

Chartered September 1, 1921

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The Rotary Club
of Easton, Maryland
1921—2021
A Century of
Service to Others



The Monthly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Easton



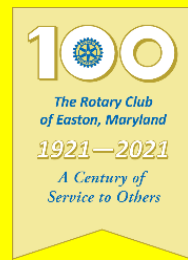
1921

PARK

www.eastonrotary.org

April 2025

The Rotary Club of Easton was the first Rotary Club in the world in a town of fewer than 10,000



“Streamline”

With President Sherye

Play Ball! Today as I write this, the Orioles beat the Blue Jays 12 to 2 in the first game of the season. I also just watched Maryland’s basketball team lose to Florida in the Sweet 16. As the boys and I sat on the couch and cheered on Maryland and celebrated the Orioles’ win, I felt the positive energy that ball games bring to my family. Something that I have felt has been lacking in the colder months of winter. Sure, we had fun, but there is something about spring, March Madness, and the start of baseball season that brings out joy and positive energy.

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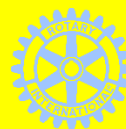
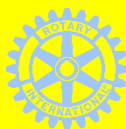
In March, we had our 2024 Flags for Heroes Luncheon to honor our community heroes. The money that is raised from each flag purchased goes right back to those who keep our community safe and those who want to make our community brighter. I would like to thank Jackie Wilson and John Flohr for hosting the event and all those who are on the Flags for Heroes Committee. You hosted a great event, and I have received positive feedback reflecting that! If you would like to honor a hero, please contact Jackie or John for the sponsorship form.

This April and May, I hope as Rotarians we use our energy to help the youth in our communities. Our literacy committee had successful fundraisers and secured great donations to give every child in 3rd grade a book to call their own. I had the pleasure to deliver books to my son Nate's 3rd-grade class at Chesapeake Christian and watch their faces light up when I gave them their books. It was priceless. I listened to their ideas about how they can make an impact in their community. It reassures me that our youth is bright and will make great citizens. Please take an hour of your time to help at the Book Fairs that are coming up during the months of April and May. If you can help, please reach out to Kelly Griffith.

Finally, I would like to thank our membership for handling the changes we have had to experience this year with patience and grace. Losing Scossa and finding a new "Home" has not been an easy task. Brett Whitehead, Peter Dietz, Lori McDonald, Dana Newman, George Hatcher, and Frank Gunsullas have been instrumental in reaching out to locations, finding out if they would host us, and keeping us going for the months of February and March. They say teamwork makes the dream work, and these past two months have proven that. Please, if you are able to help pick up the lunches from Sprout in April, kindly shoot me an email. Your effort will count as a meeting make up. Cheers to Springing forward!

Yours in Service,

Sherye





It's about Remembering

While Flags for Heroes has raised \$550,000 to support our heroes in Talbot County- and that's a wonderful thing- it's really all about remembering those heroes in our lives and what they mean to us, to our community, and to our world. Thank you for supporting this most impressive project for the last thirteen years. Every member of the Rotary Club of Easton, every person who donates, and everyone who sees over 1000 American flags proudly flying over Memorial Day weekend should be equally proud. It's that time again, so won't you please consider sponsoring a flag for your hero or becoming a corporate sponsor? The forms to do so are in this issue of *The Spark*, and you can also go to:

www.flagsforheroes.org

or call

Jackie Wilson at 410-310-5664



Since we've been doing Flags for Heroes for so long now, we can never let it become monotonous to us. Read on to fully appreciate why. It really is all about remembering...



Todd, Kim, & Dick Hershey at Rose Hill before Kim's Williamsport High School graduation in June of 1975

Remembering My Hero - Dick Hershey

By George A. Hatcher, Jr.

Each Memorial Day is all about remembering—remembering the sacrifice so many have made to ensure the freedom and liberty of this great land. Each Flags for Heroes American flag that waves throughout Easton stands for a hero like that or for one that has made a difference in our lives. My hero is my late father-in-law, Dick Hershey.

May 29, 2025, will mark Dick's 93rd birthday. Dick and Jane Hershey were great friends with my parents, and Dick was my uncle, Lynn Brugh's, BEST friend. Stories from the 1950s are legend of their exploits together, and it was a friendship few ever have. When Kim was born, my parents sent flowers to Kim's mother in the hospital. The card on those flowers reads: "Heaps of congratulations! Have already picked out George Jr.'s wife!"

Dick wrote in Kim's baby book that I was one of her best friends, and I certainly remember her from those years, but when the Hersheys moved from Hagerstown to Williamsport, and all the schools changed, I did not see Kim again until 1974 when Dick invited me over because, "You've got to see Kim! She's all grown up now!"

It was Dick Hershey who brought us together when we were very little and then again when we were teenagers. If it weren't for him, there would be no "Kim & George," so in a real sense, I owe him everything. For this reason alone, he is my hero. But it's more than that. More than anything else, he loved his family, and he loved life. To know Dick Hershey was to love him, and everyone did. He served his country in the Air Force and was an accomplished stockbroker. He had a passion for the past and was an expert on historic homes and antiques.

Continued next page

He was way ahead of his time in fully appreciating the many-faceted importance of real estate, and when he and Jane purchased Rose Hill in Williamsport (at a time when historic homes were really not in vogue), he was indeed the “lord of the manor.”

Suddenly and tragically, he died on November 21, 1975. He was 45. Only a year and three months earlier, when I had just turned 18, he accepted me into his home and treated me as a lifelong friend. He must have known that I would fall so completely for Kim, and he certainly set the wheels in motion for that to happen.

So, when I see our beautiful Flags for Heroes Flags wave all around Easton and on the 95th anniversary of his birth, I will remember Richard K. Hershey and salute him as my hero and just as importantly, my friend.



Dick Hershey in the Air Force (left), and to the right in a photo taken in 1956 at my grandparents' home in St. James, Maryland, with (l-r) my Uncle Lynn Brugh, Jane Hershey, and Pee Wee Brugh.



Dick Hershey & me in January of 1975

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BE A HERO!

Sponsor a flag for your hero!

Your Hero's Name: _____

Your Name & Contact Information:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Proceeds will benefit Talbot County hero-related organizations. Please make checks payable to "The Youth and Community Fund" and put "Flags for Heroes" in the memo section. Mail to the Rotary Club of Easton, P. O. Box 1444, Easton MD 21601.



For more information:

www.flagsforheroes.org
Jackie Wilson - 410-310-5664
jdwilson@summitfgi.com

Or— scan QR code to donate!





**ROTARY CLUB
OF EASTON**



FLAGS FOR HEROES

Sponsor a flag in Honor of a Hero that will be displayed Memorial Day Weekend

CORPORATE SPONSORS

(Check One)

- \$250-\$499 level
 \$500-\$999 level
 \$1000 and above level

Name of my Hero _____

____ To all the men and women who served our country

Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me a commemorative medallion (address must be provided above).

Proceeds to benefit local heroes' requests and The Youth and Community Fund

Make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Easton Youth & Community Fund "Heroes" or go to flagsforheroes.org and follow the PayPal link.

Mail to: Rotary Club of Easton, P.O. Box 1444, Easton, MD 21601

For more information: Go to www.eastonrotary.org and click on Flags for Heroes link or call Matt Albers, 410-490-6477 or e-mail malbers@drswealthmanagement.com. This Fund is a qualified Tax exempt 501C3, Tax ID # 52-1777124

Solicited By: _____

2025 Flags for Heroes Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

\$250 Sponsorship Level

1. Company name will appear on our website, www.flagsforheroes.org, acknowledging them as a sponsor of the event.
2. Company will have the opportunity to acknowledge up to 5 different individual heroes and this acknowledgment will appear on a full-page ad in The Star Democrat.

