

**Rotary Club of Kent**  
**Tribute to**  
**John P. Wunderle**  
**(1921-2011)**

WE, the members of the Kent Rotary Club (Ohio) unanimously express our sadness and regret for the passing of our fellow member and friend, John P. Wunderle, who died April 22, 2011.

John was born in Cleveland, Ohio March 15, 1921. John's family moved to Kent in 1929 and John spent most of his life in this area, except for a few retirement years in North Carolina. He attended St. Patrick's Elementary School (Kent) and graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School (Kent) in 1938.

John enlisted in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He taught instrument flying in B-25's, followed by transition training in B-17's. John became the Commander of a B-29 and just as he was assigned to duty in the South Pacific, the war ended. John enjoyed his service in the Army Air Corps and often told us stories about his low-level flying exploits. One time, he fly an entire mission under three hundred feet...quite a feat for the pilot of such a large airplane.

Besides his life-long love of his wife, Mary Lou, John had a forty-two year love affair with Ma Bell. He held many different leadership positions with Ohio Bell, but his favorite seemed to be his long service as leader of the Kent area office. John

was also very active in the Kent Historical Society, The Canal Society of Ohio, The Akron Train Club and the Rotary Club of Kent. John possessed a passion for, and a vast knowledge of, of Ohio canal and train history...and shared this knowledge during many invited speeches in this area. Anytime a question came up regarding canals or trains...someone always said, "Ask John Wunderle," and the chances were nearly one hundred per cent that he would have a detailed answer to share. On the rare occasion that John did not know the answer, he would always say, "I'll get back to you on that next week." And he always did.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Helen Wunderle and sister Rosemary Sessions, and greatly moved by the deaths of his granddaughter, Carli Crocker and daughter-in-law, Denise Wunderle. John is survived by Mary Lou, his loving wife of sixty-five years and sons, John Jr., Tim (Jeanne), and daughters, Susanne Blok and Laurie (Gary) Knuth, thirteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren and brothers, Carl and Frank.

John's passion for railroading may be observed at the Kent Historical Society, where constructed and donated a operational train display depicting train life in early Kent, Ohio.

John was a valued member of the Rotary Club of Kent. He kept our speakers honest, asking the tough questions and insuring they were factually correct in their presentations. He was a man's man and his presence commanded respect...a respect he always reciprocated. John and Mary Lou were

active in club activities and they were always one of the most handsome couples at any event. Their love for one another was obvious...the dedication they shared for each other was admired by each of us.

Therefore, be it resolved on this 14th day of June 2011 that this resolution of respect and affection for John P. Wunderle be made a part of the permanent record of the Rotary Club on Kent and that copies be presented to his family.

Glenn Saltzman  
John "Jack" Joy  
Rotary Club of Kent  
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