

Dear Paul Harris Fellow Table Sponsor,

On Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Sames Auto Arena, Laredo Gateway Rotary Club will honor the Walker family with three Paul Harris Fellows. These awards are named for founder of Rotary International in 1905. With 1.4 million members, including Earlyactors, Interactors, and Rotactors, Rotary remains the oldest and largest civic organization in the world.

The Walker family arrived here in 1910 from Louisiana when Laredo totaled only 14,000 and has announced this year Talise, first planned community in Texas that will allow residents to live and to work in same international trade area. Gene Walker and his two sons: Gene Simeon "Primo" Walker, Jr. and James Patrick "Rick" Walker, Sr. will each receive a Paul Harris Fellow posthumously.

Since mid-90's, Gateway Rotary's Paul Harris dinners have funded over \$250,000 for local non-profits such as Casa de Misericordia, Boy Scouts, Catholic Social Services, and many more. Dinners have also funded during this time another \$45,000 for Rotary International projects and Rotary Foundation's efforts to eradicate polio.

When you sponsor a table, you directly support Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto and creed that unites Rotarians. Table sponsors of ten are promoted in program and in the newspaper: Title Sponsor(\$10,000 includes two tables), Platinum(\$5,000), Gold(\$2,500), Silver(\$1,500), and Bronze(\$1,000).

Laredo Gateway Rotary Club thanks you for honoring the Walker family and for advancing "Service Above Self."

Yours in Rotary,

Bill Green,
Past President, Laredo Gateway Rotary Club
1-956-237-9704

The Laredo Gateway Rotary Club will recognize the prestigious Walker Family as the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Award, the organization announced during its weekly meeting on Monday.

The recognition will be bestowed upon the family during the social club's annual Paul Harris Dinner, scheduled to take place early next year at the Sames Auto Arena on Jan. 23, 2025.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award is bestowed annually on a member — or members in this case — of the community who have made substantial contributions to the local community. The award was established in 1957 and is named after Rotary Club founder Paul Harris, honoring his memory and in appreciation to his contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

"I think that's a great, well-deserved honor for the Walker family," Walker family spokesman TJ Connolly said. "For the Walker family, when you go back as many generations as they do in Laredo, there is no higher honor than when your neighbors and friends — the generation and community you grew up with — recognize you."

Kandy Walker was on hand at the press conference to accept the recognition on behalf of their family.

"The honor is quite humbling, especially with the club deciding to honor my father and my two brothers," Walker said during the press conference. "We have given so much to Laredo, and we love this community, this area."

Gateway Rotary President Leticia Perez said the Walker family was selected as this year's recipient for their history of supporting the local community.

"They have been very instrumental in always investing in Laredo," Perez said. "They are philanthropists and very down-to-earth people. They're very, very loved in our

community."

The Walker family has countless ties to the Laredo community since the family's patriarch James Oliver Walker first came to Laredo in the early 1900s. Earlier this year, the family announced the creation of a \$7 billion multi-use development project named "Talise," which will be located 18 miles north of Laredo.

Once complete, the 13,000-acre project aims to build a new self-sufficient community, including space for industrial, commercial, and residential use and a cargo airport to support it. The project is expected to create thousands of job opportunities

and facilitate the growth of commercial and industrial businesses in Webb County.

Additionally, the township will have access to its own water source through two aquifers — Sparta and Carrizo — that may alleviate predicted water shortages set to affect Laredo and the surrounding areas in the near future.

According to Talise spokesman TJ Connolly, the development was inspired after the late Gene S. Walker asked his children to give back to the citizens of Laredo who have supported them for so long.

About three years ago, Kandy, Elizabeth, and

their two late brothers — Gene Simeon "Primo" and Rick — discussed using the 13,000 acres where Talise is set to be developed to create a family legacy that will allow others to enjoy the land.

"Talise will always represent the Walker family's love for this land, and all the history and love our families have experienced on it. The four of us saw this as a wonderful gift to share with the Laredo area," Kandy Walker said in a previous LMT article.

"We have timeless and cherished memories that were made on this land. It seemed it was time to let others create their own memories here."



Louis San Miguel/Laredo Morning Times
Gateway Rotary immediate past president Bill Green, president Leticia Perez, Kandy Walker and Melissa Johnson of Talise.

at the Paul Harris Dinner, which will be hosted in a much bigger venue than in years past at the Sames Auto Arena.

"We're expecting a whole lot of folks this year," Bill Green, immediate past president and publisher of the Laredo Morning Times, said during the meeting.

Green said the bigger venue will allow the club to invite more of the community to the night, allowing them to raise more funds that will go back to the community through the Paul Harris grants awarded to local nonprofit organizations at the end of the Rotary year of operations.

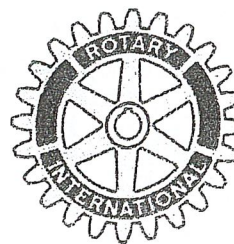
This June, the club awarded six \$5,000 grants to nonprofit organizations the Boys & Girls Club of Laredo, the Children's Advocacy Center, Junior Achievement of Laredo, Pets Alive Laredo, Mercy Ministries, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Tables for the dinner are now on sale and can be purchased through any member of the Laredo Gateway Rotary Club. For more information on the event, Immediate Past President Bill Green can be contacted at 956-728-2501.

Anyone interested in joining the Laredo Gateway Rotary Club is also invited to attend their weekly meetings hosted Mondays at noon at the Palenque Grill located at 4615 San Bernardo Ave.

INVOICE

Laredo
Rotary



Laredo Gateway Rotary
P.O. Box 6246
Laredo, Texas 78042-6246

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Rotary Foundation Dinner Honoring The Walker Family

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at Sames Auto Arena

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		SUBTOTAL	
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Questions concerning this invoice?

Green

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