



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 02, January 13th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan 13th
Christina Day
City of Plano Comprehensive Plan

Jan 20th
Rick Horne
*Daddy Rabbit Takes a Stroll
Stories from his infamous adventures*

Jan 27th
Dr Mark Gamber
*Collin County ME
State of the County –
Medically Speaking*

Feb 3rd
John Bramblitt
Artist



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pam Little	Jan 04
Mike McCormack	Jan 15
Jerry Aris	Jan 17
Randy Brodhead	Jan 20
Paul Hernandez	Jan 25
Carter House	Jan 31

The Sissy Wifferdill

Captain Kirk Bell was with us in spirit as he bribed **Sainted Editor** to ask the speaker, **Lt. Gen. John Campbell**, a simple question: “Is



the **Wifferdill** a sissy drink?” Recognizing the reference immediately, Gen. Campbell launched into a full rendition of the Air Force’s Icelandic drinking chant! Kirk should have been there.

He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena, opened the meeting at 12:07, summoning **John Caldwell** for the Invocation. He gave **Sainted Editor** the opportunity to distribute N95 masks to the half dozen brave enough to accept them despite disapproval by the armed militias. (Omicron is so contagious that the estimate now is that 80% of the population will become infected.)

Joe also noted the opportunity to nominate the next Rotarian of the Month. We’ve been doing this so long as a modest sized Rotary Club that some-

one was obliged to ask for a list of all who have earned it. Joe asked for past recipients to stand, and he augmented that display with recognition of those not present so honored.

Rick Horne reprised his role at **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** in **Hayden Padgett’s** absence. (Hayden was AWOL, mayhap seeing to his duties as Grand Poobah of the Young Republicans. One hopes that doesn’t take him to FL.) Rick cautioned us about the \$5 fine for smartphone interruptions (“\$10 for visitors”), and proceeded to welcome former members **Past President Rick “Philly” Maucieri**, **Lynn “Lenny” Schwartz**, and **Randy “Always” Wright** from the Plano East Club. Rick M. had brought a couple of guests, CPA **Barry Hayes** and Realtor[®] **Richard Webb**. **Porcha Maten’s** guest,



Lin Adi, and donor of the massive pizza spread, introduced herself, noting her Credit Union’s good works over the holidays, feeding 300 police officers (someone suggested donuts) and helping the Salvation Army with food and toys. As the Union’s representative responsible for its Plano District, Lin suggested that we permit it to help us with our good works.

Pam Little, official Birthday Girl of the day, reported on the success of Angel Tree at the Samaritan Inn. She noted **Ean “Santa” Sullivan’s** spiffy new



green vest, chronicled on the cover of the last Bulletin, and said that COVID protocols were observed, keeping the kids away from the adults. They were watching a Rudolf the Reindeer video when “Santa” joined them. Pam said that the Club received copious thanks from very appreciative parents. (And the 400 donuts were definitely overkill.)

Joe read the Inn’s thank you letter (pg. 2 of the last Bulletin) and mentioned the success of the joint Holiday Party with its 76 participants and >100 Coats for Cops. John Caldwell announced that we had secured \$9,000 for ShelterBoxes for Syria, and they were awaiting the \$3,000 match from 5810. He also solicited judges for the upcoming Four-Way Test Speech Contest.



Joe fêted members hitting Rotary tenure milestones, himself, **Mary Jo Dean** (27!), **Kathy Taylor**, and Chris Parr. He then read the birthday list (see 1st page) and compelled us to sing HB2U. “We *gotta* work on that!”

He read the openings for Club officers and said that we’d vote new officers in at the next meeting. We were encouraged to volunteer (not necessarily ourselves).

Judge **Johnny Lewis** mentioned that former member **Clark Melke**, “*The Cat Doctor*,” passed away and that his services would be held (two hours prior to our meeting!).

Bob Kehr introduced Lt. Gen. Campbell, who served for 32 years in the Air Force. He has commanded the 31st and 325th Fighter Wings, been Deputy Director for Operations at the Pentagon, and Assoc. Director of Central Intelligence at the CIA. He has

flown assignments in Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Germany, and Italy. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, Air Medal, CIA Distinguished Service Award, National Imagery and Mapping Award, National Reconnaissance Distinguished Service Medal, and the NSA Award. His community service includes numerous board appointments. He lives in McKinney with wife, Marky, and they entertain five grandchildren!

Gen. Campbell praised our Geriatric Rotary Club of Plano as a “*younger demographic than I’m used to.*” He fired up a PowerPoint™ presentation to address his two topics: How we developed an armed Predator and the Heroes of Roberts’ Ridge.



A Predator used to be a RPA (remotely piloted aircraft) but now is described as a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle). It is a drone, and “*our adversaries use them too.*” The MQ1B Predator requires a pilot, but the pilot can be halfway around the world (in AZ). It is large (48’ wingspan) and slow (90 km/hr), but can maintain its station for 24 hours! And it has been retired (since March 2018) in favor of the highly classified and even larger and more intimidatingly-named **Reaper!**

It entered Gen. Campbell’s life after his Pentagon stint when he was transferred to Langley, which he took to mean Langley AF Base, so he was stunned to hear it meant Langley, the CIA HQ in VA. He served as liaison between the DOD and CIA and was assigned to the Counter Terrorism Program in the summer of 2000.

His preoccupation was Al Qaeda, so he was surveilling **Osama bin Laden** prior to 9/11. He used the then unarmed Predator drone to keep a surreptitious eye on Al Qaeda training camps near Kandahar from a base on Afghanistan's northern border. Keeping an eye on a nearby mosque at prayer time, he spotted a tall figure in white treated with great respect by an Al Qaeda security detail. That had to be bin Laden, but the unarmed drone had no offensive capability.

Long story short: they fitted the Predator with Hellfire Missiles, useful against vehicles, and tested it on a makeshift desert dwelling at China Lake testing range. The missile traveled the Predator's laser beam and successfully destroyed the target. (The dwelling was labeled with a sign "Hellfire Tacos.")

Then came the "hard part." The AF owned the drone, but the CIA flew it. Since war wasn't declared, the AF could not launch the weapon. Since an assassination was involved, the CIA was similarly forbidden. NSC met on 9/4/2001 to discuss the dilemma, but it became moot in the next week, **911**.

The following October, the military had chased Al Qaeda to Takur Ghar, a ridge that blocked their escape to the east. A SEAL team was dispatched to the 11,000' pass to intercept them. They were backed up four helicopters and a Predator drone. The action that night was captured in the drone footage, which video Gen. Campbell ran. At 0300, the first helo caught enemy fire, was damaged, and aborted the mission, accidentally dropping a combatant, **Neal Roberts**, for whom the ridge has been rechristened.

Another aerial sortie came under fire resulting in the death of **John Chapman** around 0500. A quick reaction force of 10 Rangers and 4 USAF personnel crashed yet a 3rd helicopter within range (50 yards) of withering fire. John Chapman, who had been thought killed, bravely charged the bunker to save the lives of his rescuers. He was awarded the first since Vietnam Medal of Honor posthumously. The Predator was summoned to assist with neutralization. **Captain Nate Self** called in the Hellfire strike, which made a direct hit on the hostile bunker. But by then, other Taliban had arrived to carry on the fight until 2100. Thus went the first deployment of a Predator's arms in combat.

Neal Roberts received the Navy Cross posthumously. The commander on the scene, **Stabinski**, received it as well.

Joe thanked Gen. Campbell for both his presentation and his service. He led us in the 5-Way Test and dismissed the assembly at 1:13.



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