



## THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
 Of Rotary*

### JAMES MATTIS GENERAL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RET) & 26TH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



Secretary Mattis was raised in southeastern Washington and enlisted in the Marine Corps Platoon Leader's Course in 1969 while attending Central Washington State College. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1971 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

During his more than four decades in uniform, he commanded Marines at all levels, from a 40-man infantry platoon to a 42,000-man Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in the liberation of Kuwait; a naval task force in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001; 1st Marine Division in the initial attack and the following stability operations in Iraq in 2003 and 2004; and subsequently led all U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander of I Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments, he served on recruiting duty; as the Battalion Officer at the Naval Academy Preparatory School; Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense; Director of Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy; Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; and Commanding General of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

In joint assignments he commanded U.S. Joint Forces Command; NATO's Supreme Allied Command for Transformation; and U.S. Central Command. At U.S. Central Command he directed military operations of more than 250,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, and allied forces in combat across the Middle East.

Retiring in 2013, he was a Davies Family Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Subsequently he served as the 26th Secretary of Defense from January 2017 through December 2018. His eligibility for this position was contingent upon a congressional waiver, as amendments to the National Security Act prohibited active duty commissioned officers from serving as defense secretary for a period of seven years after service. The only previous waiver granted was for the appointment of George C. Marshall in 1950.

Currently General Mattis continues his work at the Hoover Institution.

#### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Liz Hobson, Andi Hochleutner  
 Inspiration – Clark Permann  
 Program – Brad Hansen  
 Attendance – Mary McFadden

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 5th – Hannah Wilson, Yakima Free Clinic  
 June 12th – New Member Meeting  
 June 19th – Kjersten Brattan, Tree Top  
 June 26th – President Jim DeGrasse Recognition

## ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



With spring here and summer just around the corner, it's time to roll up our sleeves and give our Rotary playgrounds a refresh! On Thursday morning, June 5th Rotarians will be spreading woodchips at Chesterley and MLK Jr. Park.

Starting time is 8:30am. We should be done in less than 2 hours. Sign-ups are underway. Bring some gloves, a smile, and a pitchfork and/or rake if you have one.

## SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

Wednesday, May 28th  
5pm to 6pm  
Second Street Grill

Wrap up your workday in the company of fellow Rotarians in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Hors d'oeuvres provided by Rotary. Drinks are on you!

## REVIEW

This week was a celebration of nineteen incredible graduating seniors representing Davis, Eisenhower, LaSalle, Naches Valley, Selah, and West Valley high schools chosen as our 2025 Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship recipients. It was also a day of joy for students, their families, school counselors, and friends.

Committee Co-Chair Quinn Dalan began the presentation with eye-opening statistics on the importance of scholarships. College is expensive. The cost to attend the University of Washington for one year is \$40,636; at Washington State University it costs \$36,804; and the cost to attend Gonzaga is \$66,710 a year. If a student worked full-time at minimum wage for 52 weeks, they would not be able to pay for one year of college. People with college degrees earn 86% more than those without degrees. The money we raise from our scholarship dinners, whether you attend or not, goes to a good cause.

With that in mind and with the Academic Scholarship Committee members lined up to congratulate them, it was time to hear from each of our recipients. One by one they were called to the podium to share where they plan to attend college, their area of study, something that they like about themselves, and one thing they treasure about Yakima.

Their shared choices of colleges included both in-state and out-of-state universities with four attending the University of Washington, two attending Washington State University, two attending Central Washington University and remaining students attending Utah State University, Gonzaga University, Yakima Valley College, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, Grace College, the University of Connecticut, Princeton, University of Montana, University of Idaho, and Boise State. Their areas of study were just as diverse from Music Education, Aerospace Engineering, Biology, Accounting, Dental Hygiene, International Business, Psychology, Economics, Public Policy, Computer Engineering, Animal Science, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Sciences, Conservation & Restoration Ecology, Wildlife Biology, Animal Science, Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Spanish, and Athletic Training. Their goals included becoming a neurosurgeon, CPAs, attorneys, physical therapist, veterinarian, and researchers.

Some of the most impactful comments came from shared excerpts of essays they submitted about what Service Above Self means to them, and what they will take away from Yakima. They talked about the dedication of time for community rather than themselves; putting the needs of others before personal gain; that growing up in a poor Latino household, learning early on that service is not a decision, but a way of life; that any act of service however small makes a difference. For all of them, they are taking away Yakima's sense of community, culture, support, and diversity.

At the end, they were greeted with a standing ovation to celebrate their past and their future. We couldn't help but agree that the state of our community and the future is looking amazing.

Other moments included an inspirational message, member recognition, and announcements. Rick Pinnell shared gratitude to the staff of the Convention Center and Sodexo Catering who are there for us every Thursday. President Jim's recognized Tammy Hanlon for her selection as the new president of the Yakima County Bar Association. Announcements were made for the Second Chance Social on Wednesday, May 28th at the Second Street Grill; and sign-ups for volunteers to spread woodchips around the playgrounds at Chesterley and MLK Jr. parks on June 5th.





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