
NEWS RELEASE

ROBERT THOMPSON INDUCTED AS NEW DISTRICT GOVERNOR FOR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6170

[Rotary District 6170, Arkansas, July 11, 2019] – Robert J. Thompson of Pine Bluff was recently inducted as the new District Governor for Rotary International District 6170, one of three districts in Arkansas which includes southern and west-central Arkansas. Thompson will serve a one-year term as District Governor from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Thompson is a member and two-time past president of the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club. Prior to his District Governor appointment, Thompson served Rotary District 6170 as chairman of the District Membership Committee and Assistant Governor. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a 2017 inductee into the Paul Harris Society.



Thompson is employed in the Title III Department of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Humanities Department and secretary of the Faculty/Staff Senate. Additionally, he is an ordained minister with over 30 years of pastoral ministry. He currently serves as the pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Menifee, Arkansas.

A native of Coffeyville, Kansas, Thompson received an Associate of Arts degree from Coffeyville Community College in 1971, a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Pittsburg State University in 1973, and a Master of Divinity degree with honors from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1991. Additionally, Thompson is enrolled in the doctoral program of Trinity Bible College and Theological Seminary pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree with an emphasis in pastoral administration.

Thompson is a United States Army veteran, having served almost seven years as a Field Artillery officer. He received a Regular Army commission when he graduated from the ROTC program of Pittsburg State, receiving the designation as a Distinguished Military Graduate. During his matriculation at seminary, Robert served two years as a student representative on the Student Government Association and was elected SGA President during his senior year. He wears many hats as he serves his denomination at the district, state, and national association levels while serving on the board of directors of the Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Healthcare System, the United Way of Southeast Arkansas, and the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library.

Thompson and his wife, Carolyn, have nine children, five of them are adopted. They both like fishing, when they can find the time, and Thompson enjoys doing handyman work to relax. He also loves reading and sharing what he learns with others. Teaching has long been his passion,



and he loves to serve whenever the opportunity arises. The Rotary International motto of “Service above self” fits him well.

Said Thompson, “I am looking forward to engaging more members of our clubs and communities in the work of Rotary across the globe. We must dream big dreams and try to make the next generation of Rotarians better than we are now.”

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of community leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. We connect 1.2 million members from more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world. Their service improves lives both locally and internationally, from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Visit Rotary6170.org for more about Rotary International District 6170.

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