

# **One Great Community Salutes**

## ***Chamber Champion – March 2011***

### ***Paul Richert***

Raccoons and wild geese can't keep Paul Richert from cleaning up the trash that collects along Sim Hodgkin Parkway and Bridge Avenue! Paul leads by example and truly is a Chamber Champion as defined by the words; goes the extra mile and in so doing makes our community a special place to be. Norene Groth, a long standing volunteer for the Chamber said, "It impressed me that someone would have that much pride in their community that they would clean up litter and debris every single day."

Every morning since 1989 Paul has walked that stretch of road and worked to clean up and maintain the beauty of the Whitewater Gorge Valley. He has literally picked up tons of trash over the last 22 years and in doing so sets an example for others to follow in keeping Richmond clean! Picking up trash is not a fun or glamorous task for anyone...let alone a WWII Veteran who survived the Great Depression has been married 63 years to his lovely wife Catherine and raised 6 children. Not to mention a man who is preparing to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday this October! He is a role model for adults and children alike.

Paul's son Roger said that people are constantly coming up to him saying, "I saw your dad cleaning up in the valley." Natalie Richert-Sumner is Paul's grand-daughter and said this habit has carried over with the family in to the Depot District. She said, "Grandpa's example has taught us how to keep the Depot District beautiful, too. We're always stopping to pick up trash on the streets and sidewalks and we try to instill this in all of our employees."

In addition, Paul along with his son Roger have donated countless hours to the Kiwanis Club of Richmond by serving as the Auctioneers since the very first year for the Annual Kiwanis Auction. They just recently completed the 47<sup>th</sup> Kiwanis Auction! Those 47 Auctions have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the children and youth programs in this area.

This ONE Great Community Chamber Champion through his work has given outstanding service to the Wayne County Area community. He is dependable, friendly, caring and honorable day in and day out. One way for the Chamber to achieve our mission is to salute Chamber Champions who make our community a wonderful place to live, learn, and do business.

Thank you Paul Richert for being a Chamber Champion and our One Great Community Salutes you!