



*The Rotary Club of Kent
Tribute to C. Frederick Gressard
1920-2011*



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KENT unanimously express our sadness and regret for the passing of our fellow member and friend, C. Frederick “Fred” Gressard, who died August 20, 2011.

Fred was born June 27, 1920 and, other than his time in the US Navy, lived his entire life in the Twin Lakes area of Kent. Fred married Elisabeth “Betty” Loblein at the Twin Lakes Country Club in June 1941 and Betty survives him.

Fred is a descendant of Rosetta and James Haymaker and Frank and Ida Merrill. The Haymakers were early settlers of Kent and the oldest building on the Kent State University campus is named for Frank Merrill. Fred grew up in Twin Lakes and played on the undeveloped land around Twin Lakes during his childhood. Fred graduated from University School, attended Kent State University, and graduated from the US Naval Academy.

Betty and Fred purchased the land for their home from the Merrill family and lived nearly their entire married life in the home Fred built.

Fred was very talented and mastered most of those talents. He was: an **inventor** who patented the Morse Guideline Projector (MGP), which is used throughout the world by tire companies; a **businessman** who formed his own companies in the US and England to produce the MGP; a **Naval officer** and **Navy pilot** who was decorated for his part in the Battle of Guadalcanal,

served more than twenty-five years in the Naval Reserve and retired as a Navy Captain; a **champion golfer** who won the Twin Lakes Country Club championship several times and was so devoted to golf that he played eighteen holes six weeks after having both knees replaced... at eighty-plus years old. But more importantly, Fred was an outstanding husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Fred and Betty were married over seventy years and had two devoted children, Elisabeth and Rick, eleven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



Fred was an encouraging person, who was loved by all, and he will be greatly missed by his fellow Rotarians and his many friends. Fred had the respect of all who knew him. The words, “Great Guy” always come to mind when his name is mentioned.

Therefore, be it resolved on this 20th day of September 2011 that this resolution of respect and affection for C. Frederick Gressard be made a part of the permanent record of the Rotary Club of Kent and that copies be presented to his family.

Glenn Saltzman

Larry Wright

**The Rotary Club of Kent
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