

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Joseph B. Serra
District Governor 1994-1995
Rotary Club of Stockton
District 5220

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BIOGRAPHY

Joe was born and educated in Detroit, Michigan. He served in Korea from 1950-51 as a Navy medical corpsman with the U.S. Marines. He obtained his pre-med at Albion College, and attended Wayne State University Medical school; graduating in 1960. He interned at Los Angeles County hospital then returned to Wayne State Univ. for his residency in Orthopedic Surgery. He and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Stockton in 1966 where Joe entered private practice. He co-founded the Stockton Orthopedic Medical group in 1970.

He has served as orthopedic team physician for the University of Pacific, The Milwaukee Brewers farm system, and the Stockton Ports baseball team.

Joe joined the Rotary club of Stockton in 1977; and served as President in 1990-91. He served as Governor of District 5220 from 1994-95. He has served on the International PolioPlus committee, and currently is the vice-chair for the PolioPlus Partners Task Force.

He has served the Rotary Foundation as a volunteer orthopedic surgeon to Malawi, Africa on five tours, and primarily performing surgery on polio victims called "crawlers". He has received many awards including the Service Above Self award, the Foundation PolioPlus Pioneer award, and the Distinguished Service Award of the Rotary Foundation. Joe and Dorothy represented Rotary International in Liberia, Africa during their first National Immunization Days in 1999.

He has also served his community, and was named "Stocktonian of the Year" in 1987; which he attributes to Rotary's prominent identity in his community. He recently received the "Lifetime achievement Award" from his medical society.

Joe and Dorothy have two grown sons, and three grandchildren. His favorite activities include skiing, mountaineering, travel, and giving power-point presentations about Rotary's legacy to the world---the eradication of polio.