

Spring  
Weekly

# Reader



Volume 6, Issue 131, June 3, 2010

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

## MEMORABLE DAY



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 6/3 Troy Villarreal  
"Medical Center of Plano"
- 6/10 Senator John Corona
- 6/17 Duncan Day Advertising  
"Social Media Networking"
- 6/24 Queen Susan Schuler
- 7/1 John Ernst  
"New Rotary Year"

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1.....JEFF FRAUENHEIM
- 6/6.....TON MUEHLENBECK
- 6/7.....CHARLES MILBY
- 6/8.....MARK WATERBURY
- 6/9.....MARK GELLER
- 6/9.....WAYNE HENDRICK
- 6/12.....BRAD KEITH
- 6/14.....LEE DUNLAP
- 6/19.....BOB BAUER
- 6/22.....PHILLIP BOZZO

**R**ANDY Wright and Ean Sullivan are among the many veterans in the Club. But both of them are Bulletin Photographers, so when they stood up with all of the other veterans, **Sainted Editor** had to pull photographer duty and neglected his editing. Hence, he was not at his post to record comments by **WWII** veterans **Lowell Culver** and **LB the Good**. **Sainted Editor** apologizes in advance for sketchy remembrance of those comments herein.



**iron butterfly** opened the meeting at 12:10, calling upon Ean to give the invocation and **Kirk Bell** to give the Pledge of Allegiance. Kirk didn't gift us with a **Market Minute**, but, appropriate to his current duty, he read us a speech by **John McCain** on the Pledge of Allegiance.



As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell.

In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967.

Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of

the opportunities this country-and our military-provide for people who want to work and want to succeed. As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to pledge allegiance to our flag and our country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

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## MEMORABLE DAY *continued...*

Kirk was unaware at the time that our meeting would include an honoring of all the Club's veterans, so his reading was spontaneous. And, true to tradition, when he had concluded leading us in the Pledge, he offered, "Thanks, *Bob*."

Susan thanked **Octavio Ortiz** and **Hugo Esparza** for greeting, and then she called upon **SERGEANT JENKINS** to help us welcome the many guests. **Earnest** introduced us to Prodigal Daughter **Lanell**, a



battered **Kelly Palmer** introduced his wife, **Mary** (presumably no relation to the broken arm), and **Lee Dunlap** welcomed **Marci Holloway** with the hint that her membership would help us "achieve balance," her specialty. He marveled at "a banker going around with an attorney," to which Skip muttered, "a marriage made in Hell."



Perfect Attendance pins went to Octavio Ortiz (3) and *Scary Bob Epstein* (23).

*Bob* then introduced us to the *Wounded Warrior Program* that provides survival care packages for the 20,000 injured soldiers in this country. He told us about a fundraising Golf Outing on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at *Brookhaven Country Club*. It is sponsored by the *Association of the United States Army's* North Texas Chapter. We should see *Bob* if we're interested.



Susan identified the culprit in the missing dessert tray. It was former member and Past President **Nathan White, Jr.**, who had returned to the Club to help it celebrate its 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had brought with him an enormous cake for the occasion.



Nathan said that when we were chartered (1945), we were Rotary's 5,997<sup>th</sup> club. Now Rotary has grown to over 33,000 clubs. Plano Rotary was the 3<sup>rd</sup> club in Collin County after McKinney and Farmersville. Nathan says he joined the Club 35 years ago and rose to District Governor by 1980. But he wasn't a charter member. (Indeed there are no charter members still with us.) However, **Randy Brodhead's** father, **John**, was a charter member as were **A.R. Schell, Jr.**, **Jack Harrington** (1<sup>st</sup> President), **Lester "Doc" Floyd**, **Homer Horton**, Mayor **Fred Miers**, and School Superintendent **E.A. Sigler**. Nathan urged us to "cherish its history."

