

2007 Marion & Matty Penick Outstanding Community Service Award

Name of Nominee: John K. Webster

Name of Nominators: James L. Rudd

It is my distinct honor to nominate Mr. John K. Webster for the 2037 Marion and Matty Penick Memorial Award. John has practiced Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" throughout his lifetime in making this community a better place in which to live. I would like to highlight two examples which illustrate John's commitment to voluntarily serving others through the Beavercreek Rotary Club and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

John has been an active member of the Beavercreek Rotary Club for over 28 years. His dedication to the organization is exemplified by his perfect attendance of club meetings for 25 of those years. John is a Paul Harris Fellow who provided club leadership by serving on the Board-of-Directors on numerous occasions. He is a superb representative and spokesperson for the club. He has provided meaningful inductions of every new member into the club during my seven years of membership. He delivers heartfelt invocations at our club meetings on a regular basis. When it comes to these extremely important functions of our club (i.e., inductions and invocations), it can be said of John that "nobody does it better." This also applies to publicity of the club and its activities, for which John was responsible for many years. He utilized his unique skills as a retired advertising executive to provide positive exposure for the club by publishing his well-written articles in the local newspaper. John is extremely committed to youth as evidenced by his active and effective involvement for numerous years in the following activities: a) hosting several foreign exchange students, b) serving as judge of the 4-Way Speech Contest, c) delivering dictionaries as part of the Dictionary Project, d) participating in career day for high school students, e) participating in the Kid's Voting Program, and f) proposing the Rotary Royalty Student Award which is currently being established for the club. Other Rotary activities that John has been actively involved in during his many years of club service are as follows: a) serving as historian for over 10 years, b) serving as Sergeant-at-Arms, c) manning the Popcorn Festival booth, d) participating in road clean-up and e) participating in the annual golf outings. He developed the criteria and helped establish this award for which he is being nominated. John has faithfully supported the Beavercreek Rotary Club and its many activities for 28 years. He serves as a perfect role model for what it means to be a Rotarian.

John has been a faithful member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church for approximately 50 years. Again, demonstrating his commitment to youth, he taught Sunday school for over 40 years, providing a specially designed course, which gave the parish's children a thorough history, understanding and appreciation for the Episcopal Church. He enhances the morning worship services by singing bass in the adult choir, as well as training, scheduling and serving as one of the Lectors (lay readers) and Eucharistic Ministers. He has served several terms on St. Mark's Vestry, including the top lay of Senior Warden. Going beyond the local parish, John has served as a representative to the Dayton Deanery, an often-elected delegate to the Southern Ohio Diocesan Conventions, and beyond that, an often-elected delegate to the Episcopal Church National Conventions. As a retired advertising executive, he was well qualified to plan and oversee the parish's publicity in the community. He served as the General Manager and star pitcher for the parish softball team for many years. He and his wife, Ruby, were the exclusive laborers in the parish courtyard for many years, preparing and maintaining the flowerbeds, which have brought forth such beauty for all to behold. John currently volunteers for the Kemp School program, going to the school each week to work on a one-to-one level, with the children who need extra help. John served on the Board of Directors at Canterbury Court, a program of Episcopal Retirement Homes for low-income families. In appreciation for his enormous years of faithful service, John received St. Mark's Episcopal Church's Lifetime Stewardship Award which honors those who have faithfully dedicated their lives to the parish far beyond the call of duty. John serves as a perfect role model for what it means to be a Christian.

In summary, John Webster has dedicated his life to serving others. He exemplified "Service. Above Self" through his faithful service to the Beavercreek Rotary Club, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and our community. John has indeed made our community a better place» in which to live. He is externally deserving of the 2007 Marion and Matty Penick Memorial Award.