



SURIBACHI SNOWBALLS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 13:

Thurs., Dec 13 @ 6 pm
Holiday Party at
Rutledge Party Barn
"Coat Drive"

December 20:

Christmas
No Meeting

December 27:

Christmas
No Meeting

January 03:

Larry Webb
"The Rotary Foundation"

January 10:

Al Olson
Dallas Arboretum:
"Behind the Scenes"

January 17:

Earnest Burke
MLK Presentation

January 24:

Dewy Elliot, COO
Trident Response Group

January 31:

Karla Oliver
Plano ISD "Teacher of the Year"

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Vance Bryson	Dec 03
James Lowe	Dec 03
Earl Simpkins	Dec 03
Nathan Barbera	Dec 09
Johnny Lewis	Dec 10
Kenny Wilson	Dec 11
Jamee Jolly	Dec 13
Nancy Humphrey	Dec 19
Laurel Roberts	Dec 20
James Cooper	Dec 23
Herbert Hoxie, Sr.	Dec 23
Chuck Morgan	Dec 27



Sainted Editor thanks **Lori Phantom Crocheter Roberts** for editing the Bulletins while **Pat** and I were in South America. He would like to thank **Tim McCord** for the photographs, but Tim was AWOL this day; so **Sainted Editor** co-opted **DGE Ean** for photographer duty, handing him a Point-and-Shoot with a dead battery! Ean used his cellphone camera herein instead.

LENNY THE LAMPLIGHTER opened the meeting on a sad note: former member **Joe Bob Price** has passed away. Also, **Alan Feigenbaum** is at the *Mayo Clinic* having a tumor removed from his arm. To make up for such unpleasant news, **LENNY** called WWII veteran, **Don Gray**, to sing the *Star Spangled*



Banner to a non-ironic round of applause. Then he called upon **Joe Foor** to pray and **David McWhorter** to pledge.

LENNY quoted from Congressman **Solomon Ortiz** (D, TX): "From the bitter cold winter at Valley Forge, to the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Iraq, our soldiers have courageously answered when called, gone where ordered, and defended our nation with honor."



Aggie **SERGEANT DU MOIS Pam Little** introduced the Visiting Rotarians **Bert Kraft** (Metro), **David Craig** (Sunrise), **Mark Thomason** (Park Cities), and ADG **Kent Stone**.



We had a "whole passel" of guests including **John Pittman's Jim Burton**, **Nancy Humphrey's Karen Thunert**, **Ray Huffine's former member Ken Kersey** and his



wife, **Donna, Rutledge Haggard's wife, Sue, Larry Flannery's guest** (introduced by **Jamee Jolly** in **FLASH'S** absence) **Sara Aker**, **Charles Milby's Jimmie Bouche**, **Lori**



Roberts' John Caldwell, **Patti Schwartz's Linda Plant**, **Bob Pikna's guest, Meredith Walker**, and **Scary Bob's Laura Leppert**.



Patti was surprised with a **Happy Birthday** wish from husband **LENNY** and the all the members.

Laura was awarded a minute to fête the WWII vets who had visited today, but she offered them the opportunity to speak, so all bets were off.



First she presented a video of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. (Given that the Battle of Iwo Jima was the toughest of the War, it is only appropriate that “*Suribachi*” translates as “*grinding bowl*,” as in mortar and pestle.) Then she called up Don Gray and **Clyde Jackson**, two WWII vets who had witnessed that flag raising!

She said that she had taken Clyde back to Iwo Jima, but Don’s wife had been ill, and he couldn’t take the trip with them. Laura’s going to return with Don.



Clyde reported that he was unnerved by the quicksand-quality beach sand. This time around, he “climbed” Suribachi in a minibus only to find the Japanese flag flying. (The island was returned to Japan in 1968.) Japan does not permit any other flag to fly, but Laura and the crew broke out Old Glory to honor the 6,800 Allies killed and 19,200 wounded there.

Don said his buddies told him returning wouldn’t help, but he wants to lie on the beach where he’d hunkered down against enemy fire and savor how vulnerable he was. He mentioned a Japanese officer running toward them strapped into satchel explosives and detonating himself. Don lamented the destruction of his ceremonial sword. He related an anecdote about his IED constructed of gasoline and C4 (plastic explosive) that he and a buddy used to silence a machine gun nest, but not before enduring withering friendly-fire from a Sherman tank!

LENNY thanked them all and went on to congratulate the TCU *Horned Frogs* on their win against the *Longhorns* that resulted in the podium mascot’s frowny face. Someone unkind noted that **LENNY** hadn’t set the frown.

Chris Parr beebled on about foreign clubs receiving our banner without returning any. He brought back only one from the *Miraflores Rotary Club* of Lima, Peru.



Scary Bob rose to challenge our new sound system. (It lost.) He introduced **Gary Lawson**, CEO of **SNOWBALL EXPRESS**, and company lawyer **Jeff Osgood**, a Vietnam vet. **Bob Pikna** shared a joke with Gary during the introduction which brought **Scary Bob** to a complete standstill. Had he known the joke was about the ironic applause greeting, **Scary Bob**, he might have relaxed.

