



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

June 9, 2026

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Elizabeth Teagarden



## ***IKE BELK*** ***Co-Founder of the United States Performance Center and Co-Chair of the 2027 Military World Games***

by **Paul Bartholomy**

Rotarians were treated to an inspiring look at Charlotte's growing role on the world stage as Ike Belk, Co-Founder of the United States Performance Center and Co-Chair of the 2027 Military World Games, shared plans for one of the largest international sporting events ever hosted in the Carolinas. Belk's enthusiasm was contagious as he described bringing the Games to Charlotte for the first time in the event's history on U.S. soil.

The 2027 Military World Games will bring together athletes and delegates from more than 100 countries for ten days of competition, cultural exchange, and celebration. Many participants are elite military athletes who also compete at the Olympic level. Belk emphasized the Games' long-standing mission of "Friendship Through Sport," using athletics to promote peace, unity, and international understanding.

Charlotte's selection as host city was no accident. Belk highlighted the region's world-class sports facilities, transportation network, hospitality, and strong community support as key factors in winning the bid over competing international locations. Events will be held throughout North and South Carolina, with UNC Charlotte serving as the primary hub and athlete village. The Games are expected to generate significant economic impact while showcasing the Carolinas to a global audience.

Perhaps most importantly, Belk reminded attendees that the event is designed to honor and celebrate military service members and veterans. He encouraged businesses, community organizations, and volunteers to become involved as preparations continue. If his vision becomes reality, the 2027 Military World Games will not only be a world-class sporting event but also a once-in-a-

generation opportunity to demonstrate the leadership, innovation, and community spirit that define the Charlotte region.

The following is a recording of the meeting:

Video with Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1199899409?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Video without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1199899409?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Ike's introduction begins at about 30 minutes and 30 seconds.