

## Meet Our Speaker District Governor **ROGER PROFFER**

Roger Proffer was born in Rankin, Michigan in October of 1941 and raised up on a small farm. In 1960 he joined the Air Force and was schooled in electronics and worked as an aircraft radio and served as a radar technician. His service time included 3 years overseas in the Far-East including a time in Viet-Nam.



After his military service Roger returned to Michigan and spent several years working as an Electronics technician. During this time, Roger met Linda when she kept serving him special helpings when he ate at the diner her mother owned. Soon after they married, Roger received a very poor health diagnosis so he decided to leave his electronics job and changed his life to serve as a Baptist missionary to Mexico and was ordained into the Ministry in 1981. His health returned better than ever!

When Roger and Linda returned to the United States they moved to Brandon and purchased a military outlet store and they eventually move their life and business to Crystal River, Florida in 1987. The business became the Military Outlet, Inc. which Linda and Roger still operate. Since moving to Crystal River, Roger became very active in community service by serving on the Crystal River City Council 2002 - 2006 and has served on political action boards including Heart of Florida, and the Suncoast League of Cities. Roger is also an Amateur Radio operator with the call name "KG4MOI".

Roger was invited to the Rotary Club of Crystal River Kings Bay in April of 2002 and has served as Secretary, President, Foundation and International Chair. Roger has also faithfully served the District as chair of a number of Foundation committees.

Roger and Linda are both multiple Paul Harris Fellows and they have six children and 16 grandchildren of which they are very proud.



**ROTARY 2013-2014**

## **SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS**



**Club Number 4289**

**November 13, 2013**

**PRAYER FOR TODAY:** Dear Lord, we thank You for this food and for the fellowship of Rotary. We pray that this food may strengthen us physically and this fellowship may enrich us spiritually, that we may better do Your will. Amen.

**PROGRAM THIS WEEK:** District Governor  
**Roger Proffer, Sr**

**PROGRAM LAST WEEK:** Barbara Clare,  
**VO-AG Director Seminole  
Education Center**

**PROGRAM NEXT WEEK** Dathan Johnson, A Vision of  
**Hope, and Club Assembly**

### **Upcoming Events:**

November 27 Joint Meeting with Kawanis Club  
Guy Buckmaster, CEO/Founder Heart for  
Haiti Foundation

**December 14 Christmas Party**  
**(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

### **Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2013-2014:**

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

District 6950 Website - [www.rotary6950.org](http://www.rotary6950.org)  
Seminole Rotary Website - [www.seminolerotary.org](http://www.seminolerotary.org)  
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313

## On World Polio Day, Rotary spotlights the fight to end the disease

Rotary helped put polio eradication on center stage on the day best known for rallying support to finish the job – World Polio Day, 24 October.



A special [Livestream](#) presentation – World Polio Day: Making History – showcased the progress of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Co-hosted by Rotary and the Northwestern University Center for Global Health, the 60-minute program took place before a live audience at the John Hughes Auditorium on Northwestern’s Chicago campus and streamed online to viewers worldwide.

RI President Ron Burton kicked off the event by noting that Rotary began immunizing millions of children against polio in the 1970s, first in the Philippines and then in other high-risk countries.

“Polio rates in those countries plummeted,” Burton said. “As a result, in 1988, Rotary, the World Health Organization [WHO], UNICEF, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention came together to launch the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#). More recently, the initiative has benefited from the tremendous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation . . . It is so very important to finish the job.”

[Dr. Robert Murphy](#), director of Northwestern’s Center for Global Health, emphasized that polio eradication “is completely doable. . . . [It] will result in preventing billions of cases of paralysis and death, saving billions of dollars, assuring that no parent in the world will have to worry about this terrible disease ever again.”

[Dennis Ogbe](#), polio survivor, Paralympian, and ambassador for the United Nations Foundation’s Shot@Life campaign to promote child immunization, spoke compellingly about the challenges of living with the disease and the opportunity to protect people from it for all generations to come.

“I have learned not to look at anything as impossible, and that includes, especially, the eradication of polio,” said Ogbe, who was born in Nigeria. “We have come a long way since the start. So let us finish strong and End Polio Now.”

[Dr. Bruce Aylward](#), assistant director-general for Polio, Emergencies, and Country Collaboration at WHO, emphasized that the global fight is winnable, noting that the number of cases in the endemic countries –Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan – is down 40 percent in 2013, compared to the same period in 2012. He also said that the type 2 wild poliovirus has been eradicated, and said November will mark one year without a case of type 3 virus anywhere in the world.

world.

Aylward also pinpointed challenges to the global initiative, including the outbreak in the Horn of Africa with 200 cases. Because of the strong response to the outbreak, however, the region “is again rapidly becoming polio free,” he said. Moreover, the [polio endgame strategic plan](#), if fully funded, is equipped to stop such outbreaks.

“Today, all children everywhere can have a better future, not just against polio, but against every disease . . . if we as a global society get behind the vision of Rotary 25 years ago to reach every child with something as simple as polio vaccine.”

The World Polio Day event also featured a short [video](#) showing the tireless efforts by health workers and Rotarians to immunize children in Pakistan. “We are very optimistic that the challenges will not be able to deter us and soon Pakistan will become polio free,” said Pakistan PolioPlus Committee chair Aziz Memon in narrating the video.

Event moderator and Canadian Rotary member Jennifer Jones encouraged people to donate to the [End Polio Now: Make History Today](#) fundraising campaign, which makes contributions work three times as hard with matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She also invited everyone to join the more than 50,000 people in 150 countries who have expressed their support for a polio-free world by becoming part of the [World’s Biggest Commercial](#).

Emmy Award-winning actress [Archie Panjabi](#) spoke passionately about why she is so committed to her work as a Rotary ambassador for polio eradication.

“When I was a child 10 years old, I went to India. As I walked to school, I would see children younger than me with no [use of their] limbs, begging for money,” Panjabi said. “It broke my heart.”

Inspired as an adult to learn more about polio, she was “amazed by the amount of work that Rotary has done,” in helping India be free of the disease since 2011, and joined a team of Rotary volunteers to immunize children there last year.

“I will do whatever I can to support Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative . . . . And if you do whatever you can, then together we can eradicate polio forever.”

Jones challenged the audience and online viewers everywhere to share their voice for polio eradication with friends and followers on social networks and encourage them to do the same. “And write or email your government officials to urge them to commit the resources we need to finish the job,” she said.

“We need you – and we want you to help us make history!”