

Honoring the Legacy of



Colonel John E. Brown, USMCR

As we approach Veterans Day, our attention naturally turns to the many men and women who have served our country throughout history and to which we owe a tremendous vote of gratitude. One such veteran is the late Colonel John E. Brown, USMCR. John joined the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa in 1981 and served until quietly passing away at his Santa Rosa home on Tuesday September 14, 2011 at the age 84. A Santa Rosa resident for nearly 50 years, he had countless friends and associates who will remember him 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 would spend 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, the Salvation Army, the Living Room, the Redwood Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Sonoma County Museum, Sonoma County Taxpayers Association, Rotary Club of Santa Rosa and the club foundation.

As a memorial to John, scholarship was established in 2011 entitled the **John E. Brown Memorial Veterans Scholarship**. John's scholarship is awarded annually to an entering, continuing or transfer military veteran attending the Santa Rosa Junior College. Contributions will help grow the fund and allow more veteran's to attend college and pursue their career goals. Checks may be made payable to the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation (Brown Fund) and mailed to PO Box 1513, Santa Rosa, CA. 95402. Online contributions may be made through the Foundation section of the club website .