building on July 10, 2008. Jury was picked in six weeks, 12 regular and 6 alternate jurors.

Judge Bodiford showed a 6 minute video entitled "ITS OVER" showing some

of the highlights from the trial. Brian Nichols was charged with 54 counts including car hi-jacking and was convicted on all charges. Jury was unable to come to unanimous decision on the death penalty (required on death penalty cases) and was given 4 life sentences without possibility of parole.

The jury worked long hours, missing only one day and ended up with 16 jurors left when trial was over.

Judge Bodiford said a big reason he took the case is he wanted to restore public confidence in the Judicial System. He said a bonus is that an appeal has not been filed in this case.

He said some might ask why have a trial in certain cases but the answer is in the Constitution. Everyone charged with a crime must get a fair trial. Also, defense attorneys must be paid which can be an unpopular decision. He has decided on four more years and asked for our vote.

During question and answer period, Judge Bodiford described Brian Nichols' cell as being very small and confining. Also, he was asked where he is being held and he could not say. but that the location is in Georgia.

TREASURERS REPORT: Ruby Lowry reported a balance \$1920.54 in the treasury at this time. Motion was made with a second to approve this report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made with a second to approve the Minutes of the October 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: President Story stated if some have ordered and paid for name badges, they are on the table and ready to be picked up.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE: A report will be ready in December.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee reported all offices have been filled with the exception of one and they are still working on that one.

DRIVERS TRAINING: If you are interested in a drivers training class, please sign up. Insurance companies offer a discount for anyone taking this class.

CHRISTMAS: The members voted to support the Calvary's Children Home this Christmas with either a gift certificate or a wrapped gift labeled either boy or girl and the age of the recipient.

President Story reminded everyone to sign in and pay dues if not already done so.

Our next meeting will be December 21 at 11:00 for our Christmas Luncheon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Anderson