

RI Treasurer Elizabeth S. Demaray dies

Rotary News -- 28 January 2013

RI Treasurer Elizabeth S. Demaray of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, USA, died 25 January.

Demaray joined the Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie in 1988 and twice served as its president. Her husband, Ken, is a past president of the Rotary Club of Chippewa County (Sault Ste. Marie) Sunrise and a past assistant governor.



RI Treasurer Elizabeth S. Demaray

Elizabeth Demaray's appointment to the position of RI treasurer for 2012-13 by President Sakuji Tanaka made her the first woman to serve in this position. In addition to serving as an RI director, she held posts as district governor, committee and task force member, regional RI membership coordinator, and training leader. On the RI Board, she served on the Executive Committee, Joint Committee, and Programs Committee.

"Betsy has served Rotary in many ways through the years and was a dedicated Rotarian and strong leader," says Tanaka. "I shall miss her counsel and friendship very much, as will all the directors who have worked with her so closely. She and her husband inspired us all with their courage and determination in dealing with the health challenges of this past year."

A commercial real estate broker, Demaray owned several businesses with her husband, including an appraisal firm, an accounting firm, a sporting goods store, and a fitness studio. She served as president of the local Board of Realtors and of United Way in her community and was a trustee of the Lake Superior State University Foundation and War Memorial Hospital. She was also director of her church's hand bell choir. In the 1980s, she was named one of the top five female entrepreneurs in Michigan.

Demaray was a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation and a Bequest Society member with her

husband. They hosted six exchange students and took part in a discovery grant mission to Jamaica.

“Betsy was at her best when she used stories to tell the Rotary story. She cherished the Family of Rotary at all levels,” says Kathy Hegedus, administrative assistant for District 6290, which includes Sault Ste. Marie and other parts of Michigan. “She was connected to her fellow Rotarians and they felt closely connected to her. She embraced all. She was a wonderful mentor.”

Pat Merryweather, governor of District 6450 (Illinois), part of the zone Demaray represented on the RI Board, remembers that Demaray was unable to attend a multidistrict presidents-elect training session last year because she was undergoing cancer treatment. Demaray videotaped her message and also surprised the attendees by joining the meeting via Skype.

“She talked about the fellowship of Rotary and how the support of others had sustained her,” Merryweather says. “She remarked about how wonderful it was to be with like-minded people that place Service Above Self, live and work by the Four-Way Test, and can always be counted on. We have continued to be inspired by Betsy’s words and the example she set for all of us.”

“Betsy was always ahead of her time. She seemed to find a way to do more than was expected of her, in her career, in her church, in Rotary, and for her community,” said Tom Ewing, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie club and longtime friend. “The way she lived her life, and the way she carried on despite her illness at the end of her life, are a lasting inspiration to all who knew her.”

Demaray is survived by her husband; their two children, Eric and Tina; and four grandchildren. Visitation will take place Sunday, 3 February, 15:00-20:00, and Monday, 4 February, 11:00-14:00, at the Central United Methodist Church in Sault Ste. Marie. Funeral services will be held there 4 February at 14:00.

37 Comments:

At 11:43AM on 11 February 2013, **Manish Mehta** wrote:

Betsy Demaray was a highly respected and proud Michigander and an icon in Rotary. Thanks for dedicating so much of your resources, time and service to Rotary - Rest In Eternal Peace...

At 12:29PM on 7 February 2013, **Karen Teichman, PDG** wrote:

My heart hurts with the loss of Betsy, a friend and remarkable woman. We were so proud of her steps in representing women in Rotary, and become the first female Treasurer. Being a Rotarian

and serving others was essential to Betsy and she served as a role model and mentor to many. We have lost a wonderful friend who won't be forgotten. We will keep Ken and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

At 10:01AM on 7 February 2013, **Uma A Nwoke** wrote:

R.I.P : I am encouraged after reading the testimonies about your life especially as a rotarian. May God comfort your Family and Rotarians.

At 9:53AM on 7 February 2013, **Guillermo E. Valle M.** wrote:

RI Treasurer Elizabeth S. Demaray (RIP). D4250 (Honduras, Guatemala, Belize) sends our thoughts & prayers to our Rotary Family. Our sincere condolences to her Family and Friends on behalf of the Leadership & Values Program for New Generations and our "Four Way Test" Project.

