



Rote-A-Bit

Rotary Club of Columbus, Georgia
Club No. 200 - Founded 1916

Program for August 20, 2008

ARCHIE RAINEY - CSU COMMAND COLLEGE

THE ROTE-A-BIT

1246 1st Avenue
Published Weekly

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TED PROPES
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Rotary International

ROTARY CLUB OF COLUMBUS
1246 1ST Avenue 31901
P.O. Box 1138
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone 706/322-6232
Subscription Price: \$4.00 per year
E-mail: rotary 200@earthlink.net
Fax: 706-322-2433

DIRECTORS

MIKE VENABLE

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EDITORIAL FOR AUGUST 20, 2008

KEY'S MARCH TO THE SEA

In the most remarkable trek across Georgia since Sherman, Columbus Rotarians in 1983 raised over \$5,000 for the Georgia Rotary Student Program. The genius behind this memorable event was Jack Key, Jr. The cast of characters consisted of 23 of our members, 12 of whom are still active in Rotary today, namely: Blake Lane, Sam Wetzel, Wayne Andrews, Tom Flowers, Bubber Gross, Ricky Wright, Ed Adams, Ron Self, Thelon Hamby, Jack Key, Jr., Bunky Pease, and Mat Swift. Those who remained active until being promoted to St. Peter's Rotary include Bud Ruffner, Carlton Shaw, Tad Davis, Earl Taylor and S.L. Mullin.

The carefully conceived event originated behind the Trade Center where a vial of Chattahoochee water was extracted. This became our baton and was passed from one runner to the next until our Chattahoochee's finest was wedded to the Atlantic on the beach at Jekyll, site of our Rotary District Conference. Blake Lane ran the first ten miles before passing the "baton" to Sam Wetzel. The relay began at 5:00 a.m. on April 29, Bud Ruffner, our president, drove his Ford Bronco after each runner, hazard lights, flashing for the three day run. The first night was spent in the Waycross Holiday Inn after dark. The next afternoon, 266 miles from home, we arrived at Jekyll. That evening, dressed in road attire featuring yellow T-shirts emblazoned in blue letters that read "1983 Rotary Run Columbus to Jekyll", we entered the coat and tie welcome dinner of the Conference. President Bud presented us (primarily in French and thoroughly confusing most of those present) before the startled assemblage. Rotary fellowship, with a worthwhile goal attained, has never been more evident.

Memories... a treasure of my mind.

- Bunky Pease

ROTARY NOTES (08/06/2008)

The meeting was called to order by President Mallon, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Phil Scoggins provided a news update to the group, and Betsy Covington gave the invocation. Next, Lori Auten introduced visiting Rotarians from other clubs as well as member guests. Eddie Obleton introduced our military guest, Spec. Marvis Dixon, member of the Army's 11th Engineer Battalion at Ft. Benning. Next in order was the introduction of the head table by President Mallon. Joining him today were Betsy Covington, Julius Hunter, Ken Leuer, Selby Rollinson and our speaker, John Lynch.

President Mallon introduced our speaker, John Lynch, "A Great American." Mr. Lynch is a graduate of West Point and Mercer University College of Law and spent his civilian career in the U.S. Attorney's office as a Federal Prosecutor. Mr. Lynch spent five years on active duty in the Army Infantry and later in the Georgia National Guard, and is a graduate of the Army's Airborne, ranger, Pathfinder, and Jump Master Schools. In 2003, he was awarded the distinctive Combat Infantryman's Badge for his actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired as Major Lynch in 2005 and in 2007 retired after 24 years as a Federal Prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office. He is currently enrolled in the graduate program at Columbus State University studying to get his teaching certificate and plans to teach high school history.

Major Lynch's topic today was "This is not your father's National Guard," an amazing presentation about his service and experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq. Major Lynch was a member of Company H, which was a unit made up of very diverse soldiers. This unit was responsible for inserting six man teams forward of combat for surveillance purposes.

By 2003, Major Lynch was involved in missions in Iraq. He described the SPIES, or Special Purpose Insertion/Extraction Systems, in which they would drop and retrieve soldiers across enemy lines. Major Lynch described how the allies, including China, Russia, Great Britain, and the U.S. believed that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). At one point they were stationed in Kuwait fighting the air war (before the ground war began) and were preparing every day for potential chemical warfare. These were serious and dangerous operations, as all members of the coalition prepared for the worst.

Major Lynch provided an incredible pictorial portrayal of the events and environment in Iraq during that period of time. He showed the massive amounts of sand and described hot temperatures that all soldiers had to deal with on a daily basis. With temperatures some days soaring well above 120 degrees, it was not uncommon for soldiers to be given fluids intravenously.

