***Paul Harris Fellow***

***Conferred on Ken Murray March 26, 2024***

Look up the definition of Rotarian and you will find a picture of Ken Murray! He epitomizes what it is to be a Rotarian. His last PHF was in 2014 providing 10 years of service NOT recognized. This happened only because he has been a member of the Awards committee for that time and Chaired the committee in more recent years.

Ken has chaired or co-chaired the Awards, Membership and Literacy committees. In each of these positions he played a significant role in advancing the work of the committee. He provided outstanding leadership on the Awards committee to ensure selection of quality candidates that met the criteria of each award. On the Literacy committee he provided great leadership in all aspects of the committee’s work but, in particular, he has coordinated the warehouse distribution night for Dictionary4Life since project inception. On the membership committee, he, along with committee members, continually strived to make connections and find ways to bring in potential members.

In terms of his noteworthy volunteer service in the club over the years this citation cannot do it justice as he has contributed so much in true “Service Above Self” fashion.One simply mentions something that needs to be done and Ken Murray “is there” be it physically doing something, providing ideas, or moral support. He has continued deep connections with past youth exchange students in particular those from Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. He has supported and encouraged Wilmer Pulido and family to remain connected with our club over the years as they face their own struggles. Fellowship dinners were one of his and Glenda’s favorite activities – they were always one of the first to sign up to host a dinner. He unabashedly promotes the International Hosting Fellowship group. He provides others with his vast Rotarian connections he has made over the years around the world. He was Clock Custodian 2014-15. And in 2015-16 he worked alongside Linda Flynn and Jean Begin on the 60th Anniversary committee including chairing one of the Era teams.

Ken also has performed a unique role for the club over a period of years. Besides being a pillar of our club and a “go to” person for advice or a “sounding board” the one area he excels in is Family of Rotary. There is not one other person (to the best of our knowledge) who connects with past or present Rotarians who may not have been at meetings lately, is ill, or has left the club – no matter what Ken keeps in touch with them. He physically visited them in the past and often would provide meals that Glenda prepared. Of late, he does his “visits” by phone always ensuring that if there is somebody who he thinks could use a call – he calls them.

Ken’s positive attitude has always been so inspirational. He always finds the “positive” in every aspect of our club. He will be dearly missed when he moves out west to be closer to family. It will leave a HUGE hole in our club. We were fortunate to have known him for all the years he was in our club. We will miss his smiles, his jabs, his humour, and above all his caring attitude.

He not only deserves one PHF but perhaps a few more earned over the past 10 years. SO, a second honour is also being bestowed on him today – Honoured Life Member.

**Honoured Life Membership in**

**the Rotary Club of West Ottawa**

*The Award of Honoured Life Membership is given for outstanding service to the Club and to Rotary over an extended period of time. The Club’s Policy on Awards states that Honoured Life Membership is to be considered the highest Club award bestowed by the Club on any member. Few members have shown the extent of service that merits consideration for such an award.*

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**Ken joined Rotary in 1979 and was a member of four different clubs in 3 different Districts. Ken’s roots are in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.**

**His first involvement with Rotary was Downtown Prince George, BC from 1980-1985. While there he was involved in organizing their first Rotaract club.**

**From 1986-91 he belonged to the Eastview Rotary Club of Regina where he noted several historic events including raising money for Polio Plus; inducted the first female member and ran Bingo as a large fundraiser. He was heavily involved in various fundraisers and fellowship events including a golf tournament with Rotarians from southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba and North Dakota.**

**He was a member of the Winnipeg Fort Garry club 1991-1994 and served on the Board, including being Secretary. There he was involved in Youth Exchange at the District level.**

**Ken joined our club in 1995 and has served many unique roles for the last 29 years. Ken was our President in 2012-13 and is recognized by the Rotary Foundation now as a PHF +3.**

**He has always been involved in our Mums and Calendar fundraisers and has served on Literacy, Membership, Family of Rotary and Awards committees.**

**He is certainly worthy to become an Honoured Life Member of our club.**

Quote from him in the 50th Anniversary book: “*Rotary has always been a very big part of my life. We have met some of our best friends through Rotary. I encourage you to remember that the things we are doing today are the memories we will relive tomorrow*.

Ken – Please come forward to accept both your PHF and your Honoured Life Member awards.