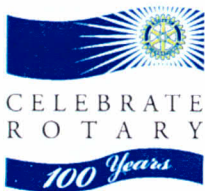
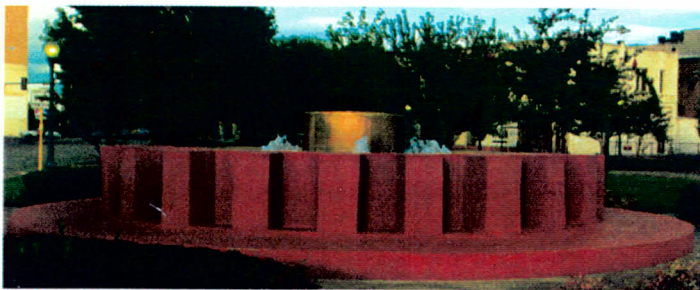


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

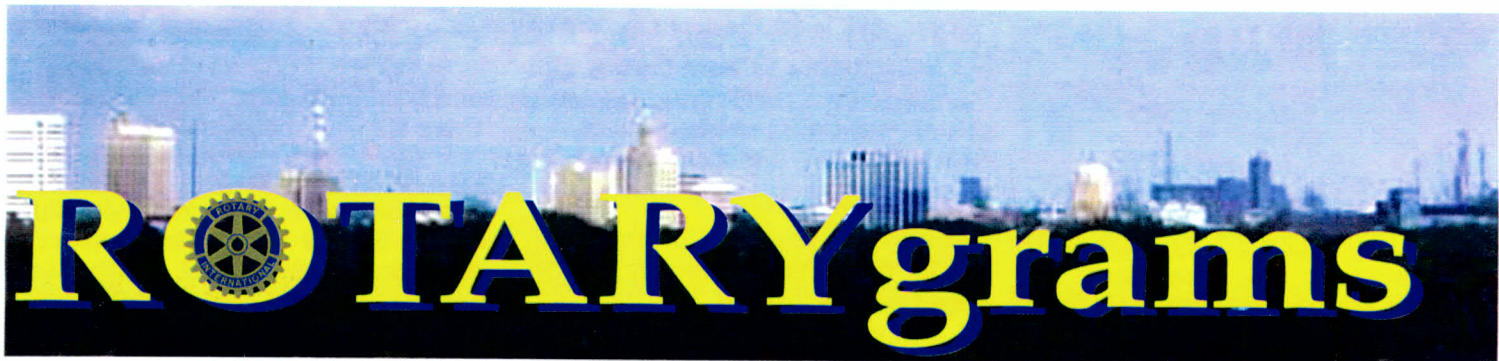


Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club #72

Vol. 94 No. 6 August 11, 2004

State Representative Allan Ritter



Allan Ritter is a member of the Texas House of Representatives from District 21, in the western part of Jefferson County (includes portions or all of Beaumont, Port Arthur, Nederland, Port Neches, Groves, Nome, China, Hampshire-Fannett, and other incorporated areas).

In 1999, as a first-term representative, Ritter was elected "Freshman of the Year" by his House colleagues in a bipartisan vote. He is chairman of the House Committee on Pensions and Investments and is a member of the influential Ways and Means Committee.

Ritter has already proven to be an active state lawmaker, passing legislation in areas ranging from criminal justice and tax policy to economic development and higher education. Ritter worked tirelessly his first three terms to secure an appropriations increase for the Lamar campuses. He has passed bills that protect people who report criminal activity and ensure that violent offenders remain behind bars. Ritter also sponsored legislation that established the Texas Residential Construction Commission, and he authored a bill to create a police and firefighter home loan program. And during this past legislative session, he passed a bill that sets forth guidelines for the

(Continued on page 2)

Head Table



INVOCATION
ROD CARROLL



PLEDGE
SHAREN KIRKSEY



4-WAY TEST
NEAL BAKER



GUEST INTRODUCTION
BESSIE CHISUM

From the chef: Barbecued Chicken

Jefferson Theatre Summer Film Series

SPARTAGUS

Saturday, August 14th • 8:00 pm

Sunday, August 15th • 2:30 pm

For Tickets and Information

835.LIVE • www.jeffersontheatre.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

*We'll meet at the Hilton as usual
 this week*



SUPPORT A LOCAL TREASURE

The Edison Museum in downtown Beaumont will benefit from the sale of the Edison Commemorative Coin.

For details, go to:

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/

And click on Commemoratives

Or call 1-800-872-6468

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Alexine Boutin, Executive Director
Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
Meets Wednesdays at Noon

Future Programs

August

18th Paul Serf, Texas Travel & Tourism
25th Ricky Dixon, Blue Bell Ice Cream

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:

Nederland.....Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotary5450.org/eclub
(limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

Our guest speaker was Lori Preston, Head of School, All Saints Episcopal School, Beaumont, Texas. This year is the 50th anniversary of All Saints as an important part of the educational community of Beaumont. St. Mark's and St. Stephen's Episcopal Churches are the partner parishes of All Saints School. Lori shared with us her vision of All Saints as a school with a mission to educate the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

Lori used author Stephen Covey's four principals of organizing your life to talk about the daily life of All Saints. Covey's principals are: live, love, learn, and leave a legacy. Living for All Saints means to begin the day with chapel, gathering the community for prayer, singing, storytelling and sharing information. This is followed by

the flag ceremony for the entire community during which the Pledges to both the U.S. Flag and the Texas Flag are said. It appears that the students do a much better job on the Texas pledge than certain members of this Rotary Club.

