



# Rote-A-Bit

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

*Program for June 17, 2009*

**LTC JAVIER AYALA • UPDATE - COLOMBIAN CRISIS**

# THE ROTE-A-BIT

1246 1st Avenue  
Published Weekly

## CLUB OFFICERS:

MALLON FAIRCLOTH  
President

CARMEN CAVEZZA  
Vice-President

ROBERT JONES  
President-Elect

BETSY COVINGTON  
Secretary

CHARLES JOHNSON  
Treasurer

ROBERT OFFER  
Sgt-At-Arms

GEORGE FLOWERS  
Rotary Foundation

Mary K. Reed, Editor

Published Weekly For The  
ROTARY CLUB OF  
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

by Mike Konze  
X-Press Printing  
1520 - 13th Avenue

TED PROPES  
2008-2009 District Governor

DONG KURN LEE  
2008-2009 President  
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: rotary200@earthlink.net  
Fax: 706-322-2433

## DIRECTORS

MIKE VENABLE

MARQUETTE MCKNIGHT

EDDIE OBLETON

ANDY WADDELL

MIKE HILL

MARK HOLLOWAY

LORI AUTEN

JULIUS HUNTER

IAN BOND

THE ROTE-A-BIT (USPS 471780) Periodicals postage paid in Columbus, GA • [www.rotarycolumbusga.org](http://www.rotarycolumbusga.org)  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Rote-A-Bit, PO Box 1138, Columbus, GA 31902



## EDITORIAL FOR JUNE 17, 2009

### An Ode To America

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, and the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts.

Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on t-shirts, caps, and ties in the colors of the memorial flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing.

On every occasion, they started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America!" I watched live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the California hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundred or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being?

Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or family, but a spirit, which no money can buy.

What on earth can unite Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic Power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace.

I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion... Only "freedom" can work such miracles.

Contributed by Robert George in 2004  
President 1991-92

editor's note: worth repeating

## ROTARY NOTES - 06/03/09

The meeting was called to order by President Mallon, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Norman Drummond gave the invocation. Phil Scoggins gave the news. Elizabeth Barker welcomed and introduced visiting Rotarians from other clubs as well as member guests. Eddie Obleton introduced our military guest Sergeant First Class Junior Olivera with the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. He is a mortar platoon leader. SGT Olivera is married with two children and lives in Midland. He is originally from Miami, Florida and came to the US when he was 5 aboard the Mariel Boat Lift from Cuba.

One new member was inducted: Anthony Berger, the new Boy Scout Executive, was introduced by Colin Martin. Anthony has been with the Boy Scouts since 1997. A graduate of Florida State University, Anthony comes to Columbus from Orlando, Florida where his wife Robin and 2 children reside until they sell their house.

George Flowers presented a Paul Harris Fellow to Kevin Wilkerson, one step closer to our club becoming 100% Paul Harris Club.

Announcement: Betsy Covington reminded the club that they are administering the funds for the West Georgia Honor Flight (an affiliate with the National Honor Flight), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free flights for WWII veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. The trip is free for veterans, guardians who travel to assist veterans travel for \$400.

Selby Rollinson introduced Bob Aylward who leads the Fort Benning Marksmanship Unit (AMU). The AMU was formed in 1956 under the direction of President Eisenhower after the Soviets had recently defeated the American team at a rifle competition. LTG Floyd Parks was recruited by Eisenhower to fix the marksmanship program. Within 4 months the AMU was formed and operational.

The four basic roles of the AMU are:

- 1) Share knowledge gained in competition with members of the AMU. Marksmanship is the 3rd largest participatory event in the Olympics. It is the largest medal producing event for the U.S. Since 1964, 23 medals have been awarded to the U.S. with the first medal being won in 1964. Bob Aylward introduced MSG Bill Killing who is a marksmanship instructor. He has trained more in marksmanship than anyone else.
- 2) Take what we learned in marksmanship and get it back to the soldiers. After 9/11 Jack Writer came back to Fort Benning to handle research and development. Writer is a 1972 Olympic gold medalist in rifle shooting.
- 3) Conduct advance training programs based on what we learn and return it in the form of marksmanship training for the soldiers. Bob Aylward introduced SFC Lance Dement. Dement is a marksmanship instructor at Ft. Benning and trained about 2,000 soldiers last year. Dement is a 2000 Olympian.
- 4) Make public appearances, school visits, and work with the Recruiting Command. CSU is establishing a NCAA shooting level 1 Program with scholarships starting this summer. They will use Fort Benning ranges. The AMU participates in about 20 matches per year at Fort Benning.

Each match brings between 100-120 people to Columbus. Members of the World Cup organization are coming to Columbus to consider it for the possible 2010 World Cup Site. These are contributions of the AMU to the local community.

President Mallon re-welcomed visiting Rotarians, guests and military guests.

Meeting adjourned.

-Leo J. Goodsell

## DREAM BIG WITH ME

Dream Big with me as we move forward for the Biggest and Best District Conference in the Rotary world!

