

Good afternoon and welcome to the signing ceremony, recognizing Lynchburg Virginia and Glauchau Germany as official sister cities.

What a beautiful evening for this historic event.

I am John Malec, president of sister city Lynchburg plus. It is my honor to stand before you as master of ceremonies this evening. Thank you all for coming.

I feel somewhat unworthy to present our newest sister city here tonite. This ceremony is the result of years of hard work from past and present members. I am fortunate to be in the position to celebrate the work of these dedicated individuals.

In 1995 Frank Britt a dedicated rotary club member, helped raise funds for a group looking to find a sister city for Lynchburg. Together with Bill Goodman, they pursued a relationship with Rueil-Malmaison in France and in 1996 Rueil-Malmaison became Lynchburgs 1st official sister city.

This evening, after several years of exploration by another rotary club member, Manfred Mibus we are ready to celebrate our newest sister city, Glauchau Germany.

Thank you, Frank Britt, Bill Goodman, Manfred Mibus and all the presidents that have served sister cities Lynchburg plus.

Tonite I stand here to honor your hard work, vision and dedication. Thank you (gesture to Frank, Manfred, Bill)

Personal speech

Spring 2006 wife Lynne and son to Glauchau.

Fall 2006 hosted 2 german students in home. Considered 3rd and 4th sons.

During this exchange 1 of my students became interested in a local young lady. My son also became interested in 1 of the female students from Glauchau.

During spring break this year my son Michael and wife Lynne were hosted by the Thiel- family in Glauchau for a visit with Michaels girlfriend and parents. (end personal)

So when I am asked why I am so passionate about our sister city program I reflect on the changes in my and my families life in one year. We have met and experienced warm, genuine people. People just like us, but different. People who are as curious about us as we are about them. People who have opened their homes, hearts and lives to strangers and have left a mark we will feel forever. We love our new German friends.

So, welcome Andreas Weber, Steffen Naumann, Thomas Schreiter, Felix Schmidt our guests from Glauchau. Welcome Mayor Foster, council members and city officials. Finally welcome members of sister city Lynchburg plus.

Enjoy the ceremony and join us afterwords for refreshments inside.

And now it is my pleasure to present to you Manfred Mibus. Rotary club member, past president of sister city Lynchburg

plus and the man responsible for this evening.
Thank you.