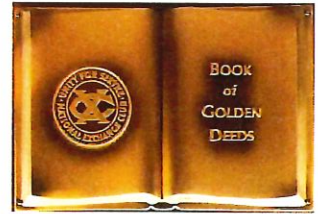




# Excerpts

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

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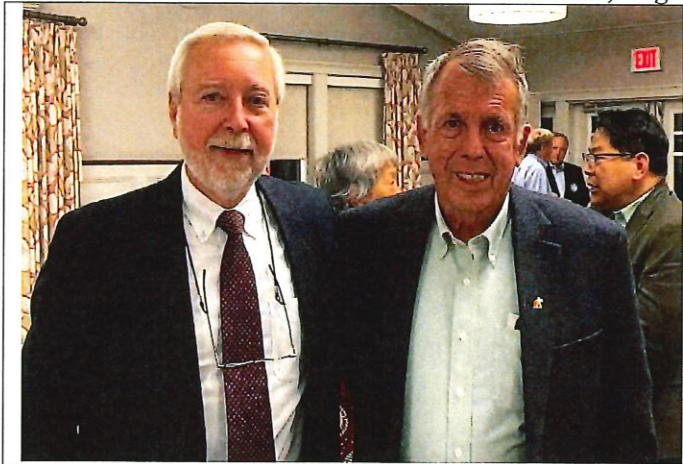
Number 1

## Last Meeting – Book of Golden Deeds

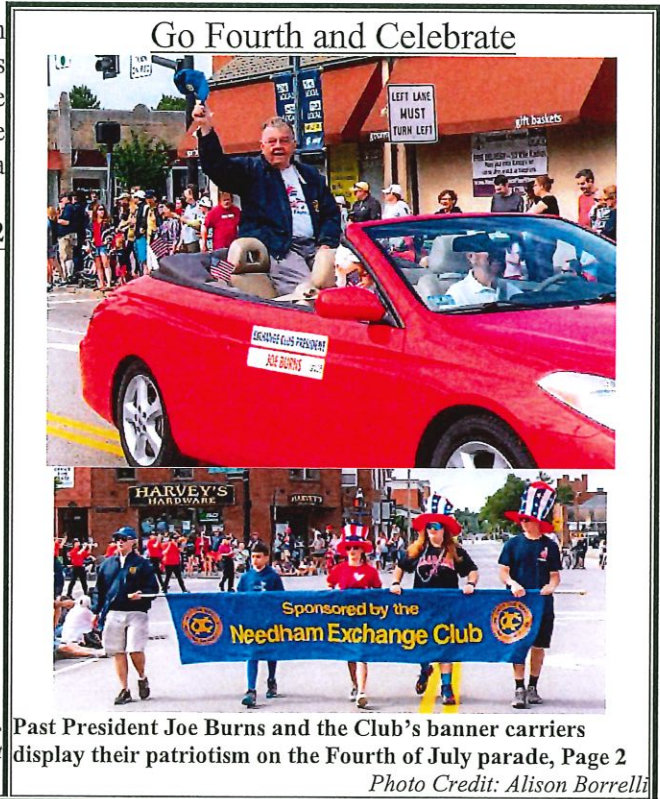
### *‘Regarding volunteerism – Clif Holbrook epitomizes the word’*

June 24, 2021, Needham Golf Club – The Needham Exchange Club met in person for a second and final time this year, amidst a festive atmosphere with the presence of the District President, Sharon “the Swan” Birchall, the opportunity to recognize our ACE Award recipient with a district honor, and the long-awaited ceremony to honor our

**LAST MEETING, Page 2**



President Lunetta with Book of Golden Deeds honoree Clif Holbrook.  
*Photo Credit: Mike Taggart*



Past President Joe Burns and the Club’s banner carriers display their patriotism on the Fourth of July parade, Page 2

*Photo Credit: Alison Borrelli*

## Next Meeting – Inaugural Gala:

**President-Elect Jim Reulbach** announced the next meeting of the Needham Exchange Club will be held on **Thursday, September 23, 2021**, back at the Needham Golf Club. Cocktails will be available at 6:15 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00. This will be the kickoff event to the Club’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. As Jim announced in a club-

**NEXT MEETING, Page 10**

### *Needham Exchange Club, 2021 – 2022*

#### Officers

President Paul Deeley  
President-elect Jim Reulbach  
Treasurer Sam Hart  
Secretary Tedi Eaton  
Immediate Past President Rick Lunetta

