



TOGETHER ...We Can Make A Difference Helping Others ...We Will

Greetings Ruritan family. Are you doing your part to make a difference? As we have traveled about Ruritanland, Linda and I have seen up close how many of you have made a difference. While reflecting on our travels and experiences we wish to thank you for the opportunity to visit with and share in your fundraising events and club meetings. We have attended club anniversaries where we witnessed the pride of Ruritans as they honored charter members, recognized other members for their long-time service, and recognized others for special and outstanding service to improve their community. We thank you again for your fellowship, your friendship, the fantastic meals, and good Ruritan hospitality you extended to us as we visited with you in your homes, your clubs, and your districts. We thank you for giving

your time, your talents, your money, and all your efforts in the name of Ruritan to make your communities a better place to live, work, and raise families because you care. Ruritans will continue to make a difference in their communities and those efforts will make a difference in our country and thus improve the world. Truly, Ruritans are exhibiting the actions that are described in this saying written by Albert Schweitzer: **“Even if it’s a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man’s help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here to.”**

Linda and I thank you for the positive impact you display in your own club and for the ones in your community. As Ruritans we must continue to display and portray a positive attitude because then and only then can we change this great organization for the better. Each of our communities need it and this organization deserves it.

All year long, everywhere Linda and I have visited our veterans and our military have been honored for their service. I ask each of you to honor veterans and military in your own individual community. Thank them for their service, sponsor them by inviting them to attend a meeting in their honor, and recognize them for their service.

Always remember to support your Ruritan National Foundation and the goals set by your Trustees. Come to Charleston and bring items for their auction. Join them on Friday evening for their 50th anniversary birthday party and for the auction that follows. They and the students that will receive scholarships will also thank you.

First Lady Linda and I wish to say “thank you” to all that have made a donation to help find a cure for ALS and for any future donations made due to her ALS Awareness Project this year. Donations by Ruritans through the special website created have exceeded \$11,000.

All year long, my messages have been centered around our slogan of “Together We Affect Change Because We Believe In Ruritan.” I believe each one of us is vital for our great organization to continue successfully



President Danny, First Lady Linda, and our whole family (pictured above) would like to thank our entire “Ruritan Family” for their confidence in us to be their leaders and for the kind hospitality and friendship extended to us throughout the year everywhere we visited.

continued on page 10

serve our communities. The three comments listed below emphasize the message I have been highlighting. "It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." We must work together as a T.E.A.M., communicate ideas to each other and we will accomplish great things and the winners will ultimately be the ones we help.

"No one of us is as smart as all of us." Again, the T.E.A.M. approach applies, we need to involve everyone in all our projects and events – we need to listen and learn from all members of our clubs. If it is to be, it is up to you and me **TOGETHER!** We must work together as a T.E.A.M. if we are to be successful.

Please don't forget our goals for 2017: every member recruit a member and each district charter a new club. Our communities are counting on you to succeed because more members in existing clubs and clubs in other communities would mean that more people would receive help. Remember, If you think you can't, you can't; If you think you can, you can! Always think positive, always think you can!

Ruritan will be celebrating 90 years of service to communities in 2018. Plan now to attend and let's help make the May 19th, 2018 Founders' Day special for all Ruritans to celebrate, participate in, and recognize the original founders of this great organization. Planning is now being done to assure that all that attend will have a very enjoyable time to fellowship with others, meeting new friends, and renewing past acquaintances. In August the NBOD unanimously voted in favor of moving a meeting to Holland, VA during the week prior so this will be a good opportunity for Ruritan members to meet their National Board members. Detailed information about the 2018 Founders' Day will be available at the National Convention in Charleston.

This organization that we all call Ruritan has a great tradition and was begun for the purpose of having fellowship with one another, creating goodwill, and serving others. Through the continued efforts of all our members**TOGETHER** we will keep that great tradition alive. Ruritan is America's leading community service organization. When we work **TOGETHER** toward our common goal we support one another and we will accomplish more.

It has been our honor and privilege to serve as your 2017 National President and First Lady. During each of our visits, your friendship and fellowship has been overwhelming. May God continue to bless Ruritan and each deed performed by Ruritan members, our veterans, our military, our first responders, and law enforcement personnel.

Linda and I are looking forward to **WELCOMING** each of you to Charleston as you come to attend your 2018 Ruritan National Convention. Safe travels to all who come.

Danny and Linda

Items of Interest

1966 Ruritan National President "Buddy" Ragsdale Passes



1966 Ruritan National President, the Honorable Edwin Harris "Buddy" Ragsdale, 87, of Richmond, VA, died September 13, 2017.

Born in DeWitt, VA in 1929, Buddy began his career as a young police officer for Henrico County and then became a successful real estate developer. During his tenure on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, to which he was elected for multiple terms, he served as Chair. He was instrumental in bringing the first public library to Henrico County. Buddy also served multiple terms in the Virginia House of Delegates. He was a member of the Providence Forge (V) Ruritan Club since 1953 and served at district and national levels, serving as both National Vice President and President.

He was a member of the Thomas N. Davis Masonic Lodge 0351 for 64 years. He was a member of Sandston Baptist Church. Buddy is survived by his wife of 66 years, Juanita Helfert Ragsdale; his daughter, Lynette R. Spence (Jerry); and his son, Duane Harris Ragsdale (Tracey); grandchildren, Jordan Lee Spence (Ashley), Edwin Harris (Jake) Ragsdale II and Carrie Davisson Ragsdale; great-grandchildren, Darrius, Brice, Trevor, Bentley and Abigail Spence; brothers, A. Coleman Ragsdale (Ann) and Julian H. Ragsdale (Alice); numerous nieces and nephews; a "sister-in-law and brother-in-law" Bernie and David Nelson; and Gertrude, the stuffed tundra swan. Buddy was preceded in death by his sister, Eugenia (Jean) Van Alst; and brother, John G. "Happy" Ragsdale and his wife, Emma.

A memorial service was held on September 17, at Sandston Baptist Church, followed by a reception. Buddy had a Ruritan Foundation Fund in his name if anyone desires to make a contribution.

(taken from printed obituary)