

# The Joshua Tree

**October 8, 2024**

## **WIT AND WILL: THE MENTAL GAMES OF A POW**

The story of **Tony Marshall** is one of resilience, transformation, and an indomitable spirit. Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Maryland, his early perceptions of the military were unconventional. Like many young boys, he envisioned combat not as a noble duty but as something he could escape from—believing he would simply lay down and play dead if faced with the chaos of war. Surrounded by military heroes throughout his life, his view began to shift dramatically. The call to serve his country grew stronger, igniting a desire to contribute in a meaningful way.



many who had limited experience with African Americans. Despite forming strong friendships with his roommates, the prejudices of their families loomed large, adding complexity to his experience.

Graduating from the Academy, Marshall volunteered for both Pilot Training and Combat Training, eager to embrace the responsibilities of a combat pilot. He served in the 13th Squadron, where he quickly learned the critical rules of engagement: get the mission done, bring everyone home, and if you see a MIG, take it down. Throughout his service, he completed an impressive 266

Marshall had a clear vision for his military career: he wanted to fly. The Army was not an option, and since he couldn't swim, the Navy was out of the question. Instead, he set his sights on the United States Air Force, and his determination led him to the Air Force Academy. Here, Marshall encountered a cultural landscape that was both challenging and enlightening. For the first time, he met peers from diverse backgrounds, including

missions, adhering to essential principles that kept his team safe—remaining unpredictable to the enemy and maintaining altitude above 4,500 feet.

However, the rigors of combat took a harrowing turn when a fellow pilot, despite warnings, pursued a target that led to catastrophe. During a second pass on a boat, the pilot was shot down, and Marshall was ejected from his aircraft at a staggering 600 miles per hour. In the blink of an eye, he transitioned from pilot to prisoner, finding himself surrounded by anxious Vietnamese soldiers wielding AK-47s. Captured on July 3, 1971, at just 26 years old, Marshall knew the war was drawing to a close, but he faced his new reality with an unexpected tenacity.

### **This Week's Functionaries**

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Arsalee Morales
- 4-Way Test:** Walt Alvarez
- Fine Master:** David North

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## GILLESPIE'S GAB

Thanks to Tony Marshall for coming out and sharing his fantastic story of being a Vietnam P.O.W.

I think most people were expecting a harrowing tale, but to hear how you were able to play mind games with the enemy made your presentation so intriguing.



Please join us from December 13 - 15 for an annual visit to the orphanage and water tank project with our sister Club in Enseñada. Please see Ben Tafoya for more information.

We are still looking for Rotarians to donate \$300 (or more) for a Teacher Mini Grant this year. Our annual event is coming up in just about a month and we need all members to try to at least purchase one Mini Grant.

We will have a 5th Tuesday evening meeting on October 29th at Outback! Please see Margaret Cooker to get your name on the list, as well as family and potential members.

Until next time...

*Bryan*

## Tony Marshall

*Continued from page 1*

Knowing he was deemed a troublemaker and unlikely to break under torture, he cleverly pretended to be a novice soldier. This deception not only aided his survival but allowed him to maintain a semblance of control during a time of immense uncertainty. His greatest fear was being placed in solitary confinement for years, which could strip him of his English language skills. To combat this isolation, he humorously befriended mosquitoes and rats, finding solace in their company during the long, lonely days.

Throughout his captivity, Marshall relied on his coping mechanisms, recognizing that humor and a sense of perspective were vital for survival. He understood that everyone has a way of managing adversity, whether through faith, animosity, or levity. His resilience shone brightly, serving as a testament to the human spirit's capacity to endure.

Tony Marshall was finally released and returned home in December 1972, embodying not just the experiences of a soldier, but the strength of a man who had faced unimaginable challenges and emerged triumphant. His journey from a hesitant youth to a decorated combat pilot and POW remains a powerful narrative of courage, adaptability, and the relentless pursuit of honor in the face of adversity.

## A Message from Steve Murray

Past President Steve Murray recently contacted this newsletter and asked that this message be shared:

*"I miss you all so much! My work life is still in a state of turmoil, which began in April 2024. I am looking to get back to the Club as soon as possible, but life always has a way of changing our plans. I look back to spending my time with the Rotary Club as soon as I am able!"*

Please keep Steve, Pam and Bob's Tires in your thoughts and prayers....



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Bryan Gillespie had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but he drew green and left it for another Rotarian to try next time. We will continue the opportunity next week with 11 chips and \$275 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip!

## Raffle

Mike Johnson donated a Flagstar Bank goodie bag with among other things a piggy bank will be used by President Bryan Gillespie and Mike Johnson will enjoy a bottle of wine he received by David North.



