

DISTRICT 6740 CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES ROTARY CLUB OF LEXINGTON

No honors are more valued than those we receive from respected peers. That truth was in evidence at the sold-out District Conference held on May 18, held at the Hilton Double Tree in Lexington. For this year’s theme, DG Jeanne chose “A Year of Service . . . A Year of Hope.” In addition to the well-deserved recognition of clubs throughout our District, our own Club/Club member received three awards. The Polio Eradication Award recognized our Club’s giving to Rotary International’s signature Polio Plus campaign. President Kim accepted that award on behalf of the Club, along one of the 5 Star

Club awards for going above and beyond the Five Areas of Rotary Service. Finally, Assistant Governor Bill Wilson received a District Governor’s Choice Award in recognition of his service to the District. Rotarian Gregory Turay sang “Let There Be Peace on Earth” as part of the opening to the dinner and at the Memorial he sang “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” The event was attended by 140 Rotarians from throughout the District, including fifteen from our Club. All in all, it was a good day for District 6740 and for the Rotary Club of Lexington.



Photos by Odyssey Optics Media (Michael Wallace)

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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?

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**May 30** 5th Thursday, No Lunch Meeting, See Events

**Jun 6** Brent Harrison, PhD University of Kentucky Professor Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence

**Jun 13** Frank Minnifield and Kay Collier McLaughlin, Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame

**Jun 20** No Lunch Meeting, Doing Rotary Differently

**Jun 27** President’s Day

**UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**May 30** Henry Clay Estate Social, 120 Sycamore Rd., \$5, 5:30-7:00pm

**May 31** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am

**Jun 1** Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation, J Render’s Speakeasy, 6-8:30pm

**Jun 5** Operation Send, Military Missions, 570 Delzan Pl., 6-7:30pm

**Jun 10** Operation Send, Military Missions, 570 Delzan Pl, 12-3:00pm

**Jul 8-14** Kentucky Championship, Keene Trace, Nicholasville, shifts available

**KENTUCKY CHAMPIONSHIP Annual PGA Tour Event**  
**Keene Trace, Nicholasville**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! | July 8-14th**

The Kentucky Championship has chosen the Lexington Rotary Endowment Fund as a charity of choice!  
REGISTRATION: KENTUCKYCHAMPIONSHIP.COM  
Use CODE : ROTARY 2024 to register for free

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

May 23, 2024  
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Kim Johnson  
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Lew Kelly  
Introduction of Guests: Mike Baker  
Introduction of Speaker: Chris Aldridge

Speaker: Rear Admiral Craig T. Mattingly, Commander, Navel Service Training Command  
Program: A Kentuckian’s Update on What’s New in the Navy  
**Location: The Mane on Main**

See Peggy’s weekly club email for meeting details: ordering lunch and how to view the meeting live online via Zoom or YouTube or view a recording of the meeting later.

**MEET OUR SPEAKER**

**REAR ADM. CRAIG T. MATTINGLY**

Rear Adm. Craig T. Mattingly, a native of Austin, Kentucky, departed the family dairy farm in 1987 to enlist in the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator. He is a 1991 Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) graduate and a 1995 U.S. Naval Academy graduate. He was designated as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in 1997. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College, Executive Leadership and Management certifications from the University of Notre Dame, is Joint Qualified and an alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI.

Mattingly’s Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) operational assignments include Patrol Squadron (VP) 50, Naval Air Station (NAS) Mof-

fett Field, CA; VP-8, NAS Brunswick, ME; and VP-26, NAS Brunswick, ME. He served as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VP-9, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, HI. He led his squadron on deployment supporting EUCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM Areas of Responsibility (AOR) as Commander of multiple Task Groups (CTG). His major command tour was Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW-11), NAS Jacksonville, FL. During his tenure as Commodore, CPRW-11 supported global initiatives to include the inaugural INDOPACOM deployments of the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial System and P-8A Poseidon Advanced Airborne Sensor as well as the P-3C Littoral Surveillance Radar System; P-8A deployments supporting all Geographic Combatant Commanders; Commander, Task Force 47 supporting SOUTHCOM; and Task Group 84 supporting NORTHCOM.

Mattingly’s overseas tours include U.S. SIXTH Fleet N5 Theater Security Cooperation Officer, Gaeta, Italy; Flag Aide to Commander, U.S. SIXTH Fleet/Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO/Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon; Special Assistant/Aide de Camp to the Commander, Naval Forces Europe and Africa/Commander, Allied Joint Force Command, Naples; and N3 Operations Officer/Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Task Force 72, Misawa, Japan where he conducted MPRF operations including support of Operation Damayan, a humanitarian response to the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Republic of the Philippines.

Other assignments include VP-30 Fleet Replacement Squadron NFO Instructor, Fleet NATOPS Evaluator; Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (PMA-290) and Naval Aviation Training Systems and Ranges (PMA-205) P-8A Poseidon, P-3C Orion and EP-3 Aries Training Systems Assistant Program Manager at Naval Air Systems Command where he earned Acquisition Program Management Level III; and Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (OPNAV N3/N5).

