

For Immediate Release

**Engineer Named Rotary Agent of Peace
Rotary District 6270 Honors Michael Paddock**

Milwaukee – November 7, 2023 —

Michael Paddock, a Rotary Club of Milwaukee member, received the 2023 Rotary Agent of Peace Award. Paddock was selected for the recognition for leading more than 100 infrastructure projects on five continents through his volunteer work with Rotary, Engineers Without Borders–USA, Bridges to Prosperity, Engineering Ministries International and several other organizations.

The Agent of Peace award honors an individual who has focused on advancing international understanding, peacebuilding or humanitarian activity of local or international significance with work done outside the individual’s expected job performance and duties. The award was presented at the Rotary District 6270 Foundation Dinner Tuesday, November 7, at the Chandelier Ballroom in Hartford, Wisconsin.

Accepting the award, he said: *“The world certainly could use more peace. Rotary is in a unique position to sustain peace and prevent conflict instead of cleaning up the mess after conflict.”*

Paddock, a civil engineer, began his full-time volunteer humanitarian efforts when he pivoted from a flourishing engineering career to pro bono work after a life-altering cancer diagnosis 26 years ago.. He splits his time between volunteer efforts and his work with the United Nations Development Fund, where he assists country offices in responding to natural and manmade crises around the world. He uses his technical expertise to develop sustainable infrastructure projects and his skills as a humanitarian to develop the partnerships necessary to ensure projects are built and maintained.

Paddock co-founded EWB-USA’s Engineering Service Corp, which uses the organization’s most-experienced members to provide pro bono engineering services around the globe. He has also been part of eight disaster response teams for hurricane, drought, earthquake and volcanic events. Paddock has spent much of his volunteer efforts collaborating with Rotary and Engineers Without Borders in Guatemala. In 2022 and 2023 alone, he spearheaded several projects in the country that addressed provision of clean water and sanitation and building bridges, schools and a hydroelectric plant.

“All these infrastructure projects have reduced inequity and built resilience while simultaneously bridging gaps and linking communities that were previously disconnected or even in conflict with one another,” said Jerry Stepaniak, a Rotary Club of Milwaukee member who helps orchestrate the club’s projects in Guatemala. “If peace means societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence, these projects surely personify it. None of them would have been possible without Michael Paddock.”

Paddock, who grew up in northern Minnesota, received civil engineering and surveying degrees from Michigan Technological University. A Rotary Club of Milwaukee member for 11 years, he was the youngest-ever recipient of Wisconsin’s Engineer of the Year award. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Mukwonago.

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