At 9:30AM on 6 February 2013, **taofeeq** wrote:

RIP dear partner in service from all of us in the Rotaract Club Of University Of Ilorin

At 10:31AM on 4 February 2013, **Christine Numembi Kabugo** wrote:

Betsy RIP. Ken, Eric, Tina and the grandchildren do not despair, God's ways are different from man's ways. May you be comforted in His unending love. Kampala, Uganda

At 10:31AM on 4 February 2013, **PDG Fred Roberts** wrote:

We shared memorable times with Betsy & Ken in 2003 and 2004 when Betsy and I were International Trainers in Anaheim. Since then we have kept contact but she will be sadly missed. Our sympathies with Ken and the family. Fred & Melanie - South Africa

At 10:30AM on 4 February 2013, **Maria Fe V. Arnejo** wrote:

My sincere and deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of the great loss of the first female RI Treasurer, Rtn Elizabeth S. Demaray. May the Lord God opens wide the door for her eternal rest in peace! from IPP -Maria Fe (Baby) Arnejo of the Rotary Club of Guadalupe, Cebu City, Philippines.

At 10:17AM on 4 February 2013, **Intr.Bright sunday** wrote:

May God grant rotarian ken the heart to bear the loss.Demaray may yr soul rest in perfect peace Amen.

At 10:16AM on 4 February 2013, **VIRENDRA KHANNA- ROTARY CLUB VARANASI SOUTH DISTT.3120** wrote:

An inspiring Rotarian. Within a short time she served Rotary at different posts. My sorrowful condolence to PP Ken.

At 10:15AM on 4 February 2013, **Ann White** wrote:

Farewell Betsy, you were a wonderful mentor and Rotarian.

At 4:25PM on 1 February 2013, **Loryn Clark** wrote:

Very sad news indeed! She was such an inspiration for all women in Rotary! Loryn Clark Melbourne Australia

At 3:22PM on 1 February 2013, **John T Capps III** wrote:

Rotary's loss is God's gain. She was one of God's Angels living and serving mankind in her special way. Her smile and stories will forever be a fond memory from when we first met in Denver, CO as speakers at PETS to our exchange of personal items relating to Herbert J Taylor.

At 3:23PM on 1 February 2013, **Alan Selene, PDG 5970** wrote:

Being a classmate of Betsy Demaray I can say that she will truly be missed by all. My condolences to Ken and her family. Betsy truly was a great Rotarian who cared deeply for others and lived the "Four Way Test". God Bless you.

At 3:23PM on 1 February 2013, **Richard were** wrote:

Rip Elizabeth, my sincere condolence to the Rotary fraternity, maybe as serving Rotarians we need to think about cancer Rtn Were Richard president RC Nansana Uganda

At 12:53PM on 1 February 2013, **Loretta Williams** wrote:

Very sorry to hear the sad news, Betsy was the President's Rep. at our district Conference in Louisville KY 2006. I served as her AID and have many great memories of her. She was a wonderful person and a great Rotarian. PDG, Loretta Williams, 6710 KY

At 10:00AM on 31 January 2013, **Rtn Nurul Kabir Chowdhury** wrote:

Deep shock from RC Lake City, Chittagong RID 3280 Bangladesh.

At 9:59AM on 31 January 2013, **Rtn.Aloshious George, Cochin Queen City, Dist.3201, India** wrote:

I express my deep condolence.

At 9:59AM on 31 January 2013, **Frank Devlyn** wrote:

Rotary has lost an outstanding leader with the passing of Besty Demary. She will be missed. She showed that women ein Rotary can hold some of the most important positions in Rotary International. Betsy set an example of how outstanding women in Rotary can serve at the highest levels of Rotary. Thank You Betsy for all you did for Rotary. Your example lives on.

At 9:58AM on 31 January 2013, **Rick Tinuccir** wrote:

May she now rest in peace. Her battle was nothing less than heroic. I didn't know her well but during the time we were together, I was energized by her spirit and love for Rotary. She will truly be missed. May God bless her family.

