



Avery D. Baker





MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL  
DIVISION 14 WEST

DISTINGUISHED KIWANIAN  
AVERY D. BAKER

Michigan Kiwanians felt a great loss during 1982 after the death of Kiwanian Avery D. Baker. Each person that had the opportunity to meet him felt the warmth and compassion that he exhibited to his fellow man.

Personal Life

Avery was born in Crawford County, Illinois. He served with the U. S. Air Corps during World War II, and came to Holland, Michigan, after the war to attend Hope College, where he graduated in 1950. His wife, Eleanor, was most supportive of Avery's commitment to his community and fellow man. His three sons, William, David and James, and his daughter, Susan, greatly enjoyed their father's compassion and quick wit.

Professional Life

After graduating from Hope College with a B.A. in Business Administration, Avery continued his studies at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. He worked for the Juvenile Court of Muskegon County before becoming Director of the Ottawa County Juvenile Court. In 1957 he moved to Midland where he directed the Big Brothers program. In 1958 he returned to Holland and served as Undersheriff in Ottawa County. He also served as a teacher and principal at the Conklin grade school for six years. In 1965 he joined the staff at the MESCC, retiring in 1980 because of ill health.

Community & Kiwanis Service

Avery was a member of Hope Reformed Church and a charter member and organizer of the Kiwanis Club of Holland - Noon. He was a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Holland (Evening) and served two terms as Lt. Governor of Division 14, earning the designation of "Distinguished" in both terms. Over the years, Avery served the Michigan District of Kiwanis in leadership roles on many committees.

Avery was a combination of patriot and community promoter. He served as chairman of the Ottawa County Bicentennial in 1976 and continually promoted patriotism through leadership roles in Memorial Day celebrations and grave decorations. He was also a tireless worker in county and state politics.

The Kiwanians of Division 14 West will always think of Avery Baker when they see our flag flying beautifully in the breeze or witness acts of compassion toward those in need.