

Press release

For immediate release

Morgan County Commission Chairman Ray Long has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Decatur-Daybreak.

A donation was made in honor of Long to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Such a contribution is often made by an individual to recognize the good works of a family member, friend or public servant, according to member Attorney Gay Maloney.

Long was keynote speaker at the club's May 8th meeting and did not know he would be a recipient of the award, but was elated after being tapped.

"I am very honored to receive this award," said Long. "It was a complete surprise. These are the kind of surprises you like to get. Rotary means so much to our area and I'm glad to be a part of such a hard working group. To receive this honor from them means so much to me."

Long is a member of Rotary Club of Decatur-Noon.

Along with the Paul Harris bestowal Long received a pin, certificate and medallion for recognition as a fellow.

District Judge Charles Langham, who is president of the Daybreak Club said Long is worthy of the honor.

"As president I was extremely pleased that our Rotary Club honored Chairman Ray Long as a Paul Harris Fellow," Langham said. "Ray Long, through his leadership and vision, has moved Morgan County forward through tough economic times and has created teamwork among the other commissioners that positively represents and reflects the interests of the people as a whole. He is doing a great job and deserves this high honor."

Paul Harris was an attorney in Chicago in 1905 when he organized the first Rotary Club with three clients, according to Wikipedia. His goal was to create a club of professional and business men for friendship and fellowship. As president Harris led the club to initiate public service projects which resulted in Rotary becoming the world's first service club.

The mission of the non-profit Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through improvement of health, support of education and alleviation of poverty.