



# Remembering Richard Flower

In memory of Richard M. Flower  
Harrison Memorial Library Trustee

It is with honor and great sadness that I write about my colleague, Richard “Dick” Flower, who passed away recently. He was a kind, wise, and joyful gentleman.

I first came to know Dick, not as a library trustee, but as the “Button Maker.” You see Dick owned a manual button-making machine from which he would happily churn out campaign buttons for local elections. It quickly became clear that this was a task that he relished. Notwithstanding his joy, he was willing to share the job, and in fact taught me the art of button making many years ago. It is not as easy as it looks. Because of Dick’s generosity of time and supplies, the Carmel River School PTA parents were able to sport bright yellow buttons during that year’s fall fundraiser.

Upon joining the Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees, I found myself back in Dick’s company. While we chuckled about button making, he soon lost the moniker “Button Maker” and became the “Parliamentarian.” As all know who served with him on the Board of Trustees, his command of Robert’s Rules of Order was astounding. He told me he learned them because he had once been tasked with teaching the subject even though he hardly knew the rules at the time. Fitting that he should be our expert on a book created “to enable assemblies of any size, with due regard for every member’s opinion to arrive at the general will.” It is consistent with the civility and grace with which he seemed to approach every issue before him.

However, I think I will remember Dick most as a cross between Roald Dahl’s “Grandpa Joe” from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and “Trufflehunter” from C.S. Lewis’s *Prince Caspian*. Like Grandpa Joe, I will remember Dick as an enthusiastic, yet humble storyteller. He was sensible and kind, and ever the optimist. And like Trufflehunter, Dick was the voice of wit and wisdom. His love of Carmel and the hours he spent in the local history room gave him a unique perspective on things past and things future.

I know that not everyone will remember Dick as the Button Maker, the Parliamentarian, Grandpa Joe, or Trufflehunter, but I am quite certain that the Carmel community and the entire library family will miss Dick’s kind heart, great wit, and joyful presence.

**Tara Twomey**, *President, Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees*