



# Rotary Notary

## Week of November 20th

### Ryan International Airlines

This week's speaker delivered a fascinating, and very dense, look into the world of aviation. Ron Ryan is the retired Founder and Former Chairman of Ryan International Airlines. He grew up in Iowa before becoming a pilot and taking a job as a Learjet Pilot in Kansas City, KS. From there, he moved to Wichita to work for a jet charter service company; a company he would later purchase and turn into Ryan Aviation Corporation (later renamed **Ryan International Airlines**).



Armed with flight credentials and the words of his father-in-law to "Do that in life which will outlast you," Ryan began a career in aviation that would touch the lives of thousands. In addition to a love for flying, Ryan has also been a lifelong problem solver, and one of his first big breaks came when he was able to retrofit a B-727 jet to hold more mail for the United States Postal Service. This earned him his first contract shipping express mail and would later lead to Ryan Aviation's operation of 44 Boeing 727s for both UPS and Emery Air.

Ron shared with us a story of being summoned to an airstrip in Illinois one time to meet with an undisclosed person for an undisclosed reason. After landing, he watched as a tall lanky man arrived in a limousine and did a walk-through of both his plane and a competitors plane that was also at the airstrip. Upon completion of his inspection, the man got back in his limo and left the strip. The man turned out to be Michael Jordan, and the job was transporting the Chicago Bulls. Ryan was awarded the contract and went on to shuttle the Bulls, as well as the 1992 Dream Team, for several years.

Throughout his travels, Ron Ryan has chartered flights carrying a variety of cargo. This includes tuna and sashimi in China, live race horses, and numerous celebrities; including U2, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, President Gerald Ford, and Henry Kissinger.

Some of his most delicate cargo came, however, following 9/11 when the U.S. State department approached him about transporting several members of the Bin Laden family back to Paris. Following such a horrific deed perpetrated against the country, the U.S. government felt it best to get those sharing a name with the perpetrator out of the country. Being despised by their native communities for even being in America, and being the unfortunate recipient of so much fear and suspicion from U.S. natives, Paris was destination the settled on, and Ryan International Airlines delivered them safely.

The story of Ryan International Airlines is captivating. So much, so, that Ron will be releasing a book on himself and his company! The book is scheduled to be done by next year's Riverfest Sundown Parade (an event his company sponsored for years). Be sure to get your copy and learn more about Ryan's exploits and the unique history of Wichita aviation.

### At Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Kevin Rathert

**Invocation, Flag Salute & 4-Way Test:**

Kevin Rathert

**Special Guests:**

**Ty Richardson** - Justin Baxter

**Ryan Blasdel** - Justin Baxter

**Aaron West** - Brian Burrus

**Eric McGonigle** - Robin McGonigle

**Barbara Crawford** - Jim Crawford

**Stuart Palmer** (2nd visit) - Jackson Hole, WY Rotary

### Member Birthdays:

Britt Fulmer - 11/22

John Alefs - 11/26

Ric Wolford - 11/28

Mark Eby - 11/29

### Wedding Anniversaries:

Schoen & Nancy Fitzgerald  
12/4 - **42 years**

### Rotary Anniversaries:

Mark Eby - 11/30

**13 years**

Bill McConnell - 12/1

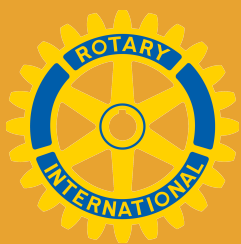
**20 years**

Scott Holder - 12/1

**8 years**

Drew Rooks - **12/2**

**6 years**



## Next Mixer:

Our next mixer will be on November 26th, following Turkey deliveries, at Fuzzy's Taco Shop at Braeburn Square at WSU. Fun starts at 5:15pm!

## NO MEETING Next Week

November 27th, on account of Thanksgiving.

## Christmas Party:

This year's Christmas Party will be on **December 12th** at Intrust Bank Arena. Contact Kim or Shane Pullman for details.

## In 2 Weeks:

**Stacy Lattin, Hopping Gnome Brewing Company**



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

*Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life.*

**- Robert Louis Stevenson**

*The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings.*

**- Henry Ward Beecher**

*When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.*

**- Willie Nelson**

*When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food & for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.*

**- Tecumseh**

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

**- William Arthur Ward**

*If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.*

**- Frank A. Clark**

*Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie.* **- Jim Davis**