In 2010, we will convene at the Cobb Galleria Centre, in suburban Atlanta, Georgia - not just in-state - we will convene in District 6900.

I promise you exceptional speakers and entertainment. The House of Friendship will be akin to an International Convention.

The plenary sessions will be all about Rotary and Rotary's good works. We will celebrate our year and will have some surprises for you!

Please join with me as we introduce this incredible venue to Rotarians from all over the district. Hotel accommodations begin at just \$99 per night. The SuperConference is affordable for every pocketbook. No resort fees. No parking fees. Park your car and don't get in it again until the SuperConference is over.

We'll be taking full advantage of local recreation and entertainment opportunities. The Conference facilities are the best we've ever enjoyed. We intend to deliver great value, Rotary fellowship, and power-packed programs. Did I mention the great speakers and entertainment?

We will also debut the 100-voice District 6900 ROTARY CHOIR - organized and directed by Marietta Rotarian Larry Freeman.

Visit the SuperConference website at [www.rid6900conference.com](http://www.rid6900conference.com) <<http://www.rid6900conference.com/>>

No one anticipated our Conference having to move. That was a swing and a miss. I hope you will agree that we have hit the ball over the fence and out of the stadium by securing the Cobb Galleria for our SuperConference.

This is where the NFL chose to have their Super Bowl party - seems fitting for our SuperConference.

We will share more with you soon. The big names will surprise and delight you. In the meantime, get ready to start our year together and make it the best possible for your clubs.



Rick Alexander 6/14  
 W.E. Gross 6/14  
 Scott McLaurin 6/16  
 Virginia Peebles 6/17  
 Blake Lane 6/19  
 Ernie Smallman 6/19

**PHENIX CITY (06/01)**  
**Meets Monday 12:15**  
**Central Activities Bldg.**

Ed Adams  
 Joel Ames  
 Sharon Borger  
 Perry Borom  
 Debbie Caballero  
 Marc Calhoun  
 Greg Camp  
 John Cargill  
 Edgar Chancellor  
 Peggy Connell  
 Buddy Cooper  
 Leonard Crain  
 Larry Campbell  
 Janet Davis  
 Richard Davis  
 Allen Denham  
 Tom Flowers  
 Tom Friedmann  
 Tom Gates  
 Mike Gaymon  
 Leo Goodsell  
 Madden Hatcher  
 Jamie Hempstead  
 Isaiah Hugley  
 Meredith Jarrell  
 John Kelly  
 Jim Laycock  
 Joey Loudermilk  
 Geoff Love  
 Jackie Lowe  
 Loe Lucas  
 Mark Overby  
 Buddy Martin  
 Dan Parker  
 Terri Parodi  
 Bunky Pease  
 Virginia Peebles  
 Otis Pickett  
 Lamar Powers  
 Craig Reaves  
 Reggie Richards  
 C.F. Riley  
 Carole Rutland  
 Jerry Rothschild  
 Ben Saunders  
 Phil Scoggins  
 Barbara Smith  
 Mat Swift  
 Jim Thorsen  
 Jerry White  
 Cathy Williams  
 Kevin Wilkerson  
 Len Williams  
 Michael Willey  
 Jim Wink

Bill Feighner  
 Tom Friedmann  
 Al Gaston  
 Tom Gates  
 Robert Granger  
 Linda Hadley  
 Bill Harper  
 Chuck Hecht  
 Jamie Hempstead  
 Michael Holbrook  
 Isaiah Hugley  
 Richard Ilges  
 Meredith Jarrell  
 Frank Jordan  
 John Kelly  
 Larry King  
 Ashok Kumar  
 Jacki Lowe  
 Buddy Martin  
 Colin Martin  
 Dan Parker  
 Virginia Peebles  
 H.J. Peters  
 Otis Pickett  
 Mac Plummer  
 Sam Rawls  
 Roy Reese  
 Marc Reid  
 Reggie Richards  
 C.F. Riley  
 Guy Sims  
 Dick Stone  
 Lynne Taylor  
 Jim Thorsen  
 Jerry White  
 Michael Willey  
 Cathy Williams  
 Len Williams  
 Kevin Wilkerson  
 Mike Wooldridge

**MUSCOGEE (06/04)**  
**Meets Thursday 12:00**  
**Green Island**  
 Jacki Lowe  
 Josh McKoon  
 Jerry Newman

**rotaryclubone.org**  
 Richard Anthony  
 Philip Adams, Jr.  
 Harry Walker  
 Frank Morast  
 John Martin  
 Mike Gaymon  
 Philip Thayer  
 Linda Hadley

**NORTH COLUMBUS (06/02)**  
**Meets Tuesday 12:30**  
**Green Island**

Lori Auten  
 Sharon Borger  
 Perry Borom  
 Harold Bryant  
 Valerie Canepa  
 Peggy Connell  
 Jim Crosse  
 Norman Drummond  
 Alan Feagin

**LAGRANGE (05/13)**  
 Josh McKoon

**QUITMAN CO (06/02)**  
 Neal Wickham

Number 51

06/17/2009

