

May 30, 2017



# THE BULLETIN

FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB  
THE OLDEST SERVING SERVICE CLUB IN THE SHOALS BEGINNING JUNE 1921

“As a boy, I dreamed of becoming a Major League Baseball player,” Josh Willingham told the members of the Florence Exchange Club last Tuesday.

Willingham lived that dream for 11 years.

“This all started with my Dad coaching me in T-Ball, and in Little League. My parents were great with encouragement and discipline through my formative years,” he said. He was born in Florence where he played high school baseball and basketball at Mars Hill Bible School.



Outfielder Josh Willingham bangs out a hit for the Minnesota Twins against the Philadelphia Phillies on June 11, 2013, at Target Field in Minneapolis. (AP Photo)

After starring at Mars Hill Bible School, Willingham stayed in his hometown to play three seasons at North Alabama, where he was an ABCA first-team All-American while leading the Lions to the NCAA Division II South Central Regional championship in 1999. He still holds the school records for single-season RBIs, doubles, grand slams, walks, total bases, on-base average and slugging percentage.

A 17th-round draft pick of the Florida Marlins in 2000, Willingham became a big-league regular in 2006 after stops with six minor-league teams and a couple of late-season MLB call-ups.

An outfielder in the Majors, Willingham played every position in the minor leagues as he transitioned from collegiate infielder.

Willingham spent three seasons as the Marlins' left fielder before being traded to the Washington Nationals. After two seasons in Washington, Willingham went to Oakland in a trade. He signed with the Twins as a free agent after a season in Oakland.

**Adin Batson has the program June 6. He is to introduce Dave Davis of the Loaves and Fishes Organization.**

## 2016-2017

### OFFICERS

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Vance Persall  
Joe Patterson  
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## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**June 6  
Adin Batson**

**June 13  
George Chambers**

**June 14  
Flag Day**

**June 20  
Recruitment Day**

**June 27  
Annual meeting**



On April 4, 2006, Willingham recorded his first career multi-homer game, launching two against the Houston Astros. He ended the 2006 season with a solid line of .277/.356/.496 with 26 home runs and 74 runs batted in.

2007 proved to be another successful season for Willingham in his sophomore season. He maintained a solid batting average while hitting 21 home runs and 89 runs batted in. He became the team's regular left fielder in 2007, making just three errors in 223 total chances.

On November 11, 2008, Willingham was traded to the Washington Nationals. He was very productive, proving himself worthy of the everyday left fielder position.

On July 27, 2009, Willingham became the 13th player in MLB history to hit two grand slams in the same game and the 7th in MLB history to accomplish this feat in back to back innings. He ended the season with a line of .260/.367/.496 with 24 home runs and 61 RBIs.

On December 15, 2011, he signed a 3 year deal with the Minnesota Twins. He had his best season with the Twins in 2012, when he won a Silver Slugger Award. He hit .260 with 85 runs, 30 doubles, 35 homers, 110 RBIs and a .524 slugging percentage that season.

Willingham played in 1,147 MLB games. He hit .253 with 564 runs, 988 hits, 216 doubles, 15 triples, 195 homers, 632 RBIs and 35 stolen bases. He had an on-base average of .358 and a slugging percentage of .465. He also was hit by pitches 112 times, which ranks 57th on baseball's all-time list.

"After praying on my decision many times and talking to my wife, my father and ex-players who have gone through the same process toward the end of their careers, I decided to retire," he said. "I'm honored to have played for as many years as I have, and I feel even luckier to walk away on my own terms instead of having the decision made for me."

Josh and wife Ginger make their home in the Shoals, along with their three sons, Rhett, Ryder and Rogan. Committed to giving back to the community they love, Josh and Ginger launched The Josh Willingham Foundation as a way to organize those efforts. The fundraising golf tournament is named in honor of his younger brother, Jon Willingham, who died in a car accident in 2009.

The Josh Willingham Foundation is proud to have its new flagship program by the name of Isaiah's Call Mission 58. There are local children that do not have enough food to eat. This situation can become more problematic over weekends. So The Josh Willingham Foundation is providing the children with backpacks that are filled with food every week. The unmarked backpacks, once returned, are filled again the next week.





President Bert announced that a former member, Dr. Frank Hatchett had died Saturday after a lengthy illness.

Other items he mentioned include the Board of Directors will meet June 12 at noon in the Public Library.

He thanked the members who helped display the flags downtown. Also the members who helped with the flags at Diebert Park on Memorial Day.

The Annual Meeting is planned for June 27 in Rhoads P's Restaurant. More information will be announced during the next meeting.

The Membership Committee has designated June 20th as membership recruitment day. All current members are urged to bring in at least one prospective member. Chairman Adin will give more information next week.

June 14 is National Flag Day. Here are some tips about displaying your flag.

The US flag code is federal law, providing rules for proper display, treatment and respect for Old Glory. No committee of Congress has sole authority over the flag. No government agency controls its place in society. There are no flag police. The U.S. Flag Code essentially belongs to the people, and its enforcement is most often conducted through education. The code has been modified many times over the years, including 2008, when military personnel and veterans were given authority to salute the flag even when not in uniform.



The flag should not be displayed during inclement weather unless it is made from an all-weather material such as nylon. Most modern flags are made of all-weather materials

It is customary to display outdoor flags only from sunrise to sunset. However, a U.S. Flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets proper illumination as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer. The light of the moon can provide such illumination.

As long as they are not made from actual U.S. Flags, patriotic articles of clothing and accessories featuring the Stars and Stripes are not a violation of Flag Code.

When a flag is worn or damaged to the point where it is no longer fit for display, it is suggested that, "it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." American Legion Posts and Boy Scout troops conduct disposal ceremonies to provide dignified and solemn disposal of unserviceable flags.

## Exchange Committees for 2017-18

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Fair</b>	September	
<b>Crime Prevention</b>	October	
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	October	
<b>Pecans</b>	November	
<b>ONUG</b>	November	
<b>Give a Kid a Flag</b>	December	
<b>Christmas Party</b>	December	
<b>Nominations</b>	March	
<b>Red Beans and Rice</b>	March	
<b>Youth In Government</b>	March	
<b>Child Abuse Prevent</b>	April	
<b>Freedom Shrine</b>	April	
<b>Proudly We Hail</b>	May	
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	June	
<b>BOGD</b>	June	
<b>Greeter</b>	Weekly	
<b>Covenant Recitation</b>	Weekly	
<b>Invocation/Pledge</b>	Weekly	
<b>Member Induction</b>	Weekly	
<b>Newsletter/PR</b>	Weekly	
<b>Weekly Program</b>	Weekly	
<b>Exchange Education</b>	Bi-weekly	
<b>Membership/ Retention</b>	Bi-weekly	
<b>Downtown Flags</b>	Holidays	
<b>Field of Flags</b>	Monthly	
<b>Scrapbook</b>	Monthly	