



Rote-A-Bit

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

Program for October 15, 2008

M/G WALT WOJDAKOWSKI

THE ROTE-A-BIT

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Published Weekly

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EDITORIAL FOR OCTOBER 15

A FAILED ASSIGNMENT THAT WON

Richard Schneider is the senior staff editor and writer for Guideposts Magazine. He is also a World War II veteran with an interest in American history and American heroes. He tells the story of why and when the flag of the United States went from recognizing 48 states to 50 states.

In the mid 1950s, Robert Heft was a high school student in a drafting class as the nation considered adding two new territories to the United States. Sensing the country might add two more states, Robert designed and made a 50 star flag over the objection of his teacher, Mr. Pratt, who gave him a zero for his project because it was not a true industrial arts design project. Mr. Pratt said he would change the grade if the territories were added and his flag was accepted.

Robert bicycled over to the home of his Congressman, Walter Moeller, knocked on the door; gave him the flag and asked him to take it to Washington and if ever there were a contest for a fifty-star flag would he present this one. Moeller agreed.

In January 1959, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation announcing the admission into the Union of the forty-ninth state - Alaska. In August of 1959, Hawaii became the fiftieth state and the flag design ultimately chosen came from Robert Heft.

Robert flew to Washington to see his flag flown over the Capitol of the United States for the first time. Thousands had submitted the same design but his was the first received and was an actual flag. When he returned from Washington, Mr. Pratt changed his grade even though Robert had already graduated. Robert's lesson for life - if it had not been for the bad grade and the challenge that came with it, he would not have submitted the idea.

As Rotarians we are given "ideas" that may have significance. Implementing them may take courage and tenacity. Sometimes it's years before the results are seen.

Wayne Anthony

ROTARY NOTES (10/01/08)

President Mallon welcomed us and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Patty Cardin gave the Invocation. Phil Scoggins presented the news and Mike Smajd introduced our Military Guest, who was SFC Janet Sokolowski, a member of the Army Markmanship Unit.

Dan Kosobucki then introduced our newest member and one of Dan's close friends, Mr. Alan Feagin. Colin Martin was presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award by George Jeter.

John Martin had the pleasure of introducing a good friend as our speaker today, Rep. Dubose Porter. Rep. Porter currently serves as the House Minority Leader in the Georgia Legislature. He is serving his 13th consecutive term for the 143rd District, which includes Macon and his hometown of Dublin, GA.

Our speaker was born and raised in Dublin. He went to Davidson College and graduated with a BA in English. He graduated from Cumberland Law School and practiced law before buying a newspaper business (he currently owns nine).

Rep. Porter discussed the present situation in Georgia as it relates to education, healthcare, transportation and public safety and where we should go from here. He informed us that prior to the HOPE Scholarship program, 70% of Georgia's high school graduates that made over 1300 on their SAT left the state to attend college. Now the figure is reversed and 70% staying Georgia. That is good news for sure but he said the focus on education is fading: \$1.6 billion has been cut from the current budget, and of that \$40 million is now cut from the Columbus area. He said that needs to change.

Other challenges he spoke about were the traffic problems in Atlanta and how important it is that the transportation SPLOST passes. Right now cities are alone in having to deal with road improvements, he explained, and Atlanta, though important, shouldn't be the only focus.

Public Safety is another topic he touched on and how it too is facing the same budget cuts; crime labs are being closed across the state and our workforce is understaffed. Related to Georgia's Water Crisis, our State Water Plan should be devised without consideration to political districts. How important is water he asked. He quoted Gene Odom, "our water is more important to us than oil is to Louisiana, because it is replenished."

In short, Rep. Porter said right now we are faced with being less educated, less safe, and less healthy! On a positive note he is excited about BRAC in Columbus and stressed how important it is that this realignment gets the support from Georgia that it needs.

Walter Calhoun



| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Gloria Weston-Smart | 10/11 |
| Art Chriss | 10/12 |
| Frank Philips | 10/14 |
| Michael Eddings | 10/15 |
| Mac Plummer | 10/15 |

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BIRTHDAY FUND

Carole Rutland
Rob Doll
Bill Smith

ANN JOHNSON ROTARY FOOTBALL

| TEAM | THIS WEEK | CUMULATIVE |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Alabama | 41 | 185 |
| Auburn | 14 | 99 |
| Citadel | 34 | 142 |
| Davidson | 38 | 67 |
| Florida | 30 | 142 |
| Florida State | 39 | 157 |
| Georgia | 30 | 172 |
| Georgia Tech | Off | 115 |
| Iowa | 17 | 142 |
| Maine | 10 | 79 |
| Miami | 24 | 120 |
| Newberry | 27 | 87 |
| Oklahoma | 35 | 199 |
| Tennessee | 12 | 77 |
| Tulane | 34 | 88 |
| South Carolina | 26 | 107 |
| Vanderbilt | Off | 119 |
| Washington & Lee | 31 | 90 |

TOTAL ROTARY DOLLARS RAISED TO DATE
\$6,194

Alabama Takes Bark Out Of The Dawgs And Moves To #2 In The Polls! Oklahoma Is #1 In The Nation And Leads With 199 Points! A Special Thanks To All Who Are Participating In Rotary Football!

MAKE-UPS

PHENIX CITY (09/29)
Meets Monday 12:15
Central Activities Bldg.
 Debbie Cabellero
 Scott Ferguson
 Buddy Martin
 Ron Mullins
 Phil Scoggins
 Jerry Scott
 Phil Swift

AUBURN (9/25)
 Hugh Wilson

GEORGETOWN (9/30)
 Neal Wickham

MUSCOGEE (10/2)
Meets Thursday 7a.m.
River Club
 Drew Rhodes
 George Flowers

NORTH COLUMBUS (09/30)
Meets Tuesday 12:30
Green Island
 Perry Alexander
 Rick Alexander
 Mitch Britt
 Carmen Cavezza
 Lance Duke
 Marvin Foster
 Mike Gaymon
 John Lee
 Jim Thorsen
 Tom Titus

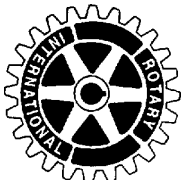
CORDELE
 Ed Boyd

rotaryclubone.org
 Chuck Hasty
 Jim Wink
 Carmen Cavezza
 Phillip Thayer
 Tony Wright
 Adelaide Kirk
 Cecil Whitaker
 Jack Key III
 Otis Pickett
 Colin Martin

Joe Johnson
 Alap Shah
 Rhonda Mobley
 Charles McCall
 John Flory
 Neal McCrillis

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