

Rotary



BE THE INSPIRATION

2018-2019

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Feb 28th**  
**Michel Thomas & Charmain Soloman**  
**And My Possibilities – New Possibilities**

**Mar 7th**  
**NO NOON METING**  
**(First Thursday of the month)**



ENDPOLIONOW

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Padgett, Hayden	Feb 01
Kramer, Jason	Feb 07
Reeves, Roy	Feb 09
Langford, Randy	Feb 11
Oliver, Karla	Feb 13
Greif, Sam	Feb 14
Grady, Rick	Feb 27
Moebius, Carolyn	Feb 27
Walters, Kyle	Feb 27



ROTARY  
SERVING  
HUMANITY

# WINTER Weekly

Volume 270, Issue 335, February 28th, 2019

# Reader

The Plano Rotary Club  
[www.PlanoRotary.com](http://www.PlanoRotary.com)

## VAN TAYLOR VS. THE MOUSE KING!

**I**n this corner, the crowd favorite, **King Mouse!** In the other corner is the scrappy upstart who would soon be the U.S. Congressman from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Toy Soldier **Van Taylor**. So from an early age, he knew how to dance around issues.



**Carrolyn the Petite** drew our attention at 12:13, calling upon **Blair Ritchey** for the Invocation and **Hayden Padgett** for the Pledge. She credited **John Caldwell** and **Joe Camarena** with Greeting, then called **SERGEANT NANCY** to introduce no Visiting Rotarians. (Nigeria had abandoned us.)



**NANCY** "welcome[d] back" **David McWhorter** who introduced his "new friend" and Realtor™, **Colleen Alstadt**. **Joe Camarena** bade us welcome **Peggy Fenwick**, who has applied for membership in our august body.

We got an invitation to a Hendrick Scholarship fundraiser on 7 March at *Classic BMW*. We are to visit the website to accept.

John Caldwell announced a need for judges and facilitators at the 4-Way Test



Speech contest on 30 March. He reminded us of our winning streak with (mostly) home-schoolers in 2015, '16, and '17. Then he returned to the podium to receive his 6-year Rotary Service pin.



**SERGEANT NANCY** fined **Hubert Aaron** for his persistently ringing phone for which "G\*d may forgive you." She then proceeded to harass the membership with coy threats of the 3-minute embarrassment before settling on speaker, Rep. Van Taylor, known to be a good sport.

His 1<sup>st</sup> car was a *Jeep Cherokee* with over 100K miles on it; he used it to drive to and from college. **DEF LEPPARD**, an 80s "hair band" is his favorite. The weirdest thing happening to him while in office was when friend **Dan Crenshaw** and he approached a Security checkpoint and the staffer manning the gate recognized Dan, motioning him to go around while "your aide must go through" the metal detector. His TARDIS moment would be the Battle of

continued on page 2



Gettysburg from 1-4 July 1863 because “*there are more monuments there than on any other battlefield in the world.*” It was then that he admitted to being in a grammar school production of **THE NOTURACKER**. His mother pushed him into the role of a Toy Soldier, but he used the experience to good effect when he related his “*pitched battle*” with the Mouse King to his children. Even though he received overwhelming peer pressure to do so in Iraq, he refrained from “*getting a tattoo*” (or inhaling).

Since **Olin** was AWOL, **Carrolyn the Petite** did the honors, introducing Rep. Taylor

A 7<sup>th</sup> generation Texan, Van Taylor is a family man, businessman, and decorated Iraq War Veteran. Growing up, Van earned his Eagle Scout from the future President **George Bush**.

After High School, Van attended Harvard College from which he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History. After graduating college, Van volunteered to serve his country and received a commission in the United States Marine Corps.

He attended The Basic School, Infantry Officer Course, and graduated 1<sup>st</sup> in his class from Sniper Employment Officer Course. He completed Intelligence School as the Marine Honor Graduate and commanded First Marine Regiment’s Reconnaissance Platoon in Camp Pendleton, CA. After completing that assignment, he served as an intelligence officer for an artillery battalion. Van earned the Navy Achievement Medal for devising a quantitative combat power analysis system.

