



April 5, 1992 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



Donald D. Juchartz
Class of 1946

Donald D. Juchartz distinguished himself in the fields of agriculture and horticulture. After earning his B.S. degree at Michigan State University, he served as a destroyer executive officer in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He returned to Michigan State University and earned a M.S. degree in Horticulture.

As a member of the Extension Faculty at Michigan State University, he served as horticultural extension agent, agricultural agent, county extension director and district extension horticultural agent. He designed and built the Michigan State University Extension and Education Center for Wayne County. In 1980 the facility was named in his honor. This facility has been duplicated in eleven different states as well as in the Netherlands.

As an extension agent, Don has worked with the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Wayne County Executive Office, been a member of the Wayne County Planning Commission since 1967, and on the State of Michigan Land Trust Fund Board of Trustees for eight years. He played a major role in writing state law in the areas of agriculture, pesticide use, and wetlands. He has been involved with the Downriver Community Conference and been very active with Rotary International maintaining "Perfect Attendance" since 1963.

He attained world-wide recognition as a horticultural specialist, authoring 900 publications, appearing on more than 1000 programs throughout the world, presenting more than 16,000 radio programs, as the "Garden Doctor," on WJR and other radio stations, and appearing on more than 150 TV programs. He was honored with over 40 national and state awards in the field of horticulture, including Communicator of the Year by the Farm Bureau and the International Master Gardener Award.

He organized the annual "Flower Days" at the Eastern Market in 1966 which is presently the most unique event of its kind in the world. He was chairman of the Wayne County Wetlands Task Force and a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Wetlands Advisory Committee.