

## **HISTORY OF THE JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP**

**THE TITLE "FELLOW", IMPLIES THAT THE PERSON SO NAMED HAS DONE SOMETHING SPECIAL OR HAS FULFILLED CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WHICH ENTITLES HIM/HER TO SPECIAL RECOGNITION AS A MEMBER OF THAT GROUP.**

**UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THEN PRESIDENT OF THE SIGHT & HEARING FUND P.D.G. JAN MODZELESKI IN 1985-1986 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FUND WERE DESPARATELY SEARCHING FOR IDEAS TO RAISE LARGE AMOUNTS OF FUNDS TO TACKLE THE INCREASING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE THAT THE SIGHT & HEARING FUND WAS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME FULFILLING. THEN DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID NOWERS (1985-1986), SUGGESTED AN IDEA MODELED AFTER THE MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FROM LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL. IN 1986 THE DISTRICT 33-A LIONS SIGHT & HEARING CONSERVATION & TREATMENT FUND, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS CREATED A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM SO THAT PEOPLE COULD BE HONORED FOR ANY CONTRIBUTIONS DEEMED WORTHY OF RECOGNITION THAT WAS AVAILABLE TO HONOR LIONS AND NON-LIONS ALIKE. THIS NEW AWARD WAS DESIGNED TO LET THE RECIPIENT KNOW THAT HIS/HER CONTRIBUTION WAS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY THE LIONS OF DISTRICT 33-A. FOR ITS NAME, THE SIGHT & HEARING FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ASKED THAT PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR JOSEPH J. CAMARDA (1982-1984), A LION HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM BY ALL OF THE LIONS IN DISTRICT 33-A, FROM THE LEICESTER LIONS CLUB, LEND HIS NAME TO THE FELLOWSHIP AWARD. THUS, WAS BORN THE JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP AWARD. HIS LOVE FOR LIONSIM WAS SO STRONG AND SO COMMITTED THAT HIS ONE GOAL IN LIFE WAS TO SOMEDAY BE PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL TO SERVE ALL MANKIND. HE BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL BUT WAS FORCED TO BACK OUT DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS. JOE PASSED AWAY IN FEBRUARY 2005 AT THE AGE OF 74 AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME MOMENT THAT THE JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIPS WERE BEING AWARDED AT THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. APPROXIMATELY 730 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HONORED WITH THIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION.**

**THE AWARD ITSELF IS A HANDSOME PLAQUE, SUITABLY ENGRAVED FOR EACH RECIPIENT ALONG WITH A DISTINCTIVE BLUE LAPEL PIN AND IS AVAILABLE FROM THE SIGHT & HEARING FUND FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$500.00. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH THE FUND FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO MAKE THE PRESENTATION. A PROGRESSIVE JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP AWARD IS ALSO NOW AVAILABLE TO PAST RECIPIENTS WHO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WORTHY OF RECOGNITION AFTER RECEIVING THEIR LAST JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP AWARD. FOR A \$500.00 CONTRIBUTION, A LION OR NON-LION PREVIOUSLY RECEIVING A JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP MAY BE AWARDED A PROGRSSIVE JOSEPH J. CAMARDA FELLOWSHIP AWARD AND WILL RECEIVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ENGRAVED HANDSOME PLAQUE AND A DISTINCTIVE GOLD LAPEL PIN WITH A DIAMOND CHIP SIGNIFYING THEIR ACHIEVEMENT. APPROXIMATELY 35 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HONORED WITH THIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION.**

**AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF \$380,000.00 HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED TO THE SIGHT & HEARING FUND FROM THESE COMBINED FELLOWSHIPS SINCE 1986.**