Van Taylor joined the Marine Corps Reserves to continue serving his country while earning his MBA at Harvard Business School. He served in Fourth Civil Affairs Group, graduation from the John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare at Ft. Bragg, NC. He joined 4<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion as a platoon commander for Charlie Company.

On September 11, 2001, Van was serving his final day at the 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group in the Anacostia Naval Annex. He was supposed to have lunch at the Pentagon that day, but instead watched smoke rise from across the Potomac River as the Pentagon burned from the 9-11 terrorist attack.

That day, Van swore to always serve and make a difference. Two years after September 11<sup>th</sup>, Van deployed to Iraq where he fought with 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company. While deployed, Van led the first platoon into Iraq for his brigade and a mission that rescued 31 wounded Marines during the pitched Battle of An Nasiriyah. For his service in Iraq, the Marine Corps awarded Captain Taylor with Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Navy Commendation Medal with “V” for valor.

Van and his wife, Anne, married after his return from Iraq and are the proud parents of three young girls: Laura, Helen, and Susie. (So he’s always outvoted 4:1.)

From April 2020 to January 2015, Van Taylor represented District 66 in the Texas House of Representatives. From January 13, 2015—January 3, 2019, Taylor served as a Member of the Texas Senate, representing Eighth Senate District of Texas. On January 3, 2019, Van Taylor was sworn in as a Member of the United States Congress, representing Texas Third Congressional District.

Congressman Van Taylor is proud to serve on the following House Committees in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress: the Committee on Homeland Security, specifically, the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation (CIPI), and the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management and Accountability (OMA), and the House Committee on Education, where he serves on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, and the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Today, Van, his wife, and their three daughters reside in Plano near the land Van’s great-grandfather farmed during the Great Depression.

Van admitted to a criminal background: his family fled to Texas in 1826 to escape extradition just in time to experience the Texican Revolution in 1835. What started as a territory with fewer than 20K people grew to over 200K by the first census.

Van thanked us for the invitation to speak, praising Rotary for its efforts with Polio “*and eyesight*,” thus confusing us with (harrumph) Lion’s Clubs.

When he and wife, **Ann**, came to Plano, Van was the Republican Precinct Chair. With their first child, “*toddling down the street*,” they encountered a Party Operative who told him that Rep. **Brian McCall** was not running for reelection and Van should consider taking that post. He did, was elected, and was sworn in at Plano City Hall. His first bill was to provide electronic ballots for military personnel which resulted in a 150% increase in their absentee ballots! Since it was a motherhood and apple pie issue, it was a bipartisan bill. (We need more of those to get the parties back in the habit.)



He had been in the House but stood for the Senate and won in 2014. As a freshman Senator, he was “*silent for the first 42 days*,” just seeing how it all went. And he is grateful to all of us for the opportunity to the 8<sup>th</sup> District. With **Sen. Van de Putte** he introduced a bill to monitor the prescription of Fentanyl.

He recently held an Open House for his constituents that attracted 200 people. He’s convinced that “*the best ideas come from the people I work for*.” For example, the mother of a woman who was stalked by a felon, who threatened to kill her when he’s released, was worried that her name is on the voting and property rolls, allowing him to find her to carry out his threat. Van created and passed a bill to permit hiding her name and those of others in the same predicament.

Dan Crenshaw’s aide was invited with him to attend a lunch with President **Trump**, but she couldn’t go, so Dan took Van as his plus one. They ate in the **Teddy Roosevelt** Room with his two medals on display. (The Medal of Honor [for charging San Juan Hill] and the Nobel Peace Prize



[for brokering the Russo-Japanese peace negotiations].) Later the aide laughed at Van's explanation of what she had missed: steak and apple pie. He swore he didn't have to "*sing for my supper.*"

He's been listening to his President, and he hears "*the same thing everywhere.*" In particular, "*We're gonna build a wall; you're gonna love it!*" So he's spending his time with Democrats because they hold "*the keys to the car of getting things done.*"

**Jeff Beckley** comments that the "Democrats like **DEF LEPPARD**" too. He wanted to know how Van plans to "*resolve the political divide.*" Van said that "*Texas is very bipartisan,*" and he plans to do "*everything possible to bring Democrats*" to the table, but the climate in D.C. today is to "*take bills as far as possible from Democratic interests.*"

