

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



Rotary Club Calendar

- December 22 - 6:30pm - Holiday Party
at Normandie Farm Restaurant
- December 29 - No Meeting
- January 5 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna
January 10 - 7pm - Manna Food
Center Packing
- January 12 - 6:30pm - Meeting -
Normandie Farm
Dr. Michelle Thaller, NASA
- January 19 - 6:30pm - Meeting -
Normandie Farm
Philip Tarnoff, "The Road Ahead"
- January 26 - 6:30pm - Social -
Normandie Farm
- February 2- 6:30pm - Service
Project
- February 9 - 6:30pm - Meeting -
Normandie Farm
Bob Hester - Metro
- February 14 - 7pm - Manna Food
Center Packing
- February 16 - 6:30pm - Meeting -
Normandie Farm
Bob Pelletier, Jay Davies
Rotary World Curling Fellowship
- February 23 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm
107th Anniversary of the
Founding of Rotary International

Remembering Charter Member Joe Jennette

[From the Washington Post]

Joseph E. Jennette, Jr. (Age 79) peacefully passed on December 14, 2011, at Asbury Methodist Village. Born in Norfolk, VA, he served in the Navy and



attended the US Naval Academy, VA Tech and University of North Carolina. During 30 years at IBM in FSD and SID divisions, he managed the Apollo program and all IBM air traffic control activities worldwide. His wife, Evelyn and he lived in Potomac, Grasonville and Gaithersburg, MD. An active member at Faith United Methodist Church and a charter member of Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club, he enjoyed boating, his beach home and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Jay. He will be lovingly remembered by Evelyn, daughter Kathy, son-in-law Dart, and grandchildren, Caroline and Paul Alsmeyer. A memorial service was held on Monday, December 19, at

Grace United Methodist Church, Gaithersburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the scholarship fund at the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation; Tom Leuchtenburg, Treasurer; 8220 Gainsborough Ct. W., Potomac, MD 20854.

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Eulogy at Funeral by Dick Alsmeyer

I have known Joe for almost 40 years. We met while working with the youth at Faith United Methodist Church. Our son Dart and Joe and Evelyn's daughter Kathy have been married 31 years and have two children, Paul and Caroline. He invited me to help him and another IBMer found the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club. Joe enjoyed Rotary and was so important as a functioning officer and member. Joe was a thoughtful, considerate club official and helped with numerous Club activities and fundraisers. He was a member of that Club for about 23 years. Many of the Club Members are here today.

He loved dogs and often spoke of their activities especially at the beach. He loved golf and often played when time allowed. When possible, Paul, his grandson, and I would golf with Joe and Paul usually won.

According to Evelyn, she and Joe met in grammar school. Joe was President of his senior class. Joe joined the Navy, served on a battleship during the Korean War and later studied at the Naval Academy.

In 1956 Joe entered Virginia Institute of Technology where he studied electrical engineering. Joe and Evelyn married and she worked as Joe went to school on the GI Bill.

After graduation, he was employed by Western Electric in Burlington, North Carolina, where Kathy was born. He attended the University of North Carolina and he received his Masters degree.

Joe was a quiet, patient and very intelligent man. He joined IBM where he served in a number of locations for 30 years settling down in Potomac in the later years.

While in Binghamton, NY, Joe and Evelyn adopted a son, Jay, now deceased, who grew up in Potomac.

Joe was in charge of the Federal Systems Division of IBM. In that capacity he traveled much of his career: Moscow, Cape Canaveral, California, Upper NY State.



According to many of Joe's former employees, he was very kind, understanding and caring. Joe would travel nationwide to comfort IBM families of his employees.

After retirement from IBM, Joe founded two companies and later was one of the vice presidents of CSC for 5 years.

Joe lived fishing and boating so in about 1970, they bought a beach place in Rehoboth, DE. Kathy, Joe, myself and my two sons once caught a 90lb sea trout from a charter boat based near Rehoboth.

My wife, Helen, and I have been guests at their beach home many times. Helen and I and her aunt were at Rehoboth when our granddaughter Caroline was born.

In addition to fishing and boating, Joe loved sports. He and Evelyn watched the Baltimore Orioles games spring and summer. But more than baseball, Joe loved football. Each fall Saturday afternoon, he would cheer for his beloved Hokies of Virginia Tech. But even more than the Hokies, Joe loved the Redskins and watched every game. "Hail to the Redskins, hail victory, braves on the warpath, fight for old DC."