In addition to the candid photos of the brave soldiers, Major Lynch also showed the group some unforgettable pictures of the Iraqi landscape, including one photo of the dolphins that U.S. Navy trains to protect its ships. There were also pictures of the flaming oil fields that Saddam ordered burned as well as the palm tree groves in which the Iraqi dictator would hide his fighter jets. The presentation included pictures of Saddam's opulent palaces along with statues and murals of the dictator.

Some of the most poignant pictures were of the Iraqi orphans (who literally had nothing) as they were greeted by American soldiers bringing them food and toys sent from the U.S. Major Lynch explained how well the American soldiers were received by the Iraqi people, especially the children.

In conclusion, Major Lynch showed the group a picture of his good friend, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Willaby, who gave his life in service of his country, leaving behind a wife and two young sons, reminding us of the sacrifices made each and every day by the men and women in the military. Major Lynch is undeniably "A Great American," and we thank him and his fellow soldiers for protecting our country and our freedom.

- Lori Auten

JULY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Jim Laycock	1 year
John Flory	3 years
Lance Duke	5 years
Debbie Cabellero	8 years
Frank Morast	8 years
Joe Sandri	12 years
Mike Smajd	13 years
Ashok Kumar	13 years
Andy Waddell	17 years
George Jeter	17 years
Harry Walker	18 years
Joe McClure	24 years
Dan Kosobucki	24 years
Ed Adams	27 years

THE FOUR_WAY TEST

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to All Concerned?
3. Will it Build GOODWILL and Better Friendships?
4. Will it Be BENEFICIAL to All Concerned?

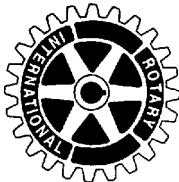


Jim Ballengee	8/18
Jake Riley	8/18
Michael Silverstein	8/19
George Wade, Jr.	8/19
Jack Pezold	8/20
Mary Reed	8/20

**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE BIRTHDAY FUND**

Tyler Townsend
Joe Lucas

Number 8



08/20/2008

MAKE-UPS

**PHENIX CITY (08/04)
Meets Monday 12:15
Central Activities Bldg.**
Joel Ames
Peggy Connell
Buddy Cooper
Greg Camp
John Kelly
Gene Kemp
Joe Lucas
Gloria Waston-Smart
Billy Turner

**NORTH COLUMBUS
(08/05)
Meets Tuesday 12:30
Green Island**
Perry Alexander
Michael Eddings
Tom Flowers
Tom Friedmann
Jacki Lowe
Kayron Laska
Phil Scoggins
Marion Scott
Jim Thorsen
Tom Titus
Tyler Townsend

Black Mountain (7/23)
Jerry White

Harris Co. (08/06)
Joey Loudermilk
Bill Smith

**MUSCOGEE (08/07)
Meets Thursday 7a.m.
River Club**
Greg Camp
Carmen Cavezza
Leo Goodsell
Jamie Hempstead
Philip Thayer

rotaryclubone.org
Scott McLaurin
Jim Laycock
Louise Pinter
John Flory
Frank Jordan
Philip Adams, Jr.
Michael Silverstein
Mike Gaymon
Tom Miller
Richard Illges
Newt Aaron
Ed Sprouse
Marvin Foster
Ryan Clements
Rhonda Mobley
Chuck McClure
Ricky Schomburg
Don Campbell
Ron King
Kayron Laska
Rick Martindale
Lance Duke
Drew Rhodes
Otis Pickett
Tripp Wade

DIRECTORY CHANGES

- Page 5 add Neal McCrillis - 9years perfect attendance
- Page 13 Thacker Cargill (h) 706-562-1234
- Page 17 Michael Eddings (bus address) 860 Brookstone Center Pkwy Suite B 31904
- Page 18 Tracy Fisher, Past President North Columbus (1981-82)
- Page 19 Hudson Garrett (h) 706-563-8024
- Page 20 Robert George (fax) 706-324-4546
- Page 21 Chuck Hasty (email) chasty@columbusfpc.org
- Page 38 Selby Rollinson (classification) Deputy Chief of Staff Rm 645, Infantry Hall (fax) 706-545-3329
- Page 38 Joe Robbins (bus) 706-507-3349
- Page 39 Ben and Dicky Saunders - PO Box 8448, zip 31908 Dicky home zip 31904
- Page 43 Philip Thayer (bus) 334/298-3965 (fax) 334-298-3978