As an example of bipartisan interests, he cited a bill he proposed to seal the criminal records of those sentenced to less than a year in jail and who commit no additional crimes upon release. That permits them to regain their civil rights. There is no such statute at the Federal level; he aims to rectify that. There's also no provision for "*digital stalking across State lines.*"

John Caldwell noted that our infrastructure has "*no safeguards against hacking.*" Van told him that whereas there are some safeguards there is "*no standard of protection.*" Since we are "*vulnerable on a lot of levels,*" he is beginning "*a conversation with Democrats.*" Homeland Security, on which committee he sits, "*definitely needs to know how to strengthen infrastructure.*"

**Mark Geller** asked this student of History where Teddy Roosevelt's son was buried. The answer was Normandy, France.

Rutledge told a story about his grandson asking whether or not a wall he was viewing was "*Trump's wall.*" Then he asked, "*Will there be a wall?*" Van said that we have had "25 years of wall" stretching 650 miles. "Everybody was OK with that until the President asked for it." While illegal crossings have dropped significantly in recent years, only 4% of all arrests in that regard occur where there

is a wall. And Obama built 100 miles of wall. So it's America's wall, "*not Trump's wall.*"

**Camille Ussery** asked about the State of the Union. Van noted that the auditorium in which it took place was built in 1865, expressly to hold both houses of Congress. He was pleased with the President's unifying message of "*gridlock vs. greatness.*" To get anything done requires Democrats in a split Congress.

**John Priest** inquired about term limits. And Van agreed there "*is definitely a time when you should pack it in,*" but the complication of the Federal Government suggests an advantage accrues to having institutional memory.

Hayden Padgett asked whether it's possible to change the culture in Washington. Van began to discuss that possibility as a result of the new Congressional members and leadership, but his mic failed. So he asked, "*Is that a sign?*" He noted that it's "*not physically possible for one person to read*" an entire budget bill.

Van asked **Kelly Palmer**, "*How's your son doin'?*" and received confirmation that West Point went well and he's off to MIT! (That's \$5 to the kitty, Kelly.) Members opined that the apple fell far from the tree on that one; Kelly confirmed that Mary accuses him of "*foolin' around.*" But he had a question: has the military enough money to do its job? Van paraphrased Roman poet Cicero saying "*infinite sums of money are the sinews of the military.*" We've asked our forces to do the impossible in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, and all across the globe. "*Allies are important*" facing "*this broad array of threats.*" We have to "*stay in Syria and finish the job.*"

**Maria Mott** asked about administrative thinking (oxymoron?) about **Maduro's** Venezuela and was told that the government there has taken the country with the highest GDP in the world and rendered it a basket case. The "importance of government" was exemplified by the average annual salaries in the Koreas: \$30,000 vs. \$250.

After a photo-op and the bestowal of our signature honorarium (flash drive) and the 4-Way test, we were released at 1:01.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

### The Plano Rotary Club

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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Colleen Alstadt

Peggy Fenwick

### Visiting Rotarian

None

### Guest of

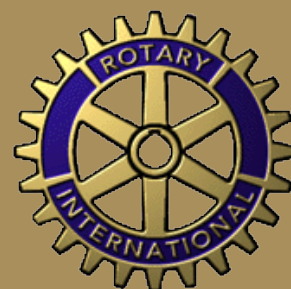
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a serving heart



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## NEW MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS



**New Member : Peggy Fenwick**

Proposed by: Joe Camarena

Classification : Insurance

Peggy has been representing Allstate insurance since 2013 and is a Plano Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. She has two daughters and three grandchildren. She loves music and theatrical productions, various sports, and loves to travel and see new places



**New Member : Eric Eisenhard**

Proposed by: Rick Horne

Classification: Financial Advisor

Eric is a financial advisor with Raymond Jones. He is actively involved in Christ Church Plano and running youth basketball coaches' clinics. Eric is married to Megan and have two boys, Owen and Henry. The four of them enjoy traveling, sports, exercise, and wrestling matches in the living room.