

Illuminate the Rock

Rotary
La Petite Roche



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, May 30, 2023

About the Program: Arkansas's Defense Industry Panel

Camden and South Arkansas began playing a vital role in our nation's aerospace and defense industry as far back as the 1940s. Since the Shumaker Naval Ammunition depot was built in Ouachita County for \$60 million, the area has grown to employ more than 3,000 people working for more than 30 defense and aerospace companies and support businesses.

Highlighting the future of the aerospace and defense industry in Arkansas, with a look back at the past, will be the focus of Tuesday's Club 99 panel discussion.

Panelists Chandra Hooker, senior director and Site Executive for Aerojet Rocketdyne in Camden; John Schaffitzel, president of the Highland Industrial Park; and James Lee Silliman, executive director of the Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development (OPED) and the Camden Area Industrial Development Corporation (CAIDC), will be part of a discussion Tuesday moderated by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce's Andrew Parker. Don't miss this program!



About the Panelists and Moderator:

Chandra Hooker, Senior Director and Site Executive, Aerojet Rocketdyne

Hooker serves as the senior director and Site Executive for Aerojet Rocketdyne's Camden Arkansas site. She is responsible for providing the people, processes and infrastructures required to safely and successfully manufacture, test and deliver Aerojet Rocketdyne's products. She joined Aerojet Rocketdyne and the Aerojet Rocketdyne Camden Team in July 2021.

The former manufacturing engineer with 3M has more than 20 years of leadership experience in the defense industry in manufacturing and construction operations, including serving as a construction superintendent for the Virginia Class Submarine Program.

John Schaffitzel, President, Highland Industrial Park

Schaffitzel is president of Highland Industrial Park, East Camden Highland Rail, and Highland Deephaven. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Highland Resources, Inc.'s largest asset, including the direct supervision of onsite employees, chief negotiator on terms of leases and agreements with tenants and third-party vendors, along with building and maintaining those relationships. He is the driving force of profitability in real estate, facility management, finance and operational asset management.

Prior to joining Highland Resources, Schaffitzel was executive director of real estate and development for MidAmerica Industrial Park, in Pryor, Okla.

James Lee Silliman, Executive Director, Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development

Silliman currently serves as executive director of the Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development (OPED) and the Camden Area Industrial Development Corporation

(CAIDC). He assumed the position of executive director of OPED on June 1, 2015, and had previously served as executive director of the CAIDC since July 2007. He was designated a Mid-South Economic Development professional in 2011 by the University of Arkansas Little Rock's College of Business, Institute for Economic Advancement, after successfully completing various courses of study at UA - Little Rock. He also completed the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway in 1994.

Silliman is a lifelong resident of Camden and has served in many community service capacities in Camden spanning the past thirty-eight years, including mayor of Camden, Camden City Board of Directors, Camden Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Main Street Camden Board, Southwest Arkansas Planning & Development District Board, Arkansas South Tourism Board and the Ouachita County Historical Society Board of Directors.

Moderator Andrew Parker, Director of Governmental Affairs, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

A licensed attorney and graduate of the William H. Bowen School of Law, Parker is part of the state chamber's governmental affairs team and works to enhance the business climate in Arkansas by representing the positions of the chamber and Associated Industries of Arkansas Foundation, Inc. before entities including committees, boards, various state agencies, the governor's office and the legislature. He is the executive director of the AIA Foundation and has led the Be Pro Be Proud Initiative since its launch in 2016.

Parker previously served as regulatory counsel for the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Did You Miss Ottenheimer International Scholars Program 75th Anniversary Gala?

What an amazing evening at AMFA celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Ottenheimer International Scholars Program! After members and guests toured the museum, visited with each other and enjoyed international foods and beverages, **President Denver Peacock** led a short program marking this historic occasion. After AFMA Executive Director **Dr. Victoria Ramirez** welcomed the crowd to the beautifully designed Cultural Living Room, Peacock acknowledged and thanked current Ottenheimer committee co-chairs **T. Martin Davis** and **Cindy VanVeckhoven**, gala coordinator **Jana Cohen**, **Chris Mangum** (who, with support by Davis, developed the slideshow, special drink cards and trivia table cards), **Jay Cranford**, **Ross Owyong**, **Mike Marquez**, and our amazing Ottenheimer committee. He recognized past chairs in attendance - **Frank Plafcan**, **Bob Callans**, **Joyce Taylor** and **Nancy Martisen**, the daughter of **Ken Parker**, who chaired the project for a number of years - and event greeters and volunteers **Stacy Hurst**, **Ed Levy**, **Rabbi Yosef Kramer**, **Bob McQuin**, **Phyllis Rogers**, **Jennifer Ronnel** and **Ashvin Vibhakar**.

Noting that the evening would not have been possible without the sponsors, he acknowledged **Lena Hays** and **Troy Wells** of **Baptist Health** and the Baptist Health Foundation, and **Larry Alman** and the **Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation** – both presenting sponsors. The foundation's early and longstanding support was not only essential for marking the 75th anniversary, but for allowing us to continue this program all these years. He also acknowledged major sponsors **Cranford Co.** and **The McLarty Companies**, along with **Ed Owens** and **First National Bank**, **Cindy VanVeckhoven** and **Landmark CPAs**, **Sandie** and **Aaron Lubin**, **Mary Ann** and **Bob McQuin**, **Molly McNulty**, **Chris Mangum** and **Servato**, **Alfred L. Williams** and **Elaine Eubanks** in memory of E. Grainger Williams.

After Peacock delivered an illuminating the Rock story highlighting **Gus Ottenheimer's** significant lifetime achievements, **Doug Weeks** of Baptist Hospital introduced our 75th anniversary video, produced by **Chris Cranford** of Cranford Co., commemorating the Ottenheimer program's impact over the past three-quarters of a century.

To conclude the program, co-chairs **T. Martin Davis** and **Cindy VanVeckhoven** offered a toast to Gus Ottenheimer, foundation finance chair **Larry Alman** and **Jan Alman**, and the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation board of directors and 75 years of the "Little Rock Plan." Guests continued to enjoy the awesome sounds of **Rodney Block**, fellowshiping, and touring the museum. We also kept our impressive membership streak going with Membership Recruitment Chair **Molly McNulty's** impromptu introduction of **Alex Hudson**, sponsored by **Ross Owyong**.

Watch the 10-minute version of the special Ottenheimer video [here](#) or the full-length 30-minute version [here](#). Both feature prominently Club 99ers **U.S. Congressman French Hill**, **Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.** and several of the chairs and hosts of this program throughout the years. It's fantastic! You'll gain new insights into this remarkable program, one of the more unique ones in all of Rotary International. Check it out.



ROTARY CLUB
OF LITTLE ROCK



ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK
OTTENHEIMER
International Scholars Program
1948-2023

75 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Thank you for joining the Rotary Club of Little Rock for the Ottenheimer International Scholars Program 75th Anniversary Gala saluting founder Gus Ottenheimer and marking three-quarters of a century bringing the "Little Rock Plan" to life.

**Tuesday,
May 23, 2023**

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts
Cultural Living Room
501 East Ninth Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

- 5 – 8 p.m. – AMFA Galleries Open & Cash Bar Available
- 5 p.m. – 75th Anniversary Gala Check-in Begins
- 5:30 p.m. – Buffet Lines Open with Entertainment by Rodney Block
- 6:30 p.m. – 75th Anniversary Program and Video
- 7 p.m. – Rodney Block Entertainment
- 8 p.m. – Gala Concludes: AMFA Closing



