



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

April 30, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
www.charlotterotary.org

Congressman Robert Pittenger

By: Ed Wadsworth

Ed McMahan, a longtime member of the North Carolina General Assembly and former Charlotte Rotarian, was warmly received as he introduced our new NC Congressman, Robert Pittenger. Robert has been in Charlotte since 1985 where he started a successful business, buying outlying farm properties in advance of residential development. He still maintains his family home at Quail Hollow County Club with his wife, Suzanne. They have 4 children and 7 grandchildren.



Congressman Pittenger began his remarks pointedly recognizing all of our club members who provide public service to our community.

His remarks provided insight into some of his "inside the beltway" experiences as a freshman Congressman. One of his primary focuses has been to create and support "United Solutions," an internal lobbying organization supported by more than a dozen Congressmen. Among its initiatives is the prioritization of debt reduction. Of the current \$3.6B annual federal budget, a \$2.4B majority is spent on entitlement programs with Medicare the greatest concern of the budget expansion. He emphasized that if the current spending trend is not reversed, by 2035 the US will be in worse shape than Greece, with debt expenditures 137% of GNP.

His message on military spending was mixed. He reminded us that the only Constitutional funding requirement is Defense, yet Defense constitutes only 9% of our annual spending. His implication was that apportioning that amount of the budget, at the very least, is justified. Though later in his remarks, he recounted how recently he had challenged a General during the "sequester" debates. Congressman Pittenger argued that current military spending levels may need to be trumped by the urgent requirement to reduce government spending to attain fiscal balance for the preservation of future generations.

He shares most of our concerns that Washington may not "know where it's going," that bureaucracy is exhausting their efforts, i.e., "straightening up pictures while the house is burning." In spite of that, whether at the Harvard or Williamsburg "Freshman Briefings," the floor of the House or the floor of the gym, he has met and made friends with quality people of integrity from both sides of the aisle who are there to serve. As Rotarians, does that not sound familiar?

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

MAY 2013

7th **How I Got
Where I'm At**
David Anderson, Angela Broome,
Jerry Coughter

14th **Dr. Nathan Hatch**
President
Wake Forest University

21st **Youth Merit
Awards**
**NOTE: meeting will be held at
Charlotte Country Club**

28th **Frank Whitney**
U.S. District Court Judge

12:30 Tuesday
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

CLUB NEWS

→ Two new members were introduced this week. **Eric Davis** was glad to sponsor Tony Pinkard, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Johnson C. Smith University. Tony can be reached at epinkard@jcsu.edu; **Edwin Peacock** introduced Ken Harris, Jr., who is an attorney with the Council For Children's Rights. Welcome Ken at wfsgrad@gmail.com.

→ **Mike Rash** has had two surgeries over the last week and is in serious, but stable condition at CMC. Lila says he enjoys cards and notes, so drop him a line at 325 Queens Road (28204). In fact, Lila just emailed an update saying he is still in ICU and showing some improvement.

→ Tidbits from the papers: **Elsie Garner** is retiring from WTVI; **Don Millen** provided comments to a question regarding the increase in activity in the market for mergers & acquisitions; **Jerry Walters** was photographed while attending the Charlotte Business Journal's Corporate Counsel Awards; Bob Timberlake and **Mark Erwin** will be on hand to celebrate the publication of Timberlake and Erwin's new book May 16th, 5:00 – 6:00 PM at Jesse Brown's Outdoors (**Bill Bartee**). RSVP required by May 8th – sciparty@jessebrowns.com.

→ "Bring a guest to Rotary" month has been extended through May. Your efforts may be rewarded by membership chair **Terri DeBoo**.

→ **Ed White**, longtime member of Charlotte Rotary, passed away on April 29th at the age of 99. Ed joined Rotary in 1973 and a note in his file said he had so many good memories of the club and especially working on the Trees and Beautification Committee in the 80's. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on May 4th at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, with a reception immediately following in the fellowship hall.

→ Support fellow Rotary Clubs: **Charlotte West**: Cornhole tournament - Tossin' for Tykes, June 1st @ Bryant Park, 1701 W. Morehead St., \$50 per two-person team; **Matthews**: 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner, May 10th, 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Levine Senior Center in Matthews; May Social: **Charlotte End-of-the-Week & Charlotte International** at Cantina 1511, May 15, \$17 at the door (1 drink and 3 appetizers); **Charlotte-Evening**: business card directory - \$20.

CLUB PROJECTS NEEDING YOUR SUPPORT

→ Toiletries to benefit clients served at Hope Haven will continue through May 7th.

→ Host families are needed for Criissi Wagner, our exchange student who arrives from Germany on August 14th. She will be in the 11th grade at Myers Park High School and is fluent in English. Contact **Ed Wadsworth** or any member of the Youth Exchange Committee.

JIM AND GLORIA HINTZ

Herb Harriss gave an update on opportunities to support the Hintz family. In case you have not yet placed Jim and Gloria in your head – they are the ever faithful Rotarians that have worked in Peru for the last ten years and brought the beautiful hand-made cards that were frequently sold and on display at our meetings.

- A memorial service for Gloria will be held at 7:00 tonight (May 1) at Advent Luther Church, 8840 University City Blvd.
- The Gloria Hintz "Bridge to Opportunity" Scholarship has been established to help students bridge the gap between high school graduation and university admission/study. Charlotte Rotary will make a \$2000 donation to this effort. Donations can be made by sending a check (tax deductible) to Bridge to Opportunity Scholarships, c/o Dilworth Charities, Inc., 1530 Center Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217-2911.
- As reported earlier, Jim arranged a medical transport to fly Gloria back to the USA from Peru. His personal expense for the transport was \$61,000. Anyone wishing to write a check to help cover this expense may write their check (NOT tax deductible) to Jim Hintz (any amount appreciated!) and mail to the Rotary Office: 841 Baxter Street, Ste 118, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Questions for any of the above may be directed to Sandy in the Rotary office.

Attendance	04/30/2013	05/01/2012	Membership	New Members: Thomas Mussoni, Ken Harris, Tony Pinkard
Visitors & Guests	15	27	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	153	174	04/30/2013 316	
Total Attendance	168	201	Net Increase	Resignations: Chris France, Chris Linscheid, Jermaine Husser, David Laws
Percentage	54.6%			
Birthdays May 7-13		Anniversaries May 7-13		
07 Mary Rinehardt	09 Fernando Ycaza	07 Patty McKernan & Tod Thorne	07 Julie Haack & David Murray	
12 Gene Williams		08 Burgl & Ronnie Pruett	09 Mary Beth & John Snyder	
		10 Nicole & Alex Browning		