**Why Rotary?**

**I sum it up in four words: HONOR, SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION.**

**Growing up in Macon, reading the newspapers, I realized that many successful citizens often were key leaders of the churches and service clubs. Macon had its Kiwanis, Rotary and Exchange Club. And my father-in-law was a Kiwanian.**

**So when I started my publishing life in South Georgia, there were two service clubs in town, Kiwanis and Rotary. My silent partner at the paper was a member of Kiwanis, which met on Wednesday, the day I printed the newspaper, and I could not meet that day.**

**An attorney in town invited me to join the Rotary. My wife’s family had known him when he lived in Macon, and he always wanted to join the Macon Rotary Club. But that was in the day when Rotary had its limit with two attorneys, and was never invited to join there.**

**Once this lawyer set up practice in his home town, he joined Rotary, and later, he invited me to join Rotary. So it was an HONOR to be to be asked to join Rotary, which met on Thursday, the day after the newspaper came out.**

**Then I learned of Rotary’s SERVICE. This unselfish idea of joining together as a club to help others is my second reason to be in Rotary.**

**And look around, and in good Rotary clubs you find members who are the leaders of the community. Our own club has had several chairs of the county commission as a member for many years, and even today. With Rotary having leaders who get things done, and are the top people in the community, when you need something, you can get through to these people and accomplish even more, because you know them, their phone numbers and their email.**

**And finally, I find Rotary benefits me individually by tickling my brain through CONTINUING EDUCATION by its top-level and insightful programs that make me think, and improve myself. We should never stop learning; Rotary helps us do this.**

**In summary, Rotary to me means honor, service, leadership and education. And I haven’t even mentioned the many friendships you make in Rotary, like my relationship with the late Boyd Duncan. We often did not see eye to eye politically, but we were close friends and Rotary helped us both.**