At 9:40AM on 30 January 2013, **Arinze Okamelu** wrote:

On behalf of my self and members of the Rotary Club of Oregon, District 9110, Nigeria,I wish to express our sincere and deep sadness on the demise of Rotn. Elizabeth S. Demaray. I did not met her in her life time, but her profile speaks volume of a charming personality and an inspiring life well spent. This is indeed a great lose to Rotary International and by extension, her family and all who loved her. We genuinely sympathize with her husband Ken and members of Rotary club of Sault Ste where she started her outstanding Rotary works. Also our sympathies go to the RI President, Sakuji Tanaka, who made her the first ever female RI Treasurer. Elizabeth may have gone; we however take solace that her loving memories will linger on. We pray that the good lord will grant

her soul a blissful rest in His bosom. Amen! President RC Oregun, District 9110 Nigeria

At 1:23PM on 30 January 2013, **Nadia Al Refai** wrote:

My deepest condolences for our great loss. May her soul rest in peace. On behalf of RC Giza Cosmopolitan - District 2450. our deepest consolation. AG Nadia Al Refai

At 1:22PM on 30 January 2013, **RTN-Samarendra Kumar Basa** wrote:

its a great loss for the rotary family, she was an inspiration for all

At 3:52PM on 29 January 2013, **Saliu Ahmed** wrote:

Our hearts reach out to the family that she has left behind. RIP

At 2:01PM on 29 January 2013, **Janice Lamour** wrote:

Though I had not seen Betsy in many years, I am saddened by her death. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

At 11:06AM on 29 January 2013, **Bonnie Housley** wrote:

Betsy was an inspiration, long before her illness. She became even more so, with grace, during her illness. God has recalled an angel, one that blessed many of us with her life. RIP, you will always be held in high esteem.

At 9:42AM on 29 January 2013, **Rtr. Aditya Mohan** wrote:

RIP Rtn. Elizabeth. Our prayers are with the family. May God grant you strength to overcome this loss.

At 9:42AM on 29 January 2013, **Rtn Ronald Kawaddwa** wrote:

RIP Elizabeth

At 9:41AM on 29 January 2013, **Tina Deford** wrote:

Betsy was an amazing person! I have lots of fond memories of her as I was being groomed for my exchange student experience in 1995-1996. She was always there to answer questions, give advice, or listen to our fears before we left. She was always the first one to volunteer for something or lend a helping hand. Her courage, strength, ambition, smile, and love will be missed by all who knew her. Rest in peace. We love you!

At 9:41AM on 29 January 2013, **JOSEPHSURESHKUMAR** wrote:

My heartfelt condolence to Ken for the sad demise of his spouse RI Director Besty Demaray. I still remember the meeting with her at Lacrosse Madison state US in the month of June when I went there as a RFE team leader from my dist.2980. We met the Rotary RI Director & Treasurer of R.I . Elizabeth S. Demaray and her husband Ken. She had come over there to attend the District Conference at Lacrosse , Madison state as the R.I Representative . Even after her severe illness and a treatment a week before the conference , she spoke about how people should overcome the difficult time in life. Her inspiring and courageous speech was greatly admired by all I was really impressed by her immense strength and dedication to Rotary. Her death is really a great loss not only to her family but also to Rotary . I pray to god that may her soul rest in peace---- PDG Joseph suresh, RID2980

At 8:30AM on 29 January 2013, **Nick Pratt** wrote:

May God's grace fill her family's empty space.

At 8:31AM on 29 January 2013, **Vishal Gupta** wrote:

RIP Elizabeth, my sincere condolences to her family and friends.

At 8:31AM on 29 January 2013, **Clive Amos** wrote:

Very sorry to read this news.

At 8:31AM on 29 January 2013, **PDG Jim Karolyi** wrote:

Check out a pictorial tribute to Betsy at zones28-29.org

At 8:30AM on 29 January 2013, **Steve Roe** wrote:

Having lived in Sault Ste. Marie and since visited, I appreciated her efforts to have a statue erected of Herbert J Taylor, the Four Way Test founder and also from the Sault. Ken was a teacher of mine in school Betsy Demaray made a difference for Rotary and the world.

At 4:27PM on 28 January 2013, **Rotn. Henry Roberts** wrote:

though, I hv not met our dear Rotn in person, but, her profile inspires me to do more in serving humanity. may d creator receive her soul back 2 its final place of rest. Amen. Director, New Generation. Rotary club of Port Harcourt Central. District 9140 Nigeria.

At 2:56PM on 28 January 2013, **Donna Wallbank** wrote:

R.I.P- a wonderful Rotarian, an inspiring female and one who will be missed so much, Gods blessing to her family and to all her Rotary friends.