

HOW WILL I REMEMBER CHARLES H. HARTMAN?

I FIRST MET CHARLES IN 1984 SOON AFTER HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THIS SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB. I WAS SORT OF OVERWHELMED BY THIS CLUB AND COULD NOT SEE WHERE I FIT IN.. ONE THING I DID NOT NEED WAS ANOTHER LUNCHEON CLUB AND I WAS THINKING OF QUITTING. THEN ONE DAY, AT ROTARY MEETING, CHARLIE ENGAGED ME IN CONVERSATION AND I TOLD HIM HOW I FELT. SINCE IT WAS APPROACHING SHRIMPOREE TIME HE INTRODUCED ME TO AL JOWID WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF FRYING FISH AT SHRIMPOREE. AL SAW TO IT THAT I WAS KEPT BUSY AND DURING SHRIMPOREE I STOOD AND COOKED FISH ALL DAY IN ONE OF THOSE SMALL OIL COOKERS. CHARLES MADE SURE THAT I GOT TO MEET AND KNOW MANY OF OUR ROTARIANS AND BEFORE THE DAY WAS OVER I WAS ON FOUR COMMITTEES. CHARLES WAS A ROTARIANS ROTARIAN. HE KNEW HOW TO GET PEOPLE TO INTERMINGLE AND WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER.

CHARLES HARTMAN WAS A VERY LOW KEY PERSON. HE DID SO VERY MUCH WITHOUT ANY FANFARE, NEVER SEEKING CREDIT OR PRAISE. HE WAS INOVATIVE AND WORKED HARD IN PERSUING HIS IDEAS. CHARLES WAS ALWAYS SOFT SPOKEN. HE WAS NEVER SHORT ON NEW IDEAS AND HE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO GET THEM IMPLIMENTED. HE BELIEVED THAT WHEN YOU HAD SOMETHING WORTH BEING DONE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS DONE FIRST CLASS. DO NOT SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST. WHEN CHARLES HAD AN IDEA HE ALWAYS THOUGHT BIG. YOU MAY START SMALL BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING THAT COULD AND WOULD GROW. HE BELIEVED THAT IF YOU WANTED SOMETHING BAD ENOUGH AND IF YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH THERE WAS ALWAYS A WAY OF REACHING YOUR GOAL. CHARLES WAS VERY SLOW TO ANGER BUT HE WOULD SURELY DO A SLOW BURN WHEN SOMEONE TRIED TO TAKE SHORT CUTS OR DOWN GRADE ONE OF HIS PROJECTS.

I HAD THE PRIVLEDGE OF WORKING WITH CHARLES ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES. SOME OF THESE COMMITTEES WILL BE MENTIONED HERE TODAY.