



SUMMER
Weekly

Reader

IMAGINE
ROTARY

Volume 22, Issue 24, July 7, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Party Time!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 7th
Nora Gravios
*Wellness Center for Seniors,
Services for Seniors*

July 14th
Angela Kelso
*Cruise Planners, Tips on
How to Travel and still have
a good time.*

July 21st
PISD Coaches Day

July 28th
Plano Public Libraries
The Written Word

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joe Camarena	Jul 01
Sara Akers	Jul 10
Larry Bisno	Jul 16
Peggy Fenwick	Jul 19
Kathy Taylor	Jul 20
Jim Monroe	Jul 22
Maria Mott	Jul 23



No speaker today or two days hence, for that matter. We met for fun and frivolity this day and at the Rotary Social on Saturday at **Nancy Humphrey's** home. President-Elect **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** had rewarded the Club with a Build-Your-Own-Sandwich (BYOS) spread which was only eclipsed by her BYOB+a covered dish event at which Nancy's husband, **Jim**, smoked a pork shoulder and Janelle provided hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone the following Saturday.

Lame Duck Joe Camarena assigned **John Priest** the Invocation and (photographer) **Peggy Fenwick** the Pledge. John's *second* role was as Greeter.

Janelle introduced her guest, PSO's Executive Director **Greg Patterson**↓



whose application is in progress. And we bade welcome **Jeff**→ **McKee**, in town looking for a Rotary to join! Baby-faced Jeff said he was older than he look, to which ↑**Gary Garza**



replied, "Yeah...and we're younger than we look." Jeff was advertised as loving "volunteering and service projects." He said he was born and raised in Plano, causing Nancy to ask where he'd gone to high school. (*Plano Senior High*, of course. Nancy was prompting for a plug.) Jeff is a Realtor®©™, but we won't hold that against him.

Janelle proudly introduced her really baby-faced granddaughter, **Caylynn**↓ **McDannell**, who had helped her with



today's feast. She plays baseball, but she's going into volleyball to make in on the Haggard Middle School team.



Float, which is under professional creation. (Presumably we can do that from the website.) The City of Plano is funding us to provide the float, so we're not out anything.

Joe then encouraged us to contribute to RI's Foundation fundraiser. It's used our funds (50% of which it returns to 5810) to create 189 grants in response to disasters last year.

President-Elect Janelle and Marco Solano attended the last RI Convention (in a Houston facility designed for 8K attendees...there were 10K). She noted the proceedings translated in half a dozen languages.

Sainted Editor made excuses for his guest, Greg Patterson, who was AWOL, preparing for the *Virtuoso Society* Dinner that evening. He dropped \$5 in the bucket to make the announcement that Greg would have about Ruby membership in the *Virtuoso Society* beginning at \$600. He failed to mention Emerald, Diamond, Platinum, and Beyond to be had at

<https://planosymphony.org/support/whygive/>
(OK, OK, I'll put another \$5 in the kitty today.)

Jerry Aris bragged on his son who has just retired after tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Egypt. Joe offered to pony up \$1 for vets or vet families starting with his own: a child who has seen the world via the Defense Dept. and a 2nd who joined ROTC then went to Iraq. Janis had a Dad in WWII. Mike McCormack had another who was in the Coast Guard and a destroyer. By the time Johnny Lewis came up with a WWII Father, Joe had run out of money, so he called up on Janelle to introduce the speaker!

Colin Cahoon is a writer of historical nonfiction and historically-based fiction, a patent attorney, and former Army helicopter pilot. He grew up in the Mesilla Valley of New Mexico and earned his B.S. in Chem. Eng. at New Mexico State University, which he attended on an Army ROTC scholarship. Colin received his Regular Army commission in 1983 and graduated with honors from the aero scout track of flight school at Fort Rucker, AL in 1984. He served with distinction as an Aero Scout Platoon Leader in the 307th Attack Helicopter Battalion of the 7th Army Division, where he accumulated over 1K hours of flight time in UM-1 and OH-58 helicopters. Capt. Cahoon resigned his com-

mission in 1988 to pursue a legal career, whereupon he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army's 2nd highest peacetime award for service. He subsequently earned his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from SMU School of Law, where he met his wife, Susan. Colin has served the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Dallas as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Stephen Minister, and Chancellor. Colin and Susan have 3 grown children and live in Dallas, TX, and Steamboat Springs, CO, where they both enjoy skiing, hiking, and fishing "the Boat."

