

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

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Club 724 — District 5260

April 20, 2005

Meeting Highlights

Our speaker today, Richard Treflick, right, a member and past president of the N-E Los Angeles Rotary Club, was introduced by Joe DiFatta. Richard's topic was Cuba, its past, present and future. Richard graduated from Cal State LA with a degree in Latin American Studies followed by further Cuban Studies.

Starting with a little of Cuba's history...Batista...Castro...Bay of Pigs and the nationalization (confiscation) of many U.S. assets, Richard, in a brief time, answered many questions about U.S.-Cuban relations.

Thanks to Joe DiFatta and Richard for a very interesting program!



Another new member! Victoria Burke, left, previously a member and past president of Calabasas Rotary, was inducted with ceremony and gusto by Ken Benson and pinned by President Carlos.

Victoria, 31 years old and mother of a three-year old daughter, is coming in with the classification of Funeral Director.

In making that all-important decision, she chose USC.

Welcome, Victoria, to Van Nuys Rotary!

Returning from his third tour of duty in Iraq, Tony Quiroga, center, presented the Club with a flag signed by members of his unit in recognition of our centennial project that sent 'care packages' to over 100 military serving in Iraq. President Carlos, left, accepted the flag for the Club along with Tony's proud father, Mike Quiroga.

Tony, we thank *you* and your fellow Marines for your devotion, bravery and service to this great country!



Student Recognition



This week two students from Birmingham High School were honored for their personal development and service to the community. Pictured, from left, Pres. Carlos, Leo O'Biecnas, honoree Karrveche Tran, coach Ed Croson, honoree David Ikahihifo and Doris Lassiter, Principal. Each honoree receives a certificate of commendation and \$50 US Savings Bond.

Announcements

- A warm 'welcome back' to Archie Kidwell!
- The Big One: **Track Meet, April 23**...sign up now with Ed Viramontes or Paul Davis.
- Hey! It's coming up: Our project to paint the Tierra del Sol building in Van Nuys on Saturday, April 30.
- Barbara Baerg reminded us about the dinner/theater party on May 6th and said there might be a couple of tickets available...hurry, talk to her soon.
- May 19-23 District Conference in Palm Springs at the luxurious Doral Resort Hotel. This will be an **outstanding** event in this Centennial year...rooms are going fast — you can call Sondra at 760/322-6824 to make your reservations. The Van Nuys Club will be vying for several District awards this year. Be there to support President Carlos and your club! See Barbara Baerg if you need registration forms.
- Cherie Spamer relayed thanks for the money we contributed to the family where the father was murdered in a gang shooting.

Visitors

GUESTS:

- Tony Quiroga, son of Mike Quiroga
- Lynne Harris, introduced by Tom Harris

ROTARIANS:

- Roz Kogler, North San Fernando/Panorama City
- Victoria Burke, Calabasas, guest of the club

"If you haven't got all the things you want, be grateful for the things you don't have that you don't want."

-- Anonymous

The Spotlight's on...



John McDannel's resume can be confusing at first glance. He had two major careers that overlapped for 23 years. From 1975 through 1998, he was a pilot for United Airlines *and* an officer at Trans World Bank Corp. He was fortunate, he says, to be able to "advance my education" in both fields.

JOHN McDANNEL At United Airlines from 1969 until his retirement in 2001, John was based at international airports in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Honolulu and San Francisco. An award-winning pilot during his 32-year tenure, John remembers having the honor of being chosen to "serve as a crew member of the 747 chartered by the National Republican Party for Ronald Reagan's successful 1980 presidential campaign."

During a furlough from United Airlines, John joined Trans World Bank Corp. as director of advertising and marketing. He rose to vice president of corporate banking and became a "turn-around" expert working with under-performing branches and opening new offices. When United Airlines called him back in 1977, John kept both jobs.

John McDannel has been influenced by Rotary since his junior year in high school. His family had just moved from Inglewood to Covina, and he began running in track events. "I had a blistering year," he recalls, "and was honored by a Rotary Club with a trophy bearing the Rotary emblem" – a trophy that he proudly displayed in his bedroom. The following year, the same club gave him a citation naming him "Athlete of the Year." "It was a very nice way to highlight a young person," John says.

Rotary's awards were not the only recognition John received. He was named All San Gabriel Valley Player of the Year in football and track in 1958-59 and high school district

decathlon champion and Covina High School's Athlete of the Year in 1959. Two years later, he set the U.S. National Junior College 480-Yard Shuttle Hurdle Relay Record and earned first place in the Mt. San Antonio Junior College Decathlon.

John attracted the attention of the Canadian Football League after graduation from Mt. San Antonio — but he opted for a football/track scholarship from University of La Verne, instead, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Economics.

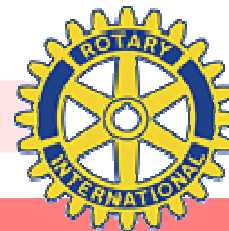
John also attended U.S. Air Force ROTC at USC. Following graduation, he was commissioned as an officer, earned an MBA in Economics at USC and trained as a fighter pilot while serving on active duty until 1968. He joined United Airlines in 1969.

John met his wife, Mary, at Mt. San Antonio and they were married in 1965. The couple has three daughters, two grandchildren and two golden retrievers — Ginger and Spice. The McDannels will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year, with Mary retiring from teaching in June.

John is still working, though. In December, 2002, United Airlines employees drew John out of retirement to interview for the CEO position of the financially-troubled airline. He accepted and put together a recovery plan for the employees. When the company hired a bankruptcy expert to run the company instead, John shifted his focus to saving pension benefits for United's 120,000 employees – including his own. "I'm basically not retired," he says.

As for Rotary, John was 30 when he joined the Van Nuys Club in 1973 to "be able to give back." He served the club as president in 1985-86 — a "great experience," he recalls, "because I had tremendous support from members of the club. "Joining Rotary was a wonderful way to honor the Rotarians who had recognized me in high school," he adds.

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"Service Above Self"

Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- April 27 **Meet at the YMCA** — 6901 Lennox, Van Nuys. Ruben Corona and his staff will show us all the new things going on at the "Y". Chair: Mike Quiroga.
- May 4 **Update on the Mars Rovers** — Speaker: Scott Doudrick from JPL will tell us about "Cassinini" and "Hyugens"...and what's next.
- May 11 **Past Presidents Day** — renew old acquaintances and hear tales of "the good old days." Meeting downstairs. Speaker: **Dennis McCarthy**, columnist for the *Daily News*... and Joe promises entertainment!
- May 18 **Dodgers...?**

BIRTHDAYS

- April 26 Melva Schlick
- April 27 Jim Sullivan
- April 28 Pete Satuloff
- May 5 Magdalena Rivera
- May 17 Larry Sunderlind

HOT DATES

- April 23 **25th Annual Van Nuys Invitational Track Meet** at Birmingham High School. Victory Blvd. at Balboa.
- May 11 **President's Day** — mark your calendar to hear Dennis McCarthy, *Daily News* reporter.
- May 19-23 **District Conference**, Doral Resort Hotel in Palm Springs.
- June 9-12 **San Fernando Valley Fair**, Rotary beer booth, see Flip Smith.
- June 18-22 **RI Centennial Convention**, Chicago, IL. Celebrating 100 years of Rotary!
- Sept. 16-18 **Sierra Safari** in Bishop! Try it, you'll like it!

We're on the web! VanNuysRotary.org

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