Rear Admiral Jim Lair
Memorial Day Presentation

Admiral Lair is a native of Los Angeles, CA. He enlisted in the Marine Corps reserve in 1957, then entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and earned his Wings and Commission in December 1961. He made three Western Pacific deployments flying from the Aircraft Carrier, Bennington. He next attended the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated in June 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.

Flying the A-4 Skyhawk and A-7 Corsair II, Admiral Lair made two Combat Cruises aboard the USS Ticonderoga, and USS Kitty Hawk flying over 200 Combat Missions over Vietnam. He then attended the School of Command and Staff at the Naval War College and received a MS in International Relations from the George Washington University.

He then made a third Combat Cruise aboard the USS Coral Sea and participated in the evacuation of South Vietnam and was one of the leaders in the recovery of the Merchant Ship Mayaguez.

He commanded Attack Squadron 146, Carrier Air Wing Six during the Lebanon Crisis, the USS Calosahatchee and the Aircraft Carrier USS America (CV66).

Following his tour as Chief of Staff for Commander US Sixth Fleet he was promoted to Rear Admiral.

He then commanded Carrier Group Two and deployed to the Mediterranean during the Bosnian Crisis.

Rear Admiral Lair's final active duty tour was as Director of Operations, Combat Commander, US Forces Europe, Stuttgart, Germany. He was responsible all operations in the European Area of Responsibility. This included the Air Land and Air Drop Resupply Missions in Bosnia; the enforcement of the No Fly Zone over Northern Iraq and the humanitarian relief efforts for one million refugees in Rwanda.

Admiral Lair has over 8000 flight hours and 1400 Carrier Landings. His personal awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, 4 Legions of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Award, 2 Individual Air Medals, 22 Strike Flight Air Medals and 4 Navy Commendation Medals with the Combat "V" and various campaign awards.

Retiring in 1995, he came to Texas and worked for Lockheed Martin on the Navy variant of the Joint Strike Fighter. He then managed the Flight Safety Learning Center at the DFW Airport. In 2005, he returned to the Federal Government and has been the Federal Security Director at DFW and Reno/Tahoe airports and the Deputy Federal Security Director at Phoenix.

New Member Social
Many of RCPC's newest members attended a social hour at Snuffers Wed, May 21st. It was a great venue to learn ways to become more fully engaged in the Club and to get to know other new members. A big thank you to Linda Tunnell, Karen Farris and Kendall Laughlin for organizing this successful event!

News from Hillcrest HS Interact Club
At their May 20 meeting the Interact Club at H.H.S. elected their officers for the 2010-11 school year. There was much energy and excitement from the students already, as they have started making plans for next year.

Meanwhile Interactors finished the year by reading to kids at McShan and Preston Hollow Elementary Schools.
Presiding: Phillip Bankhead
Invocation: Moody Alexander
Pledge/Song Leader: Karl Von Bieberstein

Introductions: Jon Petersen
Four Way Test: Fred Speno
Chairs of the Day: Bob Patton
Speaker: Jill A. Jordan, Asst City Mgr
Program: Update on the Trinity River

President Phillip Bankhead called the meeting to order. Moody Alexander gave the invocation and noted that PP Charles Delphine has had a pacemaker, but was present at the meeting. Yea, Charles! PP Karl Von Bieberstein led the Pledge of Allegiance and the “Star Spangled Banner.” He then congratulated Kendra Norton on her engagement. Jon Petersen introduced our visitors and guests. Dax Seale introduced The Hub and the web advertisers of the week. Mike Kelley answered the Question of the Day. PP Greg Pape announced that to date there are one hundred members who had contributed to the RI Foundation. He reminded us that “doing good in the world” is the goal, the mission, and the reason there is an RI Foundation. He then recognized PE Rick Amsberry as a third-level Paul Harris Fellow.

President Phillip reported the club had accomplished 5,800 hours of community service in 2009-10, which equates to about $120,000 worth of service.

Bob Patton introduced our speaker today, Asst City Manager, Jill Jordan who is responsible for the Trinity River Corridor Project. The project is twenty miles long, stretching from Luna Road and Royal Lane to where the Trinity crosses I-20. It includes three flood control projects. The Corps of Engineers routinely inspects the levees, but in 2009 the levees were deemed unacceptable. Therefore, since 2009 the city has been fixing these operations and maintenance issues. The Trinity project raises the levees by two feet. The lower chain of wetlands has been completed, but there are wetlands in the upper part of the river that are still being constructed. Another part of the project is to improve the pump stations and build two new ones. The more observable parts of the project are the recreational areas, including a new lake near the Westmoreland Bridge, an amphitheater and sports complex on the banks, standing waves for kayakers, a hike and bike trail over the Santa Fe trestle, and a recreational island. There will be a series of trails into the Trinity Forest area, and gateway parks will be built at several entrances. There is an lookout area at Beckley and Commerce to watch the progress of the project. The Audubon Center has been constructed at an old land fill. Once the Calatrava Bridge is completed, the Continental Bridge will become a pedestrian bridge with areas for festivals. The first Calatrava Bridge will be finished in about a year. Also included in the plans is renovation of S. M. Wright Fwy.

Q: What is the difference between the RI Foundation and the RCPC Foundation?
A: Funds in the Rotary International Foundation are used for a variety of projects worldwide. Funds in our RCPC Foundation are used for our own projects or to fund local worthwhile causes often benefitting children.

Get involved!

John Kenny, Scotland President, Rotary International www.rotary.org
Dave McSpadden, Waxahachie Governor, District 5810 www.rotary5810.org
America

In America any boy may become President and I suppose it's just one of the risks he takes.

~ Adai E. Stephenson

America’s greatest strength and its greatest weakness is our belief in second chances, our belief that we can always start over, that things can be made better.

~ Anthony Walton

The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly.

~ John F. Kennedy

There’s the country of America, which you have to defend, but there’s also the idea of America. America is more than just a country, it’s an idea. An idea that's supposed to be contagious.

~ Bono

From Alana Stein

To the Amazing Park Cities Rotary Club

I wish to thank your club and the members who reached out to me and my family. Mr. Dill and Elaine Allen, for their close contact during the loss of my brother, were so appreciated. Mr. Dill gave up so much personal time to assist my family.

I must also compliment your club. I was so impressed” by the song at the opening of the meeting. The men sang so strong and with spirit I could tell it was from the heart, not just routine.

I will be passing on to our local clubs about your great club and the kindness shown by your members.

Thank you, Phillip, for putting me in their hands.

Alana Stein
Inyokern Rotary Club, District 5240

A STORY FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Courage

You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam.

It's Nov. 14, 1965, Landing Zone X-ray. Your unit is outnumbered 8-1; the enemy fire is so intense, your Commanding Officer has ordered the MedEvac helicopters to stop coming.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Then - over the machine gun noise - you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in. But– it doesn't seem real; no MedEvac markings are on it.

Capt. Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not MedEvac, so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway.

Even after the MedEvacs were ordered not to come, he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and to safety. And he kept coming back! 13 more times!! He brought water and ammunition in and took all the wounded out. No one knew until the mission was over that he had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm. Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Ed Freeman, USAF, died at the age of 80 in Boise, ID. Remember. Thanks to Elaine Allen for this story!