

The Joshua Tree

July 2, 2024

WHERE HAS PATRIOTISM GONE?

This week, former Club member **Brad Letner** asked, "What is Patriotism. Some of the answers received included love, honor and respect for our country. Brad has had God and Country in his heart since he was a child. So much so he joined in the Army in 1986, and pastored a church in 2001, until he was called back into military life after 9/11. Brad once again served in areas such as Kabul, Afghanistan and Kandahar.



contemporary issues have all played a role. Younger Americans, who have grown up in a more globally connected and diverse society, often view patriotism through a different lens than older generations. They are more likely to question and critique national narratives, reflecting a desire for the country to live up to its ideals of equality and justice.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable decline in expressions of patriotism in the United States. Various studies and surveys have indicated that fewer Americans are displaying traditional symbols of national pride, such as flying the flag, participating in national holidays, or expressing strong feelings of national pride. This trend spans across different age groups, with younger generations, in particular, showing a marked decrease in patriotic sentiment.

To address this decline and foster a renewed sense of patriotism, it is essential to focus on inclusive and constructive approaches. Education can play a pivotal role. Schools can emphasize a more balanced and comprehensive understanding of American history, celebrating achievements while also acknowledging and learning from past mistakes. This approach can help students develop a more nuanced and meaningful connection to their country.

Several factors contribute to this decline. The rapid pace of social change, increased political polarization, and a greater awareness of the country's historical and

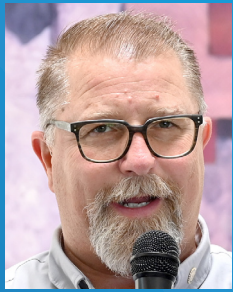
Community involvement is another crucial factor. Encouraging participation in local events, volunteer activities, and civic organizations can help individuals feel more connected to their communities and, by extension, their nation. These activities can also foster a sense of shared purpose and collective effort, reinforcing the idea that patriotism is about contributing to the common good.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Mike Johnson
Flag Salute:	Bo Goulet
4-Way Test:	Rob Kilpatrick
Fine Master:	David North

Additionally, creating opportunities for intergenerational dialogue can bridge the gap between different perspectives on patriotism. By sharing stories, experiences, and values, older and younger Americans

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BILL'S BANTER

We extend our thanks to Brad Letner for visiting this week to discuss the

decline of patriotism in our country. He engaged with Club members, gathering their thoughts on reversing this trend. We look forward to welcoming him back for another insightful session soon.



Attention Club members! Please note that the Club Assembly has been postponed until next week. We encourage all members to attend and have their voices heard.

We still need a program for next week. While our new President, Bryan Gillespie, will share his plans for the upcoming year, we need additional content for the bulk of the meeting. If you can present, please contact Mike Page.

If you are on the new board or just want to see how Rotary is run, please join us on July 8th for Bryan Gillespie's first board meeting at Robar Enterprises.

Movie Night at the Hove's is coming up on July 13th at 6:30pm! Jon and Linda will be showing the 2007 movie "August Rush" and will have dinner for everyone. Please sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy!

Bill Edwards

Letner...

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can find common ground and build mutual respect. This exchange can help to create a more unified and inclusive sense of national pride.

Ultimately, rising levels of patriotism in the U.S. will require efforts to build an inclusive, informed, and engaged citizenry. By fostering a deeper understanding of the nation's history, encouraging community involvement, and promoting intergenerational dialogue, it is possible to cultivate a patriotism that resonates with all Americans, uniting them in their shared aspirations for the country's future.

Photos from the District Cruise



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Big Blue Poker Chip



Rob Kilpatrick had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, and picked a green one and saved the chance for another Rotarian. We will continue next week with 5 chips and \$450 for the one lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed El Dorado Broadcasters Sales Manager **Walt Alvarez** to the meeting and **Teresa Letner** joined her husband, speaker **Brad Letner** at the meeting.

Spoon of Exemption

Jim Murray's inaugural week with the Spoon brought some insightful information about Bob's Tire Service, a family-owned and operated business since 1951. Specializing in services for passenger cars, light trucks, RVs, and medium & heavy-duty trucks, they have established a strong reputation in tire services, brakes, and alignments, while also offering a wide range of other services. For more information, you can call them at 760-245-3333 or visit their website at bobs-tire.com.

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. July 22 to President Bryan Gillespie.

Walt Alvarez

El Dorado Broadcasters

VP/Marketing

Classification: Marketing:Radio

Sponsor: Mike Page

Fine Session

David North served as our Fine Master this week, starting by giving **Bill Edwards** a hard fine of \$15 in honor of his 15 years as head of the Rescue Mission Alliance Victor Valley. **Chris Ackerman** received a double penalty: \$25 for his birthday and an additional \$10 for being featured as a guest vocalist on a newly released metal album.



Next, Independence Day Trivia ensued with fines for incorrect answers. **Angel Espino** was fined \$20 for not knowing the Liberty Bell rings 13 times. **Mike Page** received a \$5 penalty for incorrectly guessing the location of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest, which is held at Coney Island. **Mike Johnson** was fined \$10 for not knowing that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on the 4th of July, and **Stefanie Montoya** faced a \$20 fine for her incorrect answer. **Rob Kilpatrick** was the only one to escape fines, correctly identifying King George III as the British monarch on July 4, 1776.

Raffle



Congratulations to **Rob Kilpatrick**, the big winner in this week's raffle, who took home a Bob's Tire beanie from **Jim Murray** and a bottle of wine from **David North**. Jim and **Stefanie Montoya** won Flagstar Bank tote bags from

Mike Johnson, while Mike received the book "Stopping Pain", written by Jonathan Edwards, MD, the brother of **Bill Edwards**. Finally, **Jim Murray** won a koozie from Bob's Tire that he himself donated, so look for it in next week's raffle.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$9.00

Polio Pig: \$4 + Dice (Rob Kilpatrick) \$5 = \$9.00

Collected to Date: \$20,542.33

Total equals: 102,063 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President/Special Projects.....	Arsalee Morales
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Club Service/Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Community Service/Speech Contests	Mike Johnson
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/Ryla & TLC/Ethics Essay.....	Ron Boyd
Vocational Service	Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Pam Murray
Billing Officer	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Bryan Gillespie
Programs	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations	Rob Kilpatrick
Public Safety.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship
at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley
Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

July 8: Board of Directors Meeting
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

July 13: Movie Night at the Hove's
Home of Jon & Linda Hove • 6:30pm
18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley
Movie: August Rush (2007) PG

Aug 12: 2023-2024 ReadB4K Backpack Giveaway
1:00pm • VESD Family Resource Center
Located off Mariposa Road
Please join this celebration and show your support of this program

NEW DATE!! CLUB ASSEMBLY Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Please join us for an important Club Assembly to vote on 24/25 Board of Directors and 24/25 Budget.

Upcoming Programs

July 9: Club Assembly and Message from President Bryan Gillespie

July 16: Dr. Derek King, Superintendent Excelsior Charter Schools TOPIC "Charter Schools 101" (Page)

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