

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
OF
THE ROTARY CLUB OF GALVESTON
IN REGULAR SESSION AT
GALVESTON, TEXAS, JANUARY 10, 2018
HONORING ITS BELOVED FORMER MEMBER
WARD BYRD "BUDDY" BENSON, JR.
1928-2017

WHEREAS, WARD BYRD BENSON, JR., known to us as BUDDY, departed this life on December 13, 2017 at the age of 89.

WE, THE ROTARY CLUB OF GALVESTON, DO HEREBY RESOLVE, THAT:

Our Club mourns the loss of Buddy Benson, a respected and valued member of our Club.

Buddy was born in El Paso, Texas on January 19, 1928 to Ward and Cora Benson and moved to Galveston as a small child.

During World War II Buddy answered the call of his country and joined the Marines at the age of 17. He was a proud member of the famed 1st Marine Division and saw service in China.

After the war, Buddy attended North Texas State University majoring in Business. While in college Buddy met Anna Ruth Humpheries who became the love of his life. They married in 1950. After college they returned to Galveston and opened a Dairy Mart franchise in La Marque. Buddy next joined his father's auto parts and service business, opened a new

Hudson Motor Co. car dealership and finally a Western Auto franchise which he operated from 1955 to 1987. Buddy was known as an outstanding businessman who loved his community and was always ready to help others in need. He was a very ethical human being and possessed great integrity.

Buddy was actively involved in many civic and religious organizations. He was a member of Harmony Masonic Lodge #6, Scottish Rite Valley, Knights Templar, El Mina Shrine and the Salvation Army Board. He volunteered to feed the homeless on many Saturdays and delivered countless meals through the Galveston Meals on Wheels Program. He and his wife were founding members of Libbie's Place Senior Day Program at Moody Methodist Church. He was a devoted member of Moody Methodist and served on every church committee that existed. He was Church Treasurer, served on the Board of Trustees and was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Permanent Endowment Fund. He taught Sunday School and was a true supporter and friend to every minister assigned to his church. His 80 year association with Moody Methodist made him its longest serving member. Buddy had many hobbies and loved camping, hunting, fishing and relaxing with friends and family at his beach house in Bolivar. He held a private pilot's license and enjoyed flying Cessna single engine airplanes.


Buddy and Ruth Ann were married for 67 years and were blessed with four loving children: Steven, Robert, John and Zoe. Buddy loved his children and his seven grandchildren very much and always put the needs of his family first.

We will always remember Buddy as a great member of our Rotary Club. His Rotary membership spanned 60 years. Dr. Bill Glenn, Jr. sponsored Buddy when he joined our Club in 1957. Dr. Glenn told Buddy when he joined about the importance of not missing meetings. He said: "If you can't make up, don't miss." Buddy took that advice to heart, having over 50 years of perfect attendance. He was a Paul Harris Fellow. He loved participating in Rotary meetings and activities and was a treasured and highly esteemed member of our Club. He was a very soft spoken and kind person, but when Buddy spoke, everyone listened. He had many dear friends and admirers who thought the world of him. He served his God, family, friends, community and nation to the fullest and lived a very rich and rewarding life.

It can truly be said that Buddy lived his life in accordance with our Rotary motto of "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." He was a great American. We all know that when he arrived at the gates of Heaven, God walked to the entryway and announced to all present: "This is my beloved Buddy in whom I am well pleased. I have prepared a very special place for him in My Kingdom."

The Rotary Club of Galveston wishes to note with deep regret the passing of Buddy Benson, a loyal member, cherished friend and exceptional person. We bestow our sincere sympathy to his wife, children, grandchildren, and other family members and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this RESOLUTION be entered in the minutes of this Club, made a permanent part of the records of the Rotary Club of Galveston, and that copies be sent to Buddy's family.



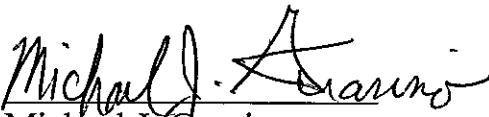
Kristen Carlson, President

I, Ruth Finkelstein Suhler, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Galveston, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY A STANDING VOTE OF THE MEMBERS at the regular meeting of our Club in Galveston, Texas on the 10th day of January, 2018.



Margo Snider, Recording Secretary

Remembrance Committee:



Michael J. Guarino
Chairman