

GYROLIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY

NOVEMBER EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9,
BLACKFOOT INN, CALGARY**

Another of our signature events is our mixed Remembrance Day Luncheon, a special tradition in the Gyro Club of Calgary. Each year our Gyros remember those who served our country in war and peacekeeping missions around the world. As in past years, we will have a very special guest speaker following our luncheon.

Organized by Team Nixon
Bob Nixon - Team Leader
archie43@telus.net

GYRO CHARITY BINGO
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18,
HORTON ROAD LEGION,
CALGARY, AB

Our annual Charity Mixed Bingo is a most enjoyable evening altogether. Bingo fun with lots of prizes for the lucky players. Bring your family and guests and enjoy activities and the food and beverages. A must for all this is our only charity event of the year.

Organized by TEAM NIXON
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FRIENDSHIPS SINCE 1921

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR **PRESIDENT**

In 1915 John McCrae wrote “In Flanders Fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row.”

As a youngster I memorized McCrae’s poem in school.... a way of paying tribute to our fallen soldiers. Today we enjoy our many freedoms because of their heroic sacrifices.

Installation/Founders Night was held at the Hotel Blackfoot with the Stampede City Club. We enjoyed the fellowship as well as a great meal. Ken Williamson installed our new Board of Directors. They are as follows: Bob Ulrich, Denis Couturier and Ken Prather. He also installed Bruce Martin (Vice President) and John L’Ecuyer (President) as part of the Gyro Club of Calgary Executive for 2022-23.



We welcomed our new Gyro members: Fred Shanks and Kevin Schubert who were installed as well. A special ceremony was conducted for Nigel Way from the Stampede City Club who was honored for his 60th year as a Gyro.

Bravo Nigel!

As Gyros we need to look forward to the future and keep reinventing ourselves. Our goals for the upcoming year will be as follows:

- 1) Develop and implement a strategy to recruit new members.
- 2) Explore new avenues to promote the Gyro Club's to a wider audience in Calgary.
- 3) Continue to create interesting and relevant programs to inspire existing Gyro members and attract new ones.

Our hope is to have a successful and exciting year!

The Executive will be planning to hold our first Board of Directors meeting in early December. We will be planning our event schedule for the rest of the year.

Gyro's celebrated Oktoberfest event was held at the Austrian Canadian Culture Center. Twenty four members enjoyed a hearty lunch of traditional German foods. A good time was had by all. Thank you to Bruce Martin who helped organize the event.

John L’Ecuyer

President Gyro Club of Calgary

GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLUB VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [Https://www.calgarygyroclub.com](https://www.calgarygyroclub.com)

Over the last few months, several Gyros have begun to reflect on how the Gyro Club of Calgary's desire to grow its membership will be affected by the demographic headwinds impacting our society. The club faces the same demographic pressures all friendship/community clubs are struggling with, declining membership. The Gyro Club of Calgary boasts 48 members, however, at any given lunch or evening event 30 to 35 members may turn out.

The most obvious reaction is to encourage all members to reach out to their friends and encourage them to consider joining Gyro. On reflection this might not be the most effective way to grow membership and ensure the club remains viable long into the future.

The first step in developing strategies for addressing membership concerns is to recognize what the most pressing challenges the club faces. Unless a significant number of new younger members are attracted to the club, 80% of the Gyro Club of Calgary members will be 80 years of age or older in two years. What does this mean for the club? Unless the club's membership profile changes, the club's viability over the next 5 to 10 years will be thrown into question. Reliance on past membership growth strategies to grow membership numbers may not bode well for the club's future.

Given this can be a complex and emotional issue the best place to start is probably at the beginning. Part of the process of growing our club begins with reflecting on origins of Gyro. Gyro began in 1912 by 3 friends looking for ways to maintain and grow their friendships as they transitioned from university to the business world. Satellite clubs thrived from the 1900s through to the early 2000s as businessmen were drawn by the opportunity to grow personal and professional friendships.

