

## ***Honoring the Legacy of***



### ***Colonel John E. Brown, USMCR***

As we approach Veteran's Day, our thoughts turn to those who proudly served our country to preserve the rights and freedoms we all enjoy today. One such veteran is the late John Brown, a respected Rotarian and community leader. John passed away on Tuesday September 14, 2011 at age 84. A Santa Rosa resident for nearly 50 years, he is remembered for his wit, loyalty and boundless energy. Born in Ironwood, Michigan and raised in Wausau, WI., John first arrived in California as a young lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving active duty, he spent another 20 years in the Marine reserves. He was a proud Marine and was honored to reach the rank of Colonel, USMCR. John's business career was spent in the shoe manufacturing industry, mostly with Santa Rosa Shoe Company in sales, marketing and sales management. He retired in 1986. During his retirement, he traveled extensively and gave countless hours of service to local non-profit organizations, including: The Sonoma County Family YMCA (board of directors for 23 years, including two terms as board president), the Salvation Army (advisory board member and chairman), the Living Room drop-in center, the Redwood Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Sonoma County Museum, Sonoma County Taxpayers Association, Sons In Retirement and the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa (past president 1989-90).

As a memorial to John, a military veteran's scholarship was established within the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation. This scholarship will be awarded annually to an entering, continuing or transfer military veteran attending the Santa Rosa Junior College. Contributions to John's scholarship fund to support the education of our military veterans will be great appreciated. Please contact Steve Olson, Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair for further information.