

Tribute to Ken Murray

February 18. 2025

Two weeks ago we lost an incredible Rotarian, an incredible human being. This was not at all unexpected, Ken had prepared all of us for it, in only the way Ken could. As soon as he, Glenda, Tanya and Tracey had a plan in place they told several of us what the plan was. Some of us were pretty dubious about them driving across Canada. But frequent reports of their progress across Canada put our minds at ease. and we saw how much they needed to re-connect with friends and family right across this country and how uplifting it was for them. He and Glenda achieved their goal to put their plan in place and ensure Glenda was where she needed to be when this day came. He lived longer than many of us ever expected and we can take solace in knowing he is no longer in pain or suffering.

I'd like to share with you words to describe Ken that are on his Facebook page – where the family announced his passing. Ken was warm, caring, generous, had a sense of humour and had charisma, witty, smart as a whip, a man of integrity, a true gentleman, upbeat, teasing, hugs, one-of a kind guy. He was a light, he was laughter and accepted whatever life threw at him or others. He was a “rare breed of a man who dedicated himself to improving others’ life experiences”.

Look up the definition of Rotarian and you will find a picture of Ken Murray! He epitomizes what it is to be a Rotarian. Four Rotary clubs have been privileged to have had him as a member – Prince George, BC, Eastview Rotary Club of Regina, Winnipeg Fort Garry and West Ottawa. He provided great leadership in all aspects of his committee work. He contributed so much in true “Service Above Self” fashion. One simply mentioned something needed to be done and Ken Murray

“was there” be it physically doing something, providing ideas, or moral support. He continued deep connections with past youth exchange students. Fellowship dinners were one of his and Glenda’s favorite activities. He unabashedly promoted the International Hosting Fellowship group and provided others with his vast Rotarian connections he has made over the years around the world.

Besides being a pillar of our club and a “go to” person for advice or a “sounding board” the one area he excelled in was Family of Rotary. There is not one other person (to the best of my knowledge) who connected with past or present Rotarians who may not have been at meetings lately, was ill, or had left the club – no matter what, Ken kept in touch with them. He physically visited them and often would provide meals that Glenda prepared. Of late, he did his “visits” by phone always ensuring that if there is somebody who he thinks could use a call – he called them.

Ken’s positive attitude was inspirational. He always found the “positive”.

He taught us so much, even when we made mistakes. He always kept us on our toes. Often many of us would ask ourselves – what would Ken do?

I’d like to mention a few words that will spark your own positive memories of Ken because there are many of you in this room and on Zoom that would have been touched by Ken in some way. We will each have a personal individual memory or memories and I think, Ken would like each of us to remember him with your own personal positive memory.

Here we go: **Smiles** and his eyes twinkling be it in person or in his emails with funny cartoons; **Desserts** which he lived for and which Glenda was so good at creating for him seeing him in the halls of the Travelodge checking his insulin pump so he could indulge in dessert; **Fellowship dinners; Rotary magazine quizzes! Crown Royal** – his favorite tippie (at least the last I heard of); **Dictionary4Life distribution nights** at Bushtukah warehouse; **Tennis; Valentine's interclub dinner and dance at Salo San Marco** that he worked so hard at organizingand what about **dancing** – oh to see Glenda and he glide around the dance room was such a pleasure.; **rental car "go to" guy** for advice; hosting **Adventure in Citizenship students** & standing late at night outside Salo San Marco to pick up our youth; a surprise **word of encouragement ; youth exchange students**; a **casual phone call out of the blue** just to "check in" to see how you were doing; **Lasagna dinners & a Glenda created dessert** showing up at the door when you needed it most;

We offer Glenda, Tanya and Tracey our deepest condolences. Glenda, who he so loved, was there for him – tennis, dancing, creating all those special desserts and his soulmate supporting him in everything he did. Always making him happy.

He has left 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.

His life's work is done He is at eternal rest and peace. His big heart will be missed but his memory will live on in our hearts.