

TRANSITIONS

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»Ray Snively. 1929-2009

R.C. Snively was born on February 25, 1929, in LaCrosse, Washington, population 471. As a youngster, R.C. decided to take his mother's maiden name as his first and proclaimed that he would be known as Ray C. Snively. Mr. Snively died peacefully and surrounded by loved ones at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

A graduate of the Bellingham Teachers College (now known as Western Washington University) and with a Master's Degree from the University of Oregon, Mr. Snively retired from his distinguished career as a public school teacher and counselor in 1985. However, his more than 35 years of dedication to Portland's gay community began in the early 70s when he served as treasurer and president of the Knights of Malta, Black Rose Chapter.

In 1974, Ray was appointed to the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court's (ISRC) Advisory Council of Emperors. This council was charged with formulating a plan to elect Portland's first Emperor. In 1981, Ray was bestowed the lifetime title of Treasurer of the ISRC. As treasurer, Ray earned the reputation of "keeper of the Iron Purse." His razor-sharp accounting and unwillingness to spend money foolishly helped establish the ISRC as one of the most financially sound and respected courts in the

country for more than 20 years.

In 1986, Ray was elected to the position of the Silver Arrow, Rose Emperor XIII. He and his "Landmark" Rose Empress XXIX, Lady Elaine Peacock, served the community as the Legend of the Rose. During their reign as Emperor and Empress, the first Peacock in the Park was held and the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund was born in tribute to Lady Elaine Peacock's mother. Though Lady Elaine Peacock died in 1993, Ray continued to honor his beloved Empress by serving on the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Review Committee to the end of his life.

Mr. Snively received numerous awards and honors including the Mama Bernice Humanitarian Award for community service and the "Green Bean Award" for his dedication to Esther's Pantry. In 1997 the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court honored Ray with the creation of the "Board of Director's Ray Snively Award" of which he was the first recipient. As a community leader, Ray also created his own award whereby he annually honored a member of the gay community for their leadership and charitable contribution. In 2001, Rose Emperor XIII Ray Snively was one of only 7 members of the International Court System chosen amongst thousands of members across the United States, Canada and Mexico to receive the Annual Jose Honors Award for outstanding contributions to the gay, lesbian, bisexual,



Ray Snively was one of only 7 members of the International Court System chosen in 2001 among thousands to receive the annual Jose Honors Award for outstanding contributions to the GLBT community. (At top) Snively with his "Landmark" Rose Empress XXIX, Lady Elaine Peacock, seen at left. (Below) Snively with his partner of 45 years, Jim Ploeg.

and trans-gender community.

Mr. Snively is survived by his partner of 45 years, Jim Ploeg, son Roger Snively and daughter Kim Snively. A celebration of life will be held from 2-5p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009 at Starkey's, 2913 SE Stark St. in Portland.

Remembrances may be sent to the Audria

M. Edwards Scholarship Fund at P.O. Box 8854, Portland, Oregon 97207. Phone 503-422-1566 or e-mail info@peacockafterdark.com or The Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund c/o Equity Foundation at PO Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228. Phone 503-231-5759 or e-mail info@equityfoundation.org.

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