#### Directors

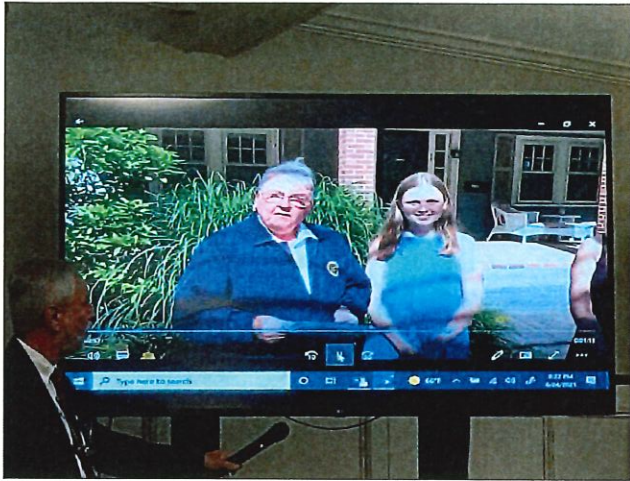
2022  
Jim Bagg • Anne Carlson • Judi Quagliaroli  
2023  
Keith LaFace • Leslie Renzulli • Julie Traub

#### Excerpts

Editor Mike Taggart  
Associate Editor Tedi Eaton  
Associate Editor Clark Friedman  
Photography Editor Tom Halliday



students and recognize them for their achievements,” Joe began, before playing the video.



Youth Committee Chairman Joe Burns and Exchange Club Scholarship winner Nicole Allen via video.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

On video, Joe cited several of Nicole’s achievements:

- Top 5 percent in a very strong senior class
- Particularly enjoys Physics and Math and solving scientific problems
- Captain of the Cross-Country team
- Ran indoor and outdoor track
- Editor-in-Chief of *The Hilltopper*, Needham High School student newspaper
- Member of Needham High’s “Kids for a Wish” Club, which supports the *Make-a-Wish Foundation*
- Worked with the Needham League of Women Voters to register students to vote
- VIP Program at Needham Family Services to mentor elementary school students
- Direct Service Volunteer to hospice patients in town
- Member, Needham High School National Honor Society
- Member, National Art Honor Society
- Worked at *Hearth Pizzeria* in Needham and at *The Gap* in Wellesley
- Will study Bio-Engineering at **Georgia Tech**

After President Lunetta presented the award and the check, Nicole thanked the Club. “I’m thankful for Needham as I got to experience all the wonderful opportunities of the high school and the community. Thank you to all of you for coming up here today.”

Joe closed by wishing Nicole luck in college at an ACC rival of his own alma mater. “Good luck at

Georgia Tech, and go Yellow Jackets, except when they play Boston College.”

### **Book of Golden Deeds**

“We now move to the reason we’re here this evening, the Book of Golden Deeds,” President Lunetta announced. “This is important to an organization like ours, which exists because of service, as we recognize those individuals in our community who engage in that endeavor above and beyond.”

Book of Golden Deeds Chairman **Paul Robey** and **Colleen Schaller** took the microphone to introduce this year’s recipient, **Clif Holbrook**.

Prior to dinner, Clif and his guests had been introduced to the Club. “I’m Clif, and this is my husband, **Anthony [Calilung]**,” Clif began. Clif was also joined by his sister, **Janet Calusdian**, his nephew, **David Calusdian**, and friends **Tom Milek**, **Pat White**, **Ross Dekle**, and **Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos** from the First Baptist Church.



Paul Robey introduces the Book of Golden Deeds recipient.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

Paul then began the presentation. “Volunteer efforts are very important to our society and should not go unnoticed. The National Exchange Club’s longest running project, the Book of Golden Deeds, recognizes dedicated individuals who give their time and talents toward making their communities better places to live. National established the award in 1919, and Needham’s Book of Golden Deeds was first presented in 1960.

“Mr. Clif Holbrook is our Book of Golden Deeds recipient for 2021. Clif has lived in Needham all his life, born at the Glover [Memorial Hospital], and a lifetime resident of Morley Street. Many of Clif’s



happiest days were growing up in Needham, playing [Little League Baseball] for the Giants with “Cruicky” (**Jim Cruickshank**, current Exchange member) and “Lumpy” (**Paul Lumsden, Jr.**, whose father, **Paul Lumsden, Sr.**, was an Exchange member in the 60’s and 70’s). He also established a solid wrestling career at Needham High School.

“From NHS, Clif moved on to Fitchburg State, graduating with a teacher’s degree. After coming to the conclusion that teaching was not for him, he joined the U.S. Navy for a four-year hitch, spending much of his time in Southeast Asia on an aircraft carrier. Upon his return, Clif started a whole new career with the U.S. Postal Service. [As was the case] in the Navy, Clif was told where to go, and he spent time in Wellesley, [Roslindale], and Newton. After 31 years, in 2004, Clif retired from the U.S. government.

