

DR. MILAM "SONNY-34" COTTEN



Written by
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American Staff Writer
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"Sonny-34" passed away Thursday morning, but the legacy of Dr. Milam S. Cotten will remain in the eyes of his patients, the memories of colleagues and the hearts of family and friends.

"If he had an enemy, I've never met them," said Dr. Lynn McMahan, who was Cotten's partner at Southern Eye Center in Hattiesburg for nearly 20 years and had known him for twice that long. "He was the best of the best."

Cotten passed away at a hospice at St. Catherine's Village in Madison, about nine months after being diagnosed with cancer. He was 77 years old.

Funeral arrangements are pending. (see arrangements below)

"You know, as a doctor, he kept people out of pain, and we were blessed because, up until the last few weeks, he was pretty much able to do what he wanted to do," said Miles Cotten, the eldest of Milam and Betty Cotten's three children.

"But he always felt like he was very blessed, and he wanted to give back."

And for those who knew him best, he did that and then some.

"Milam was one of those people who lived to serve," said Hattiesburg attorney Mike Ratliff, who got to know Cotten through the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. "The motto of the club is, 'Service Above Self,' and he had gifts that he developed, and then donated those gifts to others."

Born in McComb, Cotten graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and then went on to the University of Mississippi's medical school in Jackson, graduating in 1959.

After a hitch in the Navy as ship's physician on a nuclear-powered destroyer, he started his civilian medical career as a general practitioner in Moss Point.

That was followed by a move to Memphis, Tenn., where he re-entered school at the University of Tennessee to specialize in ophthalmology.

He moved his family to Hattiesburg in 1970.

Dr. Thad Waites, who first met Cotten after arriving in Hattiesburg in 1987, called his friend "a man of disparate interests."

"He operated on eyes, and he welded," Waites said. "He loved opera and world championship wrestling. His interests were often 180 degrees apart."

Visitation will be Saturday (February 11th) from 2pm-6pm.
The funeral service will be Sunday (February 12th) at 2pm.
Both the visitation and funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church.



Spokes

February 7, 2012
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

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Organized 1918

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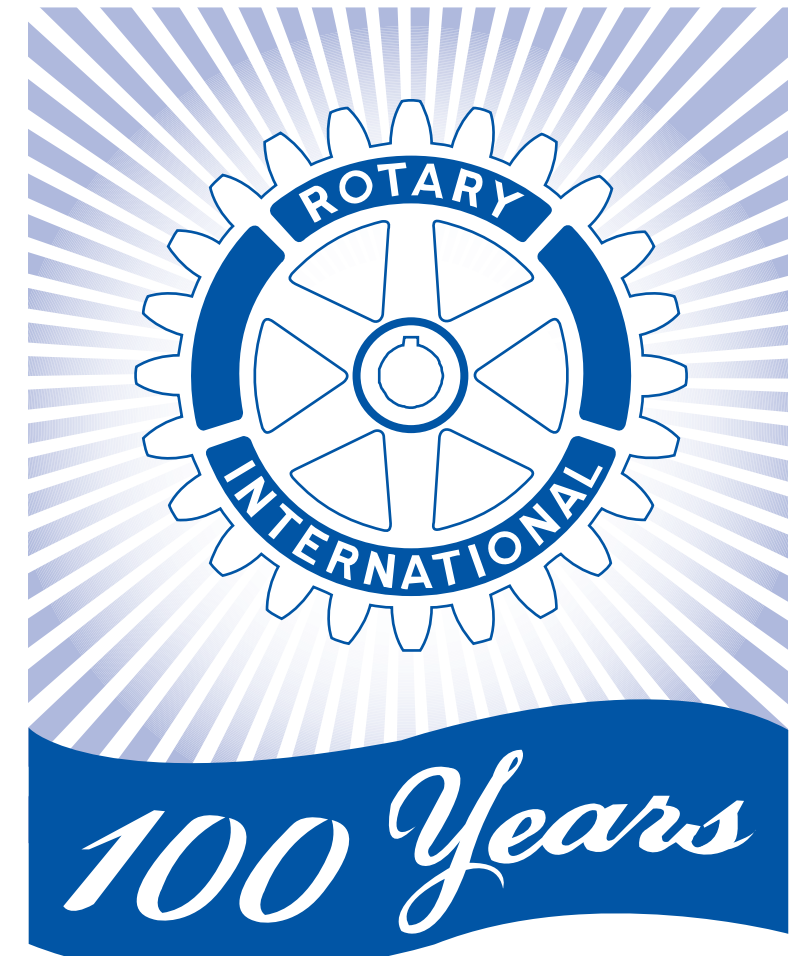
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ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Todd Bradley, who gave the invocation, and to Stan Causey who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test. Thanks to Erin Granberry for serving as today's greeter.

