

**BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS
FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB
2000**

ERNEST McCLURE

This years recipient of the Florence Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds is Ernest McClure. Ernest grew up in Florence, served in the Army Air Corp during World War II, returned to Florence after the war, and began working with the Tennessee Valley Authority as an electrician. He helped build TVA nuclear power plants across the valley and retired as a supervisor in 1982. Upon his retirement Ernest and his wife, Mary, began doing volunteer community service at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital. He also joined a group of other retirees as a member of the Sunshine Band serving as lead singer and guitarist. The Sunshine Band is a combo primarily dedicated to entertaining the senior population and for many years has visited local nursing homes and assisted living facilities, entertaining the residents with the music of their era. Some of the nursing homes at which the Sunshine Band appears on a regular basis are Glenwood, Green Oaks, Lauderdale Christian, Florence Comprehensive Care, Columbia Cottage, and Mitchell- Hollingsworth. The band also appears very often at community senior citizen centers, schools, and church socials. All of the performances are volunteer with no compensation. In 1999, Ernest and the Sunshine Band made 196 appearances. Ernest also often leads the singing at Wood Avenue Church of Christ where he is a member.

Ernest's volunteer work is not limited to his Sunshine Band performances. Each Sunday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 Ernest and fellow Exchange Club member, Bill Bobo, visit residents at Mitchell-Hollingsworth. Plus, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month Ernest and his wife, Mary, would serve in the dinning room at Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home from 11:30 a. m. until 1:00 p. m. In 1999, Ernest made 243 visitations and traveled over 2,334 miles doing volunteer work all without any compensation for expenses.

Several years ago when Ernest was experiencing a serious illness and under going chemotherapy, he continued his volunteer work as his situation permitted. He seems to always put his problems behind him and reaches out to others never complaining of his own ailments. The steadfast and long-term dedication to senior service by Ernest McClure over almost two decades since his retirement in 1982, well merits his inclusion in the Florence Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds.