New York Mourns the Passing of DPL Joseph Michael Wuest

Editor’s Note: During the past ten years, you have probably noticed the absence of many editor notes. I feel I must add my voice to this amazing eulogy given by DPLG Rosemary DeJulio, Ph.D. Please take the time to read this and celebrate the life of a truly dedicated Kiwanian whose humor and style will never be forgotten.

by DPLG Rosemary DeJulio, Ph.D. So many times Joe (Wuest) would tell me that if anything ever happened to him, I would be one of his two choices to deliver a eulogy along with Guy Veile. I always told him that day would not come for a very long time and I did not want to discuss it. In recent weeks I thought about those talks and came to a painful realization that maybe that day was not as far off as I once wanted it to be. I spoke to him a few days ago, before he took a turn for the worse, and although he was in considerable pain, he still had that singular quality of putting people at ease with his carefree way of delivering a punch line. Although his jokes were never fit to print, many are still my favorites, though I would not dare repeat them here.

As I think back to our first meeting more than a quarter century ago, and we used to kid about this, I told him quite bluntly that I did not like him. But, as you know, Joe never feared talking to the enemy. He was relentless in his pursuit of my friendship and after a long conversation and lots of laughs, in which case a Kiwanis member elsewhere but a Kiwanis hospitality suite, this faithful and loyal Kiwanian from Morris Park defrosted my cold heart and taught me how easy it was to love someone who showed his love for others in his own unique way. For 25 years, having seen his love for Ginnie, his love for his daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren and great-grandchild, his love for his friends in Kiwanis and especially his love for children, all of this proved to me that God gave us a “one of a kind” gift in the person of Joseph Michael Wuest – a gift to share, to laugh with, and to love.

I, like so many others, became a willing victim of his teasing. His GED (good enough diploma) was just as worthy as my PhD (pretty hard degree). He teased me incessantly always saying that he would be one of the “dirty” jobs. Joe was indomitable, his spirit of strength and perseverance never swaying, even as he fought his own battle with cancer. Joe always championed “the underdog.” Any person who did not get that lucky break or their fair share in life. Joe always championed the underdog.

Joe would always remind us about money being only money to spend and not to save. Remember one thing, he would say to me, you will never see an armored car following a hearse. But, if there was to be an armored car used today, it would not be filled with money – but with gold – the symbolic gold that Joe collected throughout his life in gestures of friendship and caring, gold that would mirror his shining spirit of generosity and love to all those who knew him, loved him and were touched by his life.

I will keep his memory alive every time I watch Jeopardy, hear the odds on a football game, play a round of cards, sample a dish of pasta carbonara, slip on a funny story, and put my small feet in front of the kitchen sink after I cooked dinner for my husband, exactly where Joe said they belonged. And when, as Kiwanians, you and I assemble a Thanksgiving basket, sing Happy Birthday to an infirmed senior citizen, or lend a hand to help a child with Lyme disease, we give testimony to the life of Joseph Michael Wuest, a true Kiwanian who will always be right by our side.

The members of that Kiwanis club in the sky just increased by one – in one – in one million – one who made all the difference in the world to so many. Thank you, Joe.

Annual Foundation Scholarships Awarded

These are the winners of the Foundation Scholarships.

1. Peter A. Zaykoski, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks-Old Forge. Peter plans to attend the University of Buffalo; where he will major in Environmental Studies.

2. Michael M. Slish, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Niagara Falls. Michael will attend Canisius College where he plans to major in Education and Spanish. He would like to return to his alma mater and teach.

3. Megan M. Short, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Canandaigua. She has not selected a College as yet but she plans to major in Intercultural Studies and International Relations and minor in Biology. Then she plans to become a Physicians Assistant and work in a Third World Country.

4. Michael A. Herring, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Oswego. Michael plans to attend the Fredonia School of Music where he will double major in Violin Performance and Music Education. He would to eventually become a music director of an opera company or a major orchestra. Teaching is also in his plans.

5. Kristen M. Kern, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Eastwood-East Syracuse. Kristen plans to study at the University of Buffalo, where she will major in a combina-

Check out the New York District Website at www.kiwians-ny.org

Free full-color club brochure available

Every Kiwanis club should have a brochure that explains the club to visitors, donors, and potential members. Now Kiwanis International is offering to give every club 50 copies of a brochure personalized with the club’s local information.

This offer is part of the “Are You The One?” program to help clubs grow. Kiwanis International offers more than ten resources to assist clubs in building membership. For information, visit http://www.kiwanis.org/theone/.

The brochure is a standard 8.5x11-inch sheet with two folds, creating a handy six-panel presentation. The full color, professionally designed brochure is based on a Microsoft Word template, so it’s easy to add local information about club events, projects, and contact information. Using the template, clubs can print additional copies as often as they need to. To download the brochure template, go to http://www.kiwanis.org/theone/cbrochure.html.

The Kiwanian

Secretary/Treasurer

Justin Underwood

2. EMPIRE STATE KIWIANIAN

July 2007

So, why did we change our e-mail address?

One of the frequent questions we have gotten lately is why did we change our e-mail address? The long time host of New York Kiwanis has been www.borg.com. However over the last few years, that site has been sold to at least 2 other entities and over the past year, or so, webmaster Marty Toombs has been able to move our website to another host.

Since we use Verizon at the District Office for both our phone and our DSL service (translation is that we have our new e-mail address at no additional cost), it made sense that we no longer pay the entity that purchased “borg.com” in addition to what we pay Verizon and the hosting service for our website. This should save the District $150 to $200 a year.

Additionally, through our own website, Webmaster Marty has set up an e-mail list service that would mean easy communications with Clubs, Chairs, Lt. Governors, Past Governors and other important District people. We are currently doing just that and it is working well, so far. However, many people change their e-mail addresses frequently and do not inform us. Please be sure that if your e-mail changes, you let the District Office and our Webmaster know of the change.

The Annual Club Officer Election Reporting

Now is the time for all clubs to report the election results of your Annual Club Officers. For those of you that do your reporting on line, you can simply go to www.kiwanis portal.com, as you normally do for your reports and choose Club Election instead of Monthly Report. Enter the information for your new officers and submit. If you are using the KiwanisOne reporting system there is no need to also fill out and mail or fax a written election report.

The Kiwanis Remote Club Management System

As club secretary, have you ever been curious about that roster that Kiwanis International – the Kiwanian Management System (KMS) – presents all of the awards he received – the Tablet of Honor, the KPTC Fellow, and most recently the Club of the Year. – all were of symbols of how much he loved any child; indeed any person who did not get that lucky break or their fair share in life. Joe always championed the underdog.

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