

## **AL WATSON MEMORIAL AWARD**

*The Quiet Hero*

**Rotarians who have lived the same principles as Al Watson are eligible to be recognized with this award. Someone who works out of the spotlight ... Someone who helps build community... Someone who does this work with joy, year after year.**

### **Qualifying Requirements**

In 2008 – 2009 District 6970 initiated the Al Watson Memorial Award to recognize a Rotarian who has demonstrated the values of Rotary and community over a significant period of time. The guidelines for the selection emphasize that the individual should emulate the values and commitment demonstrated by Al Watson to Rotary and his community, through constantly striving to create a better future.

Al was a long-time member of the Keystone Heights Rotary Club until his passing at the age of 94 years. Sixty-five of those years he was a Rotarian.

Al and his wife were successful in the grocery business largely due to a combination of hard work, common sense and an engaging personality. Al and his wife worked tirelessly and donated significantly, with little or no fanfare, to open the doors of opportunity to community youth through access to education, to improve the quality of care for others, and to increase the impact of his beloved Rotary Foundation.

Al's philosophy is best described by two of his quotes:

“Wealth is like manure. You can leave it one big pile and it will smell, BUT you can spread it over the ground and beautiful flowers become the focus.”

Advice to newly married after Al and Angie were married for 68 years: “Marriage is like an Oreo, really doesn't matter what happens in the middle as long as love is on both sides.”

### **Criteria:**

- Minimum 10 years in Rotary
- Active member in good standing in District 6970
- Multiple years of service (not just one)
- Exemplary service in at least two Avenues of Rotary, emphasizing helping others
- Current District Governor string (DG, DGE, DGN, & DGND) and Past District Governors are not eligible
- Recipient cannot receive award more than once

### **Nomination procedures:**

- Any Rotarian in District 6970 can nominate a candidate for this award.
- Nominations are to be formally submitted to the District Governor by any Club President in District 6970 (not necessarily the nominee's Club President) on behalf of the club.

**Selection Committee** consists of seven District 6970 Rotarians, as follows:

- Immediate Past District Governor
- District Governor
- District Governor-Elect
- District Governor-Nominee
- Three at-large members
  - Selected first year by iPDG, DG and DGE.
  - In successive years, iPDG will add a new at-large member.
  - Each year the longest serving at-large member will roll off of the committee.
  - The selection of that individual should be made no later than April 15th or at least 2 weeks before District Conference, whichever is sooner.

Last updated May 3, 2020