



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Remembering Those Who Died in Service to Our Country



"May we never forget freedom isn't free."

Philip Smith and Jim King organized and led an inspirational Memorial Day program honoring the 1.8 million men and women who have died in military service to our nation since 1775. Philip introduced Col. (US Army, ret.) Allan Imes who shared the history of and reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields* written by Lt. Col. John McCrae in 1915 on a WWI battlefield in Belgium (see below). Smith then explained that Memorial Day actually began following the Civil War, but after the end of WWI, it was changed to honor all those who died in service to our nation.

Bill Hardee narrated a video that honored and memorialized those who served and died in the Vietnam War. As Bill noted, the U.S. entered the Vietnam War very quietly in 1955. And, it ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. In the intervening 19.5 years, over 9 million U.S. military served on active duty during the Vietnam War era. 240 of the 2.7 million who served in uniform in Vietnam were awarded the Medal of Honor, 58,220 were killed in action, and another 75,000 were severely wounded and disabled. Almost 2,000 Americans were imprisoned in 13 different prison camps as Prisoners of War (POWs) from

1964 to 1973. Most of those were airmen captured as their planes were shot down. In 1973, almost 2,500 servicemen were listed as Missing in Action (MIA). As of April 2017, 1,611 remained unaccounted for. Many serving in the jungles were repeatedly exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide used to kill trees and foliage to eliminate refuge for enemy combatants. Cancer and birth defects among returning veterans have been linked to the herbicide. Bill also spoke about The Wall as the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC. The Wall captures the emotions of the human toll our servicemen and our country suffered during the Vietnam War era. It has helped heal the wounds – physical, psychological, social, and political. All Americans have come to appreciate and honor the sacrifices of those who served in Southeast Asia.

Jim King closed the program by inviting everyone to participate in the local Memorial Day ceremonies at Veterans Park on Memorial Drive on Monday at 11 AM. Jim added that there is one day on our calendar each year to remember those who died in service to our country, but there are 364 more days in the year on which we should also never forget those sacrifices.

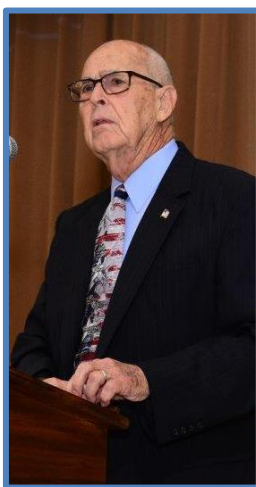


Philip Smith



Jim King

In Flanders Fields



Allan Imes

Written by Lt. Col. John McCrae of the Canadian Army after the death of a best friend on a Belgium WWI battlefield.

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Col. (US Army, retired) Allan Imes was a special guest for our Memorial Day program. In reading this poem, Imes shared that the death of a good friend in combat is very painful and that the poem, *In Flanders Fields*, captures only part of those emotions.



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

THE GRIFFITARIAN

Club Calendar

MAY IS ROTARY'S YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

May 31	Roy Bowen Georgia Association of Manufacturers	June 14	Donald Leslie Shepherd Center
June 7	Take Me Out to the Ballgame	June 16	Rotary Leadership Institute @ SCTC

Our Rotary Family

BIRTHDAYS

May 29	John Dillon
30	Andrew Blake
June 01	Mark Peek
02	Katy Arrowood
04	Dick Brooks
05	Janice Wallace
05	Jennifer Hilton

ANNIVERSARIES

May 25	Stephanie & Gray Windham
28	Alton & Annette Knight
June 06	Don & Farrah Crider
06	Jerry & Mary Walker
09	Philip & Jackie Smith
09	Randy & Brenda Peters

NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS

These individuals have been proposed for membership in Griffin Rotary: Francisco Diaz, UGA Griffin (Education – University) proposed by Kirk Kealey; Jordan Piland, Lewis & Wallace Associates Inc. (Insurance – Home) proposed by Otis Blake, and: Jordan Roberts, Consolidated Copier Services (Business Services – Copiers/Printers) proposed by Brett Bell. Any comments must be addressed to Yvonne Langford in writing on or before May 31.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING FIESTA RECAP. Pres-Elect Randy Peters reported that the Spring Fiesta held on Saturday, May 19th, had 80+ attending to enjoy the food, games, and Rotary friendship. He added that the event had raised about \$15,000 for our community fund to support various community projects next Rotary year. Randy thanked the sponsors, the Fundraiser Committee, and others for all their help and support to make this a Great Event.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR DUES INVOICE VIA EMAIL? If it is not in your inbox (past 1-2 weeks), check your spam filter for the invoice.

UPDATE YOUR ENTRY IN OUR CLUB HANDBOOK by contacting Jim King (email, call, or see). Handbook goes to press in mid-June.

MEETING MAKEUP INFORMATION

Monday – 12 Noon	Henry County	PJs Sidewalk Café, McDonough
Monday – 12:15 PM	Fayetteville	IHOP, Fayetteville
Monday – 6:30 PM	Coweta-Fayette	Senoia Coffee Company, Senoia
Tuesday – 12 Noon	Barnesville	Lamar Co. College & Career Academy
Tuesday – 12 Noon	Jackson/Butts Co.	Daughtry Park, Jackson
Tuesday – 12:15 PM	Thomaston/Upson Co	Thomaston-Upson Senior Center
Wednesday – 7:30 AM	Griffin Daybreak	J. Henry's Restaurant, Griffin
Wednesday – 12:15 PM	Clayton County	Holiday Inn, Jonesboro
Thursday – 7:15 AM	Fayette Daybreak	Windham ,Peachtree City
Friday – 12 Noon	Newnan	Newnan Country Club, Newnan

ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN, GA
PO Box 473, Griffin, GA 30224
Club Number 4129

OFFICERS

President	-	Tom Gardner
Vice-President	-	Janice Wallace
President-Elect	-	Randy Peters
Treasurer	-	Art Hammond
Secretary	-	Yvonne Langford
Sergeant-at-Arms	-	George Granade
Club Chaplain	-	Wade Miller
Bulletin Editor	-	Wayne Gardner
Photographer	-	William Wilson

DIRECTORS

Membership	-	Charles Woodroof
Public Relations	-	Brett Bell
Club Administration	-	John White
Rotary Foundation	-	Alan Dodson
Vocational Service	-	Corey Letson
Community Service	-	David Galloway
International Service	-	Bill Hardee
New Generations	-	Katy Arrowood

DISTRICT 6900 AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

ED OUTLAW

Assistant District Governor

ALEC SMYTHE

District 6900 Governor

IAN H.S. RISELEY

Rotary International President

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ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

GRIFFIN ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE