PROCLAMATION

Rotary 109th Birthday

WHEREAS, Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois USA, is the world’s first and one of the largest non-profit humanitarian service organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary club members comprised of professional and business leaders in over 34,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto “Service Above Self” inspires members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and spearheaded efforts with the World Health Organization, U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than $1 billion and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children against polio in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute $8 billion to the polio eradication effort; and

WHEREAS, Rotary supports programs that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all.

WHEREAS, there are two Rotary Clubs in Port Orchard that include 104 Rotarians, these clubs actively sponsor service projects that address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, and the environment in Port Orchard and South Kitsap and throughout the State of Washington and abroad.

Therefore, I, Tim Matthes, Mayor of the City of Port Orchard, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 23, 2014 as Rotary Birthday, and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing Rotary International for its 109 years of service to improving the human condition in local communities around the world, and recognize as well the Rotary Clubs of Port Orchard, Washington.

Signed the 25th day of February 2014

Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor