

## Drumright Rotary Receives History Lesson

Drumright Rotary Club was delighted to be joined by a former Rotary President, Tim Daniels, and his assistant, Melinda Smith. Rotarian of the day, Lena Vee Deeds, invited Tim to share his lifetime fascination of history and his recent trip to Italy.

Tim's studies and research of World War I and World War II have often led him to Europe. This particular tour was to see some of the forgotten campaigns of Italy and Sicily. The sights included Blue Beach where the Americans first landed from Africa; the Straights of Messina where 50,000 Germans crossed and formed the Gustav lines outside of Rome; and the mountain fortress of Gran Sasso where Mussolini fled after his reign and the sight of one of the great rescues by German Commandos.

The American forces, instrumental in securing the beaches of Italy included our own 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the Oklahoma Thunderbirds. Tim is certainly not that first man to be curious about what motivates men to fight and die for their country. General Patton's research led him to the conclusion that our American boys fight for ideas and principles. They didn't want to live in a world dominated by fascism. Patton told his soldiers under the command of Franklin Delano Roosevelt that "Fear is natural in combat, but it is manageable", and because those soldiers managed their fear and gave their lives, people from all over the world can enjoy those beaches today.

It is difficult to go to these places and not feel the sacrifices that were made, even without markers or plaques. Tim's travels often cross the paths of veterans that survived these horrific scars in our history. He stopped to ask one such veteran in the olive orchards of San Petro "In hand to hand combat, you are so close to the enemy, what is the last work a man utters?" The answer was simple, the same thing our boys say, "Momma".



L to R: Tim Daniels, Melinda Smith

Rotary Club of Drumright expresses a sincere thank you to Tim for sharing his experiences and research of a time and place where so much life was lost to shape our society today. If you or someone you know is planning a trip to Italy or Germany, I strongly recommend contacting Tim to help find some of the landmarks off the beaten path and make it a more memorable trip. He has been to any place that was significant to Adolf Hitler's life.

This year as we celebrate our independence remember the people that made it possible to drink from the wells of freedom that are available to us every day. Take time to look into the eyes, shake the hand and say thank you for your service, to a man or woman that has dedicated their life to our ideas.

Our other guests included Jimmie Cook and Gloria Curry of Drumright.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Jena Drake, and her guest speaker, Assistant District Governor, Don den Daas.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website [www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary](http://www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary).

Written by Amanda Levis, Rotarian