



# PILOT NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



*We are business and community leaders dedicated to making a positive difference through service.*

The meeting will be held on **November 13, 2025** at: the **USS Lexington, 2914 N Shoreline Blvd, 78402**  
Lunch begins at 11:45 AM, Meeting 12:10 - 1:15 PM  
**\$25 Lunch** - \$7 Non-Eaters

### Meeting Duties

- Invocation:** Rick Ott
- Song/Pledges:** Dale Underwood
- 4 way Test/ Intros:** Fowler Mitchell
- Meal Tickets:** Carl Crull, John Holmgreen, Mike Bergsma
- Cookies:** Barry McBurnett
- Hospitality:** NA



### Veterans Day Program aboard the USS Lexington Speaker: COL Kyle Hogan (Retired)

We are honored to host our annual Veterans Day Program aboard the USS Lexington, featuring guest speaker COL Kyle Hogan (Ret.). Colonel Hogan brings decades of leadership and military service experience, offering insight into the values of duty, resilience, and patriotism that define our nation’s veterans. Please join us as we recognize the men and women who have served and reflect on the continuing importance of service in our community. Be sure to bring a friend to this special meeting.



**Upcoming Events:** See pg. 2 for more info. To sign up for events email [Sarah@rotarycc.com](mailto:Sarah@rotarycc.com)

- 11/10—Flags for Heroes Dedication Ceremony**
- 11/12—Honk for Your Heroes**
- 11/16—FFH Dismissal**
- 12/5—Salvation Army & Rotary’s Red Kettle “Bell Ringing Event”**

**Upcoming Meeting:**  
**State Representative**  
**Todd Hunter**

**Your support makes waves!**  
Each week, we’ll highlight thank-you letters from TAMU-CC students who have benefited from the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi’s scholarship endowments. See **page 3** for letters to club.

ROTARY CLUB OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
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Rotarycc.com; admin@rotarycc.com  
**Staff**  
Lysa Chapman: Executive Director  
Sarah Martinez: Communications & Outreach Director

### Officers

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- Alan Wilson
- John Hyde
- Robert Morales
- Ralph Silva
- Rita Molina
- Steve Banta
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- Avan Irani
- Kimberly Ballenger
- Matthew Busby
- Stan Medina
- Jennifer Rector
- Dale Underwood
- Membership
- Youth Service
- Inside Community
- Outside Community



## Upcoming Events

**8**  
NOV

### FFH Installation Day

We need YOUR help installing  
1,800 flags at Doddridge, Ropes & Cole Parks.

9 AM

**10**  
NOV

### Flags for Heroes Dedication Ceremony

First Baptist Church located at 3115 Ocean Dr. ,  
78404

6 PM

**12**  
NOV

### Honk for Your Heroes

Wave Rotary signs for about 60 minutes  
promoting Flags for Heroes along Ocean Dr. At  
6 PM Taps will be played at Ropes Park

5 PM-6:15 PM

**16**  
NOV

### FFH Dismissal Day

We need YOUR help removing  
1,800 flags at Doddridge, Ropes & Cole Parks.

2 PM

**5**  
DEC

### Bell Ringing Event

On Friday, December 5th, from 10 AM to 7 PM,  
we will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army.  
There are several locations and times  
available for participation. For more  
information, please email  
[sarah@rotarycc.com](mailto:sarah@rotarycc.com).

10AM-7PM



## Isabel Tiller

Marine Biology

*Class of 2026*

Dear Lysa,

Thank you for supporting me through this scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. It is an absolute honor to be a recipient of this scholarship, and I am sincerely grateful for your support. Thanks to your generosity, it is possible for me to continue the mission of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation by widely communicating my graduate research with marine scientists and at angler outreach events.

Currently, I am beginning my fourth semester as a master's student at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with the Harte Research Institute and will graduate in May 2026. My thesis, an ecological characterization of juvenile tarpon and snook nursery habitat, is underway and wrapping up successfully. To date, we have identified, described, and routinely monitored a handful of nursery habitats in the Texas Coastal Bend and tagged several juvenile tarpon and snook. We have worked closely with the community to identify further juvenile tarpon and snook nursery habitats and created positive working relationships with local anglers. As a side/passion project, I have been mentoring students from Flour Bluff Intermediate School by engaging them in my research with hands-on field and lab experiences. In my final two upcoming semesters, I will continue monitoring these sites and engaging with the community until December, when I will transition into the analyzing, writing, and presenting phases. With your scholarship, traveling to conferences to present my final results as pre-defense practice will be monumental to my future success. In all sincerity, thank you for your interest and support in these endeavors.

When I'm not wrangling tarpon or attending graduate classes, you can find me working local fishing tournament weigh-ins and outreach events, and assisting our biologists with numerous offshore, inshore, and lab-based projects. Upon thesis completion and graduation, I aim to pursue a Ph.D. and continue researching coastal sportfish in the Gulf of Mexico and the lower Atlantic. I am vastly interested in both research and education and strive to become a professor in marine fisheries to advance the knowledge of sport-fish ecology and to promote conservation through science-based fisheries management and angler engagement.

Thank you for enabling me to grow my communication skills and build my professional network. My educational pursuits would not be possible without the generous support of your scholarship.

Thank you,

Isabel Tiller

***R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship***