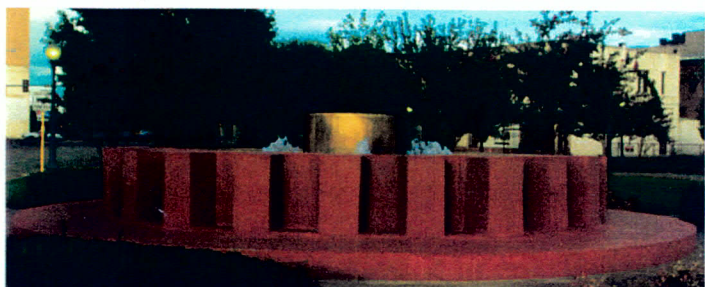


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



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Vol. 93 No. 49 June 30, 2004

President Azim's Swan Song

We will celebrate **President Azim's** Presidential Year with a Swan Song in his "honor".

He wishes to thank all the members of the Rotary Club of Beaumont and especially the following who helped make his year successful and memorable:

His Officers: Vice President **Paula Bothe**, Secretary **Terry Bourdier**, Treasurer **Ben Orgain**, Sergeant at Arms **Lee Freeland**, Past President-Advisor **Larry Beaulieu**, Immediate Past President **Harland Merriam** and Past President **Roger McCabe**.

His Board of Directors: **Eddie Arnold**, **Danny Babineaux**, **Travis Brewer**, **Jim Broussard, Jr.**, **Gerald Condon**, **Carol**

Flatten, **Roy Huckaby**, **Becky Mason**, **Camille Mouton** and **Jim Rich**.

His Division Co-Leaders **Brad Brown**, **Allison Nathan Golias**, **Eric Lawrence** and **Jolene Ortego**.

His Beaumont Rotary Foundation Board Members: **Eric Meadows**, **Peg Towers** and **Michael Wolf**.

His Committee Chairs: **Pat Anderson**, **Bobbie Applegate**, **Neal Baker**, **Bill Benning**, **Alex Broussard**, **James Broussard**, **Bessie Chisum**, **Phil Dunlap**, **Joe Fisher**, **Jim Fuller**, **Kathleen Hardey**, **Michelle Harris**, **Lorrie Hayes**, **Tillie Hickman**, **Jodi Hilton**, **Jamie Hogge**, **Chuck Mason**, **Ralph**

(Continued on page 2)

Head Table



INVOCATION
BONITA GIBSON



PLEDGE
LORRIE HAYES



4-WAY TEST
RODNEY MARTIN

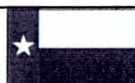


GUEST INTRODUCTION
EDDIE WHITE

From the chef: Beef Tips

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Future Programs

July
 7th President Maurine's Installation

Make-ups

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:

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Program Review

Welcome Home Harland!

What can be written about Wednesday's program that was not said in the standing ovation given Past President-**Colonel Harland Merriam** at the close of the meeting. This was an opportunity to welcome Harland back and thank him for his service to this club and his country.



In a departure from the usual introductions given our speakers, Chaplain Merriam was first roasted by Master of Ceremonies **Larry Beaulieu** and then serenaded by the Rotary Chorus (**Terry Bourdier, Bob Harris, Carole Reeves, Jeff Noble, Maurine Gray and Alexine Boutin**) with a re-written version of the Battle Hymn of the Republic that kept the membership laughing.

Following a somewhat more dignified introduction by **Jim Rich**, Harland began his talk with a reminiscence of receiving a phone call and hearing the words "Raging Bull," the call up activation code for his unit bringing him and thousands of other reservists to active duty.

For the seventeen months of his active service Colonel Merriam's time was spent working with the 75th Division

(Continued from page 1)

McBride, Mark McKinnon, Floyd McSpadden, Ted Moor III, Sina Nejad, Jeff Noble, Mary Parmer, Robert Peavey, Tiger Polk, Russ Schultz, Ann Scoggin, Jack Scott, Ryan Smith, Bruce Walker and Matt White.

(Training and Support) in a nine state area preparing units for service overseas. In speaking of his duties as the divisional chaplain, responsible for the training of all of the Army chaplains and assistants in the region and with responsibility for the spiritual health and well-being of all those units trained and prepared by the 75th for combat duty, he invoked the motto of the division, "Make Ready."

In what he described as a "very different war" Harland spoke of instructing chaplains and assistants in lifesaving skills, suicide intervention, and stress management. But even as he spoke of a war where the enemy wore no uniform and where our troops were fighting without the clearly defined battlefield objectives of World War II, he recounted stories of soldiers who in their own words were there to "make a difference."

The club owes a debt of gratitude to Colonel (Chaplain) Harland Merriam for answering that phone call and for the important work he and the other men and women of the 75th have done to prepare our troops to go abroad, do their duty, and return home safely to their loved ones.

We also want to thank **Paula Bothe** for her part in making this program memorable.



Chester Weber's daughter Bella (2nd from left) accepted his Memorial Resolution on behalf of her family. Bella is pictured with her guests Walter Carter, Peggy and Joe Parigi, and Wendy Campbell.

**Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
L.L.P.**

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Konica TOSHIBA SHARP

Chester Weber's Memorial Resolution

Chester H. Weber, a native of Beaumont, was born September 5, 1912. He was one of three children of Herman Weber and Emma Louise Sternberg Weber. A veteran of World War II, Chester spent his final days in the Veterans Hospital in Houston, where he died on December 21, 2003. He reached the remarkable age of ninety-one.

Upon graduation from Beaumont High School, Chester attended Houston's Rice University; and following his graduation in 1932 with a degree in Architecture, he returned to Beaumont to join the family business: Herman Weber Construction, Inc. He ultimately became the president and owner of that business from 1951 until he retired and closed the business in 1983. Before and during Chester's watch, Herman Weber Construction, Inc. built many area schools and churches.

Chester served our country during World War II as an Aviator Engineer of the 1903rd Engineer Aviation Battalion of the United States Air Force.

Not only did he serve his country, but Chester also served his community...especially the cultural community. A longtime member of the Beaumont Music Commission, Chester helped organize the Beaumont Symphony in 1952 and served on that Board during its early years. He even played the violin in the Symphony Orchestra for many years. Chester served as chairman of the Cultural Activities Committee of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce in 1960, as treasurer of the Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society in 1963, and as president of the Beaumont Music Commission from 1970 - 1973.

His involvement in the community went beyond his appreciation for music. Chester helped organize the Neches River Festival. He was president of the 20-30 Club in 1948 and was Chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Party from 1953 - 1955.

Chester became a member of the Rotary Club of Beaumont on June 28, 1946, and had nearly fifty-seven years of service, with over fifty years of perfect attendance. Upon the occasion of his fiftieth year of service in Rotary, Chester was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Not only was Chester active as a Rotarian at age ninety-one, he also sang in the St Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church Choir every Sun-

day and was an active member of the Advisory Board of the Beaumont Music Commission.

Loved by everyone, Chester was an inspiration to all ages.

Speaking of love, Chester was "head-over-heels" in love the moment he laid eyes on native Beaumonter Elizabeth Boykin almost sixty years ago. It was love at first sight! He knew that he was going to marry her and he did while serving in the Air Force. Chester came home for the wedding and then quickly returned to his service commitment. In all the years following World War II, their life was full of family, friendship, faith and fellowship.

Elizabeth Boykin Weber, the love of his life for fifty-eight years, preceded Chester in death. He was also preceded in death by his brother Arthur Weber and his sister Bertha Weber Miculka and her husband Mike Miculka.

He is, however, survived by three children: Chester Weber, Jr. of Kansas City, Kansas; Bella Weber of Boulder, Colorado; and Betsy Patterson, also of Boulder. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Chad Weber and Ebie Panozzo; Courtney Munch and John Munch; Ryan Patterson and Alex Patterson; and four great grandchildren: Caden Weber; Corin and Andrea, and Avery Panozzo. In addition, Chester's sister-in-law Frances Weber still resides in Beaumont.

Chester is missed for his friendship, for his sincerity of purpose, for his passion for music and for his commitment to his native community. He is especially missed by the membership of the Rotary Club of Beaumont who looked to Chester Weber as a Rotary Statesman.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the members of the Rotary Club of Beaumont express sorrow at the death of Chester Weber, and extend sympathy to his family as an expression of sincere feeling at the loss of a dear friend and long-time member of this Rotary Club.

And, Be it Further Resolved that this resolution is spread across the minutes of this Rotary Club, and that a copy be furnished to his family.

Passed by unanimous vote of the membership this 23rd day of June 2004.

Birthdays

1st Charlie Gibbs (98)

Owner/President,
Cameo/Sabine Neches Travel



Born in Houston, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Cindy are the parents of Andrea and Morgan, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. He enjoys playing golf.

1st Mark McKinnon (00)

Station Manager/V.P., KBMT-Channel 12



Born in Corpus Christi, he is a graduate of the University of Redlands. He and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of Mitchell and Callie, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys sports and spending time with his family.

4th Pat Anderson (02)

Sales, Becker Printing



A Beaumont native, he attended Lamar University and Sam Houston State University. He and his wife Amy are the parents of Jenna, Jesseca, Jody, Pat Jr. and Jennifer, and are members of North End Baptist Church. He enjoys golf, flying, and boating.

4th Frank Maida (87)

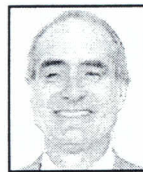
Senior Attorney, Maida Law Firm



A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas Christian University. He and his wife Laure are the parents of Mary Frances, Jonathan and Caroline, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys playing cards. Frank is a Paul Harris Fellow.

6th Phil Dunlap (98)

Partner, Wells, Peyton, Greenberg & Hunt



Born in Dallas, he is a graduate of Lamar University and the University of Texas School of Law. He and his wife Georgia are the parents of Max, Caroline and Clay, and are members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. He enjoys running and occasionally playing golf.

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