Reflecting on where the club finds itself today, one must ask if the nature of business has materially changed over this period. More importantly, has the

VIEWPOINT: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY?

*Guest Editorial
by Roger Duckworth*

purpose of Gyro evolved over the last several decades? If in the past, businessmen joined for with the intent of growing personal and professional friendships does membership in Gyro offer the same appeal today? If the purpose has evolved, does the purpose of Gyro need to be rethought? What does the Gyro Club of Calgary offer potential new members? Friendship emanates throughout Gyro's philosophy, but is friendship enough? How do potential new members perceive this friendship?

From the roundtable portion of the AGM several concerns were raised. A common theme underpinned many of the comments. The club faces a two-prong existential threat, a declining member list and aging member profile. To remain viable Gyro needs to address both. Some AGM attendees felt friendship clubs like Gyro are passé in the 2020's. Members were encouraged to reach out to friends and encourage them to consider joining Gyro. However, given that most club members are retired, a member's network of friends are for the most part retired. If most members are retired, it begs the question, is the model on which the Gyro Club of Calgary was developed still relevant?

There was no clear consensus at the AGM on how to move forward. Attendees left the meeting without determining whether the status quo be sufficient to address the existential threats. To secure the long-term viability of our

club it is vital to not only grow membership numbers but to increase the number of younger members. Gyro needs to attract new younger members, ideally in their 50s and 60s.

Part of the discussion must be to address how the public sees Gyro. Does the current messaging present an open and welcoming club? Messaging is critical to how our club is perceived by potential members. The current situation can be demonstrated by the experience of a relatively new member. "I only heard about Gyro after moving in next door to an existing Gyro member. During my first 32 years in Calgary, I did not hear about Gyro". Does this person's experience suggest Gyro has weak name recognition in the Calgary community?

Potential members are likely looking for opportunities to meet new people, while participating and helping in their communities. Engaged members are more likely to return and actively participate in club activities.

Many clubs are looking at different ways to address declining membership, by expanding and adding new areas of interest such as wine, travel, and dinner groups. Another strategy is to identify interesting community projects/volunteer opportunities that would allow the club to partner with other community organizations.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

HOW ARE WE DOING WITH GYROLIFE?

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, VIEWS AND SUGGES- TIONS

Send your Email or letters to
Gary Cobb, Editor.
gfcobb@shaw.ca

INSTALLATION/FOUNDERS NIGHT



Dan, the one man band" proves lively entertainment is approved by this audience at Installation/Founders Night at the Blackfoot Inn.

Calgary and Stampede Clubs Gather to Install new Executive and Celebrate the Founding of Gyro

This year approximately seventy members from the Calgary and the Stampede City Gyro clubs gathered at the Hotel Blackfoot on October 27th to witness and celebrate the joint Installation of our new club officers for 2022-23 as well as to remember the Founders of our Gyro organization. Special guest Governor Ken Williamson was in attendance to officially install new members and club officers. Also in attendance was Past International President

Alan Pentney to pass on his Founders day address.

Master of Ceremonies, John Hodgson was unable to perform his duties as a result of contracting Covid, so Ken Baker had to substitute in his place. After some opening remarks by Ken Baker, Bruce Martin led us in the singing of O'CANADA and Mrs. Pat L'Eucuyer gave the blessing. All then headed for the buffet table in an orderly fashion and by all accounts the, food

After dinner Ken Prather gave the toast to the ladies and Donna Lee Couturier then provided her response. Both delivered very entertaining remarks.

Comments from the outgoing Presidents were next on the agenda. President Wes Fillo of the Stampede City club gave his remarks about the challenges of the past year with an eye to a positive outlook for the year ahead.



President Paul's message talked about the new 'magazine style' **GYROLIFE** that would replace our bulletin the Gyro rodeo that had been our club communication tool in the past. He thanked all who had helped and encouraged him over the past year and wished the new executive every success in the future.

