

Coming Events

- June**
- 5 **Meet the New Board**
 - 12 **Bill Lohmann**
Dr. Copter
 - 19 **Debbie and Stan Wall**
ShelterBox
 - 26 **Installation & Awards**
Salisbury Country Club
6 pm

Fifth Wednesday Lunch



Congratulations to Rotary 7600 for being awarded the Alumni Association of the Year at the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg. District Governor Elect and Alumni, Clenise Platt, accepted the award.



A new grandson for David and Mary Kay. Philip James Gates is shown off by his dad, Patrick.



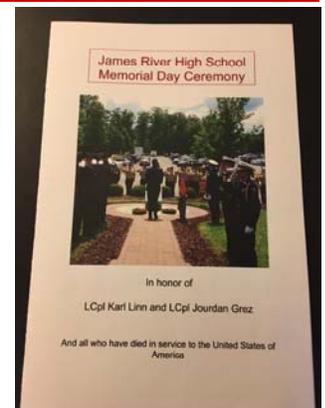
Central Virginia Rotary Clubs banded together June 1 to clean up the estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Ian, far right, was there for the event.



Ian and Caroline made the RTD with a great picture from their wedding. Congratulations to you both!



Linda, Dan and Rick represented HT Rotary at the Memorial Day Ceremony held by the NJROTC at James River High School.



Never, never, never give up. So long as Rotary members continue to believe that – so long as we never give up – then polio does not stand a chance.

That was the message delivered by Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, speaking at a Rotary conference in Spokane, Washington. He used the platform to urge Rotarians and the world not to give up in its fight against polio, with the battle in the closing stages.

Thirty years ago, Bill Gates pointed out, there were more than 40 new polio cases an hour. Today, there are fewer than 33 polio cases a year. “And instead of polio being in 125 countries, today all but three are certified polio-free: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. And we hope that Nigeria will be coming off the map soon,” he told the audience.

It was in the mid-1980s when Rotary International began its campaign to fight polio. And in 1988, Rotary helped to found the Global Polio Eradication Initiative along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Bill Gates hailed the role of Rotary International for leading from the front. He added: “In the years since, Rotarians have proven themselves heroes in public health. “Not only has this organization raised more than \$1.8 billion dollars to fight the disease – you have fought it yourselves, sometimes on the front lines. Here’s another way of looking at it: There are more than 18 million people walking the Earth today who would have otherwise been paralyzed by polio. And none of it would have happened without you.”

Bill Gates admitted that the burning question on everyone’s lips was when would polio finally be wiped from the face of the earth? “We’ve come so close to eradication that now it’s easy to imagine it happening. Instead, people wonder: When can we stop imagining? When will polio eradication be real?” he asked. “It’s a fair question. When this initiative started, the head of the World Health Organization declared that we could eradicate polio from – and I quote – ‘spaceship Earth by the year 2000’. “But by the turn of the millennium, about 33 per cent of the world’s population was still living in countries where the virus was still endemic.

“That’s when our foundation ([Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)) got involved. And although we’ve come so close to zero in the years since, that magic number has eluded us. Last year, the total number of polio cases worldwide was 33. I think all of us are frustrated by this. But Rotarians most of all. Each year, many of you travel around the world, saving children from a terrible disease two drops at a time – and everyone hopes it will be the last year you have to do it; that we’ll have no need for polio vaccination campaigns anymore because polio won’t exist. The last 40 cases are far more difficult than the first 400,000. And preventing them takes more experience; it takes more grit – and more learning and innovation.”

He added: “So back to the question: When will we eradicate this disease? I think the answer is: sooner than recent history indicates.” The question remains whether people and governments want to completely eradicate Polio.

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In the first ever study of its kind; Johns Hopkins University found that in a typical year, Rotarians volunteer over 45 million hours and if the communities that benefit from that volunteerism were to pay for the service, it would cost over \$850,000,000. Convert to an equivalent in working hours (8 hours a day, 5 days a week), that’s over 21,500 man-years. Or 59 man-years each day!

Over the next five years, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative will need total of \$3.7 billion to continue its work and Rotary will be at the heart of that fundraising.

