

Published by the
 Rotary Club of Beaumont
 Subscription price \$5.00 per year
 Periodicals postage paid at Beaumont, Texas
 Published weekly, except Christmas week, New Years
 week & two unspecified non-meeting weeks
 POSTMASTER: send address changes to
 MCM Elegante' Hotel, Suite 213
 2355 IH-10 South
 Beaumont, TX 77705

USPS 471-700



SERVICE Above Self

Periodical
 POSTAGE
 Paid at
 Beaumont, TX



Rotarians were dwarfed by the large welcome banner at the RI Convention in Chicago's McCormick Place.
Photo by Karen Bourdier

ROTARYgrams

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

Vol. 95 No. 8, August 24, 2005

State Representatives Joe Deshotel and Allan Ritter



Joe Deshotel represents the 22nd Legislative District, which includes parts of Jefferson and Orange Counties. He is a successful attorney, businessman and life-long resident of Beaumont.

Representative Deshotel serves on the Transportation, Economic Development and Redistricting Committees.

He is also a member of the influential Black Legislative Caucus.



Allan Ritter is a member of the Texas House of Representatives from District 21, covering the western part of Jefferson County. He has successfully passed legislation in areas ranging from criminal justice and tax policy to economic development and higher education.

He is currently chairman of the House Committee on Economic Development and a member of the influential Ways and Means Committee.

Head Table



INVOCATION
Frank Alegria



PLEDGE
BRUCE HOFFER



4-WAY TEST
Robert Hickman



GUEST INTRODUCTION
CHESTER JOURDAN

Spaghetti & Lasagna



*Congratulations to the
 Beaumont Rotary Foundation & the
 Three Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts beginning
 the third year of the Flag Project on September 11th!
 Thank you, everyone, for your support.*



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Future Programs

August
 31st Chuck Whitlock
 September
 7th Commander Verne Gifford

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.rotaryclubone.org
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

REVIEW

Judge Ted Poe showed Rotarians Wednesday that his November election to the U. S. House of Representatives did not dim his passion for the rights of crime victims or his ability to win over a crowd.

Whether pushing for economic development in Southeast Texas, showing appreciation for our troops in both Iraq and Cuba or speaking out against high taxes, the government bureaucracy and complex regulations, Judge Poe touched a number of bases guaranteed to generate a positive response from our club.

He spoke of his visit to Iraq on the day elections were held to form a new government. "Despite threats by the insurgents to kill anyone who voted," Judge Poe said, "60% of the Iraqis voted. The Iraqi people want freedom. They are writing a constitution and are doing in one year what it took our country 13 years to do."

On taxes, he spoke in favor of efforts to repeal the federal estate tax and of extending the law which allows Texans (and a few others) to deduct sales taxes paid during the year from taxable income, a privilege which has always been given to those who pay a state income tax.

Judge Poe said he has formed a bipartisan victim rights caucus in Congress. One of its first efforts is a law which would require sex offenders to register with a national data-base, not just in one state. The law would also make states share such information with one another. "I expect the bill to pass and pass easily," he said.

Despite what many of us have heard about the political infighting in Washington, Judge Poe said, "Most issues are bipartisan. We need to work together." He cited issues like homeland

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New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new members who were introduced at the August 17th meeting:



Larry Parnell
 Manager,

George Wilson's Men's Wear
 Born in Liberty, he is a graduate of Southwestern Assemblies and Of God University. He and his wife Billie are the parents of Jason, Jarod and Heather, and are members of the Church on the Rock. He enjoys playing golf. A former member of the Liberty Rotary Club, he is a Paul Harris Fellow. Larry is sponsored by **Bill Lucas**.



Glenn Shoemake
 Executive Director,
 Calder Woods

Born in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Sharon are the parents of Daniel and Angela, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys playing golf and fishing. Glenn is sponsored by **Michelle Harris**.

Are you a member of a veteran's organization?

Please notify the Rotary office by Wednesday, August 24th

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Birthdays

24th Tiger Polk (73) Retired



Born in San Augustine, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He is the father of John, Scott and Leland, and is a member of First Methodist Church

in Vidor. He enjoys doing woodcrafts and bowling. Tiger is a Paul Harris Fellow.

24th Thomas Williams (89) Thomas F. Williams, D.D.S.



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas at Houston. He and his wife Marlys are the parents of Noel, and are members of First United Methodist Church.

27th Lee Freeland (98) Occupational Health Consultant



Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Loyola University, New Orleans. He and his wife Corinne are the parents of Kathryn and Lynne, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys gardening, photography and working at Some Other Place. Lee is a Paul Harris Fellow.

27th Mike McMullen (04) General Manager, Ethan Allen Furniture



Born in Houston, he attended San Diego State University and George Washington State University and is a graduate of Grossmont College and Texas A&M University. He and his wife Judy are the parents of Joshua.

27th Kevin Roy (94) President/CEO, InterFlow Factors

Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Jill are members of St. Pius X Catholic



Church. He enjoys mountain bike riding, horseback riding, water skiing and snow skiing.

28th Charlie Glass (78) Retired



Born in Mount Pleasant, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He is the father of Stephanie, Jennifer and Rebecca. He enjoys playing golf. Charlie is a Paul Harris Fellow.

28th Robert Thomas III (99) Law Offices of Robert L. Thomas III



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Baylor University. He and his wife Susan are the parents of Hannah and Robert IV, and are members of Beaumont Bible Church. He enjoys reading, music, softball, baseball and spending time with his children.

29th Anthony Toups (03) General Sales Manager, Classic Chevrolet



Born in Palestine, he attended Lamar University. He and his wife Kerri are the parents of Sondra, Tonya and Ethan, and are members of North End

Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing, bowling, playing golf and softball.

30th Jeff Dyson (04) President, M & D Supply



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Pat are the parents of Scott, Brent, Melissa and Brooke, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys bicycling, reading, the beach, their children's activities and their grandson.

30th Ann Scoggin (98)

Owner,
Coldwell Banker Southern Homes



Born in Mexia, she attended Shasta College. She and her husband Sam are the parents of Sammy, Angela and Glenn, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. She enjoys playing tennis.

(Continued from page 2)

security and immigration as particularly important. "Public safety is the first duty of government," he said.

A graduate of the University of Houston School of Law, Judge Poe spoke breezily of his Texas pride. "I live in Texas and work in Washington, D.C.," he said. While in Iraq, he told us, he saw many Texans in the U.S. Marine Corps, many sporting Texas flags or the state's motto: Don't Mess with Texas. Judge Poe said one of every nine American volunteers fighting in Iraq is from Texas.

Perhaps the most appreciative response came when our Congressman told us about a recent visit to the White House with nine other legislators, all of whom arrived in a van. Judge Poe drove his Jeep, which is tricked out to make it bigger, louder and more Texan than the average Jeep – including a big banner on the back which reads: "TEXAS IS BIGGER THAN FRANCE."

U.S. District Judge **Ron Clark** introduced the Judge, reminding us that our Congressional District includes 660,000 people, 28 cities, a Port, refineries and crawfish farms – a very diverse area, making it tough on someone who spends Mondays through Fridays in Washington.

From his appearance Wednesday, it would appear that Judge Poe thrives on that kind of challenge.

Thank you, Ron, for arranging Judge Poe's visit with us.

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