

Hal Hyde Presentation: December 19, 2018

Hal, your membership in Watsonville Rotary dates back 67 years ago to November 1951, making you both the longest-serving member of our club at this time, and our eldest member.

Your lifetime achievements in and out of Rotary – both in leadership and philanthropy – are legendary in the Pajaro Valley, in Santa Cruz County and in other regions of the world. Through your words and deeds, you have helped to change the course of the lives of countless individuals and families, here at home and throughout the world.

For these many achievements, you have been honored, your praises sung in most every corner of our community and beyond. You have been given countless plaques, proclamations and other symbols of the highest esteem from your many friends, admirers and the public.

For this reason, we have struggled to find a way for our Club to honor your service and your warm friendship to all of us in a way that we hope is both meaningful to you and unique.

Throughout your life, you have been a stalwart supporter of higher education. You worked to bring Cabrillo College to Santa Cruz County and served on its founding governing board. When UCSC opened, you left the private sector to become its first vice chancellor for business. Over the years you have encouraged countless young people in their efforts to obtain a higher education.

We wanted to make a gesture that will honor you now and forever and give Rotarians that follow the means to learn from your lifetime example and to celebrate you as an honored member of our club.

To this end, the board has unanimously voted to institute the following honors:

1. Today, December 19, will forever be known as “Hal Hyde Day” in our Club. For as long as the Watsonville Rotary Club endures, on this day each year (or the Wednesday closest to it) will include activities and/or programs to commemorate your many contributions to Watsonville Rotary and our community.
2. Secondly, in recognition of your lifelong support of higher education, we have selected you to be ***the first*** member of our Club to have an individual scholarship named in his honor. Commencing in May 2019, **the first Hal Hyde Scholarship** will be awarded to a deserving Watsonville High School Student.

Hal, we do not have a new plaque to add to all those already adorning your walls. We simply have this commitment…to honor and commemorate you now and in perpetuity. To celebrate your warm friendship, your humility, your sense of humor and your leadership.

Congratulations!