



### In Memory of Mayor Richard Root

After a brave and hard-fought battle with cancer, Kentwood Mayor Richard Root passed away on Friday, June 8th. He was a member of the Grand Valley Metro Council, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Chair of our Legislative Committee.

He was an active member of the Michigan Municipal League and was recognized by the MML with their Outstanding Service Award in 2011 and their Excellence in Service Award in 2004.

Mayor Root began serving Kentwood in 1979 and held a variety of positions including Planning Commissioner, City Commissioner and had been Mayor since 2003.

Rick was a dedicated member of GVMC. We will all miss his determination, wit, and spirit of public service. He was a strong defender of local government and always promoted cooperation and collaboration. God speed Mayor Root.

**Reserve Your  
Quarterly Luncheon Tickets  
for  
July 9th with Lt. Gov. Calley  
Price: \$25.00 per person  
RSVP to Gayle at  
mccrathg@gvmc.org**

### Legislative Committee Update

At our Legislative Committee Meeting on July 11th, our special guest was State Representative Peter MacGregor of the 73rd District. Rep. MacGregor discussed the legislative calendar for the coming months, his expectations for the lame-duck session of the legislature and the issues that he anticipates might be discussed during the balance of year.

Items he focused on with our committee included the Personal Property Tax changes that have been adopted by the Senate and are now in the House. Also discussed was transportation funding, EVIP and of course the new International Bridge Crossing.

At the same meeting, Mike DeVries, Supervisor of Grand Rapids Township was elected the new chair of our Legislative Committee. Members are asked to submit to Mike or myself their recommendations for our Legislative Committee Vice-Chair.

Mike DeVries commented, "We really want to thank Rep. MacGregor for joining us. We are looking forward over the coming month to meeting with all our legislators. We also look forward to working with them to develop policies that result in good government at all levels".

### New Kentwood Mayor Joins GVMC

Richard Clanton, the new Mayor of the City of Kentwood was sworn in and took his seat as a member of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board on June 7th. Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the oath of office.

Mayor Clanton was appointed on by the Kentwood City Commission to serve out the term of retiring Mayor Richard Root was passed away on Friday. Richard Clanton has been a Kentwood City Commissioner since 2001.

We welcome Mayor Clanton to the GVMC Board and look forward to working with him. After the meeting, several mayors and township supervisors met with Mayor Clanton and discussed the services provided by GVMC and offered their personal commitment to assist him in any way.

Mayor Clanton is a strong advocate of intergovernmental cooperation and has also been active in the Michigan Municipal League in the past.

Mayor Clanton will serve until November of 2013. Again we welcome him to GVMC.

**Please Email Your Community's  
Programs and Ideas for  
Cooperation!**