\$500 Sponsorship Level

1. Company name will appear on our website, www.flagsforheroes.org, acknowledging them as a sponsor of the event.
2. Company will have the opportunity to acknowledge up to 10 different individual heroes and this acknowledgment will appear on a full-page ad in The Star Democrat.
3. One representative from the company will be invited as the Club's guest for lunch at our meeting in November to see the money raised from the flag's event distributed to the recipients.
4. The Star Democrat gives us a full page add listing heroes and sponsors. The company name will at the top of this page acknowledging sponsorship.
5. Logo included in a commercial thanking our corporate sponsors.

\$1,000 Sponsorship Level

1. Company name will appear on our website, www.flagsforheroes.org, acknowledging them as a sponsor of the event.
2. Company will have the opportunity to acknowledge up to 20 different individual heroes.
3. Two representatives from the company will be invited as the Club's guest for lunch at our meeting in November to see the money raised from the flag's event distributed to the recipients. .
4. The Star Democrat gives us a full page add listing heroes and sponsors. The company name will appear at the top of this page acknowledging sponsorship.
5. Framed Flags for Heroes photo with sponsorship acknowledgment.
6. Logo included in a commercial thanking our corporate sponsors.
7. Logo on our Flags for Heroes trailer for one year. This trailer will be displayed at various locations and events around town.



2024 Flags for Heroes Awards Luncheon

March 20, 2025

ROTARY CLUB OF EASTON MD

ROTARY CLUB OF EASTON MD

ROTARY CLUB OF EASTON MD







2024 Flags for Heroes Grant Recipients

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, the Rotary Club of Easton awarded 2024's Flags for Heroes grants at a special luncheon at the Easton VFW. Grant recipients in attendance represented the following organizations (above): Civil Air Patrol Easton Composite Squadron, Trappe Volunteer Fire Department, Easton Volunteer Fire Department, Oxford Volunteer Fire Department, Talbot Paramedic Foundation, Talbot County Sheriff's Office, Easton Police Department, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, Spring Hill Cemetery, Richards Memorial Park, and Operation Open Arms.

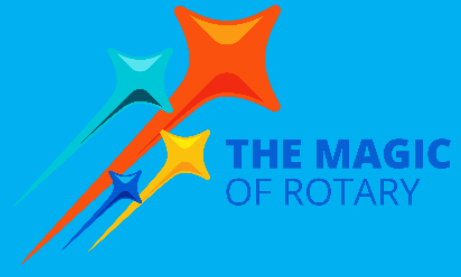


Richards Memorial Park

Rotary International's Centennial was in 2004-2005, and George Hatcher was the President of the Rotary Club of Easton. Each Rotary club was tasked with completing an important community project, and our club chose Richards Memorial Park because our great friend and dedicated Rotarian, Chester Gates, had a vision for that historic African-American cemetery. His vision became George's and ours, and we cleaned the grounds, endowed the cemetery, built Chester's dream entrance, and partnered with Easton Middle School. The students there performed an historical investigation into who was laid to rest at the cemetery and produced a beautiful book that showed the amazing work they did. Because it is important to keep the final resting place of so many veterans in good condition, we have also contributed funds over the years for the upkeep. This year, we are donating money to defray the costs of lighting the flagpole there. Longtime cemetery board member, Edith Hayman, who has since passed away, expressed her desire to get this done, and we are now here to help. Richard Potter of Richards Memorial Park (right) is pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.

We remember Chester Gates on the next few pages. Oh, how we miss him...

Remembering Chester Gates - 1914 - 2004



Life is worthwhile if you are doing something worthwhile with your life – *Chester S. Gates*

In the 104th year of our truly consequential Rotary Club and as we again honor our heroes with Flags for Heroes, have you ever stopped to think about why both are so consequential? It's because of the truly consequential- if not great- members and leaders of the Rotary Club of Easton, and Chester Gates is at the very top of the list. He was a trailblazer and friend- a great and good man- a real hero. Your editor was honored to have been a close friend and cannot count the hours we spent together talking about music, train & car models, Rotary, Easton & Talbot County, and the meaning of life. It was also a great honor to be asked to give the eulogy at his funeral in 2004, and that eulogy follows on the next few pages. Read on to learn about this wonderful Rotarian and inspiration to all.



The following is the eulogy given by the Rotary Club of Easton's President, George A. Hatcher, Jr., at Chester Gates' funeral. It explains the man and our resultant centennial project mission.

I can't believe I am here. On the one hand, I can't believe the high honor that Chester's family has bestowed upon me by asking me to say a few words about my friend, and on the other, I can't believe that Chester is no longer with us.

Chester was a snappy dresser. He had a huge collection of ties, and every Wednesday at Rotary, we had an unofficial tie contest—I doubt if I ever won. That's why I wore this tie today. The first time I wore it people thought all the "G's" on it stood for "George." "No," I told them, "the "G's" are for Gettysburg College, where my son is right now." But you know what those "G's" could stand for? Gates. Chester Gates, and the many gates—the many doors—he opened for others. A "G" for every gate.

Gates open, doors open—for others... During a time of segregation, what would it have been like for Negro youth on the Delmarva without Chester Gates? Undoubtedly there would have been no boy scouts—no wise leadership on the executive board of the National Boy Scout Council. What would it have been like in 3 decades in Syracuse, NY, without Chester Gates serving on HUD, the Fair Housing Commission, Catholic Charities, and without Chester Gates serving as president of Syracuse's Rotary Club? Right here in Easton what would our hospital, churches, health care, housing, and planning and zoning be like? What would music, model railroading, stamp collecting, and our own Rotary club be like? What would it be like if Chester had never lived?

Do you remember Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey in the 1946 movie, "It's a Wonderful Life?" Without George Bailey, Bedford Falls would become Pottersville, run by that town's evil tycoon, Mr. Potter, to whom George says early in the movie:

"Do you know how long it takes a working man to save five thousand dollars? Just remember this, Mr. Potter, that this rabble you're talking about. They do most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community. Well, is it too much to have them work and pay and live and die in a couple of decent rooms and a bath? Anyway, my father didn't think so. People were human beings to him, but to you, a warped, frustrated old man, they're cattle. Well, in my book, he died a much richer man than you'll ever be."

Well, people *were* human beings to Chester Gates, and he was a very rich man indeed. A world without him would be far worse than the world of Bedford Falls without George Bailey.

Chester was originally an electrician by trade so he was good with his hands. He did most of the work on a home he built now many years ago on Route 50, and it was done "just so." Visiting him at his home on Glenwood Avenue was to see photographs and certificates from a lifetime of achievement, and so as good as he was with his hands, he was even better with his heart. And I'll give you a perfect example. At 90, he was as active as most of the rest of us are at 20, and so even at about 80, when the events of the story I am about to relate occurred, Chester could have let somebody younger take over, but he didn't.

One day, Easton mayor, George Murphy, called Chester for some help. People did that a lot with Chester. They just instinctively knew that if they called him, he would get done whatever needed to be done. So Mayor Murphy called and asked Chester, "Chester, do you think you could find out who's responsible for the cemetery on Bay Street? It's really fallen into disrepair." Chester did some research and discovered that really no one was in charge, and not only was it a mess, but maybe some things occurred there that shouldn't have. Well one thing led to another, and as Chester told me, "I never thought I'd be in the cemetery business, but now here I am!"

