

# La Rueda

S E R V I C E   A B O V E   S E L F

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTEREY, RI DISTRICT 5230

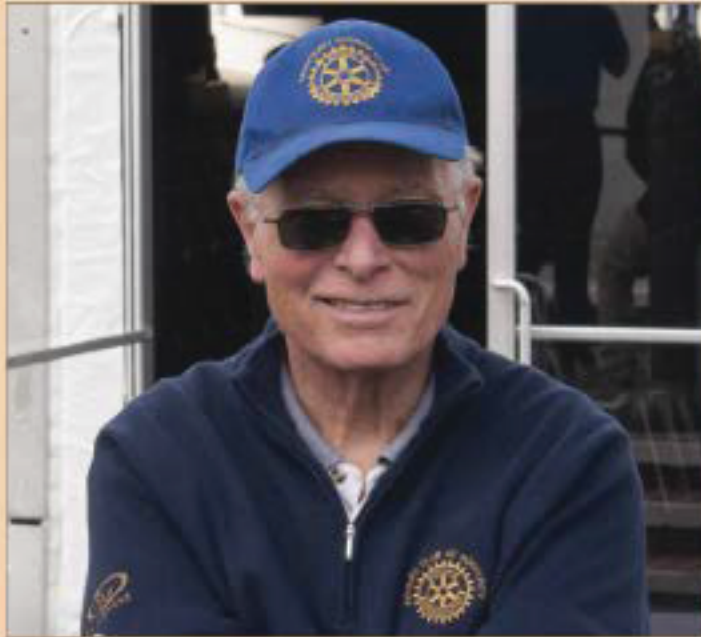


**Alton Walker Award**

**Jay Bartow**

April 27, 2023

*Alton Walker Award  
Recipient for the Year 2023  
Jay Bartow*



Jay Bartow was born in 1945 in Ventura, California and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. Jay attended UCLA, where he studied International Relations, began his relationship with Jesus, and met Gail Coulson, the love of his life. He married Gail in 1966, and they moved to Pasadena where Jay attended Fuller Theological Seminary.

After a year of missionary work in Guatemala, Jay received his first call to Grace Presbyterian Church in Long Beach as an associate pastor. In 1974 he was called as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. Jay was a part of the pastoral team at FPC for nearly 50 years—leading in worship and teaching by example.

He was instrumental in starting, nearly 40 years ago, the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program that continues to shelter and feed men and women on the Monterey Peninsula to this very evening.

In 2011, at the age of 66, Jay retired to spend more time with his family. Even so he continued to be active in community and church work both locally and internationally leading several clean water installation projects in Latin America through Living Waters For The World. A project which had both church and Rotary sponsorship.



# The Man Behind the Award

by George Robinette

Alton Walker should have won the club's award for service to Rotary and the community which was, after all, established in his name. The 50 year member clearly deserved it for living Rotary's ideals and for his devotion to aviation and his church.

Alton was club president in 1960-61, but the term behind the podium was hardly the height of his enthusiasm for Rotary. He wore his pin faithfully and, until his passing on March 7, 1989, paid fines with humor and a smile for the onfield woes of his beloved alma mater, Kansas State University. His interest and consideration of others as well as his positive and enthusiastic attitude were Alton's hallmarks, according to his good friend, George Walker.

Every day was a new opportunity for the man whose creativity and promotional instincts rivaled Barnum's and whose desire to encourage air travel transformed a young midwest barnstormer to an advocate for the expansion and improvement of the Monterey Peninsula Airport, on whose board he served for 24 years, 11 as its chairman.

Alton's legacy includes the Carmel Presbyterian Church, which he helped his father-in-law, the Rev. Harry Clayton Rogers, found in 1953 and the Concours d'Elegance, which began in 1950. The sponsors of the races at Pebble Beach asked Alton to organize a display of classic cars to be viewed and driven between the races. He rounded up 31 classic cars, including four of his own, organized the event, appointed judges and included a parade of the cars through town past the Presidio of Monterey.

And that, as Alton recounted the story in an 1986 magazine interview, was how the now world acclaimed Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance was born. He chaired for the first three years, the event which now annually in August brings classic cars and admirers from around the globe and contributes substantial monies to the United Way charities.

Alton's planes provided the first hop for two

young boys who were to become Air Force jet pilots in Korea. Lou Rudolph remembers sitting in the wicker seats of the rumbling Trimotor and Don Cummings recalls his ride in the back of a Stinson.

"It was after a father-son Rotary lunch at the old Del Monte Hotel," Cummings said. "Alton offered a ride to anyone who wanted one after lunch and I begged my Dad to take us. My brother rode on my Dad's lap in the front and I rode in the back. What a thrill."

That was just the first time Alton shared flying with Rotary. He flew members to Rotary meetings in Fresno and Sacramento. Each trip was an adventure.

Alton attended Rotary meetings until his passing at age 85. When he slipped from his favorite chair into the wild blue yonder he left a standard of conduct and accomplishment to be recalled, admired and emulated.

## ALTON WALKER AWARD

The highest award given to a Monterey Rotarian is the Alton Walker Award. Alton Walker exemplified commitment to the ideals of Rotary. His contributions to our club and Rotary International, and his distinguished record of community service were given special recognition in 1989 by the establishment of the Alton Walker Award.

The award is given bi-annually to a highly deserving RCM member for service to the Club and to the community.

### The Selection Criteria Are:

- The recipient must have demonstrated commitment to the ideals, principles, and objectives of Rotary.
- The person must show pride and interest in our Club, its activities, members, and their accomplishments.
- He or she must be known for an industrious character and possess a high level of integrity in both personal and business activities.
- He or she must be known for leadership in Rotary, business, and community activities.
- Lastly, he or she must be known as a Rotarian well recognized for community involvement.

# Rotary

## Club of Monterey



### PAST ALTON WALKER AWARD RECIPIENTS

2021	Wayne & Libby Downey	2000	Bill McAfee
2018	Terry Wecker	1999	Henry Littlefield
2016	Rick Kennifer	1998	Jay Hudson
2014	Robert Quinn	1997	Dick Berlin
2013	Kirkor Kocek	1996	Clay Larson
2012	Dan Kreer	1995	George Walker
2011	Frank Geisler	1994	Fred Keeble
2010	David Armanasco	1993	Vernon Hurd
2009	John Mahoney	1992	Ted Durein
2008	Tom McCullough	1991	Cappy Martin
2007	Breck Tostevin	1990	C.B. Ward
2006	Roger Post		
2005	Lewis Fenton		
2004	Bill Curtis		
2003	Dan Albert		
2002	Gerry Fry		
2001	John Wecker		

