

Joe Spell(1931 - 2011)



Joe G. Spell  
Hattiesburg, MS

Joe Graves Spell, 80, died on August 5, 2011 at his home in Hattiesburg. He was a faithful husband, father, and grandfather who lived a life of integrity governed by his simple faith: to love God and to love his neighbors. Born in Covington County, MS, Mr. Spell attended Salem High School and Jones County Junior College. He served in U.S. Army Intelligence during the Korean War. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Mississippi State University. Mr. Spell married Anna Ruth Wood on June 21, 1958. They first lived in Laurel, where Mr. Spell began work for the Federal Land Bank. The family moved to Hattiesburg in 1968 when Mr. Spell became president of the bank's Hattiesburg office. After he retired from the bank in 1987, he worked as a consultant and land appraiser.

Mr. Spell was an active member and former president of the Hattiesburg Rotary Club and of Toastmasters. He was sought after as a speaker due to his keen humor and his deep reservoir of anecdotes and down-home wisdom. His love of Jesus Christ was evident to all who knew him. Mr. Spell worked in the nursery of the First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, calming restless babies for almost three decades. For the past several years, he and Mrs. Spell had been faithful members of Bay Street Presbyterian Church. After family and church, Mr. Spell's avocation was restoring antique tractors and engines.

Mr. Spell was preceded in death by his parents, Olin and Ella Spell, and his sister Olene Spell Fowler. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and their four children: son Scott and daughter-in-law Lou Ann M. Spell of Birmingham, AL; daughter Suzanne and son-in-law Mark Tribble of Starkville, MS; son Steven and daughter-in-law Suzanne T. Spell of Kingsport, TN; daughter Sharon Spell of New York, NY; and six "perfect" grandchildren: Mary Claire Spell, Ellen Tribble, Rob Spell, Caleb Tribble, Jordan Tribble, and Amelia Spell. He has four surviving sisters, Vivian Magee, Jane Funderburk, Nelda Mitchell, and Eloise Corley, and a host of beloved brothers-in-law, nieces, and nephews. His children wish to thank his caregivers, friends, and neighbors who have been so kind to "Mr. Joe" and "Miss Ruth" during his illness, especially Patricia Petro, a dear friend.

Visitation will be at Hulett-Winstead Funeral Home from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9. Funeral services will be held at Bay Street Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, with Rev. Brian Davis officiating. Friends desiring so may make memorial donations to the charity of their choice.

**Hulett Winstead**  
Funeral Home Inc.



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# Spokes

August 16, 2011  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
2010-2011

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## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 08/09/11

President Robert Cummings presided over today's meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave the Invocation and to A. D. Hunt, who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test.

Robert opened the meeting with a special tribute to Joe Spell who died at his home this past week. Joe was a Rotarian for more than 40 years. He also served as the Club's president. Joe's friendship, intellect and humor will be missed greatly by his Rotarian friends. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his family. In tribute to Joe's memory the Board of Directors has approved a Paul Harris Fellowship in Joe's name. Gene Winters offered to provide \$50 and challenged other members to make the same contribution toward a second Paul Harris for Joe. His challenge was accepted by a number of members.

Special thanks to Chris Price and Christina Ghents for serving as our greeters.

Sean Priebe welcomed today's visiting guests. Stanley Carpenter had his daughter Nancy as his guest. Allen Anderson had Chris Nichan as his guest. Mike Ratliff had Mitchell Griffin as his guest.

Congratulations to Steve Ramp, the lucky winner of today's Rotary Foundation Raffle---a \$30 gift card to 206 Front Street provided by Dan Kibodeaux.

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

Scott Hummel gave his classification talk today. Scott is a native Mississippian although he traveled extensively as a child. His father was in military service to the country. Scott noted that even while his family was stationed in Hawaii they spent their summer vacations back at home in Green County, MS. Prior to returning to Mississippi Scott was a Professor of the Old Testament in Texas. He currently serves as the Vice President for Advancement and Church Relations for William Carrey University. He noted that he is currently organizing an event for the University that will feature former U.S. Senator Trent Lott. He is also responsible for directing the Honors and the International Exchange programs for the University. He also teaches when he is needed. In his free time he serves on a number of local organizations such as board of directors of The United Way of Southeast Mississippi and the Rotary club. He also serves as an interim pastor for the Sandhill Baptist Church.