And that's how it was. Chester, along with his wife, Carrie, and his brother, Francis, transformed Richards Memorial Park into the beautiful place we will see today when we leave St. Mark's and put Chester's body to rest. But Chester had a dream, and because Chester touched me in a very personal and permanent way, his dream became mine too. Even in the hospital after his stroke, it was all he could talk about. You see, Chester was the ideal Rotarian. Rotary's motto is "Service above Self," and Chester embodied that motto. Every ounce of his being was about serving others and enjoying this precious life that God has blessed us with. Well, it turns out that in 2005, Rotary International will celebrate its centennial, and each Rotary Club around the world was charged with creating a centennial project, one that would truly benefit the community. And that how it all ties together. Chester had poured his heart and soul into Richards Memorial Park, and now he was pouring in his own money, because the Association that runs it is flat broke. As president of the Rotary Club of Easton, I wanted badly to do something special for Chester and his late wife, Carrie. I approached Chester and asked him if the cemetery could use our help. Nothing could have come at a better time or in a better way. Because in addition to needing some financial help, Chester had a dream—his own words—a dream for a beautiful brick and wrought iron entrance to Richards right on Bay Street. So for Chester, the Rotary

Club is going to build that entrance. We're going to create an endowment for the cemetery. Hopefully we can create enough awareness for the needs of the place, so that others will come forward to help financially and otherwise. Chester spent a lifetime helping others—now it's our turn to help him. And I know this would have warmed Chester's heart. Our Rotary club has been meeting with the Easton Middle School to fine tune the academic incentive help we provide to the students. As part of the discussion, we talked about Chester and Richards Memorial Park, and as a result, the Middle School is going to create an ongoing social studies project on the cemetery. They will do research on the families buried there. They will do oral histories with living relatives or those who know of the place. They will produce a map of the cemetery, take photographs, create artwork, and bind all of this incredible information together in a book. And for this school year this phase of the project will be completed by April 15, 2005. Did you ever toss a pebble into a lake and see how far those ripples fan out? It seems almost endless. A good life is like that. And as you can see, the ripples of Chester's life continue, and will continue to touch others in a seemingly endless way.

Chester loved music, and I loved hearing stories of how he played with some of the bands when they came to Easton and needed a fill-in, or of when as a young man he would tour with them. One of his favorites was the Count Basie Band, and with the big Hunter's Moon this past week, I couldn't help but think of Jimmy Rushing singing with the Basie band, "Don't the moon look lonesome shining through the trees?" Well, Chester died on Wednesday, the night of the full Hunter's Moon. And as it rose through the pines behind our home on Wednesday night, things felt very lonesome indeed. As it turned out there was a total lunar eclipse as well, and it seemed to symbolize Chester's passing—the light of his life fading into an eerie red glow. But then it returned—the eclipse was over. It returned as a reminder that the light from his life will continue to shine upon us; it will continue to help show us the way.

Almost exactly 11 years ago, just before her death, my daughter, Mary Anne, wrote in her religion journal at school, "I love life." And so did Chester. It's why he cared so much, and it's why so many cared for him. If Jimmy Rushing was famous with the Basie band, then there's hardly a word that can describe Joe Williams. His voice holds a special magic. I wanted to leave you with something that Chester would have appreciated. Something that if you miss him terribly, you can hold on to. Something that if you want to *feel* what his life is all about, you can feel it—*a lot*. Joe Williams recorded this in 1993 with the Robert Farnon Orchestra. "Here's to Life." Here's to my friend.

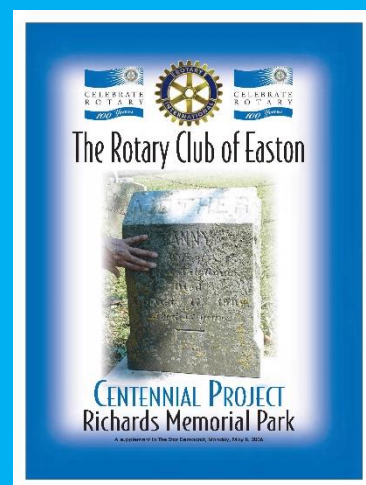
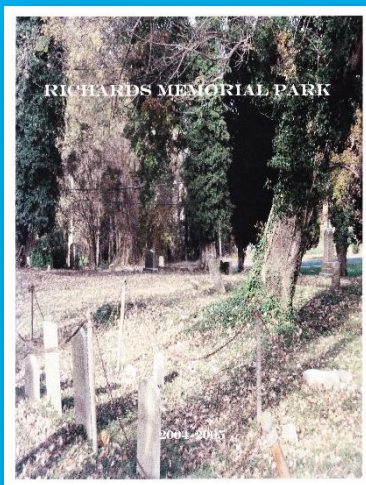
Listen to "Here's to Life" here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYmvkr33NZI>

Richards Memorial Park

All the projects that we did in Chester Gates' memory for Rotary International's Centennial in 2004 and 2005 were phenomenally successful- due to Chester's spirit and the love everyone felt for him. In fact, the Rotary Club of Easton won one of a handful of awards for outstanding Centennial projects worldwide. As you drive down Bay Street, you can see how beautiful the entrance to Richards Memorial Park is, and how lovely the cemetery appears. Our club raised a considerable amount of money to create an endowment for the cemetery, and, in a way, best of all, Easton Middle School created the Cemetery Historical Investigation (CHI) Team consisting of students and staff. That team spent the entire school year learning about and working at Richards Memorial Park and produced a beautiful book about its experience with facts, poetry, and thoughts.

To be able to honor a man like Chester Sampson Gates in this manner was a beautiful experience and included everything that is right about Rotary. The Easton Middle School CHI Team book is available on our website (www.eastonrotary.org) under "The Spark, Monthly Bulletin" tab on the right-hand side of the page. A special *Star Democrat* insert to celebrate our 2004-2005 Rotary Centennial project is also there which has even more information. Links to these are also below.

We will always, always remember Chester Gates and his tremendous impact on our lives, and we will miss our friend more than words can say.



<https://www.dacdb.com/rotary/accounts/7630/Bulletins/5922/Richards%20Memorial%20Park%20-%20Easton%20Middle%20School%20-%202004-2005.pdf>

<https://www.dacdb.com/rotary/accounts/7630/Bulletins/5922/rotary%20club%20of%20easton%20centennial%20project%20may%202006%20star%20democrat.pdf>

LIFE

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THE SUNDAY
 STAR
 SUNDAY,
 OCTOBER 12, 2014



Edith Hayman and Barney Brooks overlook the grave of George Washington — not the United States' first president, but a Talbot County, African-American veteran of the Civil War.

A place to honor ancestors

By **JOSH BOLLINGER**
 jbollinger@stardem.com

EASTON — People pass Richards Memorial Park every day, many without knowing the amount of rich Talbot County history buried in its hallowed grounds.

Many of the names marking gravestones in the cemetery are well-known throughout the area — Goldsborough, Tilghman, Blackwell, Dobson, Harris, Newcomb and Haddaway, among others. But, a good amount of the graves have no name at all, and the only thing to mark the burial site is a small stone post and a knot in the grass.

It's the history and legacy of those who've come and gone that current volunteers who maintain the cemetery are trying to preserve, not just out of respect for others, but also for

their own families buried there. Located off Bay Street, and surrounded by Floyd Lane and Hammond Street, Richards Memorial Park wasn't officially part of Easton until 1916, when it was included in a large annexation of 195 acres.

Before that it was the county's first African-American, community-owned cemetery on the outskirts of Easton known to those in the area as "Hammondtown," said Barney Brooks, a volunteer whose ancestors are buried at the cemetery.

"You couldn't bury African-American people just in any other cemetery. They had to have one of their own, separate," Brooks said. Richards Memorial Park isn't the only African-American cemetery in Talbot County, but it is the only one owned by the community. Others are owned by churches,

According to information from Easton's Historic District Commission, the site's use dates back to 1794.

Richards was bought as a two-acre plot in 1884 by a group of residents who all chipped in money, most between \$1 and \$5, for the purchase. The first name of the list of 85 stockholders is Peter Richards, whom the park was officially named after following his death in 1916.

The original trustees of the cemetery were the stockholders who pitched in for the 1884 purchase. Over time, when new trustees were needed, people whose families could be traced back to the original stockholder list were chosen, when possible.

