

One Great Community Salutes

Chamber Champion – September 2010

Erma Rich

A Chamber Champion by definition is someone who makes our community a wonderful place to live, learn, and do business. The Chamber Champion goes the extra mile and in so doing makes our community a special place to be. They are dependable, friendly, caring and honorable day in and day out. Whether sitting atop a large organization, caring for the sick, or serving at the front counter, the Chamber Champion is highly respected for the good work she or he does.

Erma Rich is a Chamber Champion! Erma was born in 1927 and grew up on a farm near Millville, IN where she lived for 39 years. She moved with her husband John to Peoria, IL where they lived for 4 years but otherwise has been a member of the Eastern Indiana, Wayne County Area Community. “I was taught that you give back to the community in which you live,” said Erma, “I accept this award very humbly because there are lots of other people that have contributed to all that I have done.” However humble Erma may be, as Rachel Hughes stated, “Erma is truly a wonderful volunteer, the type of person every organization wishes they had working on their behalf. She is tireless, dedicated, and loyal. She always gives her best effort and is a positive ambassador for any organization she serves. We’re fortunate that the Wayne County Foundation is one of the many organizations she supports in the community. She is a real community asset.”

Erma was a faithful employee to Perfect Circle as well as to Reid Hospital for a combined service of about 37 years. Five of her twenty years at Perfect Circle were spent working with the Vice President of Perfect Circle International. She stated that “this was when I became so involved with international work and connections”. Her interest and passion for International relations and the Sister City program stemmed from this experience. Erma said, “I and the many others who have participated from our community maintain contact through cards, visits and even FaceBook with the many individuals and families from Japan who have been touched by the Sister Cities Program.”

Erma also worked for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Richmond for a few years and her service there continues today in part as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, current Member of the Vestry and Senior Warden.

Her contributions in the community to other organizations like The Richmond Art Museum Board, the Middlefork Neighborhood Organization, the US 27 Corridor North Committee, the John Manjiro Japanese Cultural exchange for the City of Richmond, Economic Leader visit from Germany, Mission Strategy Commission for the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, and Preserve Richmond are only highlights among many other organizations and community activities that Erma finds herself working for and contributing her time to.

Mary Walker said, “I have relied on Erma many times to help out. She even jumped in and served as a tour guide at a moment’s notice when another volunteer couldn’t make it.” Mary added, “Erma, we appreciate all of the hard work and everything you have done. You are such a great representative for our community.”