Sean Priebe introduced today's guests, including Scott Miller who was a guest of Aaron Ladner, Marvin Barnes was a guest of Jerome Brown, Peggy Powell was a guest of Erin Granberry, Francis Farmer was a guest of Bob Riley, and Mary Cromartie had as her guest her husband, Dean Cromartie.

Robert performed the Induction Ceremony for new member Katherine Nugent, who was proposed for membership by Mike Ratliff. Katherine will be participating in the next Kollege of Knowledge session, expected to be held soon.

Mike Ratliff provided a status update on fellow Rotarian Dr. Milam Cotten, who has been battling cancer at St. Catherine's Village in Madison. His wife, Betty, reported that he is making the transition slowly. The Club's prayers go out to the Cotten family.

Robert announced that Greg Buie has tendered his membership resignation due to a job change and that Bill MacLauchlan has generously agreed to fill the remainder of Greg's term on the Board of Directors. Scott Hummel will be leaving soon for a mission trip to Calcutta, India with a group of about 12 students from William Carey University. Good luck and safe travels to Scott and his group. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27, at William Carey. Dinner planned for 5:30pm, meeting at 6pm.

Aaron Ladner introduced today's speaker, Dr. Janet Williams, Dean of Nursing at William Carey University. A native of the Gulf Coast (in the Woolmarket area), Dr. Williams received her BSN from USM. While working as a critical care nurse and nurse manager, she continued in graduate school to earn her MSN from UAB and her MBA from USA. After joining the staff at WCU, Dr. Williams returned to USM and earned her PhD in Higher Education and Leadership.

Dr. Williams has served at WCU for 21 years and became the Dean of Nursing last year. She was recently named Woman of Excellence in Education for 2011 and has been nominated as Nursing School Administrator of the Year with the Mississippi Nurses Association.

She said the WCU Nursing Program originally started at the New Orleans campus back in the 1980's and has continued to prosper at all 3 locations today---New Orleans, Gulf Coast, & Hattiesburg campuses. The program currently has approximately 800 declared nursing majors, including pre-nursing, and a Masters Program is expected to be offered in August 2012.

"It's important that we continue to strive to be a part of nursing's future, not just nursing's past," she said. "We're working with the Institute of Medicine to insure that our future nurses keep up." The continuing education requirements for nurses include 10 CEU's per/year, which can be expensive. Therefore, she said, they decided to bring in speakers themselves as an economical way to meet the requirement at an estimated cost of less than \$100 per faculty member.

Dr. Williams said the dire economy also has an impact on nursing. While the field is far from saturated, with plenty of room for nursing jobs to grow, the spouses of nurses can sometimes struggle to find employment in this economy so it makes it hard on their families. She said the future of nursing is still very bright and the program continues to grow with the body of knowledge available. The field of nursing is moving more into the community with evaluation and assessment of care and patient teaching programs.

Dr. Ronald S. "Ronnie" Kent, MD

Dr. Kent, originally from Pascagoula, Ms., has practiced pediatrics since 1981 and joined Hattiesburg Clinic in 1997. Dr. Kent is an alumnus of Mississippi State University and received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. He completed an internship and residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. He has a special interest in patients with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Dr. Kent and his wife, Anne, have three children: Emily, James and Grace.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Feb 7** **Dr. Ronald S. "Ronnie" Kent, Connections Clinic**
- Feb 14** **Terrell Knight, CSpire Wireless**
- Feb 21** **Susan Hollandsworth The Nature Conservancy**
- Feb 28** **Bob Pierce, Vice Pres. for Advancement & Exec. Dir. USM Foundation**
- Mar 31** **HubFest - Clean Water Project**



Yokira Padilla Bierd, 9, drinks a cold glass of clean water.

Her family has a bio-sand water filter at home, and her mother, Yoselin, is proud to be able to provide clean water to her children.

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**

February Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Friday, 2/3 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/7 9:30am		
Friday, 2/10 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/14 9:30am		
Friday, 2/17 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/21 9:30am		
Friday, 2/24 9:30am		
Tuesday, 2/28 9:30am		