Governor Ken Williamson was introduced to the crowd at which point he took the podium and installed the new executive in both the Stampede City and Calgary Gyro clubs. Governor Williamson then began the process of installing new members of the Calgary club. New member Fred Shanks (previously installed at the AGM) was presented with his new member kit. Ken Shubert (who already had his name tags last summer) was officially installed as member. Charlie Vandaele, who was scheduled to be in-



Our own President, Paul Skinner was unable to attend this event as he and Kathy were cruising down the Mississippi River. Prior to leaving he had crafted his message for Ken Baker to share on his behalf with those assembled. In his remarks he reviewed the highlights of the past year as we came out of the Covid lockdown. The process of forming the new Communications team, the Gyro survey that was sent to all members of our club and the tremendous 80% response to that survey. His message stressed that the Survey would be useful to future Boards in planning for years ahead.



(Top to bottom) District VIII Governor Ken Williamson with John L'Ecuyer, new Gyro Calgary President and his wife Pat. Ken Baker stepped in to perform the role as MC in place of John Hodgson.

Installed on the new Calgary Gyro Board are (l-r) Denis Couturier, Ken Prather and Bob Ulrich alongside Ken Williamson.

Ken Williamson welcomes Bruce Martin as the new Gyro Calgary Vice-President.



(Top to bottom) The audience takes in the Video presentation.

Newly installed Calgary Gyros (l-r) Fred Shanks, Ken Schubert and his Wife Teresa are congratulated by Ken Williamson.

Stampede City new President Dave Smith takes to the podium.

Stampede City's Garry Pattison and Paul Stout with Calgary's Garry Davies.

Stampede City's Alan Lynas, Ridge Foster, Al Clarke and Ken Williamson.

stalled was a no show due to Covid and will be officially installed as a member at a later date. The new Executive Board of the Calgary club that was installed include John L'Ecuyer, President, Bruce Martin, Vice President, John Hodgson, Treasurer, and Bryan Sherwood Secretary. New Directors include Denis Couturier, Ken Prather, and Bob Ulrich. Carrying on as Directors for their second term are Terry Lynch, Bob Nixon, and Gary Stephen.

After the installation of officers, the incoming presidents gave their remarks. As part of his comments the new Stampede Gyro President, Dave Smith recognized his father-in-law, Nigel Way as a 60-year member of the Stampede City club. Nigel is the last remaining member who was there when the Stampede club was officially chartered on November 3, 1962. Of course, that makes him a 'Charter Member'. That's a big deal!

Past International President, Alan Pentney took over the podium for the 'Founders' portion of the evening. He spoke about the meaning of Gyro and the impact it can have on our lives. Alan talked about the origins of Gyro and the gentlemen who were primarily responsible for setting up the organization in the beginning. He told us about the first clubs to join the Fraternity in both the US and Canada. He talked about the original leaders of the two Calgary Clubs and the formation of the Stampede City club. He shared the





**Director Denis Couturier (c) with Ray and Caroline Colliver.
Stampede City Past President Wes Filio receives acknowledgement-
ment on his speech from Ken Williamson.**

Gyro Mission Statement which is 'an International organization that provides a setting for members and friends to socialize and have fun.' The strength of our Fraternity is each one of us, the member.

The evening concluded with entertainment by Dan 'the One-Man-Band.' Not only is he a talented musician, but the way he must move his body to make all parts of 'his band' perform make it funny as well. Seemed like everyone was having fun!

**Story by Ken Baker
Photos by Thor Jepsen**

60 YEARS A GYRO

It's a rarity when Gyro has an opportunity to recognize a 60-year member, especially at a Founder's Night function. Nigel Way, at 95 was the honoured guest at Installation/Founders Night at the Blackfoot Inn. Born in Somerset, England in 1927, Nigel came to Calgary in 1955. He had been doing electrical work following four-years of service in the British Army's Royal Signals Corps.

When he first arrived in Canada he worked as an apprentice electrician until he received his full-time papers and was successful getting a full-time position with the Calgary Board of Education, where he worked until his retirement in 1990.

