



Albert Dimmitt, Sr. was a member of Topeka South Rotary for 18 years until his death on December 19, 2011.

First I would like to talk about Albert's history because that is what Albert was all about. Albert was born in Kansas City, Kansas and his full name was Marius Albert Dimmitt, Sr. Albert came home after his first day of school, at the age of five, and promptly told his mom that from now on he was going by the name of Albert and hoped his Uncle Marius would understand!

Albert graduated from Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas and received his bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Kansas State University then he went on to get his Masters and Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas. Albert taught history at the college level for 45 years at Garden City Community College, Southwestern College, Bowling Green State University, and Kansas Wesleyan University and ended his teaching career at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City. During that time he took on administrative duties including academic dean, chairperson of the social studies department as well as being a history professor. He married Jean Atkins in 1991 who he met in Salina while they were both teaching at Kansas Wesleyan. Jean moved to Topeka to teach English at Washburn University and Albert followed her to Topeka. Albert has 2 brothers and a sister and I am sure most of you have met Larry Dimmitt, his younger brother who is a long time Rotarian in the Downtown club and actively involved at the District level with the Rotary Foundation.

Albert was the President of a Rotary Club in Tennessee and involved in the Rotary Club in Salina before moving to Topeka. Jim Shelly, who worked for Southwestern Bell was the Rotarian that sponsored Albert in January of 1993. That is when I found out that Albert lived just 3 houses down from where I lived in the 1800 block of Campbell Ave. Albert was diagnosed with Parkinson's around 2000 and retired from teaching that next year. When he was confined to a wheelchair, Jim Brown, Jeff Dawson and I took turns bringing him to the Friday morning meetings. He always looked forward to attending our Rotary meetings every Friday. In 2003, with the encouragement of Jim McHenry and then President Amy Bertrand, we created the "Albert Dimmitt" table where Rotary members could sit at our weekly meetings to discuss interesting books that they were reading and pass on suggestions about good books while they ate breakfast. Albert was an avid reader and his preference was non-fiction history books but also liked a good novel. He was proud of his ability to conquer the computer and to do power point presentations. For a while he did our Topeka South Rotary newsletter and will be remembered as a person who believed in the principles of Rotary. Albert orchestrated one of the finest four-week series as program chairman in 1999 and titled it "Creativity". He brought in people like Tom

Averill (a writer), Jim Bass (a sculpture) and Pat Pressman (educator) to talk about creativity. It was the best month of programs I have ever experienced at Topeka South Rotary. Also Albert was so proud of being named as a Paul Harris Fellow by our club in 1999 and he wore that pin on his suit lapel proudly.

As those of you who knew Albert, he went from a cane, to a walker, to a wheelchair and then to an electric wheelchair but he still came to Rotary every week. When his ability to speak failed him, he turned to the Capper Foundation for help where Barry Mosineaux helped him with a speaking device similar to those used by the kids at Capper. Albert had a strong faith and was active at First Congregational Church. He was pleased when President Richard Harmon asked him to give the invocation at our Holiday Party in 2005.

Albert was truly a gentleman and a scholar. He loved his family and his books. He loved Rotary and his God. I consider him a dear friend and I miss seeing him every Friday here at Rotary.