



JIM THOMPSON

1989 – 1990

Rotary Club of Carmichael

Jim Thompson served as the District Governor for 519 prior to the creation of District 5180 in 1995. He joined the Rotary Club of Carmichael in 1957 with the classification of “General Law Practice”. His sponsor was Jim Cunningham. Hugh Archer from Dearborn, Michigan was the Rotary International president and the theme for his year was “Enjoy Rotary”. Jim continued with his law practice while serving as District Governor. Beginning in July and ending in December, Jim was accompanied by his wife, Pat, to all club visits; 67 in total. They traveled over 15,000 miles and spent 250 hours visiting clubs during his year as District Governor. One club visit that most impressed both of them was at the Rotary Club of Surprise Valley (Near Alturas). They learned that the community needs could not have been achieved had it not been for the services of the club. Jim found the Rotary Club of Alturas had the most unique approach to fund raising. A stream ran through the town and the club sold rubber ducks to everyone and they had a race with money for winners. Jim’s most memorable experience as District Governor was receiving a standing ovation at his visit to the Rotary Club of Sacramento. He was instrumental in creating two Rotary clubs in his year that were chartered shortly after his term as District Governor. Of all Jim’s goals for his year, he is most proud of two key achievements; creating Pre PETS where the District Governor shares the goals for the district with the Presidents Elect (it continues to this day and has been adopted worldwide) and emphasizing the importance of the DG partner’s participation during the year. Jim’s wife, Pat, was able to promote learning about Rotary with the partners of Rotarians at the clubs she and Jim visit. On occasions, she received a grander welcome than did Jim.

Jim held his District Conference on May 4 – 6, 1990 at John Ascuaga’s Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nevada. His club surprised him by holding his demotion at his District Conference. He had a Group Study Exchange (GSE) with two Rotary Districts in his year as DG; District 9120 in Nigeria and District 3350 from Thailand. All four GSE teams (incoming and outgoing) attended his District conference.

Jim stated he became a “true Rotarian” when he became District Governor. Jim is a recipient of the “4 Avenues of Service” award from Rotary International. He is also a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

His recommendation to incoming District Governors is;

“Don’t be a Rip Van Winkle and wait 30 years to decide to become a District Governor. To be an effective District Governor, stay in close contacts with your clubs as early as possible. Get to know them before PETS. I started Pre Pets to get to become acquainted with the Presidents

and clubs. One was in Sacramento and one in Reno. I think it helped immensely and I am glad it is being continued. During my 30 years in Rotary before I became Governor I thought there was little exposure and contact with the governor. That person came and went. Involve your spouse in as much as possible. Before my term wives rarely were included in anything. I informed all my clubs that my wife would be with me at all times, she would love to be included, but she did not need to be or have anything special for her. She was a big hit and great with the ladies. She also was a lot of help and a good adviser to me.”