Wishing the Club a "Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," Susan had those with the longest record of attendance in the Club stand before the cake. They included

- **Herb Hoxie** (46)
- **Brad Keith** (39)
- **Jeff Frauenheim** (39)
- **L.B. Showalter** (38)
- **Randy Wright** (38)
- **Tino Trujillo** (35)
- **Mark Geller** (34)
- **Boyd Craig** (32)
- **Howard Shapiro** (32)
- **John Edwards III** (32)
- **Sherman Millender** (32) and
- **Jim Murrell** (31)



Then she had our newbies stand on the other side of the room. These included

- **Andy Sayers** (1)
- **Chuck Morgan** (1)
- **Dennis Fuller** (1)
- **Dwight McFolin** (1)
- **Emelia Ahmed** (1)
- **Hugo Esparza** (1)
- **Jerry Arias** (1)
- **John Shao** (1)
- **Marty Murff** (1)
- **Sarah Watkins** (1)
- **Cathy Fang** (0)
- **Herb Ziev** (0)
- **Jeff Butcher** (0)
- **Scarlette Dale** (0) and
- **Jeff Hennigan** (0)



She asked those with more than 29 years tenure to cut the cake, and those with less than 2 years tenure to serve it to the Club. And we all eventually enjoyed dessert!



While it was being served,



Susan noted **Kelly Palmer's** birthday check, and she presented **John Ernst** with an appreciation plaque for his efforts in the **SOAP BOY DERBY**.

PISD Board Chair Skip Jenkins introduced the **TEACHERS OF THE YEAR** just finishing up their term: **Pam Clark** of *Vines High School* and **Beth Renshaw** of *Mendenhall Elementary*. This was their last hurrah, a \$500 check each from Plano Rotary. They "high-fived" one another upon its receipt. **Karla Oliver** had prepared a video that appeared to be out-takes as the teachers were caught unaware and unprepared in some scenes. Nevertheless, Skip praised them as fine ambassadors and excellent examples of and for the teachers, carrying out the **TEACHER OF THE YEAR** duties while meeting all their normal classroom ones. They were given an opportunity to make one last speech, but they were already skipping off in the direction of the local *Manolo Blahnik* outlet, checks in hand.



Susan asked all the Past Presidents to stand. These included

- **Jim Murrell** (1968)
- Nathan White, Jr. (1975)
- **L.B. THE RADIANT** (1977)
- Mark Geller (1980)
- Sherman Millender (1981)
- **Gary Basham** (1984)
- Howard Shapiro (1986)
- Tino Trujillo (1989)
- **Johnny Lewis** (1994)
- **Jamie Schell** (1998)
- Skip Jenkins (1999)
- Ean Sullivan (2000)
- **Mary Jo Dean** (2002)
- **Jo Via** (2004)
- **Ken Roberts** (2005)
- **Bruce Glasscock** (2006)
- **Kyle Walters** (2007) and
- **Rick Maucieri** (2008)

*continued on page 3*



## MEMORABLE DAY *continued...*

And she told them how much she was looking forward to joining them on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Someone cruel shouted, "We can't wait!"

But the program wasn't over yet. Susan announced a

### TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

with two more videos from the prolific computer of Karla Oliver! These offered country music jingles honoring the *American Soldier* and a salute to the branches of the Armed Forces. Susan asked those whose services were represented to stand and be recognized as each appeared in the video. All the forces except the Coast Guard were represented; the odd thing about it is that each force was represented at the same table! Birds of a feather!



When the video finished, she asked the veterans to assemble at the front of the room and the Club stand to honor them. She singled out three veterans of **WWII**, Lowell Culver & L.B. Broach. (**Herb Hoxie** had left the building.)

And she presented Lowell with a soon-to-be-framed article on VE Day (May 7<sup>th</sup>) from *The Dallas Morning News* highlighting him as a **WWII** vet:



<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/050810dnmetveda.y.3a28b0d.html>

The story highlighted Lowell's heroism in landing his flaming bomber when the safest thing to do would have been to bail out. But that wasn't an option for **Ed Norris**, a crewmember who had been struck by shrapnel and would not have survived a bailout. So Lowell landed the bomber in a



ploughed field and herded everyone out to safety while the plane burned up. Although Norris lost his arm to that event, he hailed Lowell as having saved his life by sticking with him.

Lowell recounted this for us, leaving a hard act to follow for LB. LB told us that he was in the chaplains' service and "fought the Battle of SMU," having entered the war in its waning months.

Susan recommended that we thank those who had made us free, and then she led us in the Four-Way Test and closed the proceedings with a minute to spare at 12:59.



*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?

## Member NEWS

### AWARDS:

**Harold Sullivan Award**  
Chris Parr

**Athena Award**  
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

**Fred Moses Award**  
Richard Butterfly

**Business Executive of the Year**  
Gary Base

**Kersey Cane Holder:**  
Earl Simpkins

**Citizen of the Year:**  
Beth Duncan Webb

**Rotary Make Up Website:**  
[www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)

**New Member Proposals:**

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