Chris Ackerman donated a limited edition VVTA Aluminum water bottle featuring their new system map printed on it, that was won by Arslae Morales.

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed Tisha Lopez, who attended with Chris Ackerman and Stefanie Montoya was in attendance with Bryan Gillespie.

Our Stand-in for this week was Penny Edmiston for Maureen Mills.

**Please Note: There will be No Newsletter Next Week for October 15, 2024**

A vertical poster for a BBQ event. The text reads: "HIGH DESERT VETERANS APPRECIATION BBQ", "NOV 9TH 2024 11AM-3PM", "LOCATION: SINGH PERFORMING ART CENTER 22311 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308", "TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOU. LUNCH IS FREE FOR VETERANS.", "FOOD PROVIDED BY: DOWN RANGE BBQ", "CLASSIC CAR SHOW", "LIVE MUSIC: GLOOVE HUNTERS", "IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: ROTARY APPLE VALLEY, CA; POST 2924; TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY; ROTARY VICTORVILLE, CA", "EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY: ADVANCE AUTO PARTS; US PATRIOT ARMORY; CARS". The poster features logos for various organizations and sponsors, and is decorated with a star and stripes border.

## Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master and began by challenging Mike Page with a \$20 fine, that will be reversed if he can, in fact, get our guest speaker Tony Marshall back to speak again.

There was a recent article posted that named Victorville second in the county of worst drivers, so all Rotarians from Victorville, including Mike (again), Margaret Cooker, Arslae Morales and others with \$20 penalties. Don Lager also paid the same fine amount for being David's Sponsor into Rotary. Arslae and Jason Lamoreaux will return to Rotary with a \$20 fine each for leaving the meeting early.

Finally, Jim Murray left with \$10 less in his pocket in honor of his daughter-in-law, Pam Murray's birthday

## The Polio Pig

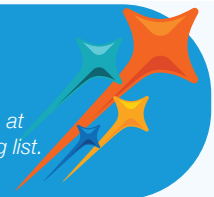
**Collected this week: \$40.00**

Polio Pig: \$15 + Penny Edmiston : \$20  
+ Chip (Bryan Gillespie) \$5 = \$40.00

**Collected to Date: \$20,806.83**

**Total equals: 102,592 Doses!**

*One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| President 2024-2025 .....                   | Bryan Gillespie              |
| President 2025-2027 .....                   | Bill Edwards                 |
| President 2027 - 2028 .....                 | <b>Please be Interviewed</b> |
| Immediate Past President .....              | Steve Murray                 |
| Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants ..... | Margaret Cooker              |
| Treasurer/Scholarships .....                | David North                  |
| Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....           | Ron Boyd                     |
| Club Service & Membership .....             | Bill Edwards                 |
| Community Service/Speech Contests .....     | Mike Johnson                 |
| Vocational Service .....                    | <b>Please Volunteer</b>      |
| International Service.....                  | Ben Tafoya                   |
| Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact..... | Arsalee Morales              |
| Member At Large, Special Projects .....     | Rob Kilpatrick               |

**Members-at-Large:** Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

### Positions & Committee Chairs

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| BOD/PP Secretary.....          | Pam Murray                |
| Special Billing .....          | Esther Mears <b>(TBD)</b> |
| Public Service Awards .....    | <b>Please Volunteer</b>   |
| Teacher Mini-Grants .....      | Angel Espino              |
| Dan Stover Music Contest.....  | Angel Espino              |
| Joshua Tree Editor .....       | Chris Ackerman            |
| Read B4K .....                 | <b>Please Volunteer</b>   |
| Foundation & Grants .....      | Margaret Cooker           |
| Food Baskets.....              | <b>Please Volunteer</b>   |
| Interact (Junior Rotary).....  | <b>Please Volunteer</b>   |
| Programs .....                 | Mike Page                 |
| Fundraising .....              | Stefanie Montoya          |
| S.T.A.R. Students .....        | Angel Espino              |
| Club Learning Facilitator..... | <b>Please Volunteer</b>   |

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

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

## Calendar Dates

- Oct 28:** **Past Presidents' Meeting**  
5:30pm  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Nov 4:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

**Rotary**  
Club of Victorville, CA



## Upcoming Programs

- Oct 15:** Randy Castillo, CEO Providence St.  
Mary **TOPIC "Level 4 Trama Center:  
How It Impacts the High Desert"**  
(Page)
- Oct 22:** Sid Hulquist **TOPIC "Photographing  
Mountain Lions in the Mojave  
Desert"** (Page)
- Oct 29:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting at  
Outback Steakhouse**  
12400-B Amargosa Rd, Victorville, CA
- Nov 5:** **Teacher Mini-Grants**

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