A. ELMO BLUM

Elmo Blum graduated from Herculaneum High School in 1941. While in high school, he played basketball, ran track, and attended Boys' State. Upon graduation, Elmo and his twin brother worked in St. Louis and saved money to buy a house in Herculaneum. They remodeled the house and the Blum family moved into it in 1942.

In December, 1942, Elmo and his brother enlisted in the Navy. Elmo eventually took an assignment with the US Merchant Marines and served in the Pacific as the chief radio operator aboard the SS Nemaha. After his service duty, he returned to Herculaneum and his new wife, Ruth. He and Ruth would eventually be parents to a son and two daughters.

Elmo went on to become a very successful businessman. He took a job as an agent with a new insurance company in Columbia, Mo. He worked for MFA (Shelter) Insurance and grew the agency from his first customer to one of the top five agencies in the state of Missouri. He has been a member of the Festus Crystal City Rotary Club since 1957, serving as president in 1971-72, and as District Governor of Rotary in 1975-76.

In 1947, Elmo joined the Herculaneum Masonic Lodge #338, serving as Worshipful Master in 1951. He has served as the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Shekinah Lodge of Crystal City and the Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star during his fifty year membership. He has also served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 40th Masonic District of Missouri. He has been active with the Demolay and Job's Daughters, as well as the Boy Scouts in the 1950's and '60s.

Elmo is a 50-year member of the Scottish Rite of St. Louis, and the Moolah Shrine Temple. He has quietly and personally sponsored several children for treatment at Shriner's Hospital. He was an organizer of the Joachim Shrine Club and served as secretary for over 20 years. In 2012, he was awarded a Kentucky Colonel by the

governor of Kentucky for his service to humanity. He has been Citizen of the Month in Herculaneum, and is on the Tree Board and Trail Board for the city.

He is active in his church, and served as the local representative of the Mideast Area Agency for Aging for the state of Missouri. Elmo volunteers at Mercy Hospital and the Twin City Area Chamber of Commerce, especially during their annual Twin City Days. Throughout his adult life he has served his community in so many ways; his leadership and contributions have made our community a better place for all.