One of the strengths of All Saints is that it is a small school and the teachers know their students and have time to spend with them. According to Preston, the school truly becomes a family and supports families as they raise their children. The faculty work well together and this too adds to the loving atmosphere of All Saints.

As far as learning is concerned, this takes place in the small class settings where individual attention is available. There are also special programs for writ-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

licensing and regulation of branch pilots for the Ports of Jefferson and Orange Counties.

A Beaumont native, Ritter graduated from Forest Park High School (currently Beaumont Westbrook) in 1972. He is president of Ritter Lumber Company, his family's 58 year-old business, and serves on the board of Allied Building Stores, a wholesale building supplies company.

Ritter is currently an ex-officio board member of Mid and South Jefferson County Crimestoppers and Communities In Schools, and is a trustee for the Nederland Senior Citizens Trust Fund Board. He has served as the director of the Texas Construction Industry Council, and is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, the Texas and Southwest Cattlemen's Association, and the Young Men's Business League. Ritter was named Small Businessman of the Year by the Nederland Chamber of Commerce in 1997, and in 2001, was named "Mr. Nederland" in recognition of his service to the

city. He is a recipient of the Julie Rogers Special Service Award from the Jefferson County Mental Health Association.

In 1999, Ritter was honored by the Association of Texas Professional Educators for his commitment to public education, and was given special recognition from the Texas Classroom Teachers Association for his work on behalf of Texas teachers during the 76th Legislative Session. In 2003 he was named "Legislator of the Year" by the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas and "National State Legislator of the Year" by the National Home Builders Association. Ritter was the only Representative from the Eastern part of the state to be appointed to the House Select Committee on Public School Finance and was one of 12 House members to be selected for the House & Senate Working Group on Public Education.

Ritter is a member of First Baptist Church, Nederland. He is married to Peggy McMinn Ritter and they have four children - Will, Peyton, Anney, and Whitney and one grandchild - Abbey.

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

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Konica TOSHIBA SHARP



SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM!

We will install a 4' x 6' flag in front of your home or place of business on six patriotic days throughout the year: September 11th, Veterans Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day



Your tax deductible \$100 donation will support the Beaumont Rotary Foundation's scholarship program, Camp Enterprise and the "A Book About Me" program for kindergarten students throughout Beaumont, and will fund improvement projects at the Boy Scouts' Camp Urand

Renewal letters will be mailed soon to participants whose subscriptions began with September 11th, 2003
If you would like to participate, forms will be available at weekly Rotary meetings or call the Rotary Office (842-1913) for more information

Wheelchair Project

In 2002 our Wheelchair Project donation of \$18,000 was matched by the Ken Behring Foundation in California and was used to purchase 240 wheelchairs which were distributed in the greater Mexico City area in January 2003 by Mexico City Rotarians and **Alex Broussard, Emily Compton** and Ron Borel of the Orange Rotary Club.

In late June, while waiting to achieve our \$18,000 goal again, we learned of an additional matching grant offered by the Ken Hoffman (Oakland A's) Foundation. Last month we sent more than \$9,500 that had been donated by our Rotarians during the last eighteen months. Our \$9,500 donation grew to \$19,000 and was matched again by the Ken Behring Foundation to purchase 250 wheelchairs which will be distributed later this year,

probably in the towns of Queretaro and Villahermosa in the State of Tabasco in Mexico.

David Teuscher is this year's Wheelchair Project Chair. Please contact him if you want to serve on the committee or if you would like to travel to Mexico to help with the distribution. Visit www.wheelchairfoundation.org for more information about this project.

The motto of the Wheelchair Foundation is "Hope, Mobility & Freedom". Giving wheelchairs to disabled people allows children to go to school, adults to go to work, and the elderly to once again be active or just go outside with their loved ones.

Thank you to everyone in our club who supported our participation.

(Continued from page 2)

ing, music, art and drama. Because of the size and the support from families All Saints even has a science lab for its lower school students. In addition to its Pre-K through Eighth Grade programs, the school is opening an early learning center for three year olds.

Ms Preston compared the school's vision and mission to the Object of Rotary and Rotary's Four-Way Test.

She believes All Saints School, like Rotary can leave a strong legacy in our community.

She invited us to visit chapel and the school and to contact All Saints if there is a service opportunity for the students.

Our community is truly blessed to have a school like All Saints, with an enthusiastic leader such as Lori Preston.

Birthdays

12th Danny Babineaux (98)
President,
Air Comfort



Born in Orlando, Florida, he is a graduate of Lamar Institute of Technology. He and his wife Charlene are the parents of Bret and Slate, and are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting and playing tennis.

12th Azim Koramati (86)
President, Van Deventer Furniture
Rentals/Boomtown Furniture



Born in Iran, he is a graduate of Texas Southern University and is studying for master's degree at the University of Houston. He and his wife

Marie are the parents of Layla, Kristina and Cameron, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. He enjoys traveling with his family, playing golf and fishing. Azim is a Paul Harris Fellow.

17th James Broussard (73)
President,
Broussard's Mortuary



A Beaumont native, he attended Texas A&M and Lamar University and is a graduate of Commonwealth College of Science and the National Foundation of Funeral Service, School of Management. He and his wife Barbara are the parents of Cheryl, James Jr., Catherine and Karen, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys boating. James is a Paul Harris Fellow.

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409-835-0835

Program Spotlight: Stroke Rehabilitation
Program Director - Linda Smith, M.D.