Nigel's wife Ann passed away in 2015. They have two daughters, Emma and Sarah and three grandchildren. Emma is the wife of Dave Smith, the new Stampede City Club's President. Being an avid Gyro supporter, Nigel has been very active in promoting the benefits of membership over the years. When possible, he always brought his family to Gyro events, which probably contributed to his son-in-law Dave's decision to join Gyro.

A founding member of the Stampede City Club in 1962, Nigel was presented with a 60-year pin, a Certificate of Appreciation along with a beautiful plaque from Gyro International.

Nigel says "I loved Gyro from the get-go. It was a great way to meet people and a great opportunity to participate socially. They are a great group altogether."

By Paul Skinner



Since 1650 parade float shows its stunning effect.

AMAZING BRAZIL

TAKING IN THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND CULTURE IN THE HOMELAND OF CARNIVAL

Story and photos by Barb and Garry Davies

So finally in February of 2018 we flew from Calgary to Buenos Aires, Argentina where we boarded our ship the Celebrity Infinity that would be our home for the duration of the trip.

Our first stop in Brazil was Santos, in the Sao Paulo state of S.E. Brazil. We took a streetcar ride to the Coffee Museum. There we had a chance to see the 'bidding floor' where the beans were bought and sold similar to a cattle auction of today. And of course, our visit would not have been complete without a wonderful cup of Brazilian coffee!

In Ilha Bella we visited a local church Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral. On our way back to the ship we wandered through the town passing markets, restaurants and bars. Of course we had to stop for a local beer. This is something we have always done; we try to have a

local beer everywhere we go.

Our stop in Buzios took us to the beautiful sands of Armacao Beach where we saw not only swimmers but local fishermen as well. And of course no visit to Buzios would be complete without a stroll past the famous Marilyn Monroe statue.

Finally we arrived in Rio de Janeiro! The ship would be our local hotel there

for the next 3 days. Our research indicated that a local tour would be wise since there are 2 million people out and about every day during Carnival! Marcel at Do Brazil Right did not disappoint. All of our tours were on beautiful, new air conditioned buses.

Our first adventure there was to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain elevation 1283 feet. It took two long cable car rides to get to the top. The view from the top was amazing. Then we were off to the Botanical Gardens which are the oldest in Brazil. They had a curved mirror there where visitors were supposed to take their own 'selfie' picture. Definitely a different take on things. On our way back to the ship we encountered our first local street party (Blancos) where the locals are all dressed in costume. They randomly close a street at any time during the day or night, causing traffic chaos!

The next day took us to see the Selaron Steps, all 215 of them! Each of the steps are tiled. Every separate tile was hand painted by local artist Jorge Selaron. In his honour, the steps were eventually named after him as a tribute to all his years of hard work, most of which was done at his own expense. We think he would be disappointed to see some of the sketchy characters that hang around the area now. We then stopped at the two most famous beaches Ipanema and the Copacabana.

We took the train up to the top of Mount Corcovado elevation 2310 feet. From there it was another 220 steps up to the very top where we stood in awe of the Christ the Redeemer statue (Cristina Redentor). It stands at a magnificent height of 98 feet and with arms opened wide a width of 92 feet across! What we thought would be a quiet solemn place was extremely crowded with rejoicing Brazilian people.

Since 1650 the Carnival Parade has been held just before lent to "honour the spirit of overindulgence". It is the largest Carnival celebration in the world lasting 5 days and declared a



(Top to bottom) Buzios, Marilyn Monroe bronze statue. Stunning view of Rio de Janeiro descending from the Sugarloaf Mountain cable car. Inside Ila Bella church. Santos coffee museum. Since 1659 Samba Dome parade float.