Robert announced that Jared Eastlake has been transferred and has resigned from the Club. Jared was thanked again for developing the Club's FaceBook page. Members are encouraged to visit the page and "like" it. Robert also recognized and congratulated Sarah Liles in her recent marriage. Sarah is now Sarah Snow.

Wes Brooks then introduced today's guest speakers. Grant Mitchell was one of two RYLA scholarships provided by the Club. Grant thanked members for giving him what he called the "opportunity of a lifetime". The Rotary Youth Leadership Award is a weeklong leadership training program for rising high school seniors. Grant says the RYLA experience was life changing for him. He learned how better to believe in himself and made many new friends that he will keep throughout his life. He hopes to go to Haiti next summer, be involved in Rotary in the coming years and return to RYLA as a counselor next year.

Austin Clinton is one of three Grover B. Anderson Scholarship recipients. He thanked the club for giving him this opportunity. He plans to get a degree in accounting and business and eventually to begin his own business.

Yusef Buti, a second Grover Anderson Scholarship recipient. He thanked the club for the recognition. His future plans include a degree in Biological Science and then on to Medical School. He graduated with a 3.47 GPA and scored 27 on his ACT test.

Claire Ratliff remembers ringing the Rotary bell to call membership meetings together for her father Mike when she was just 4 years of age. The expressed her gratitude to the club for supporting her scholarship and noted that Rotary has always been a part of her life. Claire is also the recipient of the Presidential at the University of Southern Mississippi.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Aug 16 Marco J. Giardino, Ph.D - Stennis Space Center**

**Aug 23 Christina Ghents - United Blood Services**

**Aug 30 Mandi Stanley- Certified Speaking Professional**

## WEEKLY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation Chair, Brian Moore coordinates a raffle each week to help raise funds for the Foundation and also Polio Plus. Last week Steve Ramp won a \$30 gift card to the 206 Front Street. Thanks to Dan Kibodeaux for providing the gift card. If you have items to donate to the raffle contact Brian Moore or Janice Touchstone.

## We Have a Facebook Page!

Thanks to Jared Eastlack for setting this up and Jaclyn Adams for getting some items posted. Please go to Rotary Club of Hattiesburg on Facebook and "like" our page. Post your pictures and comments.

## READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -  
Veterans Memorial Blvd.  
601-268-0808  
Call Dan Kibodeaux or  
sign up at lunch meetings  
or email  
dan@unitedwaysems.org  
call **601-545-7141**

### August Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Monday, 8/1 9:30am		
Wednesday, 8/3 9:30am	Aime Spears	Mary Cromartie
Tuesday, 8/9 9:30am		
Friday, 8/12 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams Anthony Harris	Wally Weakley
Tuesday, 8/16 9:30am	Janice Touchstone	
Friday, 8/19 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams Bill McLeod	Wes Brooks
Tuesday, 8/23 9:30am		
Friday, 8/26 9:30am		Erik Graham
Tuesday, 8/30 9:30am		

Read Tuesdays & Fridays starting August 8th.

Looking for Rotary District Information or International Information?  
District Website [www.rotary6840.org](http://www.rotary6840.org) - Rotary International [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### Bio of Marco J. Giardino, Ph.D.

Dr. Giardino is currently with the NASA History Office located at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. He is currently researching the history of the families who lived in the NASA Buffer Zone in the 1960s. Marco is an archaeologist who utilizes remote sensing to identify prehistoric sites, to reconstruct past environments, to study how climate change affects human settlement and subsistence. He has also conducted archaeological field work in Europe, North America and Mexico. Dr. Giardino specializes in Southeastern American Indian prehistory and early Colonial history and has published widely on these and similar topics. Marco was born in Rome, Italy and received his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans. He lives in Bay St. Louis, MS.



Register now for the 2012 Rotary International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.  
May 6-9, 2012  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

