

Percy Beneteau Memorial Dedication

given by Rick Beneteau at the Percy Beneteau Memorial Bursary Celebration
(University of Windsor, 1996)



The measure of a man's greatness is made not only by the number of people he has touched, but by how he has touched them.

One could attempt the arduous task of calculating the sheer number of people who listened to my father's music at the one, two or three masses he played on Sundays—every Sunday, for over 60 years.

I believe a more meaningful measure of his life would be the number of tears he may have helped to draw out at a young child's funeral.

Or, the goose bumps he gave when the pipe organ bellowed as the new bride and groom proudly marched down the aisle.

My father always seemed to be the life of the party and the center of attention at meetings and conventions because of his music, but I know he found more satisfaction leading the way down memory lane for the thousands of seniors and veterans he dearly loved to serenade with old songs.

I could only guess how very empty the Lion's Club meetings are without the presence of my dad and the piano ringing out the national anthem.

My father's life was a life of service, but he was blessed with the precious gift of music, which made his ability to reach and touch people even more magical.

From the bars and bands of the Depression to his recent gig at the Ivy Rose Motel, Percy Beneteau shared his gift with countless thousands.

More importantly, he shared it joyfully and with the sincere intention of bringing joy to everyone who heard him.

He may not have been as schooled and as skilled as some of the brilliant music dignitaries in this room, but I know this is why we have been graced with your presence today.

His joy of living—expressed through music—became his joy of giving.

Today, that celebration of joy continues in the name of Percy Beneteau.

It therefore is the deepest wish of our family that those whose lives will be touched by this scholarship, though they may never hear the music of our father, will be enlightened by his life and touched by his joyful spirit of giving, so that someday they may be measured, not only by how many people they have touched, but by how they have touched them.