

EULOGY: LION GEORGE TOYOFUKU, PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

[by Lion John Ochoco]

All the Lions of East Kaua'i wish to thank Partner-in-Service Else Toyofuku and her family for allowing Lion George the time and opportunity to be the great Lion that he was.

Past District Governor Lion George Toyofuku, a very special and extraordinary Lion, was an icon in District 50, Hawai'i Lions. He joined East Kaua'i Lions Club in July 1965, achieving 100% Attendance Award in 43 years of membership. He served in every key office and committee chairmanship. He served as Club President in 1987-1988 and achieved the coveted 100% President Award. By memorandum of agreement between Lions Clubs International and Jaycees, he was credited with 53 years of service and was thus conferred as Monarch Lion. He was also Life Lion, Honorary Charter Lion, Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, and three-time Lion of the Year.

He served at District 50 level for ten years in various capacities, a significant commitment, considering that all of the District action was away from Kaua'i. He served in the most esteemed office of District Governor in 1999-2000. His dedication and commitment for which he is known came to the forefront as District Governor. He never missed a day of golf on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But during his term, he did not play even one single round of golf all year. He did what it took to lead District 50 to excellence, left an exemplary record behind, and achieved 100% District Governor Award, an honor rarely bestowed.

He expected a high standard of performance from the Club and especially from its leaders. For this reason, he was highly misunderstood. Granted, his manner of communicating was rough and gruff and straight to the point, and if you wore your feelings on your sleeves, you missed the essence of his utterances. But many big-thinking East Kaua'i Lions today who saw wisdom rather than wrath learned to move ahead with deeper insights and wider perspectives of purpose, responsibility, commitment, and greatness in Lions.

He expected high performance because his personal standards were so high. He was always on time, even ahead of time, and detested lateness. He reasoned well and decried muddled thinking. He was thorough and cut slipshod planning to shreds with incisive inquiries. He was a man of his word and was beside himself if you didn't keep your word. Having committed himself to being Club Treasurer in his last days, he still did the tedious task of having the financial reports ready for monthly Board of Directors meetings even in his weakened condition.

He always talked about certain Lions being "imbued with Lionism" and held them up in high esteem. The saying goes, "It takes one to recognize another." And Lion George Toyofuku himself was just that—a true Lion at heart. Yes, he will be remembered in more ways than any ordinary man can ever be remembered. He will run the gamut of memories that will be discussed in every possible way. He was THAT extraordinary. But one thing is sure: He was the glue that adhered East Kaua'i Lions Club to the highest ideals of Lionism in spirit and in truth. For this, he will always be remembered.