



# THE SUN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN - SUN CITY  
District 5870 TUESDAYS 12 NOON  
Cowan Creek Amenity Center, Cool Spring Way  
February 28, 2012

[www.RotaryDistrict5870.com](http://www.RotaryDistrict5870.com) [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
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Life is like a ten-speed bicycle.  
Most of us have gears we never use.  
- - Charlie Brown (Charles M. Schultz)

**Last Week:** by Mark Ramsey

Valerie Covey, Williamson County Commissioner Pct. #3 spoke to our club on 2/21/12 about the growth of our county and challenges that we have. Our state has 254 counties with 4 commissioners for each county. The Commissioner stated that she was active on the Audit Committee and on the Animal Shelter for Williamson County. She stated that Phase 3 of Ronald Reagan Blvd. was on hold due to the bankruptcy of J.C. Evans. We are now taking bids on Phase 4. Valerie made the statement that many projects become difficult due to the habitat of certain insects like the Yellow Spider and the salamander. These things tend to hold up many projects. She made available the list of debts of Williamson County for information to anyone interested. A statement was made that 68% of debt is voter approved. Williamson County has improved its bond rating to AAA. Commissioner Covey was very informative on issues and stayed around to take many questions from those in attendance.

**Invocation:** Bill Thompson  
**Pledge:** Gary Sandercock  
**4-Way Test:** Charley Ray

**Guests:** Jerry Hobbs/Lou Gibson  
Steve Johnston/Herman Knodel  
John Franklin/Bob Weimer

**Visiting Rotarians:**

Judge Mark Silverstone/Downtown  
Chief Warrant Officer Derrick McGill/Downtown

**This Week:** Robert LeCour from Suddenlink Communications is **Charlie Ray's** guest.

**Next Week:** **Dick Retz** will introduce Joshua Swafford from the Olive Ranch

**Future Programmes:**

March 13	Bob Weimer will introduce Joe Austin, the new Head Coach for Southwestern's Football program, and Megan Hardin, Athletic Director
March 20	John Rutan
March 27	Bob Smith
April 3	CLUB ASSEMBLY
April 10	John Rouse
April 17	David Stuetelberg

## Dates to Remember:

March 20(Tues)	Strategic Plan Progress Report 1:15PM – all welcome
March 24-25	PETS, Dallas-Fort Worth (Presidents Elect)
April 17(Tues)	Strategic Plan Due, Report from Teams
April 28 (Sat.)	District Assembly, Killeen (All officers, committees invited)
May 6 - 9	International Convention, Bangkok, Thailand
May 19 (Sat.)	District Conference Part I, Killeen (All invited)
June 16 (Sat.)	District Conference Part II, Bastrop (All invited)
June 27 (Wed)	President's Night, Cowan Creek, (time TBA)

**MISC etc.** **Barb Pekar's** daughter celebrated her birthday this week; and **Rich Petro** has two granddaughters who are having birthdays this week; **Lou Gibson** is celebrating his birthday AGAIN just for the heck of it! **Mark Ramsey's** last daughter is preparing for her wedding; **Bill Miller's** grandson is 16 and thrilled to have his driver's license; **Doug Lowe** is delighted to have a hybrid car now; **John Rouse** bragged about his Jarrell boys being 32-0 on the season! **Kelly Barnett** is a proud grandpa for the first time; **George Olive** is thankful his oldest grandson is now back from Iraq; **Bob Elam** said very proudly his oldest grandson is a National Merit Scholar; members were urged to see the Follies before the season ends; **John Chenoweth** asked members to help the Assistance League in their fundraising effort next Monday.

Chief Warrant Officer Derrick McGill, a graduate of West Point and a frequent visitor from the Downtown club, has been called up and will be flying helicopters for a while.

**Bill Miller** advised that February is almost over and members should try to give a donation to PolioPlus before the end of the month. He also noted that India has had **0** cases of Polio this year and Rotary has played a big part in that achievement.

President **Rich Petro** said the Rotary shirts members ordered are now here and available.

## NEW MEMBERS:

**PDG Bill Bryce** inducted two members into the club: Michael Oglesby and Hugh Young. Bill talked about Rotary's noble causes, and recalled the story of Harold Roberts (see following article) as an inspiration to all of us in Rotary. Welcome to Michael and Hugh.

## Corporal Harold W. Roberts

## Medal Of Honor Recipient

Harold W. Roberts, son of John and Elfreda Roberts, was born October 14, 1895, in San Francisco, California. He was a small man, slight in stature but was a very energetic person filled with zest for living and an active imagination. While still a boy, his family lived through the great earthquake of 1906 and his mother died two years later.

