



## Dr. Walt Plexico A Man of Integrity

On June 14<sup>th</sup> Wilkes Community College suffered a tremendous loss and said good bye to a dear friend and associate. Walt Plexico served as Dean of Instruction at WCC from 2000 until 2005. He will be missed each and every day. With the permission of Ken Welborn, Publisher of *The Record*, the *Cougar Cry* is reprinting an article that ran in their June 22nd issue. Our prayers are with Donna and their children.

Cougar Cry Staff

## He knew and lived the Four Way Test...

By **KEN WELBORN**

Publisher of *The Record*

On Monday evening, the North Wilkesboro Rotary Club moved its regular meeting to the Wilkes CARES facility on Highway 268 East for dinner and a tour of the facility. At the beginning of the meeting, club president Ravaughn Ashley paused for a moment to honor the memory of Rotarian Dr. Walt Plexico, who died last Tuesday afternoon at the Watauga Medical Center in Boone, North Carolina after a year-long battle with cancer.

I think Walt would have been proud of where we chose to have our meeting, given Wilkes CARES' 30-plus year history of providing emergency help for those in crisis situations. The evening's meeting was

organized by Rotarian and Wilkes CARES board member, Steve Forrest, who briefly addressed the group. In the process of sharing his passion for the work of Wilkes CARES, Steve talked about a Bible study which he and his wife Sandy have been attending that included the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew's gospel from the New Testament. The passages Steve paraphrased involved some of the very last teachings of Jesus in which He spoke of the day when He would sit on a throne and separate the people of all nations, much as a shepherd separates his flocks. Those to His right will be welcomed to His kingdom, and be thanked for feeding Him when He was hungry, for clothing Him when He was naked, and for giving Him water when He was thirsty.

The chosen ones answered questioning as to when they had clothed or fed the Lord, and when had they given Him water. Jesus answered them and said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

When Steve concluded his remarks, I couldn't help but think to myself that he had just preached Walt Plexico's funeral.

Walt was just that kind of man. Always willing to help, to give back, and always simply because it was the right thing to do.

A great deal of the contact I had with Walt and Donna Plexico revolved around the work of the North Wilkesboro Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation. I have often heard long-term members speak with pride about being a member of Rotary and of the Rotary spirit.

Walt Plexico embodied the Rotary spirit every sense of the word. Each Rotarian is given a copy of the Four Way Test. These four simple but powerful questions are 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned? 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Walt didn't just know the words to the Four Way Test, he lived them.

Then, in the past year since Walt was diagnosed with cancer, he, with the selfless and untiring help of his wife, Donna, remained steadfastly faithful to Rotary and became even more of an inspiration to every member of the club. He somehow managed to keep his perfect attendance record of 20-plus years intact, and, in addition, made himself available for input at board meetings and project's, remaining the club's treasurer to the very end.

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