

Meet Our Speaker: **Former Governor Bob Martinez**

Tampa native and former Florida Governor Bob Martinez is a Senior Policy Advisor at Holland and Knight, LLP and serves on eleven non-profit and corporate boards.

He began his career as a Hillsborough County classroom teacher in 1957, and later became the executive director of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association. In 1975, he became owner operator of the Café Sevilla Spanish Restaurant and was appointed to the Southwest Water Management District board by the Governor of Florida.

Bob Martinez was elected Mayor of Tampa in 1979. As Mayor, he revitalized Tampa's downtown district, promoted economic development initiatives and annexed the University of South Florida and thousands of acres north of the university. Major capital projects included the Performing Arts Center, Convention Center, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, restoration of the historic City Hall building and the McKay Bay refuse to energy solid waste plant. He proposed and led the initiative to have a countywide library system and supported the countywide funding of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority. He was a member of the Tampa Aviation and Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authorities.

Mayor Martinez was elected Governor of Florida in 1986. While Governor, he was recognized for his Preservation 2000 land acquisition program. Preservation 2000 became the largest government conservation land acquisition program in the nation. He supported new initiatives for surface water management improvement, everglades restoration, Kissimmee River restoration, manatee and dolphin protection, growth management, solid waste management and beach erosion mitigation. During his tenure, he supported the start of the pre-paid tuition program, the tenth state university in Southwest Florida, transportation funding reform and expanded criminal justice programs. He established Florida Space Port, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, One Church One Child, Project Independence job training program and implemented the Florida Lottery.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush appointed Governor Martinez to the cabinet rank position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. As Drug Czar, he annually developed the drug policy and budget for drug education, treatment, enforcement and interdiction. The drug policy and budget was presented to the President and later to Congress for enactment. As Drug Czar, he implemented the President's drug initiatives with state and local governments as well as heads of states in North America, South America and Europe.

Currently, Governor Martinez is on the board of National Retail Properties Inc., University of Tampa, Hillsborough Education Foundation, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa-Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation, Florida TaxWatch, University Club of Tampa, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Gubernatorial Board of Fellows, Harmony Institute and an honorary director of the Florida Council on Economic Education.

Governor Martinez received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tampa and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Illinois and has received six Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Universities and Colleges.

Bob Martinez attended Tampa's Thomas Jefferson High School where he met Mary Jane Marino. They got married in 1954, and are parents to Sharon Marie and Robert Alan and grandparents to twins Emily Ida and Lydia Marie Keen, Robert Alejandro Martinez, Christine Ysabel Martinez and Frank Serafin Martinez.



ROTARY 2013-2014

SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS

Club Number 4289



January 8, 2014

PRAYER FOR TODAY: Lord, let me not forget that Your blessings are to be shared. Amen.

**PROGRAM THIS WEEK: Former Governor Bob Martinez
Holland & Knight, Senior Policy Advisor**

**PROGRAM LAST WEEK: No Meeting, Happy NEW YEAR!
PROGRAM NEXT WEEK Emily Speicher
Guatemala Orphan Home**

Upcoming Events:

January 29	Lucy and Keith Bailey Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro
February 5	Dr Matthew Galloway MD, Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine
February 12	Sweetheart Luncheon

Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2013-2014:

President	Hank Houser	Sergeant at Arms	Jim Woodworth
President Elect	Gerry Miller	Bulletin Editor	Jeff Graves/Ruth Berry
Secretary	Al Stephenson	Past President	Bill Slobodkin
Treasurer	Mike McQuilkin		

District 6950 Website - www.rotary6950.org
Seminole Rotary Website - www.seminolerotary.org
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313

A dangerous idea offers hope for girls In Afghanistan



More than 400 girls, including these seven-year-old best friends, attend the Zabuli Education Center outside Kabul. Razia Jan (far right), a U.S. Rotarian who returned to her native Afghanistan, opened the school in 2008.

In 2005, Razia Jan came up with a dangerous idea: to start a free private school for girls in her native Afghanistan. The Taliban were using extreme violence to keep girls from learning. In 2008, the year she opened the school, terrorists in the country -- armed with bombs, poison gas, guns, grenades, and acid -- killed 149 teachers, students, and employees in Afghan schools.

But Jan did not intend to let terrorists stop her. She approached Afghan Ministry of Education officials and persuaded them to donate a piece of land in a village 30 miles outside Kabul. Today, the Zabuli Education Center is in its sixth year and has a roster of more than 400 girls in kindergarten through ninth grade.

Without the school, many of the students never would have had the chance to receive an education. "I can feel a change happening in these girls and in this community," says Jan, who moved back to Afghanistan after building a successful tailoring business in Duxbury, Massachusetts, USA. "Knowledge is something nobody can steal from them."

The Rotarian magazine talked with her about her experience launching the school.

The Rotarian: What made you return to Afghanistan to start a school for girls?

JAN: I had seen the conditions and how badly the girls were treated. I had to do something. I thought, "There are no schools for girls here. Why not build one?" At that time, I was the president of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, and we decided to hold a fundraiser. We raised \$65,000 in one night. This was in 2005. In 2008, we held two events featuring Khaled Hos-

seini, author of the novels *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which helped us raise more than \$120,000. The place where we decided to build the school was a community of seven villages, a poor area, and they had never seen a girls' school. My hope was that this school could help break the cycle of poverty.

Did you encounter any resistance?

JAN: When I first came to this village, a man came up to me and stared at me strangely. He said, "Sister, why are you standing here? Please go inside and sit with our women and have a cup of tea." I replied, "I'm going to build this school. And I'm going to be standing here to build it. You have to get used to it. I don't think I'm going to sit inside." That was one of the first times a woman had challenged these men. The day before we opened the school, more men approached me. This time, there were four of them. "I hope you realize you still have a chance to change this school into a boys' school," they said to me. "Boys are the backbone of our community." I replied, "Unfortunately, you are all blind. I want to give you some sight." They turned around, and I never saw them again.

What changes has your school brought about in the girls and in the community?

JAN: One of the first things we do is to teach the girls how to write their father's name. Then they take it home to show their parents. The fathers have come up to me, crying: "These girls can write my name, and I can't." That is a big moment. I have proved to the men of these seven villages that this is the best thing that's happened for their daughters -- to become educated. The girls are more independent. They can talk to their father or talk to their mother and share their opinions. They can speak for themselves now. We were having a discussion in class one day and one of them stood up and said, "You shouldn't worry about what the world thinks." They couldn't say this before.

What does the future look like for these girls?

JAN: I don't want their education to end here. I would like them to go to college, but I see the difficulty in that. Next year, when the oldest girls reach 10th grade, I want to have a plan to extend their education by building a computer science center or a nursing facility. I will bring education to them if they can't attend college. I will continue to give them as much freedom as I can, and a place in society where they can speak out. Gently but surely, we will give them a more promising future.