



Lt. Col. Morris F. Briggs Rotary Past District Governor

March 14, 1927 – September 5, 2010



Morris Briggs served our club in many capacities starting his Rotary career on February 9th, 1967 sponsored by George Beachler. Morrie became involved in our club from day one and was instrumental in starting and developing the annual Rose Sale for the club which over the years has raised thousands of dollars to support our scholarship program. He went on to serve as chairman of most of our committees, was elected to our board and eventually became President in our Rotary year 1988-89 and served our District as Governor in 1996-97. He received the coveted Rotary International Four Avenues of Service Award in 2000. He was also very involved in mentoring Otterbein students in the Ambassadorial Scholarship program.

Rotary was a passion to Morrie and everything that he started he finished in grand style. If there was any question that needed to be answered which involved Rotary, Morrie was the one to go to. If he did not have the answer that day he would promise you that he would have it very soon and always did.

Kirk Lawson, during his tenure of being president of our club recognized how hard Morrie worked in his Rotary career and nominated him to receive one of the highest awards offered to individuals from Rotary International which is “The Four Avenues of Service Award”. Here is just an outline of what accomplishments Mr. Briggs achieved in our own Rotary Club:

Club Service

Served as chair of the following club committees:

Public Relations

Program (2)

Membership

Bylaws review including 4 revisions

Rotary Information—wrote club's New Member Information and Indoctrination manual

Board of Directors over a several year period

Club Secretary

President 1988-89

Served on the Westerville Rotary Foundation Board of Directors as Treasurer and managed investments of that Foundation (6 years). While club secretary, established the club's first membership data base.

Took on the personal responsibility for inventory and display of more than 500 visitor club miniature banners exchanged by club members, including personally sewing them to large display felts

District extension chair (started new clubs) – multiple years

Helped start – Sunbury/Galena club and Westerville Sunrise

Rotarian of the Year 1979-80 and again in 1984-85

Vocational Service

Chaired club's Ethics Seminar committee for District Ethics Seminar (2 years)—club hosted 225 high school seniors for his first seminar and 250 for the second.

Participated in Club's Student Career Day (Shadow Day) for a number of years and coordinated with Air National Guard Base for students to visit the Air Force aircraft flight simulator and to board an operational tanker aircraft, and to visit and observe the operation of aircraft from the FAA flight control tower and radar control room at the local civil airport

Participated in the Club's Employer/Employee programs.

Community Service

Proposed, organized and chaired (3 years) Club's Rose Sale—Club's most successful fundraiser (began in Billy Saltz's year – 1979-1980)

Chaired 4th of July Parade Float Committee (3 years)

Planned and taught (3years) a community wide workshop on the techniques of float building; Chaired 4th of July Parade Committee (an additional 3 years)

Chaired Community Service Award (A. Monroe Courtright Award) Committee (2 years)

Chaired Scholarship Committee (2 years).

International Service

Chaired Youth Exchange Committee (1976-77)

The Briggs family was the Club's first host parents (1975)

Chaired Club's Ambassadorial Scholar Committee (4 years)

Served on District Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee (7 years, 2 as chair)

Chair of Club's Group Study Exchange Committee

Chair of local host committee for two GSE teams

Served on District GSE Committee (2 years)

Has attended over ten Rotary International Conventions, and has promoted the use of the Rotary Passport to Fellowship as a fellowship tool at nearly 200 club visits outside of his home district.

Morrie would only want you to use all that he did in Rotary to inspire you as a Rotarian and to continue to better your Rotary career. He was an inspiration to us all and set an example that we can use in our daily lives forever. He was and always will be a personal inspiration to this editor as he led and taught by example. He will be missed dearly by us all.

Here are the arrangements set by his family and communicated to us by his son Alan Briggs.

Morris is survived by his son, Steven Lee Briggs of Olathe, KS, Grandson, Koan Edward Briggs and son, Todd Alan (Carrie) Briggs of Pataskala, OH, Granddaughters, Laria Elizabeth Briggs, Carly Michelle (Haas), numerous nieces and nephews and many dear friends. Calling hours will be held at HILL FUNERAL HOME, 220 S State St, Westerville on Friday, September 10th from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm Funeral Services will be 1 pm Saturday, September 11, at Central College Presbyterian Church. Fr. Ron Baird officiating. Interment Blendon Central Cemetery. A loving husband, father and grandfather, he will be dearly missed. In Lieu of Flowers, donations to the Harris-Askins House may be made to The Rotary Club of Westerville, PO BOX 595, Westerville, OH 43086-0595.

Complete Obituary in Columbus Dispatch