

RESOLUTION

PREAMBLE

Fellow Rotarian, Alison “Big Al” De Tuerk, died at home with his family around him on January 7, 2010. Al is survived by his wife Kathy, children: Allison Tappert (Geoff), Kim Kelleher (Brian), and Greg De Tuerk (Tracy); nine grandchildren, three sisters: Ann Maud, Mary De Tuerk and Liz Ghadar, and identical twin brother, John (who Al reported as being extremely handsome, amazingly intelligent and beautifully formed.

Al was from the east coast and was an engineer by trade – but in all other aspects of his life he appeared to be quite normal.

Al was born in the city of brotherly love on December 12, 1942 and was trained as an aeronautical engineer at Renselear Polytech in Troy, NY.

With a degree in aeronautical engineering under his belt, Al naturally went to work for Westinghouse in their underwater division in Annapolis, Maryland. Eventually, tiring of working underwater, Al relocated to Everett, Washington in 1974 to work for the Western Gear Corporation. Al later began an engineer placement company, ECA North, which he operated very successfully and enjoyed immensely for many years.

Kathy and Al were members of the Everett Rotary Gourmet Club, which consisted of the De Tuerks, Rainvilles, Rubatinos and Senters. Over the years of this fellowship much as learned about Al’s life and a few of those things are shared here:

- 1. Al married Kathy on February 29. They therefore only celebrated their anniversary every four years. With the money Al saved on anniversary gifts, he was able to build and furnish their beautiful beach home on West Beach on Whidbey Island.**
- 2. Al was an orchid aficionado.**
- 3. Al loved birds and their beach house was bird sanctuary – the only exception was stucco-eating woodpecker – Al would never explain where it went.**
- 4. Al was an extremely inept but very enthusiastic salmon fisherman.**
- 5. Al set his crab pots, cooked the crabs on the beach, but – rather than gorge for a few days and then give the rest away as most of us do – Al would shell the crabs and pack them into neat shrink wraps about 6” square with about 4 oz in each pack. We think he then filed them in the freezer in alphabetical order. At one time Al had one of the largest Dungeness collections on the west coast.**
- 6. Al was proud of his Huguenots heritage. The Huguenots were French Protestants who fled France in the 17th and 18th century to escape religious persecution. Al tired of waiting for France to apologize and invite him back and became a Catholic.**
- 7. Al and Kathy ran separate businesses and maintained their separate finances. They both agreed however that it would be appropriate for Kathy to write a check on Al’s checking account if she was faced with a financial emergency. It is well known however that Al conducted many long but hopeless conversations with Kathy as to exactly what constituted a financial emergency.**

8. Al's life was centered on his family. He loved and encouraged all of his children and grandchildren and tried his best to beat them at pinnacle (to teach them a lesson on life and to prepare them for the fierce competition of American society – or not).
9. Al was a strong Rotarian and supported the four avenues of Rotary service. He was proud to have been the "Main Man" of district 5050 during Kathy's reign as District Governor and of his six Paul Harris Fellowships.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, our friend and fellow Rotarian, Alison "Big Al" De Tuerk passed from our ranks on January 7, 2010, and

WHEREAS, Al was a staunch and loving family man and a warm, supportive, loving partner for our Rotary friend Kathy (who we wish would return to the oldest, best and once largest club in District 5050), and

WHEREAS, Al was a strong, well founded person who faced his impending death with strength, faith and calmness with his primary intent being to leave Kathy and the rest of his family in the best position possible, and

WHEREAS, we will miss Al's verve, enthusiasm and fellowship in all his Rotary dealings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the records of the Rotary Club of Everett, Washington be emblazoned with the name of our Rotarian friend Alison De Tuerk, memorializing his dedication to his family, his occupation and his cherished Rotary membership.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that President Kevin Morris be charged with the duty of placing a copy of this Resolution in the hands of Kathy De Tuerk so that Al's family may know and understand the esteem in which we hold Al's memory.

FURTHER BE IT SOLVED that the membership of the Rotary Club of Everett united here stand and observe a minute of silence in honor of our departed friend, Alison De Tuerk.

IN WITNESS I hereby affix my hand and seal this 26th day of January, 2010.

ATTEST:

Kevin Morris, President
Rotary Club of Everett Rotary Club

William Dobler, Secretary
Rotary Club of Everett