*(Top to bottom). Fishermen haul in nets at Buzios Armacao
Christ the Redeemer Statue at Mount Corcovado.
Buzios Armacao Beach swimmers with our ship in the background.
Local street parties everywhere.
On our last day we went to this street party.
The exquisitely hand-painted tiles near the Selaron Steps.
Sand sculptures on the famous Copacabana Beach in Rio.*



Statutory Holiday! The event is held in the Samba Dome which is nearly 1/2 mile long, consisting of 13 seating sections. There is a capacity of 90,000 for each evening performance which starts at 8 PM and goes until 5 AM. The parade consists of 5 or 6 "schools" (large groups of up to 4000 people in full costume and/or body paint). Each group may have 10 to 12 very large, tall floats with people in costume riding and dancing on them and many more walking along between the floats. Each group has to pick a specific theme for each year. They have 90 minutes to complete the entire length of the Samba Dome. It is a total spectacle!

Our tour guide had picked us up at the ship and we were taken into the Samba Dome by bus which was able to park directly beneath our assigned seating area. Surprisingly, there were no security checks except for our tick-



(Top to bottom) Since 1650
Carnival Parade float.
Made famous in songs,
Ipanema Beach.
Samba Dome by bus, Barb in
fancy circle.
Last day dancer on the cruise
ship with Gary.

ets. Amazing considering there are up to 90,000 in attendance every night! We had purchased Box seats in the 3rd row, meaning we had a great closeup view of everything. The music and singing never stopped for even a few seconds! Despite a lot of alcohol being consumed everyone was well behaved, choosing to truly celebrate and not be disruptive. During our time at Carnival we met some wonderful Brazilian people. They were fun to party with and the men especially spoke very good English. We decided to call it a night and we took a shuttle back to our ship about 3 AM. To this day we wish we would have toughed it out and stayed until the end at 5 AM.

Sadly the next day was our last day in beautiful RIO. We went to a local street party, complete with the costumes, food and drink. After a traditional Brazilian lunch we returned to our ship to rest up after the busy days we had enjoyed. As a surprise for the passengers that had not gone to Carnival, the ship's crew invited some of the beautifully dressed dancers on board. It was a real treat for everyone to be able to dance and even have your photo taken with one of these beautiful women. Later that day we sailed away from beautiful Rio. It was sad to bid farewell to such an amazing city.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9,
HOTEL BLACKFOOT, CALGA-
RY**

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DECEMBER GYRO CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10,
CALGARY WINTER CLUB**

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held in conjunction with the Stampede City Gyro Club. The venue will be the Calgary Winter Club where we will enjoy a Christmas Dinner prepared by the Winter Club's dining staff. There will be lots of entertainment, great prizes and will surely be an evening for every couple to enjoy

Organized by TEAM STEPHEN

Gary Stephen, Team Leader
gstephen@shaw.ca

Member Profile



JAY LIKELY

Jay was born in Saint John, New Brunswick as the oldest of 4 children. After high school he attended the University of New Brunswick earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and soon after accepted a job offer with The Bay in that faraway place called Calgary in 1969. He was employed in a number of summer jobs to get through high school and university. He was a lifeguard, accounting clerk, buoy repairman, post officer sorter, boat repairman and his last job in Saint John was a hospital orderly where he met his wife to be Sharon who was a registered nurse in the hos-

pital. They married in 1970 after leaving Saint John.

Jay and Sharon have four children raised in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Three children still live in Calgary while one is in Singapore. Jay has 5 grandchildren aged 22 years to 8 years.

Jay likes to spend time in Windermere, B.C. with family during traditional holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving. Windermere is great for golf and skiing lessons for the 9 grandchildren.

Jay and Sharon love to travel and have visited Palm Springs, Hawaii, Holland and France. More recently he has visited his daughter Elizabeth in Singapore and has made side trips to Indonesia and Bali. Last but not least, Jay enjoys trips back to place of birth in Saint John, N.B.