Eulogy at Funeral by Craig Saum, Joe Jennette's Nephew

Thank you for coming to honor an exceptional human being, Joe Jennette.

Joe showed that he was a cut above as

a young boy, rising to the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. When his country called him to service during the Korean War, he enlisted in the Navy. Again he showed he was exceptional when as a kick, he and some enlisted buddies took the exam for officers candidate school. As you would guess, he scored exceptionally high and with a select few was whisked off to Annapolis.

After the war he continued his education and finished at the top of his class at Virginia Tech.

Joe continued to hone his leadership skills with IBM. He once joked that IBM really meant "I've Been Moved." As with all great leaders Joe was a good

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

listener. It's very rare that a person of such giant intellect has common sense as well.

Throughout my life my exposure to Joe was at vacation time. He loved to explore the backwater and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. He knew that getting out and breathing the fresh air cleared the mind and recharged him.

Every time I left his company, I felt enlightened, always wanting more. Nothing has changed.

The family would love to share memories and experiences after the service.

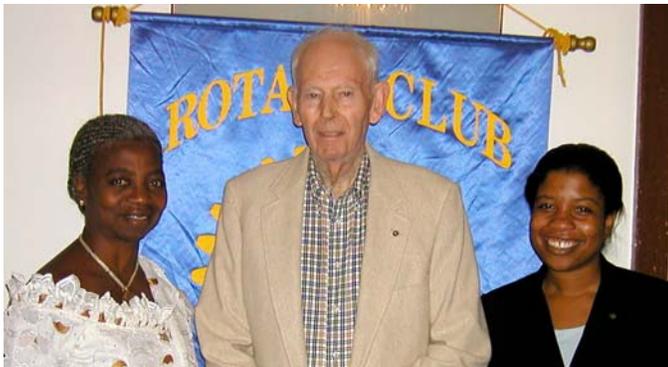
Thank you again for coming to honor a truly Great Guy.

Email From President Chinyere Amaefule:

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It is with great sadness to inform you of the passing of our charter member, Joe Jennette. The Funeral will be at 11 am on Monday, December 19th at Grace United Methodist Church.

Joe's family informed Tom Leuchtenburg of their interest for donations to be made to Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda's Foundation.



Eulogy at Funeral by Bob Nelson

I first met Joe Jennette 27 years ago when I visited a meeting of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club at the Bethesda Country Club. At the end of that first meeting Joe met with me individually to provide more

information and I subsequently joined the club. Many other Rotarians also trace their being connected to Rotary through Joe. Although he was a busy executive with IBM, he took time to serve his community. He brought in the largest contract for IBM at that time with the FAA, worth \$5B.

Being with the space program, I realized the impact that Joe had made in earlier years supplying much of the computing environment at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He was a pioneer with the space program and involved with some of the most historic events of the 21st century, the manned lunar landings. During the past few years, his health deteriorated and I could see the gradual changes as I picked him up to take him to

the weekly Rotary Club meetings. Even when Joe had difficulty recalling recent events, I was delighted to be engaged in various conversations regarding earlier days. For example, one day he described his interactions with the great rocket scientist, Dr. Werner Von Braun.

Through the computer systems developed by IBM, Joe enabled Neil Armstrong to say, "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

And today we gather to honor Joe as he has stepped into the arms of his awaiting Lord in heaven.

Well done good and faithful servant.

Well done.



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Email From Noel Howard

A fine, gentle man (I should have known he had a Navy background) whose passing is a significant loss—even for those of us who only became acquainted with him in more recent times. I just wish I'd met him sooner.

Thanks for sharing the information, Bob. Were I not chairing a meeting long-planned for today, I'd be joining you at his funeral. My thoughts & prayers go out to Evelyn, their family, & all others who mourn Joe's passing.

V/r, Noel S. Howard, M.D.
Senior Medical Advisor
Secretary of the Navy
Council of Review Boards



Email From Jerry Gross

Fellow Rotarians and Friends;

Please join me in making a contribution in memory of Joe Jennette to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation per wished of the family

Joe loved his family and his extended Rotary Family; please join me in making a contribution in his memory.

