



Dr. David C. Wright (1925-2018)

Principal Served as 1992-93 Club President, 1994-95 Lieutenant Governor

Sad news from the Pacific Northwest: **Dr. David C. Wright**, 1992-93 Grantville-Allied Gardens Club President and 1994-95 Lt. Governor of Division 21, passed away on Friday, August 10th at Providence Hospital in Everett, Washington. Dave was 93 years old, and legally blind, at the time of his death.

Dave was a member of G.A.G. Kiwanis three times over four different decades, joining in February 1965, then again in September 1969 (alongside **Jack Scott**), and his last stint starting in 1987 when he retired from his career as an elementary school principal.

Dave was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts on June 28th, 1925, and attended Tufts University, where he earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education. He served in the U.S. Navy, then moved to San Diego and started his career at San Diego Unified School District. Dave later received his Doctorate in Education at USIU (now Alliant International University). He was a family man, and had five children of whom he was quite proud.

Longtime friend and fellow Kiwanian **John Peterson** recalls Dave fondly: "I remember meeting a young, friendly, crew-cut member when I joined G.A.G. Kiwanis in May of 1966. Dave was the songleader for the club, which had about twenty members at that time. He and his family lived on Loukelton Circle and, as far as I know, had the only bomb shelter in Allied Gardens."

Dave was a member of one of our Kiwanis bowling teams in the Men's Service Club league, and as a golfer who took the game seriously, he played in the "Hookers and Slicers" Golf Club that several of our members belonged to in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dave actively promoted a program to support Diabetes detection, especially in children. Says Peterson: "I can recall Dave and his then-wife **Harriet** conducting a Diabetes detection clinic at the Kiwanis International Convention in 1970 in San Francisco."

After Dave retired from his career as an educator, he worked as a home inspector for a short time and moved back to Allied Gardens, where he was sponsored by **Hal Black** to rejoin G.A.G. Kiwanis in 1987. There, his romance and marriage to **Ann Stombs** began.

Ann Stombs (later **Ann Wright**) was the first female member of our club when she joined in 1987, and she became the first female President in our club's history in 1995-96. The couple, known affectionately within our club as "The Wright Brothers," met as new members of G.A.G. Kiwanis and were married shortly thereafter! The two of them helped fully integrate our club at a time when women were still begrudgingly welcomed into Kiwanis. Dave and Ann were the original "power couple" in our Kiwanis Club!

Dave was elected President of G.A.G. Kiwanis for the 1992-93 Kiwanis year and served a successful term as Lieutenant Governor of Division 21 two years later. Meanwhile, his wife, **Ann**, sponsored her mother to become a member of our club, and she was an enthusiastic Kiwanian. This gave Dave the unusual distinction of being the only member of G.A.G. ever to serve in the same club as his mother-in-law!

In 1998, Dave, Ann, and Ann's mother moved to Whidbey Island, just outside of Clinton, Washington, where he joined the South Whidbey Kiwanis Club. Several G.A.G. Kiwanians visited them on Whidbey Island after they made their last move, and whenever their health and their schedule would allow, the "Wright Brothers" would make occasional visits back to Allied Gardens to check in on old friends.

Dave was very influential in our club and our division, and his impact is still felt in our club to this day. One of our longtime members, **Dr. Doug Grosmark**, remembers that it was Dave who first invited him into Kiwanis in 1994, and Doug has been a valued part of our club ever since. Dave was also a huge influence on a young Builders Club member, **John Crawford**, in his decision to join G.A.G. Kiwanis.

Dave is also remembered for his sense of humor. As Club President, he once conducted an entire meeting in costume, from head to toe, dressed as a ninja! He would also fill in occasionally as our "Santa Claus" whenever needed around the holidays.

Services will be held in Washington state before Dave is laid to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington.

*Thanks to **John Peterson** for his assistance with this article. We send our deepest condolences, and our lasting gratitude, to Dave's wife, **Ann**.*



1989: Taking a break, and a poke at a photographer, during the Breakfast with Santa celebration at the Allied Gardens Recreation Center.



1998: Bidding a final farewell to Allied Gardens and G.A.G. Kiwanis, **Dave and Ann Wright** retired to Whidbey Island, Washington.