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Mulholland: Commitment key in Afghanistan

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State Bank in 1950 and retired as executive vice president. He served as treasurer of American Legion Post 22 for more than 50 years, was a former member of the Union Rotary Club, and was a former director and treasurer for the Union County United Way.

Eleanor "Peetsie" Rhame Gullede '49, August 22, Greenville. She was a charter member of the Furman Singers under the direction of her father, DuPre Rhame. She was an employee of Greenville Technical College and was a past president of the Greenville Dental Auxiliary. Her family designated the DuPre Rhame Voice Scholarship Fund at Furman as a memorial option.

Margaret Welch Mardre Brockman '50, June 11, Greenville. She was a substitute teacher for the Greenville County School District and later worked as an adjuster for Allstate Insurance Company. As a retiree she volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Greenville Free Medical Clinic, and for almost two decades she volunteered at Project Host Soup Kitchen.

Elizabeth Dobson Ellis '50, June 24, Greenville. She taught English for 28 years, 26 of them in Greenville County.

Frances Irene Nuite Lofton '50, June 18, Mount Pleasant, S.C. A teacher, writer, horticulturist and floral designer, she was owner of Lofton's Landscape Nursery for 30 years. She was an award-winning member of the Poetry Society of South Carolina and frequently conducted poetry sessions during the annual Spoleto Festival in Charleston. She published three books of poetry and a children's book, as well as a book about dealing with grief. In her later years she taught English as a Second Language to elderly students.

Philip Garvin Pou, Jr. '50, July 23, Saluda, S.C. He served on the Board of Regents of Liberty University and was employed by Ford Motor Company for

many years. Later he was a salesman for Beach Ford in Norfolk, Va. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Mary Lou Ellis Wilburn '50, August 3, Union, S.C. A retired educator and guidance counselor with the Union County School System, she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Criterion Book Club, and Friends of the Library.

Louis Gardner Green '51, August 12, Greenville. After completing military service in Tokyo, Japan, he began his business career with Liberty Corporation in Greenville. He worked for Protective Life Corporation in Birmingham, Ala., and later moved to New Orleans, where he was a partner in an antique business and a member of the board of the New Orleans Symphony.

Hovie Dee Revis, Jr. '51, July 6, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army with the last horse-mounted cavalry of World War II, stationed in Italy. After attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary he was a Baptist minister for more than 60 years. He was a past president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and served on the Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Helen Jeffords Barham '52, August 1, West Columbia, S.C. After serving as a resident counselor at the University of Florida, she was a librarian and reading specialist in schools in Richland-Lexington (S.C.) District 5 and Richland District 1. She finished her professional career as the director of prevention for the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. In 1991 she received the South Carolina Association for Health Education Award. She also spearheaded the 1991 LRADAC Red Ribbon Campaign. After retirement she worked for several years with the adult literacy program in



MULHOLLAND: COMMITMENT KEY IN AFGHANISTAN

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN is one of will and commitment, and the side with the greatest desire for victory will ultimately prevail.

That's the blunt assessment of Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland, Jr., a 1978 Furman graduate who serves as commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Under the auspices of the Riley Institute, Mulholland spoke October 11 before a packed crowd in Younts Conference Center.

"At the end of the day this will be about our will, our commitment as a military, and our commitment as a nation to give the Afghan people the peace they deserve," said Mulholland. "No people, at least in the modern era, have suffered as much as they have."

The country, he said, has been decimated by years of conflict and neglect, and its extreme weather conditions (bitter cold, frequent sandstorms) and geography (nearly impenetrable, mountainous terrain) make providing assistance difficult.

The Taliban, a radical Islamic group, took over Afghanistan in 1996 following a four-year civil war and began harboring terrorist groups, such as al Qaeda. In late 2001 NATO and U.S. forces quickly overran the Taliban after it refused to stop shielding al Qaeda members or to turn over Osama Bin Laden. Mulholland was involved in the 2001 action.

In recent years, however, with the United States increasingly focused on Iraq, the Taliban and al Qaeda have regained traction. "Afghanistan got off the radar screen," said Mulholland. "Whether we lost an opportunity there will be debated for many years."

Before assuming his current position, Mulholland, who received Furman's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009, was commanding general of Special Operations Command Central at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. He has served as chief of the Office of Military Cooperation at the American Embassy in Kuwait, and commanded the Joint Special Operations Task Force during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

— JOHN ROBERTS

Furman magazine plans a more expansive profile of Mulholland in a forthcoming issue.