Many of us have seen stories of our Nation’s fallen heroes on the news, often heroic, always a tragic loss of life. Since the attack on

9/11, our all volunteer military has served in two wars, in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is an often unseen and unsung group of heroes we hear little about. They didn’t enlist. They are the children of our Nation’s fallen.

Jeff Osgood, a prominent Dallas attorney, an experienced business litigator in the Dallas office of *Strasburger & Price, LLP*, now serves as Counsel to the National non-profit, *Snowball Express*, following in the footsteps of his partner, Gary Lawson, now Chairman of *Snowball Express*.

- Jeff served in the US Army 1964-67 (Sergeant)
- 1st BN, 504th Inf. 82nd Airborne Div.-Dominican Republic
- 5th Special Forces Group-ABN-Vietnam

Snowball Express is a national non-profit, 501 (c) (3), based in Texas and it is our mission to help provide positive new memories and healing for the children and families of fallen military heroes. There are an estimated 8,000 children who have lost parents defending our nation’s freedom since September 11, 2001.

Every year *Snowball Express* extends an invitation to these families with children between the ages of 5 and 18 to attend a late November early December free, five-day, four-night holiday gala that is organized almost exclusively by volunteers, who raise more than a million dollars in cash and in-kind donations.

Snowball Express is a unique organization. There is no other military non-profit with the exception of TAPS (*Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors*) that offers an opportunity for the families and in particular the children to come together and to experience confirmation that America treasures their heroes and that affords real meaningful opportunities to see a future without so much pain. We make their healing experience possible.

This November 30-December 4th, *Snowball Express* has registered nearly 1,800 children and surviving spouses for the gala.

Jeff spoke first, saying that he’d joined a different Army when he was 17, an army of mostly single men. Death then meant no loss of a father. He quoted an opinion that soldiers should be single, but dismissed it at once. But a family does mean that those left behind are in need of solace and to recover. He pointed to brochures on our tables and offered copies of a PowerPoint presentation too long for our program.



He noted that soon after a parent dies in the military, the family is evicted from military housing. So kids must make new friends in a new community.

Jeff said that a primary sponsor is *American Airlines* in spite of its hard economic times. They offer a charter service with pilots vying for the privilege of carrying the families from 26 cities to the gala site.

Gary showed a video in the background while speaking over the audio. He said that he began *Snowball Express* by honoring a son’s promise to his grandson to go to **DISNEPLAND**. Based in Dallas, *Snowball Express* can’t compete with **DISNEPLAND**. But they attend the *Mesquite Rodeo*, closing the highway to all but *Snowball* traffic! This year they’ll close roads to the *Fort Worth Rodeo*.

Children field questions they should never have to answer: How did your father die? Did he kill anyone? And they are confused by their own pain and emotions. He told of one girl struggling with such a burden. Her mother was called in by the school principal, expecting to hear terrible things, but was told she’d been screaming, “*Snowball Express*.” The principal thought that to be a dissociative



breakdown until the mother explained that she'd been invited to the charity's gala. The girl went and mentored other children.

Snowball Express has been debating moving its headquarters from Dallas to San Diego or San Antonio, but has decided to remain in Dallas.

The charity has one employee and 800 volunteers. Two years ago, *British Petroleum* paid for the aviation fuel, but this year, American Airlines itself is picking up the tab.

Neiman Marcus has arranged an unusual gift: it permits each child to pick out one gift for their parent!

Jeff says that, as a lawyer, he cringes at the sight of 100 kids chasing a calf at the Rodeo, but he fights the urge to object.

At the galas, *Chili's* feeds and *Dr. Pepper/Snapple* waters the multitudes. He recommended that we visit the web site:

<http://www.snowballexpress.org> for more information and to make a donation.

Jeff concluded the presentation by reading us the comments of two of the program's participants. One said that, having attended the gala every year, she has made friends "closer than family."

LENNY told Gary and Jeff about **OPERATION ONCE IN A LIFETIME** that we support, giving them the dogtags to prove it. Then he touted *Flags of our Fathers*, written by the son of one of the flag raisers. It not only chronicles that day but also gives a "sense of what it is like to be a military child."

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, he dispersed the unruly crowd at 1:03.



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Know someone who would make a great Rotarian?
Invite them to be your guest at Rotary!

The 4 Way Test:

Of the things we think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Marco Amoyo
Kim Reasoner
Faye Breedon
Lynette Fedash
James Burton
Diana Dues
Don Rosics
Deborah Stewart
Bill Conerd
Jordan Case
April Spigner

Visiting Rotarian

David Craig

Guest Of

Mike Robnett
UNT
Mike Robnett
Mike Robnett
John Pittman
Lori Roberts
Mike Robnett
Jim Cooper
Mike Robnett
Mike Robnett
Reedy Spigner

Home Club

Plano Sunrise

Member NEWS

New Member Proposal:

Larry Bisno
Classification: Health Care
Proposed by: John Ernst

Sara Akers
Classification: Children's Theater
Proposed by: Larry Flannery

James Burton
Classification: Telecommunications
Proposed by: John Pittman

AWARDS:

Athena Award:
Camille Ussery
Citizen of the Year:
Jamie Schell
Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year:
The Shops at Willow Bend (Octavio & his team)

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