

*As a rich part of the history of the Rotary Club of Dewitt, we remember .....*



**Hank Kalette**

Rotary International was a major part of Hank's "Service Above Self" commitment. In spite of his battle with diabetes, he attained an incredible 50 years of perfect attendance, chaired the club's annual Pancake Day fundraiser, served as Club President in 1966 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1982.

Hank also served as District Governor in 1988 and was involved with many important initiatives such as sending hospital beds to Tigre, Argentina, working with the Polio Plus program to eradicate Polio worldwide, and establishing the Kingston Project to aid handicapped people in Jamaica. During the Kingston Project, Hank and his wife Natalie visited Kingston, Jamaica and saw firsthand the great need. Upon their return, they visited several other Rotary Clubs to create awareness and support for the project as well as reaching out to the Elmcrest Children's Center where it was arranged for the Director of the Center at that time, to go to Kingston and see the situation herself. As a result, she had two individuals from Jamaica fly here to learn medical techniques which they were then able to share with those in need back in their country. Hank and the District received special commendation for the success of the Kingston Project.

He and his wife Natalie were involved in numerous volunteer efforts. They were the first couple to receive the Humanitarian Award in 1990 for their many years of devoted service to others. Before women could join Rotary, Hank's wife Natalie was President of the Dewitt Women of Rotary. When women were invited to join, Natalie was Dewitt Rotary's first female member and served as Club Historian for 14 years.

Hank was a graduate of Syracuse University, a World War II Veteran, and was inducted into the Nottingham High School Alumni Wall of Fame in 2015. Hank Kalette passed away on November 30, 2008 at the age of 86.