



Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

Day Publisher: Steve Clark



Sponsored by: Team 5, co-captains **Ken Freigher** and **PP Dave Gerard**

Greeters: **Rick Fauss, Alex Hauf-Beldin, Ian Stripling, Todd Jones**

President's Fundraiser Ticket Sales: **PP Mark Ball**

Photography: **Andy McCurdy**

Pledge: **Joe Giramonte**

Invocation: **Colin Duffy**

Sergeant-at-Arms: **Mike Warren**

Past President: **PP Dave Gerard**

Program: Sentinel Send-Off

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Centennial Celebration is next Thursday at Mercy Oaks. There will be no lunch meeting.
- June 6th meeting will be offsite at Simpson University
- **President Finnegan's** demotion will be June 27th at Mercy Oaks catered by CR Gibbs.
- The Board has elected to support a third year of the Haunted House and **Lindsay Myers** has agreed to lead the effort again this year.

LOCAL SERVICE PROJECT – ROTARIANS AT WORK

About a half dozen Rotarians donated their Saturday morning at Exodus Farms in Anderson. Exodus Farms is a Christian founded Animal/People rescue. They have been doing amazing work healing the broken for 25 years. To learn more please visit www.exodusfarms.org.

A Shasta County code enforcement required the application of almost 100 feet of fire-proof siding to one of their barns. This is Rotary Club at its sweaty, dirty best. Thanks to all who participated.



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON

Redding Chamber executive Todd Jones was keynote speaker at Thursday's 11th Annual Rotary Sentinel Send-Off Luncheon at which 38 area high school seniors who have chosen to serve in the United States Armed Forces, a military/service academy, National Guard, Reserve or ROTC, were recognized in a room filled with high energy and patriotism and presented with a special certificate by President Jennifer Finnegan for volunteering to serve in the United States military following graduation.

The meeting kicked off with Joe Girimonte presenting the flag salute, followed by Rick Fauss leading everyone in singing "God Bless America" and Colin Duffy delivering the invocation. Bob and Molly Skinner of the Jefferson Pipe Band piped a special tribute to the 22 high school military volunteers.



Jones, a Marine Corps veteran, told the recruits how his service impacted his life and that 90% of

success in the military was maintaining positive mental focus. Originally from Weaverville, Jones enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school, became a Topographical Intelligence Specialist, with postings in Washington, D.C. and Okinawa Japan.

Later, Jones achieved a degree in Political Science from Humboldt State University and an MBA from

Western Governors University. His professional career includes time in the Redding Field Office Staff of former U. S. Congressman Wally Herger, working with various Bay Area organizations through a fellowship with the Center for Civic Leadership & Public Affairs, and time as head of the Shasta Economic Development Council, before assuming his present role as CEO and President of the Redding Chamber of Commerce.

The recruits were identified in a four-month process, with members of the Veterans Committee making contact with military recruiters and many high school principals and staffs. Each recruit received a personal letter of invitation and could invite two additional guests.

Greg Balkovek organized the program with the assistance of Tim Thomas, Nikola Hawes, Ian Striping, Art Smithson, Cindy Fisher, Jerry Kelly, Trudy Tavares and others.

"Each of the students has chosen a military path at this point and time in their life," Balkovek said. "Some see it as a path to higher education, others for adventure; some to find out who they are and where they want to go in life. They will travel to places they've only see in the news or read about. Some will see and do things that will truly test their mettle. Others will find a career. All will mature. The road they have chosen is not for everyone, as not everyone can, or would, travel this military road. All are volunteers."

Special assistance from the local recruiting offices was provided by (US Air Force) – Staff Sgt Derrick Irwin, Staff Sgt Miranda Benevides; (US Army) - Sgt First Class Matthew Hart; (US Marine Corps) – Staff Sgt Logan Childress, Sgt Lucas Landry; (US Navy) – Leading Petty Officer Jacob

Carvell; (National Guard) – Sgt First Class Jared Smith, Sgt James Chaney. Congressman Doug LaMalfa’s Office provided the names of students who received U. S. Military Academy appointments.

School staffs also provided special assistance: (Shasta High) – Principle Shane Kikut, Counselor Chris Friebel; (Enterprise High) Principal Ryan Johnson, Counselor Deb DeDelcarlo; (Foothill Principal Kevin Greene and counselors LeeAnn Noble and Angela Totaro.



A vibrant tropical-themed poster for a "DEMOTION Island Party". The background is filled with lush green palm leaves, large yellow and orange hibiscus flowers, and a pineapple. At the top, the text reads "PRESIDENT JENNIFER FINNEGANS" in red, followed by "DEMOTION" in large, bold red letters. Below this is the Rotary International logo. The event title "Island Party" is written in a large, elegant cursive font, with "DRESS ACCORDINGLY" in a smaller, handwritten-style font underneath. The event details are listed: "THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024", "6PM", "MERCY OAKS", "100 MERCY OAKS DRIVE", "REDDING CA 96003". Two circular callouts at the bottom provide additional information: "CATERING BY CR GIBBS BEER-WINE-ISLAND COCKTAILS" and "DJ & PHOTO BOOTH".

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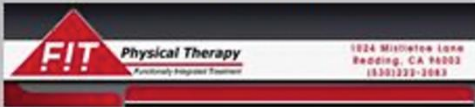


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