

Welcome To Rotary

**Tuesday
March 10, 2015**

Today's Program

Today's Song: The Star Spangled Banner - Harry Morris

Today's Invocation: Mary Thomas

Health & Happiness: Louis Smith

Today's Program: Way to Wellville - Kathy Dunleavy

Last Week's Program

USC Athletic Director Ray Tanner told us some of the keys to making the athletic programs at USC so successful over the past several years. He said that student athletes understand the commitment to academics that is expected at USC, which is reflected in some impressive statistics: 17 of 18 teams have a GPA over 3.0, 9 straight years leading the SEC Honor Roll, and more than 90% graduation rate for the football team. He noted that another key is the investment by the University in quality staff and facilities.

Upcoming Programs

March 17 NCAA Selection Committee - Lee Fowler

March 24 **NO MEETING** - Rotary Social - Thursday 3/26
5:30 - 7:30 @ The Piedmont Club

March 31 Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce - Allen Smith

FUN FACTS

Darwin Simpson

I was raised in Gravel Ridge Arkansas, a very poverty stricken community approximately 15 miles North of Little Rock, Arkansas. Because Gravel Ridge had no resources, I learned how to survive with next to nothing. As a child, I always liked airplanes for some unknown reason. Growing up, I worked at our family printing company and learned to operate many printing presses. At the printing company, I earned enough money to take flying lessons at the Little Rock airport. In 1964, the Vietnam war was beginning and I was eligible for the draft. I decided to join the Army National Guard as a Private because they had a program where you worked part time and this allowed me to attend college. I graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a degree in chemistry in 1968. Why chemistry. My roommate was pre Med and with no clue as to what I wanted to do in life, I took the same courses he took. The day I graduated, I looked up the name of chemical company's in the Yellow pages. There were 4 company's listed. One of the company's actually hired me as a sales representative. I worked for this Global chemical distribution company for over 35 years and became the President/CEO prior to retiring. The chemical company is how I got to Spartanburg. We did a merger with Don Bain's chemical distribution company in the late 70s. After he retired, I was his replacement. I moved to Spartanburg in 1982. I also received a MBA from Pepperdine University while working on the West coast. During all of this time, I remained in the National Guard. In 1967 I graduated from OCS and became a 2nd Lieutenant. I performed many assignment in the Military and ultimately became a Major General prior to retiring with 39 years of service. I have had to take 2 leave of absences from Rotary over the years to be on Active Military duty to deal with problems in the Middle East, Korea and other places I want to forget. Now, I just do volunteer work. I like Spartanburg and want to make it a better place. As Manager of the Spartanburg airport, I get to help our community economically and do the thing I love most, flying and playing with airplanes.