



# Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

## This Week:

August 12  
David Aft  
*District Governor Visit*

## Upcoming Meetings:

August 19  
Bart Rich  
*Dalton State College  
Soccer Coach*

August 26  
Mel Abernathy  
*GRSP Student*

September 2  
DGCC Closed

September 9  
Director Program

September 16  
Amanda Burt  
*United Way Kickoff @  
NWGA Trade Center*

September 23  
Mike Maret

September 30  
William T. Boyett

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## Club Officers:

**David Aft**  
President  
**Jason Parker**  
President-Elect  
**Frank M. Hogshead**  
Secretary, Treasurer  
**Chuck Dobbins**  
Immediate Past President  
**Bruce Satterfield**  
Club Administration Chair  
**Kathryn Sellers**  
Public Image Chair  
**Rick Cobb**  
Membership Chair  
**Ty Ross**  
Community Service Chair  
**Scott Rhoden**  
Youth Service Chair  
**Kevin Brunson**  
Vocational Service Chair  
**Archana Srivastava**  
International Service  
Chair  
**Sandra Stone**  
Foundation Chair

## Mike Reynolds, Retired Army Master Sergeant

By: Kathryn Sellers



You could hear a pin drop. The Rotary crowd was enthralled with Mike Reynolds, U.S. Army Retired Army Master Sergeant as he talked in a very engaging way about his traumatic brain injury in Iraq in 2009. He spoke about his desire to be a first responder since he was a small boy. After being a volunteer fireman and ambulance helper at age 15, he finally obtained an Associate degree at Dalton College and went to EMT school. He wasn't allowed to drive a multi-thousand dollar ambulance because he wasn't 21 so he enlisted in the army and soon was in charge of a \$5.9 million dollar black hawk helicopter in Germany. He handled advanced technology and support for Special Forces units at Fort Bragg. He also supported drug interdiction efforts throughout Central America. He noted that it was always funny to him when he would read about local law enforcement arresting someone for six marijuana plants when he routinely flew eradication missions involving 400 acre marijuana plantations.

In May of 1999 he got out of the army, but had a hard time adjusting to civilian life and soon went back to the Georgia Guard. He was deployed 16 months just after his marriage and was a medic for VIPs in the Guard and was a "Readiness Coordinator" for his unit in Iraq. He became the Director of EMT Services in Northern Iraq, north of Bagdad in a very "toxic environment" created by difficult commanders.

He compared his arrival condition in Iraq to being a "full can of Coke," able to handle most anything. His schedule was grueling and harrowing. As a medic he averaged double the number of pediatric deaths in 18 months that he had had in his entire 18 year career. "They were stupid accidents, not gun shots. And each little 8-year old girl you see seems like your own," Mike said. This type of work "empties your can." He compared this intense work with all the things that "empty our can" – health issues, bad relationships, children, money, stress, government. "And stuff keeps coming," he added. He worked 44 hours on and 4 hours off with a group of soldiers that had good book training, but little practical experience with emergency medicine. In a period of 700 calls, he was on the scene 94% of the time.

His accident happened when he was called suddenly to a scene where two girls had been burned. In his haste to get on his bullet proof vest over his head in the truck (taking off his helmet and seat belt in the process), an Iraqi rammed their vehicle and he was shaken tremendously and thrown to the back of the vehicle with major brain

repercussions. He had 18 months of rehabilitation and was told by inept Army therapists that he needed to have a job – though their choices were very menial and demeaning. He got himself a job with the fire department at Fort Benning and lived at the station. Afterwards, he worked at the Chatsworth Fire Department. He continued to be plagued by symptoms arising from his injury including brain infections.

His most effective treatment has been with the Bernie Marcus Outpatient training center at the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta. It even included scuba diving at the Atlanta Aquarium to build up his equilibrium and stability.

When introducing, Mike, Kiwanis president Cliff Wood stated that Mike had impacted many families as he went through this journey. Mike's over-arching message is that when you "change in shape, you must change your mission. You need to find joy in life and focus on impacting others."

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Member Birthdays

	<u>Birthday</u>
Turner, Henry J (CHIP)	16-Aug
Ryman, Milton J. Jr. (MILTON)	16-Aug
Blackman, Bill M (BILL)	18-Aug
Hawkins, Jim R. (JIM)	18-Aug

### Partner Birthdays

<u>Partner Name</u>	<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Johnson, Kathy	Johnson, Larry Alan	13-Aug
Rhoden, Dina	Rhoden, W Scott	13-Aug
Scott, Annelle	Scott, Trammell	15-Aug
Blackman, Bill	Blackman, Linda T	18-Aug
Bethel, Lynsey	Bethel, Charles	18-Aug

### Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

### Wedding Anniversaries

	<u>Partner's Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Years</u>
Schwenn, John O. (JOHN)	Judy	14-Aug	43
Baucom, Timothy Len (TIM)	Cheryl	15-Aug	34
Sanders, Drayton M II(DRAYTON)	Mary Etta	16-Aug	56

## Four Way Test

