

John T. Brewer

March 1, 1938 - December 11, 2021

John T. Brewer was born on March 1, 1938. While his life will be detailed and celebrated by friends and family, it is here that we take a moment to appreciate all that he was to Rotary District 5080. Please share stories of how John Brewer touched your life. Here are some of ours.

John joined the Rotary club of Pullman in September 1984. A professor of German at Washington State University, John made a commitment and Rotary became a Wednesday priority. He seldom missed a meeting and was the backbone of our Pullman club. Many times, we would go to John for our history, for his advice, and to learn from his experiences.

He served as Club President in 1993 and in many other capacities throughout the years. He was a long-time board member who promoted the Rotary Foundation. As stated by Pullman Club president Jess Downs, "John remained extremely active in our club throughout his life. He was the conscience of our board and consistently reminded us to evaluate all club decisions by using the Four-Way Test."

John was generous with his time and his resources. Past-President Alison Weigley said "John was the foundation of generosity and inspired all of us to be philanthropists." He was a steady supporter of all things Pullman Rotary, The Rotary Foundation and Shelter Box, to name a few. He attended and worked at our Club Fundraisers and our Community Service projects. William, his sweet dog, was our unofficial mascot, attending many of our service projects with John.



John was District Governor in 2002-2003. He led our district with consistency and thoughtfulness. He was kind to everyone he met, and quick to share his passion for

Service. He has many, many friends throughout the District who have shared memories of their time with John and who will miss him very much.

Sheila Hart, one of his dear Canadian friends, describes him as supportive, involved and inspirational. She remembered that his RI theme as District Governor was "Sow The Seeds Of Love." That is exactly what John did throughout his life. He encouraged her (as he did so many of us) to embrace service.

Sheila wrote: John loved to travel, and he thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Rotary Friendship Exchange Team to D1290 (Cornwall and Devon) in 2006. He served as an Area Coordinator for RFE for several years. John built on his experience as an RFE Team Member to India and became very involved with the Wheelchair Foundation and made sure that wheelchairs were delivered to India.

He maintained friendship ties with many of the people he met in India. He was a knowledgeable resource that I used during the orientation of the GSE to Bangalore in 2012. When PDG Michelle Lee and Sheila Hart decided to ask PDG Allan Davis for his blessing for the Rotarians of D5080 to sponsor a Rotaplast mission to Nepal in 2009, John became a part of the fund-raising team. He served as a Non-Medical Volunteer on the Team in Nepal.

Again, he touched the hearts of all who met him, and he kept in contact with several members of the Rotary Club of Banepa, Nepal. It was great fun travelling with John on that trip. On our days off, we traveled to the border with Tibet. That trip, over narrow, windy roads clinging to the sides of mountains, is one we will never forget. In spite of many challenges associated with that mission, part of the team had a raucous wind-down party in Singapore. What fun! I grieve John's passing and give thanks for the way he motivated me to be a better Rotarian.

Debi Dockins writes: John was my Rotary Sponsor in 1992 when I moved from Spokane (and Club 21) to the Pullman area. He supported my Rotary growth and the growth of many others. He awarded my children their first Paul Harris Fellows. He was an enthusiastic supporter of RYLA and visited the camp. He mentored so many of us and was not afraid to share his opinion when asked.

One of my favorite memories of John is when he invited me to his house to share a glass of wine with another visiting Rotarian. He was the perfect host – the study was warm and comfortable, we were surrounded by books and mementos of his travels, the wine was wonderful, and the evening was spent in storytelling and laughter. John was so very interesting to talk to, had many wonderful life experiences and the memory to retell the stories of his life. He was and will always be a dear friend whose consistency in my family's life will always be remembered.

As stated by Pullman Rotarian Ana Dodgen, *"John will be missed, but his example and his good works will remain with us."*



Submitted by Debi Dockins, President-Elect, Rotary Club of Pullman, Washington, USA