

101ST ANNUAL RMC CANDLELIGHT DINNER HONORS ACTIVE VOLUNTEER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Sven Eklof, a 1969 graduate of Rocky Mountain College, who has been a mainstay volunteer to the RMC Alumni Association, will be honored with the Association's Outstanding Service Award at the 101st Annual RMC Candlelight Dinner, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010. The dinner will be held in the Great Room at Prescott Hall, at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Eklof, who had a long career in the military, has served on the Rocky Alumni Board for over 20 years and has been a principle contributor in developing Rocky's present alumni charter mission, vision and goals. He is developing Rocky's class agent program and is serving as the class agent for the decade of the 60's graduating classes.

The Candlelight Dinner is a tradition that celebrates RMC's early beginnings. When the Rocky Mountain College Campus was moved to Billings in 1909, the ground was frozen too hard to finish the buildings in time. During the fall of 1909, students took classes downtown until the buildings could be finished. In January 1910, the campus was finally ready. Students, faculty, and staff loaded hay wagons and made their way up 27th street, along the canal, to the Poly Drive location. They arrived cold, tired, and hungry. When they went to the dining hall for dinner, they discovered that the electricity had not been turned on. They ate their first meal on this campus by candlelight. The students decided it was an event worth commemorating. Rocky Mountain College has celebrated the candlelight dinner every January since 1910.

Eklof joined the Navy after graduating from Rocky. He received his commission in Pensacola and served 20 years as a surface line officer onboard aircraft carriers and destroyers. He did seven tours at sea along with tours in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Holy Lock, Scotland; and Jubail, Saudi Arabia. During his last three years in uniform, he earned a master's degree in marketing. When he retired from military duty, he settled in Bremerton, Wash., and spent a couple of years in the private sector before rejoining the federal government as a civil servant dealing with oil spills and hazardous material response for the Navy throughout the Northwest.

Eklof has been an active volunteer. He has been a football referee for 19 years to contribute to the local high schools and community. As a volunteer, he was a major coordinator for Seafair in Seattle helping put on the hydro races on Lake Washington,

and coordinating Fleet Week and Blue Angel appearances. In 1995, he was asked to coordinate over 1,700 volunteers for the men's Final Four in Seattle.

Recently, Eklof moved from Bremerton, Wash., after 22 years, to Oak Ridge, Tenn., to be closer to his grandchildren. Eklof is married to the former Margaret Jean Crook from Sumter, South Carolina. They have two daughters, Erika and Svea, and two grandchildren, Hampton (4) and Charlotte Jane (3).

For more information on the 101st Annual RMC Candlelight Dinner, contact Vicki Davison, RMC annual fund and alumni director, (406) 657-1007/ email: vicki.davison@rocky.edu.

2/09/2010