“During his work years, he did find time to volunteer at the Needham YMCA, helping out with swim teams and the scuba diving group. And, as always, the Baptist Church was graced with his presence. However, the Senior Center came calling, and the passionate volunteer’s journey now begins.”



Colleen Schaller continues Clif Holbrook’s story.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

**Colleen Schaller**, Chairman of the Needham Council on Aging Board of Directors, picked up Clif’s story from there.

“In keeping with Paul’s earlier comments regarding volunteerism, Clif epitomizes the word.



Paul Robey reads the Book of Golden Deeds plaque to a proud Clif Holbrook as Colleen Schaller looks on.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

“I first met Clif a number of years ago at the old **Stephen Palmer Senior Center**. He had begun his untiring dedication to the needs of our senior citizens after his retirement from the post office, and he has since provided both his time and dependability to three different Executive Directors. In speaking with two of them, the unfailing comment [from both] was that Clif is a kind and giving human being. He’s had various responsibilities over the many years, including driving our vans, monitoring our building, shopping for supplies, and he was our gardener-in-residence, just to name a few. He took on whatever was asked of him without question. He likes to say he retired from the Center; however, he is still very visible as a member of the **Friends of Needham Elderly**, and he continues to give his time.

“When **Needham Cares** organized workers to provide aid to the devastated areas hit by [Hurricane] Katrina [in 2005], Clif volunteered twice for trips. I was on one of those trips and worked side by side with him in some pretty unpleasant situations. Again, one of the tasks he took on was to drive the van for the five women on the team. Dealing with five strong personalities didn’t faze him in the least. Some of you will know the women who were on that trip, so just to give you an idea – one was our Town Manager, **Kate Fitzpatrick**, one is now our State Representative, **Denise Garlick**, and the others were [late Exchange member] **Jane Howard**, myself, and **Kathy Tilburg**. So, it was interesting. Some time during that week, we became known as ‘Clif and his Clifettes.’



“Paul also mentioned Clif’s affiliation with the Baptist Church. He has volunteered over the years for numerous committees and has been a trustee for many of those years.

“There is no doubt that the Exchange Club’s Book of Golden Deeds committee has chosen once again someone who provides so many hours of his time to others without ever expecting the spotlight to shine on his contributions. Clif, thank you.”

Paul then reclaimed the microphone to present the award. “On behalf of the Needham Exchange Club, we present this Book of Golden Deeds plaque to **Clifton ‘Clif’ Holbrook**, presented in recognition of a person who has demonstrated a history of selfless contribution and dedication to our Needham community.”

A prolonged and well-deserved standing ovation ensued!



Clif Holbrook smiles as he addresses the Club.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

Clif had some remarks of his own. “Thank you so much.... It’s a real honor to receive this award and I really appreciate it. When Phil and Paul came to the Senior Center and told me I was nominated for this award, I said, ‘ME?’ I know Phil and Paul and how much they do around town, and I could never compare myself to what they do for the town. I never thought of volunteering as any kind of first. I worked at the Y in high school, teaching swimming, and it was great fun to be in the pool helping kids learn how to swim, and when I came back from the Navy, they were

looking for someone to help, so I worked with the swim team for years.

“The Baptist Church has always been my support group. Any time I needed help, or I needed someone to pick me up, the Baptist Church was there. Rev. Daryn is still doing it all these years later. If I have an issue, there’s always someone in the office to talk with.

“And I’ve had a lot of saints in my life who have helped me. Going back to my high school time, **Charlie Forbes** was the person who put me on the right track and took care of me, and in my life, my sister here has always been a huge support. Whenever anyone in the family has an issue, we always come to her. And my husband, **Anthony** – he has brought me around the world, back and forth to the Philippines every year and then around Asia and Europe.



Clif Holbrook with his well-deserved Book of Golden Deeds.

*Photo credit: Mike Taggart*

“I look at Colleen and to think about anybody who has done more for Needham - every time I hear of a committee, Colleen’s on it. So I’m really humbled to receive this award. Thank you so much.”

### *Pack-a-thon for Haiti*

President Lunetta reported that about 25 Exchange members helped with the recent Pack-a-thon for Haiti, and helped to pack 95,000 meals to be sent to Haiti.

### *Fourth of July*

**Colleen Schaller** reported on the upcoming House Decorating Contest and urged members who use social media to talk up the contest.