

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS), of Bay St. Louis, is one of only a handful of Members of Congress with hands-on experience in the United States Coast Guard. Serving in the Coast Guard Reserve from 1971-1984 as the skipper of a search and rescue boat, he received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation for fire fighting and a letter of Commendation for saving the life of a crewmember.

Prior to his election to Congress in 1989, he served as a member of the Bay St. Louis City Council and the Mississippi State Senate. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Taylor serves on two major committees, the House Armed Services Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces. The subcommittee has oversight and legislative authority for the research, development, and acquisition of Navy and Marine Corps weapons systems including ships, weapons, armored vehicles, and aircraft procurement. In addition, the subcommittee oversees the National Defense Sealift programs of the Maritime Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The subcommittee's total jurisdiction represents approximately \$55 billion dollars of combined procurement and research and development efforts. Taylor also sits on the Readiness Subcommittee.

On the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee he serves on the Water Resources and Environment, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, and Highways and Transit Subcommittees.

In addition, Taylor serves as co-chair of the following four Congressional member organizations: Shipbuilding Caucus, National Guard and Reserve Caucus and Coast Guard Caucus. He is also a member of the Conservative Democrats' Blue Dog Coalition.

Taylor and his wife, the former Margaret Gordon of Bay St. Louis, have three children: Sarah, Emily and Gary.

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Spokes

September 1, 2009

www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
2009-2010

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Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

MINUTES FROM 8/25/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Dan Kibodeaux gave the invocation. Heath Hillman led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Demaris Lee and Rhonda Rains were visitors from the Petal Club. Scott Stover was a guest of David Owens. Shannon Woodward was a guest of Lance Nail. Brian Anding was a guest of Erik Graham.

Thanks also for today's Greeter, Lamar Evans.

Mary announced that due to demands of a new job Tom Potter has resigned as vice-president. The board is accepting nominations to replace Tom and will vote to fill the vacancy at next Monday's board meeting.

Mary thanked the board and club members who participated in the Strategic Planning session held this past Saturday. Many good recommendations came out of the meeting. The board will begin addressing the elements of the strategic plan at next Monday's board meeting. Club members who were wearing their Rotary pins today were recognized and received a small prize. Rotarians are urged to wear their lapel pin throughout the week in an effort to encourage questions and discussions about Rotary and the work we do.

An invitation was extended to club members to attend the Ogletree House ribbon cutting on September 11, 2009 at 9:30. Everyone is encouraged to attend in honor or Powell.

It was also announced that Congressman Gene Taylor will be our guest speaker next Tuesday. Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mike Ratliff introduced today's guest speaker, Alex Watson, the Chief of Staff for the FEMA Mississippi Transitional Recovery Office.

Mr. Watson noted that great strides have been made since Katrina made landfall and that the great working relationship between FEMA, the Mississippi Emergency Management Association and the Governor's office accounts for some of this progress. FEMA and MEMA staff is co-located in the same office in Biloxi.

The Mississippi Transitional Recovery Office has four primary responsibilities according to Mr. Watson.

Public Assistance represents the agency's efforts to get the necessary infrastructure in place so that recovery can begin. The agency has spent 1.8 billion dollars in repair and replacement of infrastructure after Katrina. All of the underground structures within one mile of the entire Mississippi beach have been or are being replaced. Another important function within the public assistance scope of work is the removal of debris. FEMA spent 1.2 billion dollars in clean-up after Katrina.

Individual Assistance is another FEMA responsibility. The agency is the provider of immediate shelter and housing for victims of a disaster. The agency provided emergency housing for 38,000 families after Katrina's damage. The cost to the agency was 1.2 billion dollars. Although the emergency housing program has ended, some 450 individuals remain in FEMA provided housing. The agency is working daily with local governments and state and federal agencies to get those people into permanent housing.

Mitigation is a third area of responsibility. FEMA is currently funding grants to help communities build public facilities that can withstand winds of 200 miles per hour that can be used as housing for first responders as well as emergency shelters for first-responders. FEMA is spending some \$300 million to make public buildings better. The goal is to have available emergency shelters for as many as 17,000 local residents.

Long-Term Recovery is the fourth area of FEMA responsibility. The agency provides technical assistance in community planning that will assist in meaningful recovery efforts.

Among the many recipients of FEMA grants are the re-construction and/or repair of educational facilities, libraries and hospital. Twenty-six hospitals received grants from FEMA after Katrina. A number of Community Centers, harbors and piers were also rebuilt or repaired as a result of FEMA dollars.

Approximately 70 percent of the FEMA staff is Mississippians. As many as 1,600 individuals were employed in Katrina relief efforts. FEMA currently has about 500 employees and will continue to reduce that staff as demands decrease. It is estimated that the Katrina relief efforts will continue on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the next two to three years.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Through the GSE program, teams of young professionals from two different countries exchange visits. For four to six weeks, team members experience the way of life, customs and vocational practices of another country, while sharing information about their home country.

The purpose of the Group Study Exchange program is to promote international understanding and goodwill through personal connection. While abroad, team members stay in Rotarians' homes and have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. They also give presentations to Rotary clubs and other groups about their home country.

Rotary pays for round-trip airfare, and Rotary club members in the host country provide meals, lodging and group travel in their district. Team members pay for personal and incidental expenses.

Young adults between the ages of 25 and 40 who are interested in applying should be employed full-time in a business or profession. Applicants must live or be employed within the boundaries of Rotary District 6840 (southeast Louisiana and south and central Mississippi).

For more general information and a copy of the application, visit the Forms page at www.rotary6840.org.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE....Sponsors, Jaclyn Adams and Lance Nail have proposed Shannon Woodward for membership into the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. Shannon is Director of Development for the University of Southern Mississippi College of Business
Please be sure to welcome our newest member, Jerome Brown!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 1	Representative Gene Taylor- (D-MS)
Sept 8	Allen Smithers - Headmaster Presbyterian Christian School
Sept 10	Private Reception for Olgtree House 5-6:30pm Pointer Room RSVP by 9/4
Sept 11	9:30 am Olgtree House Ribbon Cutting
Sept 15	Frazier Bolton - Hattiesburg Police Department
Sept 22	Ace Necaise, Rotary District 6840 Governor
Sept 29	Dave Shelman - Regions Bank
Oct 16	Wine Tasting Event
Oct 30	Rotary Golf Tournament

Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill 155 N Jackson
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Taylorville - 12:00
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	MS Power Co. Building
Collins - 12:00	Laurel - 12:00	Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00	Wiggins - 12:00
Cedars Restaurant	Laurel Country Club	Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria	Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria
Ellisville - 12:00	North Jackson - 12:00	Heidelberg - 12:00	
J.C.J.C. Cafeteria	St. James	Library	
Jackson - 12:00	Episcopal Church	Poplarville - 12:00	<i>Friday</i>
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	Rankin County - 12:00
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Slidell, LA - 12:00
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Pinewood Country Club
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			