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 Vocational Service Ted Wright

The Four-Way Test

of the things we think, say or do

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?

On-Line Makeup • www.rotarydistrict6920.net

Rotary Club of St. Simons • Founded in 1950
 Meets Tuesday 1 P.M. - Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort
 Rotary Club of St. Simons • P.O. Box 21887 • St. Simons Island, GA 31522
www.rotarydistrict6920.net • www.rotary.org for Rotary International



**Rotary Club
 St. Simons Island
 Georgia, U.S.A**

District 6920

Rotary Spray

November 9, 2004

Today's Program:

Annual Veteran's Day Program

Area Rotary Clubs

Club	Meeting	Day & Time
Brunswick	Twocan's, Brunswick	Thu. 1:00 P.M.
Glynn County	Twocan's, Brunswick	Wed. 7:30 A.M.
Jekyll Island	Jekyll Island Club Hotel	Wed. 8:00 A.M.
St. Simons Island	Sea Palms (Confirm before attending)	Tue. 1:00 P.M.
SSI Marshes of Glynn	Epworth	Thu. 7:30 A.M.

Managing Editor & Publisher

John Buchanan

Chairman - Program Reports

Bill Turbeville

November Program Reporter

Fred Freyer

Nov. 2 Program Reporter

John Buchanan

Data Reports

Susan Hardwick

Maria Vogt

Attendance

November 2 TBA

Rotabucks

\$56 Brooke Pridmore

Visiting Rotarians

- None today.

Prospective Members

- None this week.

Guests

- Gene Rayfield—Jack Rayfield
- Frank Sidella—Pat Storino

New Member

- Marie Dodd welcomed Millard Allen.

Upcoming Programs

Nov. 16: No Meeting

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Program

Greeters

11/09 Roy Mahlberg
Dennie McCrary

11/16 Bill McDougall
Bud McGrath

Makeups

- Peter Banks—Barnesville
- Clyde Taylor—Clayton

Wellness Report

Nothing reported.

This Week's Birthday

Dorothy Donahoo Nov. 11
Bill Turbeville Nov. 15



Last Week's Program (Nov. 2, 2004)

David Boland

U.S. Marine Corps

- See Enclosure -



November 1 Board Meeting

President Leslie reported on the Board of Directors Meeting.

Membership Three new members were approved.

Brick Project Update A new order has been placed and the bricks should arrive before Christmas.

Clock Project Still in progress. Working now on costs.

Rotary Sign Still active. More info forthcoming.

New Slate of Officers Marie Dodd, representing the nominating committee, announced the 2005-2006 Slate of Officers. The list is presented as an enclosure. President Leslie reminded all that alternate nominations, if any, will be accepted in writing or taken from the floor at next week's meeting.

Oyster Roast Marie Dodd confirmed that invitations had been mailed for the SSI Rotary Club Oyster Roast, to be held November 19. The location: Arnold Road between Ocean and Demere. Cocktails at 5:30 P.M.; food at 6:30 P.M. There is no Rotary meeting November 16 due to this special event.

Special Thanksgiving Program Leslie Mattingly announced that the November 23 meeting would be a special program, with the message being one in keeping with Thanksgiving.

Enclosures

1. Program Report, November 2 Program.
2. New Slate of Officers, 2005-2006.

St. Simons Island Rotary Club
Program Report: November 2, 2004
David Boland, U.S. Marine Corps

Jim Cooper introduced David Boland. David was a machine gunner in the USMC and served on the front lines in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. David was “up close and personal” with the war. He was born in Brunswick and raised on St. Simons Island. David spent four-and-one-half years in the Marine Corps.

David began with his personal perspective that the news media are not reporting all they should. In this regard, the people are not being well served. He cited television news as an example. David takes opportunities such as this Rotary meeting to provide a first-hand report of what is happening, which is often different than that reported by the media.

David enlisted in the Marine Corps February 22, 2000, and was trained as a machine gunner. He was in the 2nd Battalion Infantry Regiment out of Camp Lejeune. He had assured his parents, when joining the Corps, that he would see no combat – absolutely none whatsoever. They therefore did not object. David spent the first two years in training, working hard but enjoying places such as some of the Mediterranean countries. Then in January, 2003, his unit got the word. They were moving out to northern Kuwait, just south of the Iraqi border. Even then, David was positive he would not be going into combat. However, in March, 2003, his unit went to Iraq as part of the first wave, parallel to the 3rd Infantry Division. To illustrate the problems encountered during the first week, David recounted that the first objective for his battalion was to hold a bridge over the Euphrates, allowing forces to move on into Baghdad. This was in the city of An Nasiriyah, and according to intelligence reports, this city was relatively pro-American, meaning there was some resistance against Saddam Hussein. Action was not expected, but action occurred with the Fedayeen, Saddam’s personal para-military. There were extensive hit-and-run tactics, and the enemy got the better of David’s unit for about the first week. During one encounter, the vehicle ahead of David’s was destroyed and all men onboard were lost. In all, 26 American soldiers were killed in this action. All this is an example of the difficulties faced and being reported by the media.