Edith Hayman is a trustee at Richards Memorial Park whose lineage can be traced back to a few 1884 stockholders — Rachel Thomas and Henry Jenkins, her grandparents and uncle. A member of her family has been a trustee of the cemetery since the 1884 purchase.

Hayman said there are still a lot of unidentified graves where the cemetery started as the property close to Hammond Street.

"Back then, the stones were made of wood and they all disintegrated," Hayman said.

Many of the older gravestones in the 130-year-old cemetery can still be read and have stood the test of time through weather and erosion. The oldest readable grave marker there shows a date of 1847.

A land owner of Floyd Lane, Maurice Smith, was granted by deed an official right-of-way to the



This gravestone in Richards Memorial Park marks the site of Frederick Goldsborough, an African-American, Talbot County man who fought during the Civil War.

cemetery in 1948. Over the years, the principle stockholders of the cemetery died out and didn't make proper distribution of the property.

The cemetery fell into disarray, overgrown with vegetation and needing care. So, 15 years ago, a group of local residents, many of whom have ancestors buried in the cemetery, decided to do something about it and turned the land riddled with weeds and deteriorating gravestones into a proper burial site.

"Our ancestors are here, and we really should try to keep it looking like something, at least for them," Hayman said.

There are about 15 people who help maintain Richards, Hayman said. They'll try to get in touch with one another, figure out a good day and pitch in together to accomplish what work has to be done when the need arises.

"This place looks better than it ever did," Brooks said.

Brooks, an 83-year-old, born-and-raised Easton resident, keeps an up-to-date ledger of the veterans buried on site.

Veterans buried there date back to the Civil War. There are six Civil War veterans total, from what Brooks can gather from the old tombstones.

Brooks — an Army veteran who still carries his 1958 discharge papers in his breast pocket — took over keeping up with the ledger for the American Legion Blake Blackstone Post 77, of which he's a member, and is named after a man buried in Richards Memorial Park.

There are 87 veterans ranging from the Civil War to Vietnam buried at Richards, Brooks said every single one of the gravestones can still be read, and even the ones that date back to the Civil War can be read better than some of the other non-veteran stones at Richards.

Did You Know?

Listed below are names of those buried at Richards Memorial Park who served in black infantry units during the Civil War.

- Ben J. Blackwell
- Robert T. Ennels
- Frederick Goldsborough
- Thomas Jones
- George Washington
- Robert T. West

For every major veteran holiday, no matter the weather, Brooks honors their graves by marking them with American flags.

The veterans are distributed throughout the cemetery grounds, but Brooks said it doesn't take him long to hit every single grave — he has memorized where every single veteran is buried, and said the job goes straight to each site, systematically working from the top to the bottom of the property until each grave is marked.

The future for Richards Memorial Park is simple, Hayman said. Volunteer trustees plan to continue to maintain it as long as they can and "try to keep things looking nice," she said, cutting the grass, picking up the leaves and flowers left behind by loved ones that have since withered.

Hayman said that, though not often, she still sees family members visit the graves of their ancestors buried at Richards, paying honor to their family's past with a flower or two and a few moments of respectful silence.

Follow me on Twitter @jbbollinger.



Pictured above is the entrance to Richards Memorial Park off of Bay Street in Easton. This gate was dedicated in 2006 to Chester S. Gates, who did a lot of maintenance at the cemetery until his death in 2004.



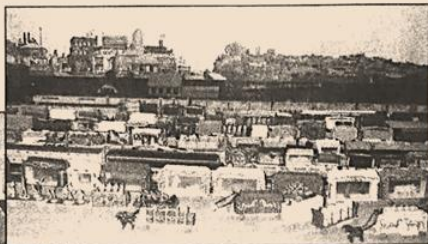
A family's group of graves are marked off separately from the rest of the grave sites at Richards Memorial Park.

PHOTOS BY JOSH BOLLINGER

Easton man builds cities on wheels



Chester Gates works on harnessing up the horses to one of the circus trains he was making for this year's Festival of Trees display.



Come to the CIRCUS with Chester Gates!

Story by TARA TOBIAS
Photos by JOXANE DOSTER WAITS

EASTON — Tucked away in a small yellow-painted shed behind his modest Easton home, Chester Gates has been busy recreating the greatest show on earth in miniature for the past 30 years.

Because of his intrigue for big top locomotives, Gates, 86, crafts these circus wagons by hand, which, when linked together become circus trains. The HO gauge trains are 1/8th the size of a standard railroad track gauge.

"It is a hobby and I love what I'm doing," said Gates as he carefully attached faux gold pieces onto a wagon for decoration.

His love for trains began as a young boy when his father gave him one for a gift. "My father gave me a toy train for Christmas and after that I was hooked and always wanted to have better and better ones," Gates said. "Then I started buying a lot of them."

Perhaps the circus train peaked Gates' imagination when they toured nearby venues as the colorful cars seemed to be an attraction in of themselves with their unusual cargo, ornate lettering and array of entertainers, he noted.

"I used to wake up at 4 a.m. to watch the circus come into town and unload and set up on the grounds here." "I've visited too many circuses to count."

With his interest whirling and wishing to create ones from scratch, Gates later joined a national club for circus model builders, an organization which sells plans on any circus wagon ever built. Gates now makes models of the 1922 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Trains which have two different style wheels — wagon wheels in a more primitive style and pneumatic wheels, modeled after the type of wheels on automobiles today.

The circus came out with new wagons each year, he said. "Now all I do is sit around and make circus wagons and probably will continue until they haul me off to the cemetery. I've even got some that Barnum & Bailey never heard of," said Gates referring to when he designs and builds his own style wagons such as a bell wagon he made with a bell that a family member gave him.

Included in the 1922-style circus trains were several baggage cars, a commissary, a cookhouse, a blacksmith shop, rhinoceros, tiger, bear, hyenas, and monkey cages as well as wardrobe, big top canvas, oil drum and prop wagons.

"That was when a circus was like their own city on wheels," Gates said. "The circus of today is scaled down and shown in arenas and stadiums."

Gates remembers when the circus even put on a parade each evening during its tour — a fond memory to Gates and a reason he especially enjoys constructing the band and jazz wagons.

The instruments would be carried inside the wagon and then during the parade the players would ride on top of the wagon and play for the parade," he said.

Gates' colorful circus wagons remain stationary and are not

powered by electric. He was recently completing another miniature team of horses to pull harness up to one train.

"You have to be very delicate and if I bet if you'd sweep up this floor you'd find a whole lot of parts," Gates admits as he maneuvers a pair of small tweezers around a part. "I have pretty good eyesight, but working with these little parts can be a challenge."

The tiny assemblies for circus wagons are ordered in parts from either San Diego or Milwaukee, Wis. Gates builds the base for the wagons himself, out of wood, instead of ordering the frame already completed.

"It's better if I make it myself," said Gates who can complete a wagon in several hours if he stays at it continuously. "Mine look more realistic than and are sturdier."

After cutting the plain wooden frame from hobby wood, the magic is poised to begin. With good lighting, patience and precision, Gates attaches the unique pieces together to form a wagon with a little help from tiny tools and specially ordered drill bits.

"I like the different style wheels and they give me more variety," Gates said. "I order the wheels and then finish them and attach the axle to them. Taking so much time to produce these small trains by hand is somewhat of a dying art because many people just buy a kit for quicker assembly."

Gates then embellishes the wagons with ornaments, miniature plastic people and animals, as well as hand paints them with water-based and acrylic paints to replicate the actual circus trains.

"I like the painting part though because some of the brushes are the size of a pin," Gates said although he has hand-painted each and every one of the 200-plus circus wagons which are stored in foot lockers in his shed. Gates attempts to mimic the trains of the past. "The wagons were so flamboyant then as they were decorated with actual gold leaf filigree," he said.