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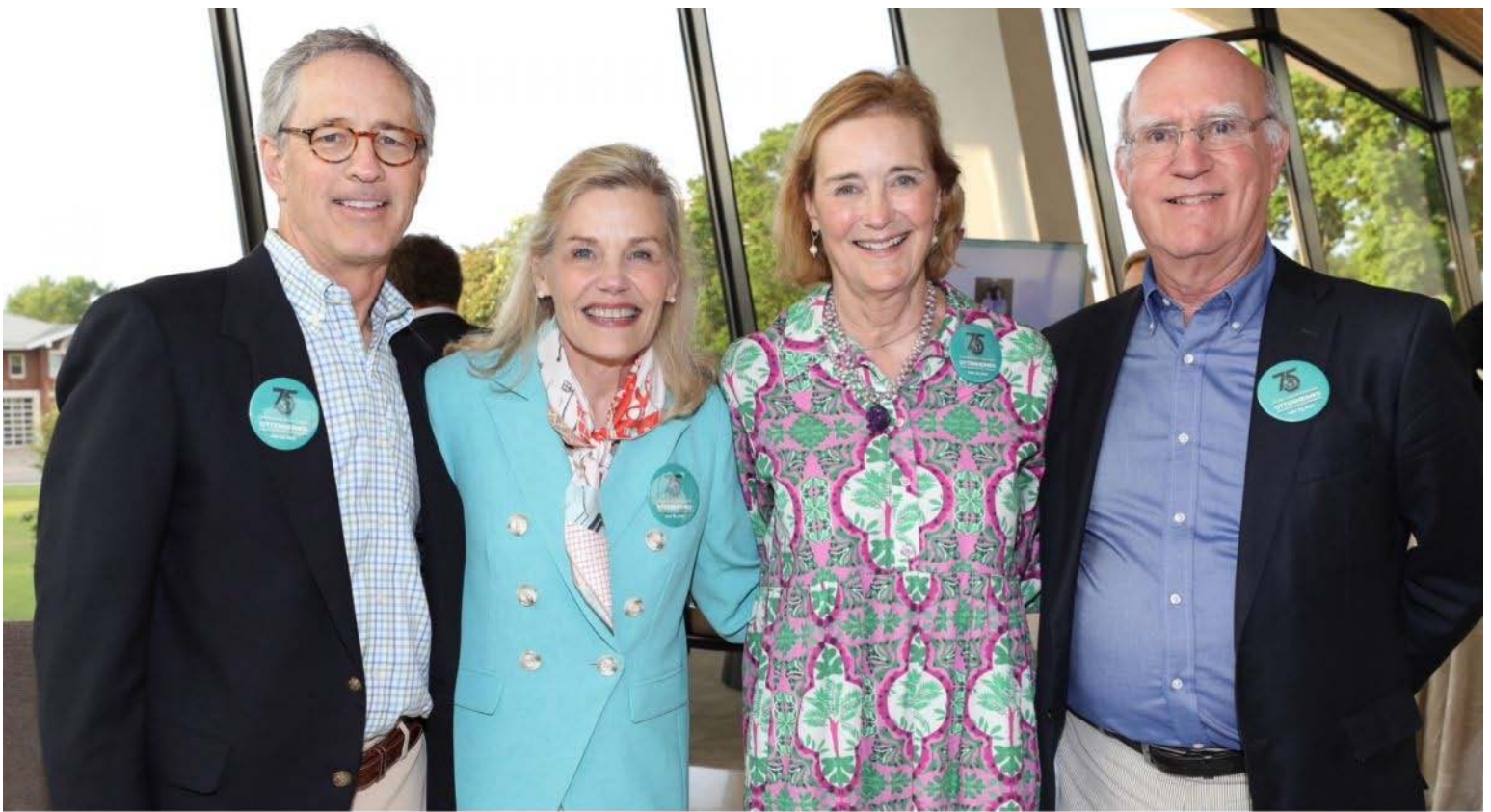
MARY ANN AND
BOB MCKUIN

MOLLY
MCNULTY



ALFRED L. WILLIAMS AND ELAINE EUBANK
IN MEMORY OF E. GRAINGER WILLIAMS









Upcoming Programs and Events

May 2023

30 Arkansas's Defense Industry Panel

June 2023

3 Service Project: Dunbar Project Locker Service Day
 6 La Petite Roche Global Service Awards Honoring the Little Rock Nine (registration required)
 13 Ross DeVol, Heartland Forward
 20 Northwest Arkansas Council Conversation with Nelson Peacock and Marshall Saviers
 27 President Peacock Farewell / Transition to President-Elect Natalie Ghidotti

Zoom Login for May 30, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86000257350?pwd=bGlnbVVlYmZwWlFyem0ra2dKUT09>

Meeting ID: 860 0025 7350

Passcode: 606321

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Passcode: 606321

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcgARA01kD>

2022-2023 Club Leadership



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The Peacock Group



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