

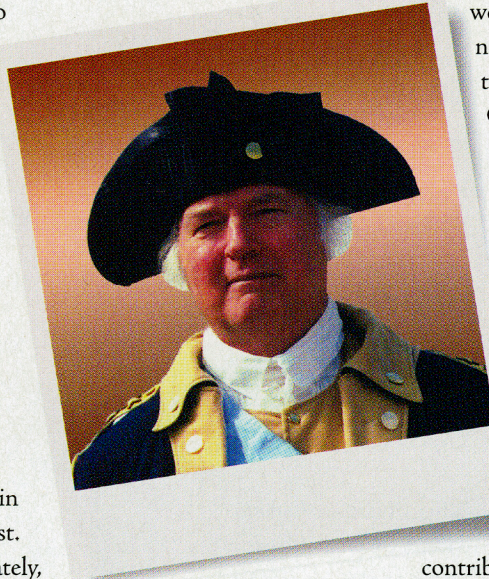


UP FRONT

10 Questions with Jim Hodges » His name is Jim, but you can call him George. Jim Hodges recently retired from his position as a vice president of Merrill Lynch to impersonate George Washington. As a public speaker and business consultant, Hodges portrays the first U.S. president, outfit and all, to explain Washington's devotion to doing the right thing. "He really lived The Four-Way Test," says Hodges, who joined the Rotary Club of River Oaks (Houston), Texas, USA, in 1977. He and his wife, Bonnie, live just outside Houston in Bellaire.

1 My proudest achievement: Besides getting my wife of 37 years to marry me, seeing children's eyes light up when I appear at schools dressed as George Washington. They rush over for their picture to be taken with me, sometimes almost knocking me over.

of ethics that was standard operating procedure for George Washington.



2 My most humbling moment: Early in Rotary, I was asked to lead in reciting The Four-Way Test. I went brain dead. Fortunately, a friend bailed me out.

3 My life won't be complete until I: Have convinced the greatest possible number of Americans that it is in their own best interest – and that of their country – to conduct their affairs with the high level

4 Nobody in my club knows I: Sing opera arias in the shower.

5 The one food I always have in my refrigerator: Peanut butter (chunky).

6 My friends think I'm: Somewhat of a hippie because I wear a ponytail. I'm really not. I wear it for authenticity when I portray George Washington. He wore a 4-inch ponytail, then called a *queue*.

7 I was drawn to Rotary because: I wanted to be on a team of dedicated, idealistic people who were making a positive

contribution to world peace through understanding and friendship.

8 Three words that best describe me: Does his best.

9 The three things I'd want with me on a deserted island: My easy chair, my reading glasses, and the Library of Congress.



10 If I could be any animal, I'd be: The elephant!

Elephants live and let live, are protective of the herd, and fight only when threatened – and then only if absolutely necessary. The elephant is a noble animal that sets a good example for humans to follow in living an ethical life.

