

## Upcoming Speakers

Ed Monahan, Public Advocate of  
Kentucky  
November 06  
Dr. Richard Smith, New Healthcare  
Legislation  
November 13  
Perrye K. Turner, Head of FBI in  
Kentucky  
November 20  
Rev. Skye McCracken, Paducah  
District Superintendent, UMC  
November 27

## Club Leaders

**Chris McNeill**  
President  
**Jamie Futrell**  
President-Elect  
**Phyllis B. Russell**  
Secretary  
**John A Williams Jr.**  
Vice President  
**Thomas Scott Taylor**  
Treasurer  
**Missy R Eckenberg**  
iPast President  
**Michael A. Muscarella**  
Membership Chair, Past President  
**Debbie DeWeese**  
Club Executive Secretary

## Birthdays

**Danny Evitts**  
November 02  
**Jamie Futrell**  
November 03  
**Zachary Hosman**  
November 04  
**Julian M Carroll**  
November 05  
**Joe A. Powell**  
November 05  
**Ronald S. Bacon**  
November 05  
**Amanda L Wood**  
November 06  
**Bill Robertson**  
November 06  
**Dave Denton**  
November 08  
**Gayle Kaler**  
November 11  
**Thomas B Russell**  
November 15  
**Ashley Wright**  
November 17  
**Randy Bridges**  
November 25  
**George B. Shaw**  
November 27  
**Chad Pruitt**  
November 29



# GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

Website: [www.PaducahRotary.org](http://www.PaducahRotary.org)

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4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.*

## A Hero's Tale

October 30th, 2013



Rotarians were privileged to hear a riveting first hand account of the tragic sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis during WW II, which still stands as the greatest catastrophe at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy. Kentucky native Edgar Harrell recounted those terrifying 4 days in the water after a Japanese submarine hit the ship with 2 torpedoes killing many of the crewmembers during the attack, but perhaps some would argue they were the more fortunate ones.

The survivors of the blasts were forced to abandon the sinking ship into the hot and oily South Pacific waters. Harrell said maybe as many as 900 out of his 1,197 shipmates may have made it into the water. Over the next few torturous days many would perish from the heat, dehydration, salt water poisoning and terrifying shark attacks. By the third day, Harrell's band of 80 comrades had dwindled to 17. He recounted how some "found it easier to die than survive."

Unfortunately, the U.S.S. Indianapolis was sent to sea without an escort after unloading its cargo, which they later learned were the components for the Atom Bombs soon to be dropped on Hiroshima. Due to an error in communications, no one at Naval Command knew the ship's whereabouts and therefore there was no search and rescue effort launched after the attack.

Harrell told the heart wrenching story with heart felt warmth. "There are no atheists in fox holes," he said. The men prayed and some might say Providence answered. The survivors were rescued when a B-52 pilot miraculously spotted them from 4,000 feet above. "The odds were one in a billion. Astronomical," Harrell said, "I believe in miracles."

Harrell, a U.S. Marine, is one of only 37 living survivors. He and his son, David, have authored a book about the disaster at sea entitled, "Out of the Depths."

## Announcements

October 30th, 2013

Rotarians were treated to a sneak preview of Paducah Tilghman's production of *Oklahoma* this weekend. Call 444.5650 ext. for tickets.

Rotary welcomes two new members this week! Dr. Meagan Musselman, who is transferring from the Murray Club. She was an Assistant Professor at Murray State and an owner of Musselman Properties, which has acquired the old Coca-Cola plant in Paducah.

Debbie Wattier sponsored David Jones, a chef who owns Artisan Kitchen and co-owns Shandie's Restaurant downtown. Welcome to you both!

President Chris presented a check to Heidi Suhrheinrich on behalf of the Paducah Cooperative Ministry.

Megan Thomason gave the Club a report on the recent activities of the Rotoract Club, which added 7 new members this month! Megan said her club also placed 3<sup>d</sup> overall in their Kickball League. They will next meet at the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and are asking Rotarians to donate during their blood drive on Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 6 pm at the Concord United Methodist Church.

**Rotary Foundation Status:**

Every Rotarian Every Year - 98% of Club  
Paul Harris Fellows - 75 members, 42% of Club  
Paul Harris Society - 33 members, 19% of Club

Guests

October 30th, 2013

Student Guests – CJ Beach, Ann Wu, and Zibby Benner, McCracken County High School; Cassie Arboleda, Paducah Tilghman High School, Dakota Tucker, Commonwealth Middle College; Katherine Culbertson, St. Mary High School;

John Howerton, Malcolm Jones, and Carl Marquess, guests of Clay Howerton;

Megan Thomason, Melissa Potterbaum, Jorge Machaen, and Becky Glasby, Rotaract;

Russ Ogden, Earl Gidcumb, and Sandy Hart, guests of John Williams, Jr.;

Dan Songer and Jackson Futrell, guests of Jamie Futrell;

Victoria Caldwell, guest of Rayla Bridges;

George Bray, guest of Allen Treece;

Bill Lentz, guest of Anita Ward;

Nathan Lynn, guest of Julie Hart;

Paul May, guest of Andrew Long;

Betty Fassel, guest of Ken Schuppert;

Richard Siegel, guest of club;

Raffaele Ponti, guest of Roger Truitt;

Ed Musselman, guest of Meagan Musselman;

Amanda Ball, guest of Frank Bennett