Gates shows off his wagons at various shows in Pennsylvania and New York. He recently displayed his trains during the Festival of Trees at the Avalon Theater in Easton. The trains take on a life of their own when they are set up among the background scenery.

"I don't display them in my house so the only time they are brought out of hiding is for a show," Gates said.

Because the trains are so fragile, Gates refrains from displaying them in his house, even if it is his heart's desire and he would have the heavy task of "sweet talking" his wife Carrie into the idea first. This is a change from years past when he set up miles of trains in his former home in New York. He moved to the area following retirement 12 years ago.

"I had electric trains running all through my four-story house in New York," he said. "Understandably, however, because Gates has grandchildren and great-grandchildren who may find them too appealing not to examine closely."

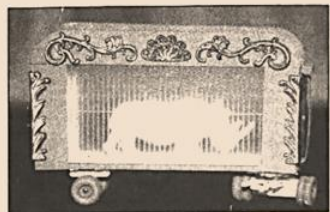
"I wouldn't even let them touch these trains because their too fragile," Gates said with a laugh. "I haven't made any trains for them yet, but I will."



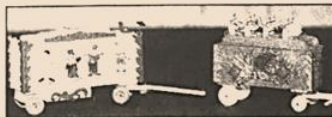
BAND WAGON



STORAGE WAGON



ANIMAL WAGON



STORAGE WAGON AND BAND WAGON

A search of Newspapers.com for the name of Chester Gates in Easton, Maryland, showed a man constantly serving his community. Here are just a few *Easton Star Democrat* samples from long ago...

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1942

ROTARY CLUB TO MEET AT CHILDREN'S HOME

The Easton Rotary Club will hold its weekly luncheon at the Children's Home on Wednesday, December 23, at 12.30. The children will have quite a party, the club presenting a new radio to the home as well as other gifts.

The following week the Christmas party will be held by the club, taking the form of a father and son and daughter dinner. Rotarians will bring along their sons and daughters, followed by a movie for the youngsters.

At the meeting this week it was announced that Chester Gates, a colored Scout leader of outstanding ability, had been recommended by Doug Dye, former member of Easton Rotary, for promotion. It is interesting to know that Gates has been sent to a Scout training camp and after finishing his course will be sent South to work among the colored youth in connection with Scouting.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1942

BOY SCOUT TROOP RECEIVE HIGH HONORS

The colored Boy Scout troop of Easton sponsored by Asbury and Bethel Methodist Churches, has been awarded the Red Star award for outstanding scouting in the troop in a well rounded year of accomplishments. This is the first Easton troop to receive this highest award in scouting and the first colored troop to be so honored in the DelMarVa Council.

Each member of this colored troop will have a red star on his uniform. There are thirty-one boys in the troop, led by Chester Gates as scoutmaster.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1943

EASTON COLORED BOY SCOUT EXECUTIVE

The appointment of Chester S. Gates as Field Scout Executive for special service to colored Boy Scout Troops is announced by Frederic Wellington, of Wilmington, Scout Executive of the Del-Mar-Va Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America. Gates, a graduate of the National Training School for Scout Executives and formerly Scoutmaster of a Troop at Easton, will take up residence in the near future at Salisbury. His first assignment, under the guidance of the Field Scout Executives in charge of Lower Delaware and the Eastern Shore Counties, will be to supervise and assist the leaders of colored Scout Troops in that territory.

There are at present twenty-four colored Scout Troops, with a total of 428 Scouts in the Del-Mar-Va Council, including Bellevue, Easton, and St. Michaels.

Gates is a native of Easton, where his Troop made one of the highest Troop efficiency contest scores in the Council in 1942. He is a member of the Hiram Consistory No. 2, Scottish Rite, of Baltimore, and an active worker in the Methodist Church. He has been active in Civilian Defense work in Easton. He was married in 1941 to Grace Coulbourne, of Berlin. He is a graduate of the Robert R. Moton High School and an officer of the alumni association.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1951



George D. Olds, president of The Memorial Hospital and chairman of the building fund, and John W. Noble, public campaign chairman, are pictured here discussing campaign plans with Mrs. Avis E. Johnson and Chester S. Gates, Talbot County chairmen of the Negro division of the campaign, following a meeting of 168 colored team workers in the Asbury Methodist Church Thursday evening last week.

Photo by Laird Wise

In 1944, The Rotary Club of Easton recognized the need for a service club specifically directed toward helping the African-American community in Talbot County. So, who did Rotarians ask for help? Yes- Chester Gates! On this page is his letter to the club saying he would help, and on the next, his letter to the founder of an organization then known as "Frontiers of America" and now called "Frontiers International" (<https://www.frontiersinc.org/>).



Boy Scouts of America

DEL-MAR-VA COUNCIL, INC., NO. 81

2 EAST NINTH STREET, WILMINGTON, DEL.

PHONE 3-4351

DOVER, DELAWARE
P. O. BOX 382



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SALISBURY, MARYLAND



EASTON, MARYLAND
P. O. BOX 440

March 6, 1944

Mr. Calvin L. Skinner, Sec'y
The Rotary Club #982
Easton, Maryland

Dear Mr. Skinner:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your
letters of February 17 and March 1.

I am writing to The Frontiers of America
requesting information about their club and will inform
you of what I receive.

Thanking you for your interest, I am,

Cordially yours,

Chester S. Gates



March 6, 1944

Mr. N. B. Allen, President
The Frontiers of America
107 North Monroe Street
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Allen:

Sometime ago a group of professional and business men of this community realized the need of a Service Club for the Negroes of Easton and I was handed the assignment of investigation of the various organizations. Through the assistance of Mr. C. L. Skinner, sec'y of the Easton Rotary Club and Mr. Lester B. Struthers, Asst. General Sec'y of Rotary International we were able to locate your organization.

I will be very grateful if you will forward me any information relative to your principles and objectives that you are at liberty to give out, together with an outline of your plan of organization.

Thanking you kindly, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Chester S. Gates



Spring Hill Cemetery

Like Richards Memorial Park, Spring Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of many veterans. Years ago, they launched a campaign to get the cemetery cleaned up and to provide a way to keep it in the condition that it deserves. However, the cost of upkeep is significant, and we want to help by providing funds to do just that. As a side note & Rotary “fun fact,” the founder of our Club, Samuel Shanahan, is buried in this cemetery. He was the publisher & editor of the *Easton Star Democrat* at the time and Easton’s biggest advocate.

Frank Gunsallus, III, Spring Hill VP & Dirck Bartlett, President, are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Civil Air Patrol - Easton Composite Squadron

The Civil Air Patrol is an Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Its cadet program introduces young people to aviation and aerospace while focusing on leadership, fitness, and character development. Our local squadron has about 76 members, and 51 of them are cadets ages 12-19. They constantly emphasize their core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect.

Our contribution will go to aerospace education opportunities, funds for emergency services mission training, scholarships for their Wing Conference, and cadet leadership schools in the region. The cadets are always there to help the Rotary Club of Easton with community service projects, including Flags for Heroes.

Pictured are 1st Lt Rick Mellinger, Commander, Easton Composite Squadron, Cadet Captain Nathan Mellinger, and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Veronica Pool with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Talbot County Sheriff's Office

Flags for Heroes provided funding for 50 packs of Shatter Balls with Carriers. At the beginning of this year, deputies were assisting DOCO PD with locating a stolen car. They located it and upon approaching, the driver refused to lower his tinted window and fled. Although they did catch him later, this equipment could have been used to break the window in order to identify and apprehend the suspect.

Sheriff Joe Gamble and Major Steve Elliott are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Easton Police Department

Since the beginning of Flags for Heroes, we have donated to the EPD because there is no doubt they are heroes in our community. They never made a specific ask but typically reported back that the funds were used for their “Shop with Cop” program at the holidays. This year, however, we asked if they had a specific need, and they did! With the new marijuana laws, three of their canines were retired. They were able to purchase a couple but still needed another. We are donating funds for them to get a police dog to be used for narcotics work and possibly patrol duties, but that function has not yet been decided upon.

