

# PATROL NEWS

July/August 2017

“85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”

Volume 52 • Number 1

## Seeds Of Generosity Planted Long Ago

By The MASTERS Director/Ret. Col. Fred M. Mills  
Exec. Dir. Elaine Libla, The MASTERS

This story doesn't begin at the beginning, but it will end there. It was several years ago when The MASTERS' directors decided to establish a dedicated fund to cover the expenses of the educational benefits for the children of troopers who died in the line of duty. The decision was the result of a fiscal analysis based upon the number of children who are eligible for these benefits and when they begin college. The decision was made to establish the fund, and we selected the Community Foundation of the Ozarks as the place where the fund would be held. With the decisions made, we were preparing to put the plan into action.

It was during this time that The MASTERS unexpectedly received a donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Chuck Drury. After some consideration, the decision was made to call Mr. Drury and ask his permission to use his generous donation as the 'seed money' for establishing the Educational Benefit Fund. Mr. Doug Mitchell, The MASTERS President at that time, placed the call to Mr. Drury. His response was gracious and he told The MASTERS to use the funds where they would serve the most good. He then asked Doug to tell him a little more about the educational benefits we provide. Doug said it was a very meaningful and cordial conversation, at which time our fund was established.

The troop directors and our executive director were excited about the new opportunities the funds could provide. Not only would it increase our fiscal stability, but it would allow for the educational benefits to be enhanced in keeping with ongoing cost increases. One of the changes that has been made that in addition to the children, the surviving spouse is also eligible for educational benefits.

Since the fund was established, the personal donations from Mr. Chuck Drury, the Drury Family Charitable Foundation, and Drury Hotels has exceeded an amazing \$212,000. Without question, this support will, and has, made dramatic changes for The MASTERS and the services we provide. Another important change was the educational benefit can now be used for attending a trade school in lieu of a four-year college or university. We understand there are students whose interest and aptitude are in a profession where attending a trade school may be most beneficial for them. We are happy to provide this opportunity.



Several directors and Exec. Dir. Elaine Libla represented The MASTERS at a presentation of appreciation to the Drury family. Pictured (l to r, front row) are: Mrs. Jana Keathley, Mrs. Elaine Libla, Mr. Charles "Chuck" Drury, Mrs. Janice Ruopp, and retired Col. James Keathley; (l to r, back row): Mr. Tim Drury, Mr. Tom Drury, Ms. Jacqueline Pollvogt, and Sen. Doug Libla.

The story could end here, and easily be the most exciting change since The MASTERS was formed 38 years ago, but this isn't the end.

The blessing continued when we received a letter advising The MASTERS would also receive a donation from the Drury family Charitable Foundation. This donation is for \$250,000 paid at \$50,000 each year for the next five years. This support can be described as not only a blessing, but a bright ray of caring and hope provided by the Drury Family. To show our sincere appreciation to Mr. Drury and his family for their incredibly wonderful support, several of our members attended a meeting at the Drury Corporation Headquarters on May 17, 2017. Those directors attending were: Senator Doug Libla, Colonel James Keathley (retired), Mrs. Jana Keathley, Mr. Tom Drury (distant relative), and The MASTERS Executive Director Elaine Libla.

An engraved vase with The MASTERS logo and words of deep appreciation was presented to the Drury family to show our gratitude for their commitment to The MASTERS Educational Fund. Mrs. Shirley Drury, mother of these caring individuals, was unable to attend the presentation, but our appreciation was extended to her as well. We would also like to mention that the Drury family members who are Lifetime The MASTERS Members include: Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Drury, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Drury, and Ms. Jacqueline Pollvogt.

The MASTERS directors wrote a personal letter to Mr. Chuck Drury, on behalf of our organization and those we serve, expressing our sincere appreciation for their tremendous generosity and unselfish support. We were interested in trying to learn just a little more about Mr. Drury. Remember when we talked about the seeds that were planted long ago? Some excerpts from Mr. Drury's response explained a lot to us:

*"While growing up in Cape Girardeau, I worked at our Holiday Inn as a cook, and Missouri troopers would frequent our restaurant. I remember them well. They were always so smartly dressed and very polite. My cousin John and I always did our best to provide them with the best prepared meal we could. And even though I have met a few along the highways of our state, they have always been professional and courteous and, above all, helpful when needed."*

*"Our family has been very fortunate and I am glad we are able to help The MASTERS organization and our Missouri troopers and their families. Honestly, I would hope these funds go unused."*

To all the members of the Patrol: I think it goes without saying that you never know what your impact can be on someone, as you go about what may seemingly be routine or simply your day-to-day activities. It's not only the service you provide, but how you treat people in the process that can, and does, make a difference; and, in this case, a lasting impression. Obviously, someone through their kindness and professionalism, planted seeds that Mr. Chuck Drury has longed remembered, and they have been reinforced throughout the years by your actions and demeanor. On behalf of those families we serve, we thank you as well, and while we too hope the funds will always go unused ... our commitment is as strong as ever.

We will always be there for your family.



Pictured from l to r are: Mr. Tim Drury, Ms. Jacqueline Pollvogt, Mr. Charles "Chuck" Drury, and Ms. Janice Ruopp. (Mrs. Shirley Drury was not present for the photograph)