Kiwianis Int’l Fdn Recognizes Robert P Connelly Heroes

Indianapolis, Indiana – Robert P. Connelly, 34, a retired Kiwanian from the Kiwanis Club of Sycamore, Illinois, lost his life September 23, 1966, in an attempt to rescue a disabled woman who had fallen in the path of an on-rushing passenger train. Both were killed.

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees established the Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism was awarded posthumously to him at the 52nd Kiwanis International Convention in Houston, Texas (1967) with this statement: “By his unselfish action he put tremendous and draining meaning into the phrase ‘personal involvement’, which is so much a part of Kiwanis philosophy. This man was the epitome of all that Kiwanis strives to be.”

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees established the Robert P. Connelly Medal to honor Kiwanians or non-Kiwanians who had no official responsibility in a rescue effort yet risked physical harm or death by attempting to save the life of another.

The following recipients were recommended by the Grants and Connelly Committee and approved by the Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees at their last Board meeting in May to receive the Robert P. Connelly Medal for Heroism:

Justin Gregorich, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Countryside-Clearwater, Florida. Gregorich, a 14-year-old 8th grade student, saw an automobile career off the road and into a retention pond. He and another gentleman pulled the driver, trapped in the submerging vehicle, to safety.

Yumiko Honda, nominated posthumously by the Kiwanis Club of Tokyo, Japan. Hara, a 13-year-old junior high school student, drowned attempting to save a classmate from a nearby pond.

Dan Johnson, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Johnson worked feverishly for six hours at the site of a horrific crash that took the lives of six and injured 17. Johnson warned oncoming cars and trucks and helped people trapped inside their vehicles in the 44-vehicle interstate pileup.

Mark Johnson, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Johnson helped disarm a student in a shootout rampage inside a school where one student died and another was critically wounded.

John Lane Jr., nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Brunswick, Georgia. Lane rescued two people form a burning car after it was struck by an out-of-control tractor-trailer.

Douglas Peterson, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of St. Charles, Illinois. Peterson saved the life of an elderly woman by pulling her from her vehicle after a train struck it leaving it in the path of a second train blowing toward her at 65 miles per hour.

Cedric Redus, Latoris Shepherd, and Michael Travis, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Redus, Trudell and Shepherd saw a man from a burning to death in a tanker explosion by rac- ing into flames, hoisting the man on their backs, and moving him out of danger before the tanker exploded into a fireball.

Curtis Johnson, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Dexter, Michigan. Rich rescued a horse show visitor who was attacked by an out-of-control stallion. Police reported the visitor was bleeding profusely. The horse’s owner had been killed if Rich had not stepped in.

Eric Tiemann, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Little Falls, Minnesota. Tiemann rescued a nine-month pregnant mother and her two young boys from a burning home. The mother dropped her children out of an upstairs window into Tiemann’s arms before she maneuvered herself out of the narrow window. All of the children were safe.

Carol Williams, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Canton, Ohio. Williams saved the life of an 11-year-old boy, pulled down-stream and struggling for air in a rain-soaked, swiftly raging river. Williams, unable to swim to the shore, put the boy on her back and found her way to a rock until help arrived.

Wayne Wohlen, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Greenville-Eastside, South Carolina. Wooten rushed toward a home after seeing flames shot up from the garage and smoke through the trees. Ignoring dispatchers’ orders to assist, Wooten ran inside the home to rescue a woman trapped inside.


The Foundation financially supports the programs of Kiwanis International and its affiliated organizations. It encourages the individual Kiwanians, Kiwanis clubs, and the general public to support national and international programs and organizations through disaster relief, grants, and scholarships. • • •

Kiwanis Int’l Foundation Board Approves Grants

The Kiwanis International Foundation Board meets officially three times per year at which time they review, recommend, and approve grant requests from throughout the world. Applications are accepted from Kiwanis affiliated clubs and districts, Kiwanis programs, Kiwanis clubs, local club foundations, Kiwanis districts, and district foundations.

Because funds are limited and needs are great, priority is given to programs that are Kiwanis-family related, national or international in scope, serve young children, and are consistent with Kiwanis Int’l objectives. Funding for these grants are made possible from the generous contributions to the Foundation Annual Gift Campaign and Kiwanis Children’s Fund, among other donations.

The Board of Trustees approved the following grants in June 2004 and July 2004. AYUSA International, Key Club Study Abroad (KCSA). To provide 10 to 25 partial scholarships to eligible Key Club members from across Key Club International districts with additional financial support to participate in a semester, summer, or academic year program abroad. From 1999 to 2004 AYUSA has awarded 56 full and partial scholarships to Key Club members.

University of the West Indies Mona Campus Circle K, Jamaica, Gordon Town All Age School Project: To prevent school closure with additional financial support to participate in a semester, summer, or academic year program abroad. From 1999 to 2004 AYUSA has awarded 56 full and partial scholarships to Key Club members.

Kiwanis Club of Capital Hills, Salt Lake City, Utah. Kiwanis Baby Baskets: To give presents and addresses issues affecting quality of life. Kiwanis Club of Kiwanis Family House, Sacramento, California. To fully equip one bedroom of the Kiwanis Family House that provides shelter and respite for the families of critically ill or injured children being treated at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Staffed around the clock by Kiwanis volunteers, it has served more than 11,000 families from all over the world since 1984.

Kiwanis Club of Sebring, Florida, Heartland Horses and Handicapped Inc. Program: To provide individuals who are physically, emotionally, or developmentally challenged free equine interaction to improve motor skills, posture, balance, coordination, and strength. Approximately 50 families take advantage of the program.

Kiwanis Club of Shugart, Arkansas, Kiwanis Early Learning Program and Early Learning Wing, Grand Prairie Child Development Center: To meet the early learning needs of ages 3 to 5 weeks to five years by providing quality learning activities to enhance their overall development and prepare them for academic success.

Kiwanis Club of Texarkana, Arkansas, Kidtopia Community Park Project: To provide the “Kiwanis Tot Lot” part of the Kidtopia Playground that will be a pickle fence area containing scaled down playground equipment designed to give children ages six and under an area of their own.

Kiwanis Club of Escondido, California, YMCA Child Care Enrichment Program: To create an outside play area for 72 elementary school students and provide 8- and 9-year-olds with enrichment activities designed to give children ages six and under an area of their own.

Kiwanis Club of Glotto, Ecuador, Integrated Care Service for Youngsters: To improve the integral health of urban teenagers, their families, and parents through an ambulatory service of integral health attention to youth.

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