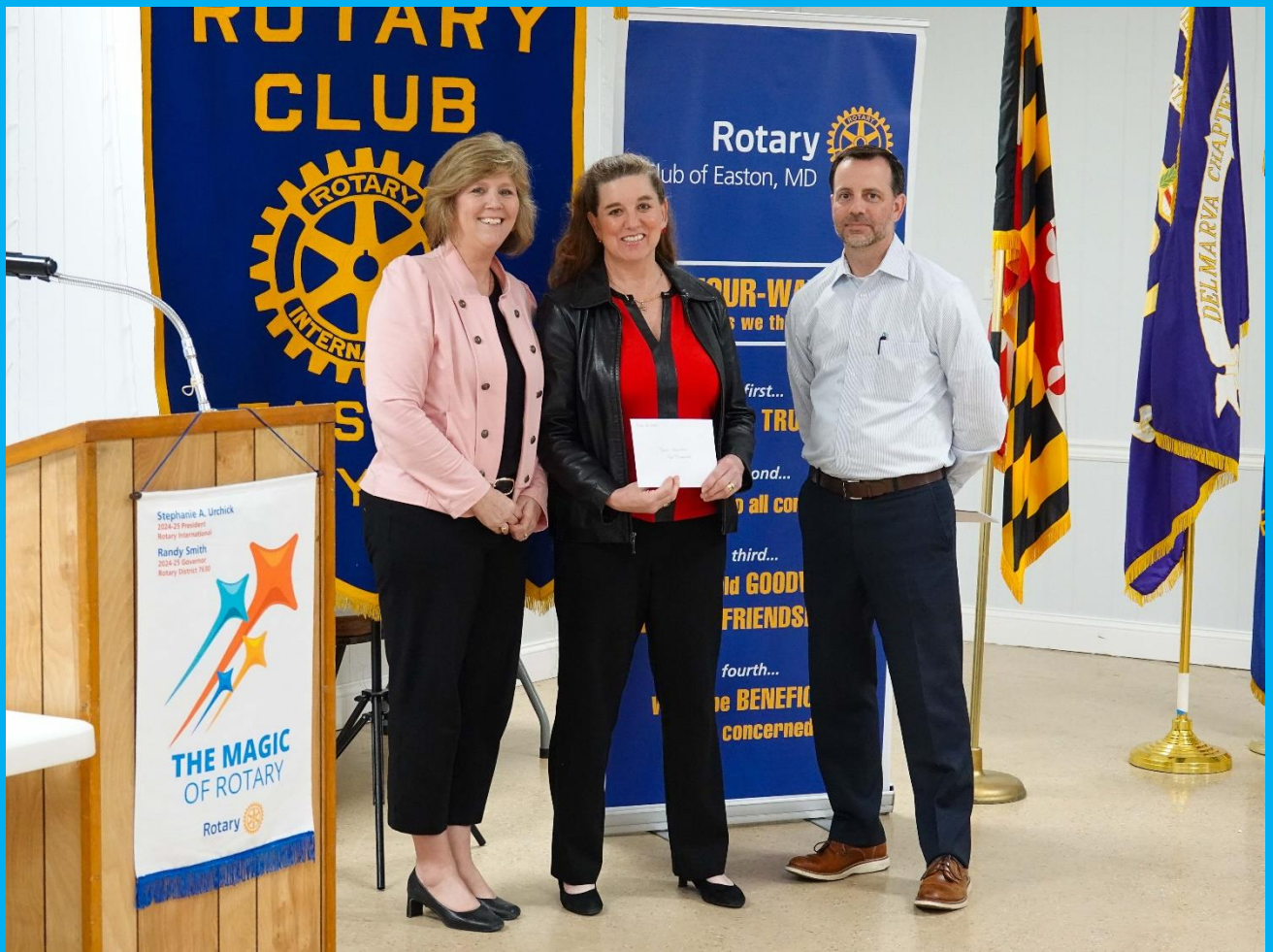
Chief Alan Lowry & Capt. Greg Wright are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Easton Volunteer Fire Department

The EVFD made an amazing addition to the community with their new fire training facility, which our club supported. It is our hope that this year's funds will purchase turnout or other equipment EVFD volunteers need to do their job.

Chief JR Dobson & Brett Whitehead are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson. Brett is an EVFD member and is a leader of Friends of the EVFD .



Trappe Volunteer Fire Department

The Trappe Volunteer Fire Department's firehouse is the oldest one still in use in Talbot County, and their equipment barely fits. They are applying for grants and need to raise another \$1.5M on their own to build a new fire house. To date they have raised about \$500K. These funds should be put towards that goal.

Karla Wieland-Cherry, the Trappe Volunteer Fire Department's Board Secretary is pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Oxford Volunteer Fire Department

The department recently commissioned a new boat that has an inboard pump that supplies water to waterfront fire situations. It is smaller than Tilghman's boat as Oxford FD typically works in more shallow water. We donated money last year to defer the cost of graphic design, numbering, names, and striping for the boat, and this year are providing funds to continue to defray costs associated with the boat.

Chief Graham Norbury & President Tim Kearns Wright are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Talbot Paramedic Foundation

In 2000, the Talbot Paramedic Foundation instituted the first county-wide public access AED program. It was recognized nationally as the premier public access program in the country. Today over 150 of the defibrillators are in parks, government buildings, on the streets, and in nonprofits throughout the community. Our contribution is directed toward expand that number.

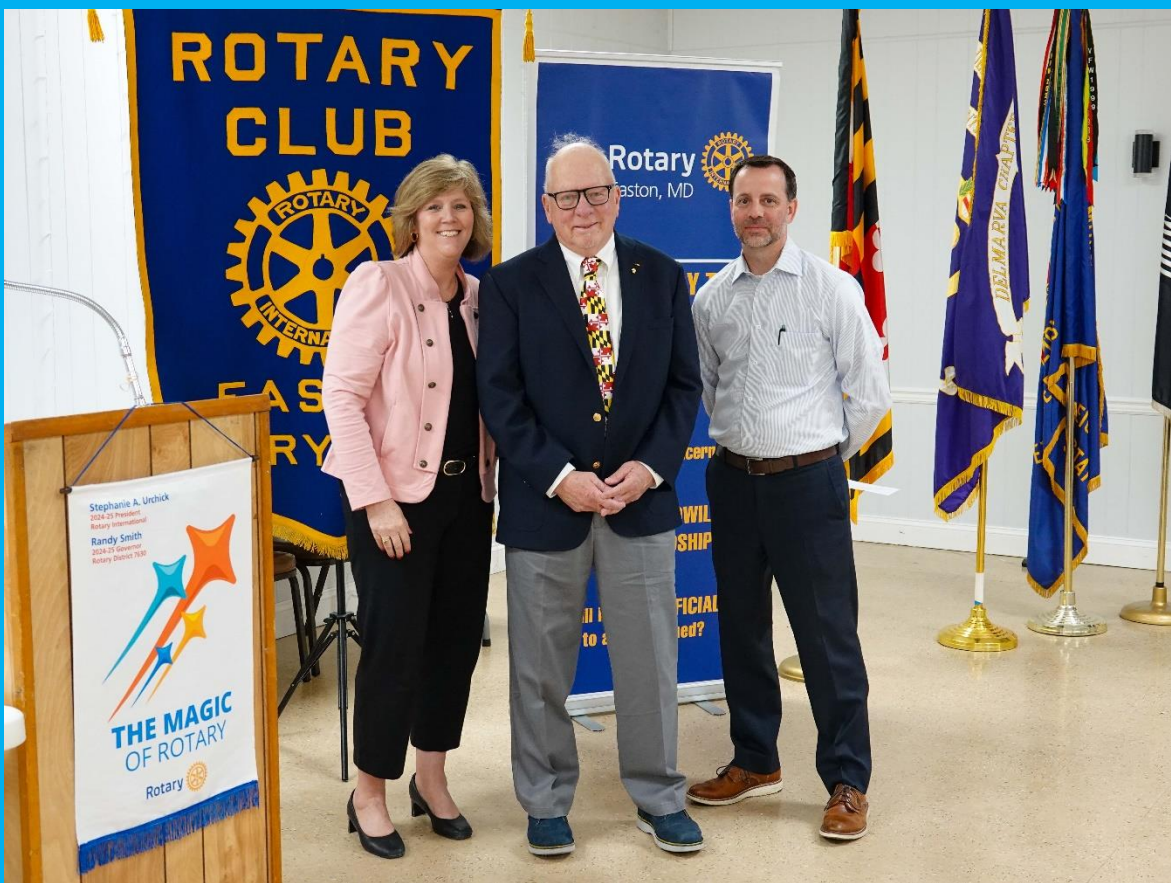
Ruth Ann Jones, VP of the Talbot Paramedic Foundation, is pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Talbot County Department of Emergency Services

