

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com

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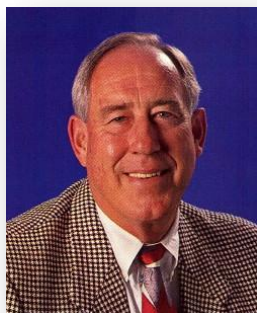
Mark Heinrich
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Ralph Clements
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Jim Shamblin
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Assistant District Governor

This Week, November 15: Legendary Coach C.M. Newton



Basketball season is just around the corner, and on Tuesday the Club will be treated to reflections on the current state of the Basketball program at UA and the upcoming season. They will also hear about the landscape of College Basketball and collegiate sports in general, from a Tuscaloosa resident who knows more about such things than most. Legendary **Coach C. M. Newton** will visit the Club for its Tuesday meeting on November 15.

Born in Rockwood Tennessee, Coach Newton played Basketball and Baseball at the University of Kentucky from 1948 to 1951. After coaching Basketball at Transylvania University from 1956-1968, Alabama Coach and Athletic Director Paul W. Bryant called Newton to Tuscaloosa. Over his twelve year career at Alabama, Coach Newton led the Crimson Tide to three consecutive Southeastern Conference titles (1974-76). He was also instrumental in integrating college sports at every stop. At Alabama he recruited **Wendell Hudson**, Alabama's first black Basketball player and currently head coach for the Tide's women's basketball team.

After leaving Alabama to become the Assistant Commissioner of the Southeastern Conference, Newton returned to coach at Vanderbilt from 1981-1989. Thereafter he became Athletic Director at his Alma Mater, where he hired Rick Pitino. Coach Newton was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

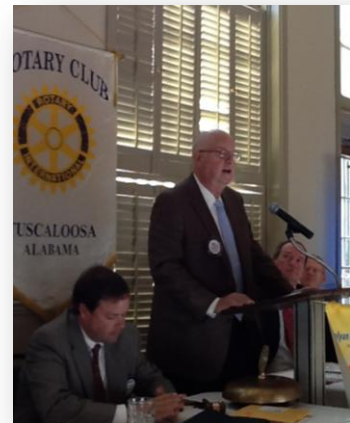
Last Week, November 8: Rotary Honors Veterans for their Service



In one of the most compelling programs in recent memory, last week the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa dedicated the hour to honoring our Club's living veterans. The program opened with a formal color guard, and special music by **James Seay** of First United Methodist Church (pictured left), who sang "God Bless America" to open the ceremonies.

A series of speakers and tributes followed. **Past President Jim Shamblin** announced that Rotarian **Stan Bloom**, decorated veteran of the Second World War and a long-time leader in Tuscaloosa Rotary, was granted honorary lifetime membership of the Club's Board. Stan joined Tuscaloosa Rotary in 1949 after serving in World War II in Germany. He was Club President in 1973-74 and founder of the Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation. He and his wife Star were recently honored with the naming of the Bloom Hillel Center on the UA Campus.

Rotarian Pat Connor, himself a decorated veteran, offered a brief history of Veteran's Day and its purpose. **Rotarians Lee Banks, Don Alverson** and **Frank Deaver** then walked us back through time, so to speak, sharing their experiences as veterans of Iraq, Vietnam and Korea, respectively. **Lee Banks** told a harrowing tale of his experience as a logistical support leader for the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq. **Don Alverson** (pictured right) recounted his experiences as an Airman over Vietnam. He also noted, as an aside, how much the treatment of America's veterans has improved since that era. **Frank Deaver** concluded the presentations with a reflection on his service in Korea. Frank served as a SCARWAF ("Special Category Army Reassigned With Air Force"), with an engineering unit charged with maintaining and repairing a network of small airstrips for fighters and reconnaissance craft in the area. He arrived late in



the war (properly, Deaver noted, it was a “police action”) and it ended soon after. “When they heard I was on the way,” Deaver explained, “they decided to quit.”



The program concluded when Rotarians were treated to a brief excerpt from an award-winning newscast put together by WVUA’s **Terri Brewer**, wife of **Rotarian Sam Brewer**. Terri’s “Stories from Honor Flight” recounted the history and the impact of Tuscaloosa Rotary’s participation in the Honor Flight Program, an initiative led by **Rotarian Jordan Plaster**. The video segment told the story of A.J. Hollingsworth, whose brother went on the 2010 Honor Flight as a

guardian—and in meeting other veterans, found out vivid details of his brother’s death.

For a clip from the video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnv4fOEnG-k

Special thanks again to all of our Veterans for all of their sacrifice and service, and to all of the Rotarians and others who helped make last week’s meeting such an appropriate tribute!





Rotary of Tuscaloosa to Honor Mayor Maddox

Soon after the tornado, the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa voted to honor Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox with the “Rotary Outstanding Leadership Award.” For obvious reasons the Mayor has been rather busy in recent months, so the Club has been unable to present him with the award. But **Rotarian Jim Shamblin** is now pleased to announce an appointment to do so on November 17 at 1:30. All Board Members and other Rotarians are invited to attend!