David next recounted two positive stories about Iraqi citizens – “stories you will not hear in the media.” These events also occurred in or around the city of An Nasiriyah. The first concerns a sergeant in David’s brigade who had lost track of several marines in his group. He went into a town to track them down, was caught by the Fedayeen, tortured, killed and his body left in the street as a warning to locals. An Iraqi woman and her son collected the sergeant’s body and buried it in her yard – at great personal risk. She returned his dog tags and pieces of clothing to one of our checkpoints and reported that he had been given a proper burial. This enabled U.S. troops to later recover the body for proper disposition.

The second concerns the bravery of a young Iraqi man. The Iraqi sneaked up to the U.S. command post (in the middle of night) and told the brigade commander of the location of 200 members of the Fedayeen, all attending a single meeting. In one hour, a successful air strike was executed – allowing our forces to take control of An Nasiriyah. The tide would not have turned here were it not for the bravery of this man.

David and his unit were returned to the U.S. After a brief stay in the States, David was informed he was going to Afghanistan. The Army's manpower in Afghanistan was strained due to Iraqi demands, and Marines had to fill the gap. He flew into the Konar Province in November, 2003. The fire base they established there was six miles from the Pakistani border. David reports that this is one of the few remaining hot spots in Afghanistan. The country is war-torn and impoverished, but with some exceptions it is relatively peaceful. His unit did not take casualties to the extent taken in Iraq. They did experience rocket attacks and roadside bombs. Most of the news from Afghanistan reported by the media is negative and relates to the latest attack, tragedy, execution of a foreign worker, etc. But there has been progress and there are success stories that for the most part go unreported.

One such story concerns the Afghani terrorist organization "HIG," and one of its members who was a surgeon leading a double life. In addition to his medical practice, the surgeon improvised explosive devices "with a twist." Each device included a "bladder" in which he placed nerve gas. Upon exploding, a cloud of deadly nerve gas was released. Fortunately, in the middle of the night, this man was taken prisoner by a "snatch-and-grab" operation and sent to Guantanamo Bay, ending his role in the atrocities. David next commented about Guantanamo Bay, "It is often said that people are there who should not be. Actually, this is at most a very small number. The detainees in Guantanamo Bay are important detainees, such as this surgeon."

David offered the following prognoses. Iraq: Insurgency is not very large but the insurgents are well armed. Weapon caches were placed around the country by Saddam Hussein in the event of a foreign invasion. Guerillas are advised of their location and make use of them. Most people there are relatively sensible and moderate, especially the Iraqi Shiites. They represent about 60% of the population (Kurds about 20%) and want to live in peace. We were in fact greeted as liberators, with a small percentage trying to do us harm. They are glad to be rid of Saddam and they do not want him back. Effectiveness of the today's Iraqi military will increase with experience and training. David is "cautiously optimistic" about Iraq.

Afghanistan: This is a better situation. People are exhausted from 30 years of combat, and the Taliban has been reduced to a gangster force. David is "very optimistic" about Afghanistan.

Speaking about returning to the draft system in the U.S. military, David said, "I do not see much likelihood of a draft. I oppose it because casualties are higher with a draft system. We need seasoned, professional soldiers."

In conclusion, David talked of three things we must do as a nation. "(1) Define and recognize the threat as "Islamic Fascism." It's not just a terrorist group such as the IRA; it is Al Qaeda and all those who sympathize with it. We must recognize our opponent. (2) Realize this is a war, a real war. Not a war in the sense of a war on poverty or a war on drugs, but a war that requires combat footing. Terrorist attacks are not a nuisance. These people hate everything we stand for and our way of life. They are out to destroy our country. This is a war to them and must be a war to us. (3) Recognize we are right. We can disagree on how to do some things, but we must agree on certain basics."

David received an enthusiastic, standing ovation for his talk.

Enclosure: November 9, 2004 edition of *The Spray*

**St. Simons Island Rotary Club
Slate of Officers
2005-2006**

President	Kevin C. Lokey
Vice-President & President Elect	Pasquale J. (Pat) Storino
Secretary	Maria A. Vogt
Assistant Secretary	Millard G. Allen Jr.
Treasurer	Shan DuCom
Assistant Treasurer	Charles Lewis
Immediate Past President	Leslie D. Mattingly
Past Presidents' Representative	Clyde A. Taylor III
Sergeant-at-Arms	George K. (Bud) Dorsey
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Minor S. Harris Jr. (Mike)
Historians	Allen J. Berry Julian E. Flexer
Directors – One Year Remaining	William M. (Bill) Halderson David Douglass Williams
New Directors – Two Years	John Buchanan Charles L. (Chuck) Cansler Leon P. Jorgensen Michael R. (Mike) Muldowney

Enclosure with November 9, 2004, edition of *The Spray*