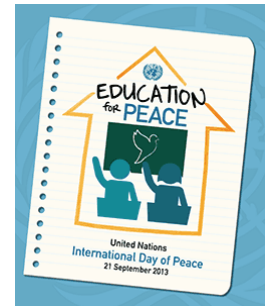


Help Spread the Word about International Peace Day

Contributed By DG Juanita Cawley

International Peace Day is taking place Saturday, September 21, 2013 and Rotarians are invited to help spread the message. This worldwide day of harmony is ideal for demonstrating how Rotary is an effective agent for change, for conflict resolution and for communities.

International Peace Day complements the excellent work being done by Rotary throughout the world. Rotary International Vice-President, Anne Matthews has said, "I believe your mission as a Rotarian, and mine, is to foster goodwill and peace in all that we do."



The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. Some communities have expanded Peace Day to Peace Week, culminating on Peace Day.

In 2013, for the first time, the Day was dedicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to peace education, the key preventive means to reduce war sustainably.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, sitting in silent meditation, or doing a good deed for someone you do not know. Or it can be larger such as holding a club or community peace forum, sponsoring a Rotary Peace Fellow, or supporting a service project that addresses the root cause of conflict. The impact of millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense, and can make a difference.

Sources: United Nations website, T&D February 21,2013, International Day of Peace website.

Meet Assistant Governor Bill Croxton

By LTG Julie Franklin, Stafford

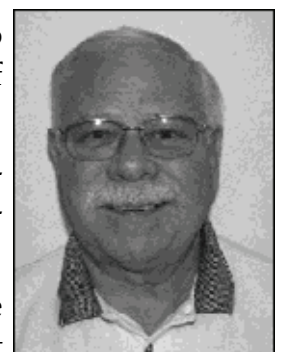
Bill Croxton says being team leader for the 2013 Group Study Exchange to Australia was a highlight of his Rotary career. Based on the number of fingers he has in a variety of pies, that's saying a lot!

A Rotarian in Tappahannock for 37 years, Bill is back for a second round as Assistant Governor, responsible for the Rotary Clubs of Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone, Middlesex County, Northern Neck, Tappahannock and Warsaw.

Rotary "has become a passion: I love what Rotary does." For his own club, he has chaired the biggest fundraiser, an annual pork fest, for 30 years and can't find a replacement - probably because of the amount of work required. He also chairs the "crab race" for Riverfest, which is "mainly for kids' entertainment."

Bill's has managed to make his retirement years very busy and Essex County gets a huge share of his time. He has "meetings every day" as chair of the Industrial Development Board, vice chair of

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

the Planning Commission, chair of the Essex County Art Guild, the county's museum and historical society, and at the Tappahannock Free Clinic, which he admits is his "pet charity project." He and wife Carol own Croxton & Company Properties, with 13 residential properties and one physicians' office building. "I even mow the grass for all the properties," he said. "I don't sit down all day long."

When Bill does get a chance to relax, it's in a home perched on the banks of the Rappahannock River, where the living room and a sun room overlook a wide lawn leading to the river. He and Carol, an orthopedic nurse, retired on the same day in 2006. Bill, an Essex County native and graduate of the University of Richmond, had spent most of his career in medical sales. They have three sons (Will, Scott and Ryan) and six grandchildren. Ryan and his partner (with a cameo by Bill) were interviewed on a July 4 segment of the Today show, in a story about their oyster business!

Back to Rotary: "Every family I stayed with in Australia" has invited Bill and Carol to return for a visit, which they plan in February. He and Carol belong to Rotary International's Fellowship for Travel and Hosting and he says they can "literally pick up the phone and go anywhere in the world. We have made life-long friends from all over the world," and all you have to do is say you'll host in return.

If you can get Bill Croxton to sit still for a few minutes, he can tell great stories about his family's history in the oyster business, bringing new medical innovations to the Northern Neck during his career, what his sons and grandchildren are up to, and how much he is enjoying life.

Note: One responsibility of AG's, as listed in their job description is to: "Advise the District Governor and appropriate district committee chairs when a club is doing particularly well in any of the five areas and recommend recognition when appropriate."



Here, Bill is closely advising his granddaughter, Lucy, on the proper way to eat an ear of corn