



For Members of the Phi Delta Theta Alumni Club of Central Florida

www.CentralFloridaPhi.com

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On Tuesday, February 7th, 22 brothers and their guests met at the University Club in downtown Orlando to hear Ralph Martinez speak. Ralph gave a fascinating 45 minute talk about Cuba. Ralph and his family are natives of Cuba. He and his brother Mel were children when Castro rose to power in the late 1950's. As the situation in Cuba grew worse, Ralph's parents knew they had to get their children out of Cuba. First Ralph was sent to Florida, and then later, Ralph escaped.

From December 26, 1960 through October 22, 1962, 14,048 unaccompanied children between 6 and 18 years old left Cuba for the US in a secret operation dubbed Operation Peter Pan. Before Castro, people used to immigrate to Cuba. But after Castro, the biggest exodus in this hemisphere began. The first to arrive in the US in January 1959 came with their money and belongings but later, as Castro added more and more restrictions, people were forced to leave with nothing. When Ralph's parents were finally able to escape several years later, they were one of the ones forced to leave with nothing.



Ralph met Brother Buell Duncan's son at a summer camp soon after coming to Florida. Buell's son and Ralph became friends, and Buell said Ralph became like one of the family.

Brother Tucker with guest speaker Ralph Martinez

Both Ralph and his brother Mel exemplify the American dream. Coming to America in the early 1960's with nothing, they both have risen to heights neither one probably imagined possible. Mel Martinez is a US Senator. Ralph is the managing partner of McEwan, Martinez & Dukes, P.A. In 2003, Ralph was nominated by the President of the United States to serve as a public delegate, representing the United States before the United Nations 57th General Assembly. On May 23, 2003, he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and served as a public delegate for that term.

Upcoming Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 7th at noon at the University Club in downtown Orlando. This month our guest speaker is Duncan Kennedy, Vice President of Innovation of i.d.e.a.s. Duncan will be speaking to us about the future of REAL military simulation with "Battle Stations 21". See www.integrityarts.com for more information.



The luncheons are \$15. This price includes the meeting room, the meal, tax, tip, gratuity, and parking. The University Club is located on the corner of Rosalind and Central, directly across the street from the main library. Parking during the meetings is available in the lot right next to the club.

Founder's Day Dinner Scheduled for April 7th

Instead of our normal April luncheon, we will be holding our annual Founder's Day Dinner celebration on Friday, April 7th at the University Club. We are in the process of finalizing the details, so watch your mailbox in the next few weeks for full information and an RSVP form. But go ahead and mark it on your calendar now. Remember, Founder's Day is an open event, and wives, dates, friends, and family are all welcome.



We will also be holding a Golden Legion ceremony to honor the brothers who have reached significant milestones in their membership with Phi Delta Theta.

Friendship, Sound Learning, Moral Rectitude

Do you recall ΦΔΘ's three founding principals? Brother Sandy Sanders certainly does. I received this email from Brother Sanders regarding Brother Lou Toth. "Lou is now in the VA nursing home adjacent to the VA clinic 5201 Raymond Street, Orlando, FL 32803 Room 123. He is mostly coherent with a few momentary lapses. Mail he can receive and would enjoy. Lou's brother and I are getting ready to clean up his house and put it up for sale. It is located at 315 Miller Street, in walking distance to ORMC Hospital. It is a concrete block structure, 3 bedrooms and two baths with a double carport in a great neighborhood. If any Phis are interested please contact brother Sandy Sanders."

Contacts



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