James Shirley Honored With Rotary Rose Award

For over sixty years, the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa has annually honored at least one “unsung hero” of the community through the Rotary Rose award. Earlier in the year the Club awarded Vicki Kerr, director of Caring Days, with the honor. At last week’s Veterans Day event, the Club honored another community servant with a second award.

The recipient was James Shirley. James has been married to his wife Linda for over 40 years, and they have two daughters (Jennifer & Laura) and one granddaughter (Savannah). He is the Founding Pastor of Five Points Baptist Church in Northport, and now serves as Minister of Music at Taylorville Baptist Church.



Shirley recently retired after 25 years from Alabama Power Company. While there, in 1992, he received the Presidential Award, given by Alabama Power “in recognition of outstanding, world-class service to Alabama Power, and our customers and communities.” It is the highest honor bestowed by the

company. James is currently with DCH Regional Medical Center as Guest Services Manager.

James is a volunteer with several local organizations, but he was honored last Tuesday for his service on all three of Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight programs. He was tireless in his efforts at fundraising, and beyond. “You give this man a job,” said Rotarian J.G. Brazil in his introduction, and he does it 150%.” He secured wheelchairs for many of the veterans who needed them for the trip to Washington, for example, and even went to work building them a ramp. “In every phase of his life, personal, church, community, in the workplace,” J.G. said of James Shirley “he is thinking of others... and leading by example to make his surroundings and those around him better. I can’t think of an individual that deserves our recognition more than this person.”

In 2001 the Rotary Rose award was named for Clem Duckworth, who had become one of Tuscaloosa Rotary’s most distinguished members. Clem was a member of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa 1933 – 2001, and served as both club president (1947-48) and district governor (1955-56). In honor of his lifetime of service, the award became known as the “J. Clemson Duckworth Rotary Rose Award for Outstanding Community Service.” Rotary extends its thanks to James Shirley for all of his hard work, and its congratulations for a well-deserved award!



Guests, November 8

The Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa welcomed a crowd of visitors to its Veteran’s Day Celebration! Guests included **David Blair** (VA Director), guest of Lowell Davis; **Glenn Powell** (Retired Chief Counsel, U of A System); **Terri Brewer** (WVUA), guest of the Club; **Elizabeth Tinnen** (University of Alabama), guest of Harry Shumaker; **Chris Jones** (Attorney), guest of Warner Johnson; Don Salls (Retired), guest of Dianne Salls; **Jenny Plaster**, wife and guest of Jordan Plaster; **Star Bloom**, wife of Stan Bloom, guest of the Club; **Grant Dickey** (Realtor), guest of Randall Huffaker; **Kim McMurray** (Architect), guest of Clark Swail; **W. A. Rainer**, guest of the Club; **Lee Allen Hallman** and **Forrest Fitts**, guests of Gary Fitts; **James Shirley**, **Dr. Curtis Kelley**, **Ed Herrington**, **Bill Brewer**, **John Brewer**, **Stanley Blevins**, **Wally Welch**, **Dr. Charles O’Kelley**, **Francis J. Quimby** and **Bob Wheeler**, all Guests of the Club.



At the Head Table, November 8

Pat Conner joined Tuscaloosa Rotary in 1982 and has served as secretary, director, editor of the Nerve and chair of several committees. He is also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He currently serves as Chief Financial Officer for the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education. **Rotarian Charlie Durham** was born in New Orleans. He is the son of a long-time Rotarian in Arkansas where he grew up. He has been Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa since 1989, and just attended his 40th class reunion at Rhodes College in Memphis, where a total of ten members of his family have attended. He currently serves the club as Rotary Rose Chairman. **Rotarian Jordan Plaster** is Senior Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch. He is Past President of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, Chairman of the Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight initiative and Chairman of the Public Affairs Council of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. He is an Elder at First Presbyterian Church and his son Harry is also a member of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa. **Rotarian J.G. Brazil** and his wife Virginia and family moved to Tuscaloosa in 1977. J. G. retired from Alabama Power Company in 2001. He joined Rotary in 1977 and has served as president of this club in 1984-1985, and as District Governor in 1988-1989. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Rotary International Foundation in 2006-2007 in recognition of outstanding efforts to promote the Foundations many programs dedicated to International Understanding. He served last Rotary year as chairman for the District Disaster Relief Committee and presently serves on the District Donor Advised Fund committee, which has distributed over \$58,000 to club projects benefiting disaster relief following the April 27 tornado.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov. 22

**Tom Walker
American
Village
(Montevallo)**

November 29

**Big Brothers,
Big Sisters**

“If there is any one particular in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organizations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris

ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY...

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 AM at Indian Hills Country Club.
- Attend another club’s meeting within two weeks before or after an absence.
- Participate in a Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, social function, Interact event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: www.rotaryclubone.org.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES AT
nancysjones@bellsouth.net