

Curtis is Alpine's 2012 Honorary Mayor

ALPINE ---- Larry Curtis is the 2012 Honorary Mayor of Alpine!

Matthew Kraemer, the 2011 Honorary Mayor, made the announcement Dec. 13 at the monthly Hot Topics Business Networking Meeting of the Alpine Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce. Curtis, a retired airline pilot, and candidate Sean Clemens, president of Clemens Electric & Construction, Inc., raised more than \$6,000 during this year's Honorary Mayor race to help Alpine public schools, Chamber President and CEO Patricia Cannon told guests in the Viejas DreamCatcher Lounge. "This is all about getting money to (help) the kids in Alpine," said Curtis as he accepted the unpaid, unofficial position.

Active in the community, Curtis is a long-time Alpine resident who is on the board of the Alpine Community Center and a member of the very busy Kiwanis Club of Alpine. The former U.S. Air Force pilot retired from American Airlines.

Curtis thanked everyone who contributed dollar "votes" to the candidates' campaigns. The annual Chamber event has raised more than \$70,000 for schools. "The money goes directly to the schools," Cannon said. She also thanked Kraemer, "a wonderful mayor," for his year of service. Kraemer owns the Alpine Physical Therapy & Wellness Center. Honorary Mayors are Chamber goodwill ambassadors in the community. They make public appearances, help with ribbon cuttings and other Chamber events and often develop their own campaigns to help students. Curtis said he will continue to raise money for the schools.

The Chamber's Education Committee invests the Honorary Mayors' campaign money through the nonprofit, independent Alpine Chamber Community Foundation in the Alpine Union School District. The money buys materials and programs on the "wish lists" of district teachers. For more information, call the Chamber at (619) 445-2722.

