

Walter
Reed
Christmas
Party,
December
1967



Walter Reed Bingo Historical Photos



From "Seventy-Five Years of Service Above Self: 1912-1987"

Pages 9 and 11



I would like to think that the pioneering days of Rotary have just begun. There are as many new things to be done as ever there were. Rotary must certainly continue to pioneer or be left in the rear of progress.

Paul Harris
In His Last Anniversary Message

Rotary Bus begun in 1921.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

For 43 continuous years, since January 23, 1944, Washington Rotarians selflessly have made a unique contribution to the men and women of the Armed Services hospitalized at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. On the second and fourth Tuesday of each month members set up bingo games in wards and meeting rooms for wheelchair, bedridden and ambulatory patients as well as visiting relatives. Bingo winners receive an award, be it candy, shaving lotion, a radio, or the coveted ten-minute telephone call to anywhere in the United States. The morale of thousands of patients has been lifted, and tears mingled

with appreciations flow to make visits to patients of this famous medical center some of the most emotionally rewarding and fulfilling of the club's many activities.

Through the Years. . .

During World War II the Washington Rotary Club again plunged into a civic effort to help the home front. Members—many of whose sons were in the thick of fighting—organized bond drives and helped entertain men and women in the services through the United Services Organization. Two members, Henry Brawner and Ed Johansen, gave most of the money to operate a bus for the DC Chapter of the Red Cross for use during the war in helping invalids and disabled. Under Albert Atwood's presidency in 1943-44 members began an entertainment program for the wounded in military hospitals. Carter Barron, manager of the Capitol Theatre, generously furnished entertainers, who were whisked through the streets of Washington in a cavalcade of cars behind a police escort between performances.



Members of the Rotary Club of Washington, DC, their wives, children, and Santa Claus (Willard Scott) pose in the auditorium of the Walter Reed Medical Center after entertaining patients at the annual Christmas party in December 1970. The photograph was taken by Rotarian Don Ackad, who was more famous for the President Franklin D. Roosevelt photograph that was the model for the head that appears on every U.S. dime.

The Walter Reed program started early in the 1940s when George Muth and others organized the first entertainment to boost the morale of men wounded in World War II. He enlisted top stars, entertainers, vaudeville comedians and service bands, who were transported to the hospital in a Rotary bus. After the war, when professional entertainers were harder to obtain and patient numbers decreased, the club began to sponsor bingo in the old Recreation Hall at Walter Reed. The program made an important contribution during the Vietnam War, when soldiers with multiple injuries and double amputees were sent to Walter Reed for treatment and rehabilitation. The program continues today to help sick or injured servicemen.



Ambulance given by the Rotary Club of Washington, DC

Through the Years. . .

During World War I the young Rotary Club became a strong and viable organization and assumed important roles. Its members met the call to service by organizing Liberty Loan drives, helping in Red Cross work and staging relief campaigns to benefit suffering civilian populations in war zones. Between 25 to 50 diplomats or military officers from overseas attended each weekly meeting. The club served as a liaison between Rotary International and the heads of governmental departments and agencies to help solve many war problems.

From
"Seventy-Five
Years of Service
Above Self:
1912-1987"

Excerpt from Page 10 –
Photo Undated



From
Walter Reed
Army Medical
Center, Public
Information
Office

Photo by ACKAD, Undated



From
Walter Reed
Army Medical
Center, Public
Information
Office

Photo by ACKAD, Undated



Miscellaneous Rotary Bingo Photos

Undated





From "A Century of Service: 1912-2012"

Page 13 and Cover –
Undated Photos (2012?)



IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

WASHINGTON ROTARIANS PURSUE many kinds of community service, whenever legitimate requests for help are made or when members recognize that aid is needed. At one time or another, virtually all members have given of their time and efforts to carry out activities that benefit the community.

Community service can mean many things. It can be taking action, either as an individual or with others, to help the needy in the community. Studying people's needs and problems and determining how to solve them, or promoting goodwill between the city and surrounding communities demonstrate yet other ways of serving the community.

Washington Rotarians have done all of these, but among the club's many community service activities, several stand out:

Walter Reed Bingo

The Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., has undertaken activities to help wounded soldiers since World War I. Every year since 1944, Washington Rotarians have made a unique contribution to the men and women of the Armed Services hospitalized at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Until the closure of the facility on 16th Street, NW in September 2011, Rotarians and Rotaractors went to the Medical Center every month to play bingo with wounded soldiers and their visiting families. This program began again in March 2012 at the relocated Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda.



Rotarians lift the morale of wounded warriors each month at Walter Reed Bingo, a longtime club activity.



Rotarians and guests attend the ceremonial planting of a cherry tree around the Tidal Basin to honor our meeting speakers.

Trees for the Capital

For over 20 years, the Washington Rotary Club has honored the speakers at its luncheon meetings by purchasing and planting trees to beautify the nation's capital. In recent years, the club has purchased 10 cherry trees each year. For the Centennial, the Club is buying 20 trees. All are planted by the National Park Service. Most of the trees are located around the Tidal Basin, although the first tree, a maple, was planted on the grounds of the White House, and more recently, a tree was planted on the grounds of the Capitol to honor Franco-American friendship. Two ceremonial plantings, to which all recent speakers are invited, are held each year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Grate Patrol

The Salvation Army sends out a van loaded with hot food and beverages 365 nights a year to feed homeless people around the city. On the third Tuesday and the third Friday of each month, Rotarians and Rotaractors go out on the van to assist in distributing the food. Rotary also buys water to be distributed. The Grate Patrol van was purchased through a matching grant with participation from Rotary Clubs in Germany, Korea, Abu Dhabi and Washington, D.C.

Community Service Awards

Each year, the club has awarded cash grants up to \$5,000 to some 50 different groups from across the metropolitan area. Starting in 2012, the club will award a large grant of \$25,000 to a particularly deserving local charity. Funds come from the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

A Century of Service

1912-2012

Rotary Bingo Christmas Party with "Santa Shelly" in 2018

Photos by Monica Smith,
December 2018

