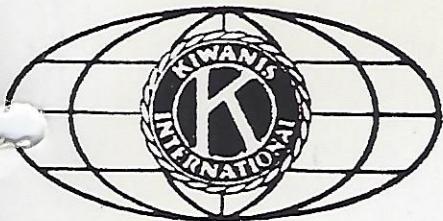




Ernest Downing



KIWANIS CLUB OF SUBURBAN KALAMAZOO

K A L A M A Z O O , M I C H I G A N

ERNEST E. "ERNIE" DOWNING

January 20, 1918 - April 24, 1994

Ernie was a dedicated Kiwanian, one that was always ready with a smile and a hug. He often said he loved everybody, and he meant it!

In 1936 with his brother Wells A. Downing he founded the Downing Electric Company which today is operated by Wells E. Downing. Ernie served with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He served in the China-Burma-India Theatre. He was a cryptographer and one of his more memorable experiences was being captured by Japanese troops! Fortunately for Ernie he was quickly liberated.

Ernie served two terms as President of the Suburban Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club, from 1970-71 and as Distinguished President from 1991-92. He was the Lt. Governor of Division 13 from 1973-74. Ernie approached every Kiwanis project with great enthusiasm and was always ready to offer assistance. Things were never dull when Ernie was present. He was a licensed pilot and also loved to ride motorcycles. Ernie was a strong supporter of youth athletics, sponsoring Little League teams and was also a sponsor for Western Michigan University women's softball.

His wife, Rebecca Downing, passed away in 1977. Ernie honored her memory with a Lady Hixon award. He is survived by two sons and three daughters, the Rev. Fr. Richard E. Downing of Washington, D.C., Linda Bosker of Kalamazoo, Mary Cole of Portage, Wells E. of Kalamazoo and Patricia Dupont of Warsaw, Indiana.