A new program recipient this year is Talbot First, a program that focuses on the mental health challenges faced by first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, corrections officers, 911 dispatchers, and EMTs who often find themselves in stressful, traumatic, and dangerous situations. That then leads to health issues such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. What makes this program unique is that it is a peer support program. The peer supporters are trained in active listening, crisis intervention, confidentiality, and referral processes as well as education on mental health, awareness, and selfcare strategies. Flags for Heroes funds will help this worthwhile program.

Tina Kintop, Division Chief of EMS, EPD Chief Lowry, and EVFD Chief JR Dobson are pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



Operation Open Arms

In 2016, the U.S. Army adopted former Marine Capt. Bunch into the “Army family” by bestowing on him the Outstanding Civilian Service Award for his work as founder and director of Operation Open Arms. It is one of the Army’s highest honors. Then in 2018, the Navy honored him with the Distinguished Public Service Award, which is presented to civilians for courageous or heroic acts, as well as for outstanding service to the Navy or Marine Corps because of his work with OOA.

It is a nationally acclaimed military outreach program. It started when one service member who was on leave just wanted to go fishing. Capt. Bunch took him out and the idea for the organization grew from there. They now have a major focus on our service men and women dealing with PTSD. These funds are being donated to bring those troops to Talbot County for that hunting, fishing, or other event so they get the much-needed R&R they deserve but perhaps would not get on their own.

Capt. John Bunch, a Marine Corp veteran and founder of Operation Open Arms is pictured with Youth & Community Fund Treasurer, Jed Anthony, and Flags for Heroes Chair, Jackie Wilson.



2024 Flags for Heroes Corporate Sponsors

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, the Rotary Club of Easton honored 2024's Flags for Heroes corporate donors at a special luncheon at the YMCA. This year's amazing donors in attendance were: Easton Utilities, WCEI/WINX Radio, Willow Construction, Dawkins Management Inc., Curry Wilford, Jack Anthony, Lewis Auto Body Shop, Preston Automotive Group, Aqua Pools, Burke and Herbert Bank, Londonderry on the Tred Avon, Bluepoint Hospitality Group, Konsyl Pharmaceuticals, Tim Kagan, and Robert Fogarty. Not all corporate sponsors are pictured.

Book Fair ♦ Chesapeake Christian

As you know, the Rotary Club of Easton has for years provided dictionaries for all Talbot county third graders. Not long ago, we decided to replace the dictionaries with a book from each school's Book Fair. On March 24, 2025, President Sherye went to Chesapeake Christian's Book Fair and 3rd grade, where her son, Nate, happens to be a student. Obviously, it was a very happy, "Magic of Rotary" time!



Book Fair ♦ St. Michaels Elementary

Another happy, “Magic of Rotary” time when Kelly Griffith went to St. Michaels Elementary to give books to the 3rd graders there on April 1, 2025! See what a difference this makes? Remember what it felt like when you were in 3rd grade? Why don’t you volunteer to be a part of this fulfilling, simple project? You’ll be glad you did!



Breakfast for Heroes



We are so fortunate to have the dedicated police agencies we do in our great community like the Easton Police Department

On March 17, 2025, Deena Kilmon delivered breakfast to all the heroes at the Easton Police Department! We just can't thank you enough for all you do every day!

Many thanks, too, to the Bagery for providing the bagels & coffee!



December 5, 2019 – Buck Duncan, Hugh Dawkins, & Reza Jafari at the *Star Democrat*

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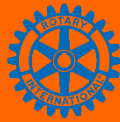
NO! That is not Buck Duncan's age, but it IS the number of years he has served the Rotary Club of Easton! On April 1, 1982, Buck became an Easton Rotarian, and before and since then, he has been dedicated to serving the people of Talbot County. President of our club in 1988-1989, he is a mentor to many. As a banker on the Eastern Shore for 40 years, he made it possible for countless businesses and individuals to succeed. When he was President and CEO of St. Michaels Bank, the bank's motto was, "Of Course We Can," and that certainly typifies Buck's attitude toward business, service, and life. He has received many awards including the Distinguished Citizen Award of the Delmarva Council Boy Scouts of America and the Community Service Award by the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he earned the Donald E. Osburn Club Service Award from our Rotary club, and no other recipient deserved it more. As the fourth President of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, he guides charitable giving in our county in a most meaningful and creative way, and all of us benefit from his vast experience and leadership. W. W. "Buck" Duncan has that rare combination of toughness and empathy and is a true friend to all. Congratulations, Buck, on this important milestone and on a life of "Service above Self."



Claude Maechling (center) receiving the Tim Kagan “Duz Award,” along with Jacques Baker, in 2019 from President Richie Wheatley.

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No, that’s not Claude Maechling’s age either, it’s just the number of years he has served in our club- with PERFECT attendance! Before the Rotary Club of Easton, he was in the St. Louis Rotary Club, so he’s definitely a Rotary “lifer!” Another thing he’s “definitely,” and that’s a man who serves others with joy. For a long, long time he’s volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, so much so that you could call him a full-time construction employee! He’s always, always there, just as he is with Rotary. He’s also a barbershopper and sings his way into the hearts of people, giving them a huge lift! Rotary means a lot to Claude, and we’re very lucky to have him in our midst. Thanks for all you do and have done, Claude!



26



The late Henry Purdy was dubbed by our own Jacques Baker as “Mr. Easton,” and the same could be said of Albert Pritchett, who celebrates 26 years as an Easton Rotarian. From Rotary, to baseball, to the Waterfowl Festival, and to everything in between, Albert is part of the fabric of our community. He was President of the Rotary Club of Easton in 2013-2014 and followed in the Rotary footsteps of his grandfather, C. Albert Matthews, who was about to celebrate his 50th year in Easton Rotary when Albert joined the club in 1998. Low key and self-effacing with a dry sense of humor, Albert is a true athlete and has given the gift of his athletic prowess and understanding to countless Talbot County athletes. A respected businessman, Albert is a person you can absolutely trust, and that says more about him than anything. When you think of “a good man,” and “friend” or you look for those definitions, Charles Albert Pritchett is there. Thank you, Albert, and congratulations on 26 years!

March 22, 1985

sports

The Star-Democrat Friday, March 22, 1985



Maryland-Villanova sets ACC
against Big East for 3rd time;
NCAA preview, Page 4B

Saints fall, 3B
Fair Game, 14B
Baseball talks, 16B

B
SECTION

Mark Dobrow, Sports Editor Call 822-1500

Pritchett hurls 2-hitter as Easton topples WiHi

By MARK DOBROW
Sports Editor

EASTON — Don't tell Easton baseball coach Brian Femi that wintry weather in the early spring places hitters way ahead of tight-armed pitchers.