After graduation from the Wilmerding School in San Francisco, he took a short trip through Mexico. He then enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley. On October 14, 1916, while attending the university, war started in Europe. Roberts anxious to do his part enlisted in the Army at Fort McDowell located on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. After basic training at Fort McDowell on Angel Island, he was assigned to the Cavalry and sent to the Philippines.

Returning, his next assignment was Camp Fremont, near Palo Alto, California, a few miles south of San Francisco. Wanting to see action, Roberts requested transfer to the Tank Corps and was accepted. He was sent to France and assigned to Company A, 344th Light Tank Battalion. Initially, the 344th was assigned to the 1st Division of the 304th Tank Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel George S. Patton, Jr.

45 two-man tanks were assigned to the Battalion only two weeks before their initial action. The tanks were the popular French Renault, weighing slightly over 7 tons and with a top speed of 7 miles an hour. Armament consisted of either a 37 mm cannon or a .30 caliber machine gun.

Roberts was well liked by his comrades and developed well as a tank driver. In an interview with Sergeant Virgil Morgan, the gunner whose life Roberts saved, Sergeant Morgan said, "Bob, as we called him, came to our company last summer and almost at once he was liked by everybody. By his good work he soon was promoted to Corporal. There never proved to be a better soldier."

On October 4, 1918, shortly after his promotion, his company was engaged in a fierce battle in the Montrebeau Woods, which was part of the famous St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensives. His company was advancing under heavy enemy artillery fire. Advancing about a mile, Sergeant Morgan and Corporal Roberts saw a disabled tank with a soldier crouched by it. As Roberts stopped his tank, the soldier crawled toward them, open the door and asked for help. They said they could not help at the moment but would return after the battle and render aid and drove off into the heart of the German artillery barrage.

Ahead lay a large mass of bushes that they thought was a machine gun nest and drove the tank into it. In an instant, they found themselves overturned. Recovering from the shock they learned the tank had fallen into a tank trap with approximately 10 feet of water in it. The tank had only one doorway and with the water rushing in Roberts said to Morgan, "Well, only one of us can get out, and out you go," and with this he pushed Sergeant Morgan from the tank. Morgan tried to assist Roberts, but with the heavy gunfire around the area, was unable to do so. After the machine gunfire ceased, Sergeant Morgan returned but found Roberts dead.

When the battle stopped, Roberts' body was recovered from his tank. One of the personal effects found on him was a photo of his dog "Frisky."

The Battalion Commander, Sereno Elmer Brett, recommended Corporal Roberts for the Medal of Honor. The posthumously-awarded Medal was given to his father, John A. Roberts, who died four years later. Roberts was the second tanker to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palms, The French Military Medal, and the Italian War Cross. Corporal Roberts is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne, France, near where he died.

When Camp Nacimiento was renamed Camp Roberts by General Order No. 1, War Department, on January 10, 1941, it was the only Army Installation to be named for an enlisted man.

## **The Rotary Foundation**

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

## Identity Theft:

When **Ben Hyde** gave his bio a fortnight ago, he warned us about how blue collar workers and seniors in particular are the two most targeted groups regarding identity theft. ID theft is a huge problem for the IRS and tops the agency's "Dirty Dozen" tax scams for this year. Usually an identity thief will use a legitimate taxpayer's identity to fraudulently file a tax return and claim a refund. Generally, the thief will use a stolen SSN to file a forged tax return and attempt to get a fraudulent refund early in the filing season. You may be unaware that this has happened until you file your return later in the filing season and discover that two returns have been filed using the same SSN. It is imperative to respond immediately upon receiving a notice from the IRS.

### Minimize the chance of becoming a victim by doing the following:

Don't carry your SSN or any document with your SSN on it.

Don't give a business your SSN just because you are asked. Give it only when required.

Protect your financial information.

Check your credit report every 12 months.

Secure personal information in your home.

Protect your personal computers by using firewalls, anti-spam/virus software, update security patches, and change passwords for Internet accounts.

Don't give out personal information on the telephone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with.

Thanks to **Ben Hyde** for this information.

## How Government Works

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert.

Congress said,"Someone may steal from it at night." So they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said,"How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then Congress said,"How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control department and hired two people. One to do the studies and one to write the reports.

Then Congress said,"How are these people going to get paid?" So they created the following positions, a time keeper, and a payroll officer, then hired two people.

Then Congress said,"Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an administrative section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said,"We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget, we must cutback overall cost." So they laid off the night watchman.