Best wishes for Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

Jerry F. Gross, CPA, PFS



Email From Smiljka Soretic:

Joe Jennette was one the first Rotarians that I met in Bethesda. I lived with my brother there and I joined Potomac-Bethesda club in Bethesda Country Club (Mario Golocovsky was a president 1993-4). Joe was extremely friendly and nice. His nice face and friendly talk will be remembered. Unfortunately we have lost many good friends Rotarians. Thanks to some of them I

have survived the most difficult time in my life. Charlie Brewer, Harley Roberts, Joe Jennette, Peter McWhite, Jurgen and Hazel Rahe, Tom Tang, Dudley Woods, Jackie Naron, Bill Johncox, and maybe more that I can not remember. Not all of you remember them as some of you came later. My deepest condolences to Evelyn and family.

Wishing you all the best for coming holidays,

Yours, Smiljka and Fedja Soretic

Email From Jon Van-Winkle

I didn't know Joe very well but he was a perfect gentleman

during my brief association with him and the Potomac-Bethesda Club. It is to my regret that I was unable to make the funeral service.

Mon Dickinson Salutes the Charter Members: [Excerpt from the November 2, 2006 Rotary Club Newsletter]

"Good evening. Jerry has asked me to share some thoughts of mine about our four honored guests of this evening - the charter members who are with us. I joined the club in 1990 so I have known them for 16 years as Rotarians and I have known Joe Jennette who was my sponsor for an additional 30 years or so.

Joe Jennette and his wife, Evelyn, were our neighbors in Endwell, New York in the 60's when Joe and I both worked at IBM Owego for the Federal Systems Division. Joe was in Marketing and I was in Engineering. Years later when we were both in Federal Systems Division assignments in the Washington Metropolitan Area, I had Joe as my manager for several years until we both were given staff assignments at the headquarters, mine technical and his marketing. When I retired from IBM and was about to join Grumman, it was Bob Nelson and Joe who met with me at breakfast to discuss Rotary and, as I have already said, it was Joe who became my sponsor when

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

I joined Rotary. Joe has been the backbone of the Club during its formation. He has spoken eloquently at the funeral of fellow Rotarian, George Gerrish, who was a member of this Club and became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1982. He has visited my wife at the hospital and introduced her to Grisham adventure literature. He has been a generous contributor of frequent flyer miles for our raffles. He has doubtless introduced more people to the Club than any other person. And he has been a friend to us all."

Beginnings of the Club...and More
By Charter Member Dick Alsmeyer
(President, 1982-83)
[Reprinted from the November 16, 2006
Rotary Club Newsletter]

"My family (father, brother, uncles, cousins, brothers-in-law...) have been Rotarians for years. Today, I wear my father's Past-President's pin - - he was President of the Sebring (FL) Rotary Club in the 1940's. So, when Joe Jennette (my son's father-in-law) telephoned me that he and others were starting a Rotary Club and asked me if I would like to go to a meeting of the provisional club, I immediately said, "Yes"!

The meeting of about eight of us was held at a nearby restaurant. Some of the attendees were members of nearby clubs. The new club was sponsored by the North Bethesda Rotary Club. After several weekly meetings we met at the acting President's home and elected officers. Because I had an excellent secretary at the time, I volunteered to serve as secretary and was so elected!

Emerson's restaurant served as our meeting place for more than one year, but lack of privacy, except for the basement room, forced members of the provisional club to say that they could not invite prospective members to this location.



Joe Jennette, Ed Zaucha (IBM) and I met with the manager of the Bethesda Country Club.

As he had hosted Rotary Clubs elsewhere in his career, he was quite willing to have us there. The summer after moving to this new location, our club had the required 20 members and received its charter. There were actually 22 members at that time.

We enjoyed events at the Bethesda Country Club for about five years;

however, that club wanted to host national golf events, so they had to remodel the club and the golf course. So, we moved to the Rickshaw Restaurant for about three years. Then we tried other restaurants - - four in all and were asked to leave the last one as they had lost their lease.

It was then that we moved to Hunter's Inn and have been there now for about five years.

Since the formation of our Club, many wonderful events have taken place - - trips to the race track in West Virginia, trips to the Eastern Shore of Maryland for picnics, work days helping update homes in the area through Rebuilding Together, packing boxes of food for needy Montgomery County families at Manna, baseball outings in Baltimore to watch the Orioles, baseball locally, holiday parties at members' homes, and most importantly, being together with our spouses at homes of our members.

Charter Night is the annual event that celebrates the date that we received our charter from Rotary International.

Each of us has fond memories of our evenings and work events together. Fellowship and Service of other - - that is what Rotary is all about."



Please send news articles and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter