

In the greeting that Arch Klumph made to the Rotarians at the 1917 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, he said “We are gathered here today, a band of loyal, tired, and true members of *the most worthy organization*, Consecrated to the doctrine of service in all that the word implies.”



Arch C. Klumph believed that Rotary would Brighten all eternity when he proclaimed in December 1928 “The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we raise temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds...we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity. Rotary is built by men made of good stuff; the ideal of service is developing into practice. As a consequence, the organization will never stand still.” —

The Father of The Rotary Foundation was A Rotarian with a dream. A dream that he followed for 30 years, telling Rotarians what an endowment fund could do for Rotary and the communities of the world. Arch C. Klumph was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club of Cleveland. He was Rotary International’s sixth president, creator of the district system for Rotary Clubs and the Father of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This is the Arch Klumph that you all know. I would like to introduce you to the real Arch Klumph:

He was born in Conneautville, Pennsylvania on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1869, and he is a direct descendent on the maternal side of James Fenimore Cooper, the American novelist. Ancestry on his father’s side has been traced back to Thomas Klumph, who settled at Lake Oswego, New York, in 1771. Arch’s parents, Morton J. and Emma Cooper Klumph, had two other sons.

The family moved to Cleveland when Arch was very small. Like many young people of his time, Arch was forced to leave school at age 12 to go to work to help with family expenses. Despite this serious responsibility, however,

he found time to be a “real boy”, as he wrote, “I graduated from the devilment class with high honors and received a diploma of two broken legs for trying two daredevil tricks that the other boys wouldn’t tackle”.

At age 16, Arch resumed his education by attending night school at a social settlement house. Lacking car fare, he usually walked four miles each way. Also that year, Arch and a friend produced a variety show. That friend’s father, a proprietor of a lumber company, overheard Arch planning a budget. Impressed, he inquired about Arch and hired him as an office boy at a wage of \$1.00 per day. In time, Arch became president, general manager and finally, owner of the firm, the Cuyahoga Lumber Company. During his career, he also was an executive with other businesses: president of the Buckeye Box Company, president of the Security Savings and Loan Company, president of Industrial Fabricators, Inc. and vice-president of The Lake Steamship Company.

Arch had a great love of music. At age 18 he began to study the flute, and three years later he received a chair in the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. He played with the orchestra for 14 years and was a lifelong sponsor of it. He also was a member of the Hermits, a Cleveland club for talented men, and he enjoyed the friendship of many leading musicians and actors. He once confided to a reporter that he would trade his business success for a career in music. He once said “My heart is in music and my head is in business, I wish my heart could have controlled my life”. Yet, he never let his interest in things artistic interfere with business.

Arch was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and served many trade associations as an elected leader. As admirable as his business and civic activities were, it was in service to Rotary and The Rotary Foundation that Arch’s true talents, energy and vision were most fully realized and expressed.

In 1911, at the age of 42, he became one of the founding members of the Rotary Club of Cleveland. Two years later he served as its President. In 1914 he was elected a director of the International Association of Rotary Clubs

and served on the Constitution and By-laws Committee and the Executive Committee. He was elected international president of Rotary in 1916-1917, only five years after becoming a Rotarian.

On June 18, 1917, while the world was engaged in war, Arch stepped to the podium at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and proposed the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world. At this meeting the Rotary Endowment Fund was born. A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA. The next donation came several days later from a past president of the Rotary Club of San Francisco.

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, the fund was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property. . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI." Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of US\$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The ISCC — created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen — which later grew into the Easter Seals Society.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded significant growth for the Foundation, but the need for promoting a lasting world peace generated great post-war interest in developing the Foundation. After Rotary founder Paul P. Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created for the purpose of building the Foundation.

That same year, the first Foundation program was established — Fellowships for Advanced Study, which was the forerunner of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships program.

The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program was launched in 1978, with the Rotary Volunteers program being created as a part of 3-H in 1980. The PolioPlus program was announced in 1984-85, and the following year saw

**the introduction of Rotary Grants for University Teachers. The first Peace Forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the establishment of Rotary Peace Programs. Then in 1989, past RI President Carl P. Miller and his wife, Ruth, donated US\$1 million to establish the Discovery Grants program.**

**Since that first \$26.50 donation in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than US\$3.5 billion dollars. To date, over 1.3 million individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. In 2004, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation established the Arch C. Klumph Society to give special recognition to donors who have contributed a minimum of \$250,000 and to pay tribute to Past President Arch's many contributions.**

**Among Arch's contributions to Rotary International was the writing of the International Constitution in 1915, which, he asserted, "changed the foundation of Rotary from one of tissue paper to one of solid concrete." He was also responsible for the standard club constitution, the formation of Rotary Districts and he took pride in the establishment of the attendance reports.**

**Throughout the last half of his life, Arch served Rotary International and The Rotary Club of Cleveland faithfully and with great vision. When he died in 1951, Arch Klumph had seen the latent giant that had been Rotary, grow into an organization of great potential, and one that would grow in response to the needs of a world seeking peace and understanding among peoples and nations.**

**Arch's many achievements included bringing professional music to Cleveland. Because of the relationship between Arch C. Klumph and the Cleveland Orchestra and because the Cleveland Orchestra entertained the attendees at both Rotary International Conventions held in Cleveland in 1925 and 1939 where Arch was involved in coordinating the Orchestra's performance, The Cleveland Orchestra, critically acclaimed as one of the 5 best in the world, agreed it was appropriate to partner with Rotary. And so we have partnered with the Cleveland Orchestra to present a private, narrated Rotary concert that tells the story of Arch Klumph's passion to help**

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**those less fortunate and the history of The Foundation's furtherance of world peace, education and humanitarian assistance.**

**Join us and Rotarians from near and far, including leaders from Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation at the world-famous Severance Hall in his hometown on Sunday, October 23, 2016 as we continue the celebration of Arch C. Klumph's legacy, The Rotary Foundation.**

**In addition to the Concert there will be a dinner recognizing those who have made new donations and commitments to The Rotary Foundation in honor of the Foundation's 100th Anniversary. Featured speakers will include Rotary International President-Elect John Germ and The Rotary Foundation Chair-Elect Kalyan Banerjee. You will have the opportunity to create your own legacy with a 100th Anniversary contribution to the Rotary Foundation and become a Foundation Centennial Celebration donor or a member of the Foundation Centennial Celebration class of the Arch Klumph Society. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you don't want to miss.**

**Contact your District Rotary Foundation Chair or The Rotary Foundation Major Gift Officer, or visit our Centennial Celebration website,**

**[www.trf100.org](http://www.trf100.org), for more information.**