

# Recognition is not For Me!

Attention to Orders, Citation to Accompany the Award of the Meritorious Service Medal to Terry E. Hickman.

As I stood eyes to eyes with the General, chills ran down my spine as I heard my name, when he pinned that medal to my chest I was grinning ear to ear and returned his salute proudly. I thought that I was just doing my job and that someone else deserves this honor. Then it came to me, someone thought I deserved this honor, someone was willing to put his name on this citation and the General agreed. I was forced to accept that award.

As I sat in Lt. Governor training, Ed Finn asked us this question, "How many of you have not participated in the Personal Growth & Involvement program (PGI)?" I and almost everyone in the room raised their hand. Wow! He exclaimed, you all have been presidents and most are becoming Lt. Governor for the second or more times. The next question was "How many of you have been Builders of Excellence?" Many hands went up, including mine. "Oh, my goodness, everyone in this room should be a Level V or higher. Then he pulled the white & gold PGI Passport out and went page for page to show us how we qualified for each level and then he asked, how many of us had encouraged other members to participate in the PGI program.? Only a few hands went up. I then realized that I was not a very good leader if I didn't participate in a program that made better Optimist.

The Military realizes the importance of recognition and many times an individual has no choice. Down deep I was proud to be recognized. This program builds a good Optimist, and then recognizes their accomplishments. You owe it to your club, its members, and the kids. After all, I am submitting this article as the final step in Level VII. I owe it to Optimism!

I can't say it better, the following is from the O.I. site:

Personal Growth & Involvement (P.G.I.) Program

There are many benefits to becoming an Optimist. And since "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" is the consensus top benefit, the organization's Personal Growth & Involvement (P.G.I.) program ranks a cool second. Where else can you become a more knowledgeable volunteer?

The P.G.I. program offers every Optimist member the opportunity to learn more about Optimism while advancing through 10 levels of involvement, leadership growth and achievement.

The P.G.I. program will make you a better volunteer. Through communication training, self-development modules and other personal growth activities, Optimist International is giving you a fantastic opportunity to continue to learn and grow into a leader.

—Terry Hickman, Lt.. Governor

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

Those of you who've been around for a while are sure to remember comedian Bob Hope's theme song, "Thanks For The Memory." That song might well also be the theme song of those Optimists who relive their club's history through scrapbooks.

This article is being prepared well in advance of the final judging for the 2008-2009 Scrapbook Contest, and I hope to see an increased number of submissions from that Optimist year. Still, I want to encourage more clubs in the South Texas District to participate in this rewarding contest.

What's in it for me and my club, you ask? There are several benefits, each of which probably justifies the effort put forth by your club's scrapbook chairman (and his or her committee members):

1. At a N.O.W. meeting, one scrapbook is worth a thousand words when you want to describe to a potential new member what your Optimist club does.
2. Your club may win a plaque for the best scrapbook in your division, an award your members will be proud to display.
3. Your outgoing club President will be honored to become custodian of his/her year's scrapbook.
4. If your club has elderly members (as most of our clubs have), each year's scrapbook will help you to remember those individuals when they are no longer with us.

I have changed the Scrapbook Contest rules slightly this year with regard to mailing of scrapbooks. Contest rules will be available on line at [stxd.org](http://stxd.org) and I will have some copies with me at the First Quarter District Meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you in Corpus Christi. Good scrapbooking!

—Marieroze Hollyday, Scrapbook Chairperson