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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



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Beaumont Chamber of Commerce 100th Anniversary

On January 22, 2003, the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce will mark its 100th anniversary. Many former and current Rotarians have served as leaders of the organization and have made significant contributions to the economic well-being of Beaumont. We salute their commitment to the Chamber and the community.



We are pleased to have Congressman Kevin Brady, a former Beaumont Chamber of Commerce executive, as our featured speaker. He will be introduced by another former Chamber employee, Tom Combs, Chief of Staff to Congressman Nick Lampson.

Kevin Brady is serving his fourth term in Congress, representing the Eighth District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a member of Congress, Brady has focused on international trade, technology, tax reform and closing safe havens around the globe for criminals who flee American justice. He is best known as the author of the Federal Sunset Act which would abolish obsolete agencies and eliminate duplication by placing an expiration date on every federal program by which time they must justify their existence to taxpayers or face elimination. He has a special interest in curing Pulmonary Hypertension, an incurable disease that

strikes primarily women and young children in growing numbers.

Congressman Brady has been named to the House Ways & Means Committee again for the 108th Congress. Considered by many to be one of the most

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Head Table



INVOCATION
 KATHRYN WALKER,
 DISTRICT MANAGER,
 SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

PLEDGE
 BILLY RAY KINNEY,
 PRESIDENT,
 A-1 ACOUSTICS, INC.



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GUEST INTRODUCTION
 RALPH MARTIN,
 PRESIDENT,
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From the chef: Roast beef

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Paul Harris Fellows

President-Elect Designate Maurine Gray executed a coup at the January 15th meeting. She invited **Joe Fisher, Jr.** to sit at her table to honor **Walter Crawford** who was receiving his third Paul Harris Fellow recognition and invited **Walter** to sit at her table to honor **Joe** with his first. Neither knew that both of them were being honored so there were lots of surprised looks around that table!



Joe Fisher, Jr., pictured with his mother.

Among the other guests at the table were **Joe's** sister Anne Fisher Winslow and Betty Leaf, a close friend of both the Crawfords and the Fishers.

Walter has been a member since 1941 and **Joe** has been a member since 1981.

Congratulations to both of you!



Walter Crawford, pictured with his wife Mary Edna.

Birthdays



23rd Michelle Harris (00) Administrator, Buckner Children & Family Services. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she is a graduate of the University of

Michigan. Michelle is a member of St. Annes Catholic Church. She enjoys reading, travel, and music. Despite ten years in Texas, Michelle "is still trying to acclimate to the Southeast Texas humidity!"



26th Scott Mann, Jr. (85) Partner, Germer, Bernsen & Gertz. Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. Scott and his wife Lee are the parents of

Elizabeth, and are members of St. Marks Episcopal Church.

Pre-Meeting Mixer

Azim Keramati, assisted by his wife Marie and his staff from Boomtown Furniture, Van Deventer Corporate Furniture Leasing and The Furniture Clearance Center, hosted last Wednesday's Pre-Meeting Mixer.

Azim set up an entire living room in the hallway outside the Ballroom and many Rotarians took advantage of the comfortable seating during the Mixer



Pictured left to right: Fred Sabzalipour, **Azim Keramati**, Marie Keramati, Mary Galaviz and Luis Galaviz.

while enjoying coffee, tea and light refreshments, and getting to know their fellow Rotarians.

If you and your company are interested in hosting a future Mixer, please contact **Gerald Condon**, Fellowship Committee Chair.



President Harland can attest to the comfort of the chair **President-Elect Azim** brought from his showroom.

PolioPlus

In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program to protect children worldwide from the cruel and fatal consequences of polio. In 1988, the World Health Assembly challenged the world to eradicate polio. Since that time, Rotary's efforts and those of partner agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and governments around the world, have achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide. Rotarians stand at the brink of a great victory and look forward to celebrating the global eradication of polio in 2005, the organization's centennial year.



Children in Myanmar participate in a polio National Immunization Day launching ceremony.

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Meets Wednesdays at Noon
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2355 IH-10 South • Beaumont, Texas

Future Programs

January

29th Ken Hoagland

February

5th Stephen Reap
12th Better Business Bureau
19th Representative Allan Ritter
26th Rotary Goes to School

Makeups

Monday:

No. Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review

If you missed last Wednesday's meeting, you missed a great speaker. **Milt Pruitt** introduced Oliver Luck, CEO of the Harris County - Houston Sports Authority. In this role, he oversees the daily operations of the administrative office, public/media relations, marketing and outreach program initiatives for the Authority.

The Houston Sports Authority is a governmental entity formed to oversee Reliant Stadium, Minute Maid Field and the soon-to-be-completed basketball arena located in downtown Houston. The Sports Authority is funded by 1) the lease payments from the sports teams, 2) a 2% hotel tax, 3) a 5% car rental tax, and 4) miscellaneous revenue from concessions and parking. The Houston Sports Authority used these revenue streams to raise approximately \$1 billion to build these new facilities.

Mr. Luck realizes that some people feel that the money the Sports Authority borrowed could be better spent elsewhere. Mr. Luck, however, firmly believes that Houston needs these world-class facilities to attract businesses and industry to keep our region growing. Without these and other attractions, companies looking to relocate would choose another city with more to offer.

He entertained us with several stories about his career as back-up quarterback to Warren Moon with the erstwhile Houston NFL team, the Oilers. One of the turning points in his life occurred when he read a newspaper account of a head injury he suffered in which the headline reported "Nothing Found" in his skull during the brain scan. He also recounted his German grandmother's review of American football: the two teams flipped a quarter at the beginning of the game and then spent the next two hours trying to "get the quarter back".

(Continued from page 1)

powerful committees in Congress, the Ways & Means Committee has jurisdiction over all legislation relating to taxes, Medicare, and Social Security. The future of the 8th Congressional District, and to a large extent the future of America, will be shaped by the critical issues that begin in the Ways & Means Committee.

In Congress he has been named a *Hero of the Taxpayer*, *Small Business Champion* and a *Super Friend-of-the-Seniors*. He has received the *Golden Bulldog Award* by Watchdogs of the Treasury, special recognition by Citizens Against Government Waste and is a perennial winner of the *Guardian of Small Business Award* and *Spirit of Enterprise Award*.

The Texas Medical Association recently honored Congressman Brady with its statewide *Patient Protection Award*, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice named him their *Texas Victims Advocate* in 1998.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Congress in 1996, Kevin Brady served six years in the Texas House of Representatives, earning distinction as one of the *Ten Best Legislators* for Children & Family Issues, *Legislative Standout* for campaign finance reform, and in 1994 was named one of *Five Outstanding Young Texans*. He also received numerous awards from victims' rights groups for his criminal justice reform.

A Chamber of Commerce executive for eighteen years, Congressman Brady is a staunch believer in free enterprise and local control, and understands firsthand the challenges facing communities and independent business people in America.

He was born in Vermillion, South Dakota, and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Dakota. Kevin, his wife, Cathy, and sons Will and Sean attend Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church in The Woodlands. He is a Rotarian and is active in his community,



**Kitchen
Koncepts**

Are we having fun yet?

**Marvin and Connie
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