Prior to reporting as Commander, Naval Service Training Command, Mattingly’s most recent assignment was serving as Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy.

He has accumulated more than 3,900 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft and served on teams that have received various awards and recognition.



EARLY REVIEWS ARE IN: DWLS HIGH STEPS ITS WAY TO SUCCESS!

The 2024 edition of Dancing with the Lexington Stars (DWLS) was a spectacular and sold out event, drawing an enthusiastic standing-room-only crowd. This year’s production was hailed as one of the best, with stellar contributions from local news stations WKYT, WTVQ, WLEX, and WDKY enhancing the evening’s excitement and from the early analysis it appears that our fundraising efforts have resulted in a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Special thanks to our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsor, Chaffin Lifestyles. Rotarian Alisha Chaffin not only was a major sponsor, but was a Shining Star as well as a DWLS committee member! Thank you, Alisha and thank you to all of the Rotary volunteers who made this year’s gala a success!

The Judge’s Champion title was awarded to Ozlem Davis and her son, Owen, whose remarkable performance left the audience in awe. The People’s Champion honors went to Mattie Lewis and Josh Kattus. Josh, a tight end for UK’s football Wildcats, received great support from his football connections. Additionally, the UK Athletic Department’s photographers and videographers created a special video documenting Josh and Mattie’s journey. They successfully raised \$34,000 for the cause!

The Overall Champion accolade was claimed by Shelia and Neil Griffith, who managed to raise over \$25,000. Every dancer’s performance was exceptional, contributing to an unforgettable evening. For those who missed it or wish to relive the event, a recording is available at [dancexlexstars.com](http://dancexlexstars.com).

DWLS not only highlights the talent and dedication of its participants but also underscores the community spirit and charitable efforts that define the Rotary Club of Lexington. Proudly celebrating this success, the Rotary community looks forward to future events with the same enthusiasm and commitment.



Photo by Odyssey Optics Media (Michael Wallace)

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Editorial Standards: *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed.

Rotary in Review

HONOR FLIGHT HONORS KENTUCKY VETERANS

Last week’s speaker was Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams III, a retired Army Airborne veteran of both the Kuwaiti and Iraqi campaigns. He most recently served as the 5th Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. He currently serves as Chair of Honor Flight Kentucky. Honor Flight Kentucky honors Bluegrass veterans from all branches of the services by providing a one-day, all expenses paid trip to Washington, DC (referred to as “Honor Flights”) to see the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam war memorials. They also visit the Iwo Jima Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery where four veterans are selected to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Honor Flight was officially started nineteen years ago in the Spring of 2016, although the first flight was in 2015. More than 1,600 veterans—men and women—from central and eastern Kentucky have experienced Honor Flights. Veterans do not have to be combat veterans to participate; they are prioritized by their age. World War II veterans receive preferential access since many are in their early 90’s. Brig. Gen. Adams noted that only 120,000 World War II veterans out of 16 million who served are still alive and, unfortunately, nearly 200 of that generation are lost

every day. Korea War veterans are next in line, followed by veterans of the Vietnam War. However, regardless of the dates of service, those with terminal illnesses move to the head of the line.

Flights typically begin at 4:00am, with a 7:00am takeoff on a chartered American Airlines jet from Bluegrass Airport to Washington Reagan National Airport. Brig. Gen. Adams observed that the veterans are quiet at the beginning of the day, especially the Vietnam veterans, since they generally did not receive proper recognition for their service to their country. By the end of the day, most all have “loosened up,” friendships have developed, and “war stories” are being told. He said that most participants become re-energized by the end of day “mail call”. Each veteran has a guardian (an escort) who is with them all day to ensure a safe and unforgettable day in the Washington. There are three Honor Flights each year beginning in early May and again in August and September, each with a minimum of sixty-five veterans on each flight, along with guardians, a physician and EMT personnel. Brig. Gen. Adams said that each flight costs \$120,000 and takes three to four months to plan. The charter flight alone costs \$82,000. Corporate sponsorships and private donations

help make Honor Flights financially possible. He especially thanked Touchstone Energy and Toyota of the Bluegrass for being lead sponsors of the program.

In addition to financial support, Honor Flights can always use guardians, individuals, families, and service organizations to provide send-offs and “welcome backs” to the veterans at Bluegrass Airport.

Brig. Gen. Adams’ presentation was timely, as it was closely followed by an Honor Flight on May 18. Our own Alisha Chaffin played a role in the success of this flight, serving as part of the welcome home contingent. She notes that “her involvement with Honor Flight began quite serendipitously through a chance meeting with Harris Millerd, Honor Flight Executive Director” and “that it has turned into a remarkable experience. Moving forward, I am committed to remaining actively involved with Honor Flight in any capacity where I can be of assistance.”

— Paul B. Chewning



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