Jay's working career began at The Bay in Calgary but he left after one year for a position at Consolidated Concrete (now Inland Cement) selling concrete pipe around Calgary. In 1972 he was transferred to Regina as manager of the Block and Pipe division. From 1981-1989 he managed the Concrete, Aggregate and Precast Division in Saskatoon which was a great city to rear children and do business. In 1989 Jay and the family moved back to Calgary as he became Divisional Manager for a number of associated concrete companies including Revelstoke Concrete which was amalgamated with Inland Concrete. In his final years of employment Jay managed the Inland Concrete Division in Calgary and retired in 2010 after forty-one years in the business.

Jay claims to be very competitive and enjoyed all sports growing up but golf was his favourite and he stills enjoys today playing 18 holes with his wife Sharon on a sunny day.

Jay loves Gyro at this stage of his life, especially the social interaction and camaraderie with friends. He encourages all members to get involved for the betterment of the entire group.

Story by Gary Cobb

HUMOUR

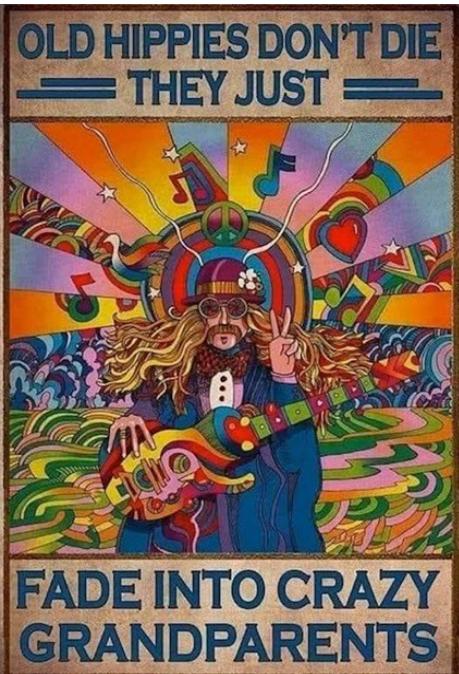
FUN & GAMES

One day a father, on his way home from work suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday. He stops at a toy store and goes in and asks the sales person " how much for one of those Barbie Dolls in the display window?"

The salesperson answers, "Which one do you mean Sir? We have: Work Out Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.95".

The amazed father asks "It's what? Why is the Divorced Barbie \$265.95 and the others only \$19.95?"

The slightly miffed salesgirl rolls her eyes, sighs and answers: Sir, Divorced Barbie comes with: Ken's House, Ken's Motor Home, Ken's Truck, Ken's Fishing Boat, Ken's Furniture, Ken's Dog, Ken's TV and Computers, one of Ken's Friends, and a key chain made from Ken's testicles."



A father took his 8-year old daughter to his office on 'Take Your Kid to Work' day. As he walked into the office she started to cry.

As concerned staff gathered around her asked her what was wrong and she said, "Daddy, where are all those clowns you said you worked with."

THE FIRE

"The neighbors hate us."

"Why?

"Well, you remember when we had that bonfire in my yard, and we were roasting marshmallows?"

"Yeah, that was really fun." "And remember how the house up the road caught fire, and all those fire engines came, and we ran to see what was going on, and the wife was crying in her husband's arms, how everyone looked at us funny.?"

"Yeah, I remember. I wondered what we'd done..."

"We were still holding our marshmallow sticks...!"

An incompetent counterfeiter spent all day making his funny money. At the end of the day he realizes he spent all his time making \$15 bills.

He figures that the only way he's going to get anything from this batch of money is to find a place where the people aren't too bright and change his phoney money for real cash.

He travels to a small town and walks into a small Mom and Pop grocery store.

He goes to the old man behind the counter and asks him "Do you have change for a \$15 bill. The old man replies, "Yes, I sure do...how would you like that? An eight and a seven or two sixes and a three?"

QUICKIES

Light travels faster than sound.

This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

.....
He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

.....
Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

.....
Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

.....
The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

.....
Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

.....
When you go to court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough get out of jury duty.

The US state with the highest percentage of people

November Birthday

5th Doug Church