

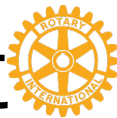


Rotary Club of North Fort Myers

Where the Tropics Begin

August 7, 2025 Vol 53 Issue 06

Gator Tales



Club 4334 Chartered June 14, 1973

Visit our web site: www.rotarynftmyers.org/

We meet Thursdays 8:00 AM Three Fishermen Seafood Restaurant
At the Best Western Hotel 13021 N Cleveland Ave North Fort Myers



www.rotarynftmyers.org

This weeks speaker: Introduction by Will Barnes

Mike Pedersen - Florida Congressional District 19 Candidate

Mike was raised in Miami and following several years of Judo, he had a seven year wrestling career: He was an undefeated Dade County Junior High Champion and had an impressive record at Miami Palmetto Senior High, placing 4th at the State tournament. Mike earned an appointment to the Naval Academy made a pivotal move to Collegiate Boxing. Mike was a two-time Naval Academy Boxing Champion and was selected as the Academy's "Outstanding Boxer" his senior year in 1979.

Upon graduation, Mike was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the Marine Corps and chose Fighter Aviation. He trained as a backseater (Naval Flight Officer) and served in the F-4 Phantom and the F/A-18D Hornet. Mike's callsign was "Evil Frog."

Mike graduated from "Top Gun" in 1983 flying the F-4 Phantom throughout the Western Pacific theater. In 1989, he transitioned to the new 2-seat version of the F/A-18D Hornet. In 1991, "Evil Frog" flew 66 combat missions as an airborne Forward Air Controller during "Operation Desert Storm." Three separate times he was awarded for personal valor over heavily defended Kuwait, and also received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with "V" and gold star in lieu of 2nd award, the Air Medal w/ strike numeral "6," and the Commendation Medal with "V."

After Desert Storm, Mike earned his Gold Parachutist Wings (40 jumps) while serving as the Executive Officer of 1st ANGLICO at Camp Pendleton, CA. His final tour of duty was at MCAS Miramar as the Program Director of a classified Advanced Tactics Training Program for five F/A-18 squadrons. Mike flew a total of over 3,000 accident-free flight hours throughout his 20-year career and retired as a Major in 1999.

Since leaving the military, Mike has volunteered and been the Assistant Wrestling Coach at Mariner High since 2003, first under Coach Dave Phillips (Class of 2022) and currently under Coach Clay French.

Mike and his wife Elsa have been married 39 years and are the proud parents of Kurt (Karlee), Vanessa (JC), and Michael (Brittany). They have 8 grandchildren - The Real Gold Medal.

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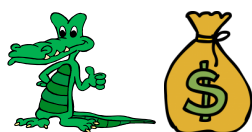
John Gardner

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Wendy Murray

Bulletin Editor

Dwight Sedgwick



Terry Tucker won the
\$6 50/50 But
Not The \$116 Pot

PLANNING AHEAD

September 12: Distribute Food at The Pantry - see David

October 10: Distribute Food at The Pantry - see David

October 11: Bike Night - see David

December 13: Christmas/Holiday Party - Magnolia Landing - see Judy

December 18: Christmas/Holiday Family Breakfast

December 20: Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Publix - see Jack

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

INVOCATION

May those assembled here today enjoy the many offerings of Rotary. May we abide by the rules we have established, those of trust, fellowship and ethics, and may we place Service above Self in our daily endeavors. Amen.

"Toast To Rotary

and Peace - through
Service - the World Over."



Share Rotary Propose A New Member

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The Four Way Test Of the Things We Think, Say, and Do

- First, is it the truth?
- Second, is it fair to all concerned?
- Third, will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Fourth, will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Of course it will, Now go out and live it!

Guest Speakers



Next week 08:21: ?????

Last week 08:07: Club Assembly

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Member Birthday

Tim Eckert 08-01

George Sinko 08-21

Member Wedding Anv.

Terry Tucker 08-13

Norm Jones 08-20

Member Club Anv.

Dwight Sedgwick 08-01

Dr. Craig P. Gindele

Chiropractor

8190 Littleton Rd. Ste 103
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
(239) 997-8200



John Gardner, AAI

Lee County Insurance Agency
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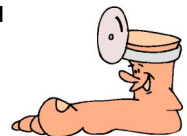
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Dr. John Mina, DPM

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Mary Vlasak Snell
Partner

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