Colin dedicated *Mended Wings* to the heroes of the Army Helicopter corps, although they wouldn't call themselves that. They say that honor they reserved for those who don't come back. "They're wrong." There were 40K helicopter crewmen in Vietnam, almost all of whom were shot down at least once. The book consists of the story of 10 of them, all but the last in chronological order. Each chapter deals with an individual, beginning with their flight into the *Shadow of Death*, backtracking through their youth, proceeding through their injuries, mental and physical rehabilitation, and finally where they are today.



Most flew Huey helicopter gunships, affectionately known as "hogs," for their being laden down with air-to-ground rockets. The first was Pruitt, a Devil-may-care kid from Aurora, CO, whose exclusive interest in girls and booze left him with grades too poor to support college entrance. So he joined the National Guard, was seduced by flying, so jumped ship to the Army,

where he flew a shotgun-wielding General whose only command was “*Show me where the enemy is, Pruitt!*”

On a fateful mission to rescue a unit surrounded by enemy near the N. Korean border, he flew into a barrage of AA fire, damaging the helicopter. But, as it was still flyable, he turned back into the fray and was shot down. His critically-burned crew chief pulled him from the wreckage just before it exploded. Both pilots suffered broken backs, but they hunkered down for 24 hours waterless in No Man’s Land before “*a surreal*” rescue. He awoke in a Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) with a priest given him the Last Rites because his (waterless) kidneys had failed and there were no working dialysis machines anywhere in Vietnam. His prognosis was to black out and die. He did black out but awoke on a medical ship at the only working dialysis machine in SE Asia. He was told, “*You’re the luckiest damn soldier in Vietnam!*”

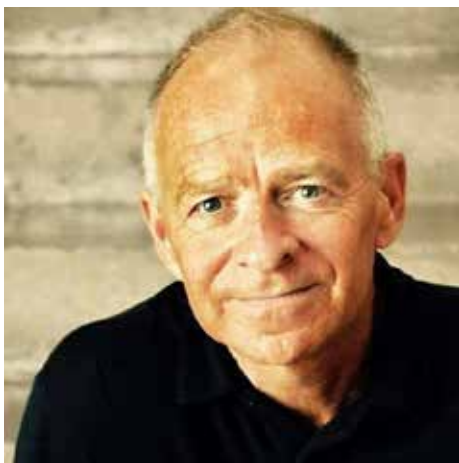
Back home, he was awarded the Purple Heart by 1st Lady **Pat Nixon**. A paraplegic, he learned to ride a horse again by being tied into the saddle. Indeed, he married the horsewoman who trained him, had 2 children, and still lives, retired, with his grandchildren.

Eddie Hester was the youngest of 7 rowdy brothers. The 5th threw a chair in anger at the School Principal. The 6th tried to follow suit only to find the chair bolted to the floor! The Principal asked Eddie why he avoided this precedence, and Eddie told him that it was pointless: the chair was still bolted.

Eddie’s **Capt. Miller** was burned beyond recognition in a crash within one month of his retirement. Eddie mission has to evac ground troops who had made a one-helicopter landing zone in the middle of a firefight. He was the 2nd of 5 on this mission, and the 1st in took heavy fire. He came in using a high-G maneuver under fire that severed his safety belt. Hovering above the tree stumps, he took fire to the chest from a machine gun nest. His crew chief was out of ammo but had an RPG strapped (illegally) to his gun. It took out the nest, and Eddie navigated his wounded bird to the hospital where it died.

Finally home from a rough tour, he was spat upon by a “*long-haired youth*” in the airport, failing miserably to thank him for his service. He cut his leave short and reenlisted because “*America was not ready for him.*”

He offered books for \$18 and told us that the audiobook of *Wings* will be out 8/23. **Joe** led us in the 5-Way Test and released us at 1:02.



Gregory Patterson

Proposed by: Janelle Twyford-Silvis

Classification: Exec. Director of PSO

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest of
Gregory Patterson	Janelle Twyford-Silvis
Jeff McKee	Janelle Twyford-Silvis
Caylynn McDannel	Janelle Twyford-Silvis
Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
none	

**OCTOBER 2021
YEARS OF SERVICE**

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