After senior right-hander Albert Pritchett hurled a season-opening two-hitter against Wicomico Thursday, there wouldn't be much of an argument.

Pritchett, mixing fastballs with low curves, allowed just three balls out of the infield as Easton rolled to a 5-1 victory at Black & Decker Field.

Pritchett allowed both hits back-to-back in the third inning — a run-scoring double to right center by WiHi third baseman Mike Shockley and an infield single by center fielder Bill Richins.

Shockley's double drove in the Indians' only run, but the score was unearned because catcher David Pigg reached base on Easton's only error of the contest, an overthrow by shortstop Joe DelBiondo.

Pritchett was in command from the beginning. He walked three, struck out 11 and retired the first six Indian batters before the error.

"Albert is the kind of pitcher who needs some extra time warming up," Femi said. "We had him throwing for about a half hour before the game. That helped him."

Wicomico, the defending Class B Region IV champions, made three errors in the contest. The first helped the Warriors assume a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning against losing pitcher Pete Jones.

DelBiondo started the inning with an infield hit to the shortstop hole. Shockley deflected the hard grounder to shortstop Timmy Barker, who made a strong, but late throw to first.

After Pritchett fanned on four pitches, Donnie Skinner lofted a lazy fly to left field where Tony Dashiell dropped the ball for an error.

After Darrin Roser lined softly to short, Bryan Williams walked to load the bases. Designated hitter Jeff Rada lined Jones' next pitch into right field for a two-run single.

"They're (Wicomico) the kind of team you have to jump out on," Femi said. "Our intensity impressed me the most. We were up for the whole game. You could tell by the kids' faces that they were having fun out there."



ALBERT PRITCHETT

Photos by Bob Nichols

Please see EASTON, P. 3B

There are countless articles about Albert on the sports pages of *The Star Democrat* and most are like this one! This story is continued next page, and, of course, Albert continues with all things baseball! Incredibly, Albert's name is mentioned 8 times in this March 22, 1985, story!

Easton

from page 1-b

Shockley's third-inning double got the visitors a run, but the play cost WiHi a player. Richins was thrown out at the plate by a Skinner-to-Williams-to Pete Corbin relay, and was ejected from the game for bowling over the Easton catcher without a slide.

"I was pleased with the defense...especially throwing that runner out at the plate," Femi said. "The cut-offs were set up perfectly."

The Warriors got the rest of their runs in the bottom of the third and knocked out Jones in the process.

Skinner led off with a booming triple to the fence in right center and scored when Barker's relay throw skipped by third base.

Roser was hit by a pitch and Williams walked before Rada bunted both runners up a base. Right fielder Billy Shaw grounded a double down the right field line

for the final runs of the contest.

From there, WiHi reliever Kevin Slade held Easton to just two hits, singles by Pritchett and Skinner. Slade struck out five and walked just one.

The other Easton hit was delivered by DelBiondo, a second-inning single. He was later picked off first base, the first of two Warrior baserunners to be caught leaning the wrong way. Skinner was picked in the bottom of the sixth.

"I wasn't upset at all about the pick-offs," Femi said. "Last year, we didn't have one runner picked off. I don't think they were aggressive enough."

EASTON NOTES: Jeff Bridges, last year's second baseman, has swapped positions with Williams, last year's third baseman.

In his first chance at second base, Williams gunned down a potential run at the plate by 30 feet.

"Bryan has a little better glove and turns the double-play better," Femi said. "Bryan only had about 10 chances last year and he didn't make an error. I want to get him a little more into the picture...that throw was right on the money"...

...Pritchett threw 116 pitches, below average for a seven-inning high school stint. "He's throwing his curveball more from the top," Femi said. "He may have thrown a few too many of them...especially to the bottom of their order. But he was keeping them off stride with it."

Femi said he saw nothing negative in the opening day win...a definite positive was that it came against a Class B school and the Warriors can use the playoff points considering their schedule, which is heavily dotted with Class C opponents.



Yogi Anthony



Baseball season started on March 27th, and with that tradition, other, sometimes strange, traditions also rekindle. Armed with Cracker Jacks, a Yankees hat, jacket, and sneakers, Jack “Yogi” Anthony arrived at Tiger Lily for our weekly Rotary meeting. As the song goes, “Yogi” bought us Cracker Jacks, and somewhere that day in this favored land the sun was shining bright. The band was playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts were light. And somewhere men were laughing, and somewhere children did shout. But there WAS joy in Easton—mighty Jack had no microphone and Casey at the Bat really did strike out!

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BE A HERO!

Sponsor a flag for your hero!

Your Hero's Name: _____

Your Name & Contact Information:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Proceeds will benefit Talbot County hero-related organizations. Please make checks payable to "The Youth and Community Fund" and put "Flags for Heroes" in the memo section. Mail to the Rotary Club of Easton, P. O. Box 1444, Easton MD 21601.



For more information:

www.flagsforheroes.org
Jackie Wilson - 410-310-5664
jdwilson@summitfgi.com

Or— scan QR code to donate!



April's *Tidewater Times* ad. Easton Rotarian and *Tidewater Times* publisher, Anne Farwell, has generously donated monthly full-page ad space to the club. Thank you so much, Anne!

April Meetings

03 - **Dorian Mitchell** - Momma Maria's

10 - TBD

17 - TBD

24 - TBD

April Anniversaries

43 - Buck Duncan - 04/01/1982

28 - Claude Maechling - 04/07/1997

27 - Albert Pritchett - 04/29/1998

12 - Richie Wheatley - 04/24/2013

12 - David Fike - 04/24/2013

04 - Megan Miller - 04/11/2019

02 - Taryn Chase - 04/06/2023

April Birthdays

09 Jed Anthony

16 Peter Dietz

17 Tom Lane

22 Joe Stadel

24 Albert Pritchett

27 Gary Yeatman

Invocation Leader

Sherye Nickerson

Breakfast for Heroes

April 21 - **Oxford Police Dept.** - Matt Albers

May 19 - **Trappe Police Department** - Matt Albers



Richie Wheatley & Tim Kagan



Wedding Anniversaries

15 Phyllis & Bob Grill



Each issue of *The Spark* is in honor of Past-President Richie Wheatley for his vision as President and for resuming this significant publication when it seemed as if it were lost forever.



02 Noel Bourdin/Peter Dietz
 04 Mike Henry/Megan Cook
 07 David Fike/Sherye Nickerson
 09 Buck Duncan/Taryn Chase
 11 David Anthony/Gary Yeatman
 14 David Lee/Sharon Pepukayi
 16 Richie Wheatley/Gary Yeatman
 18 Kenny Miller/Brad Watts
 21 Josh Clow/Brett Whitehead
 23 Jed Anthony/Mia Cranford/Megan Miller
 25 Mike Kopen/Dana Newman
 28 Kenny Miller/Gary Yeatman
 30 Mike Henry/Robert Fogarty



Spark Editor
 George A. Hatcher, Jr.

THE ROTARY CLUB of Easton, MD
 P.O. Box 1444, Easton, MD 21601
 District No 7630 - Chartered 1921
 Meets Thursday at 12:15 P.M.

Scossa Restaurant

8 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD

2024-2025 Cub Officers

PresidentSherye Nickerson
 President-ElectFrank Gunsallus
 President-Elect Nominee.....Lori McDonald
 Immediate Past President...Andrew Walsworth
 Secretary George Hatcher
 Assistant Secretary Lori McDonald
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Directors

Club Service Megan Miller
 Vocational ServiceVacant
 Community Service Dana Newman
 International Service Connie Loveland
 Youth Service Kendrick Daly
 Youth & Community Fund...Richie Wheatley