



**James W. Putnam joined the Kansas Kiwanis Emporia Club in 1939. He attended Emporia State University and the University of Kansas Law School. James served as a private and city attorney and in 1940 he served with the Kansas Legislature and was later defeated in a campaign for State Attorney General. In 1940 he organized a parade honoring William Allen White in Emporia which drew a crowd of 50,000. He also was the founder of Camp Alexander a recreation center for area youth and served on the Board for 15 years. In 1947 he established the first Kiwanis Key Club in the District at the Emporia High School. During World War II he served in the Army with the rank of Major in the Transportation Corps. In 1948, when he was President Elect for the Emporia Kiwanis Club he hosted Kansas Governor Frank Carlson (also a Kiwanian) on the growth development of Kansas. In 1949 he was appointed to serve as District Committee Chairman for Kiwanis Key Club in the Mo-Kan-Ark District. He was asked to chair the steering committee for establishing a Kiwanis District of Kansas and was instrumental in 1951 in dividing it from the Mo-Kan-Ark District. In 1951 James served as the new district Lt. Governor and in 1952 was elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Governor of the new Kansas District. He also served as the chairman of the Kiwanis International Committee on Key Clubs. James was recognized for editorials on Kiwanis Philosophy for the International Kiwanis Magazine. He was also well known as an outstanding speaker. With all these qualities he was elected to the Kiwanis International Board as a Trustee at the Annual Convention in Atlantic City in 1963. James was the third International Trustee from Kansas since Kiwanis was founded in 1915 and served from 1963-1967. By that time he had been a Kiwanian for 25 years. While a trustee he served as Chairman of the Board's Committee on Public Relations and a member of the Committee on Laws, Policies, and Structure and Sponsored Youth.**

**In 1963, James Putnam was asked by Governor Jack Smith to persistently pursue the building of the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation. Because of his many efforts in building the Kansas Foundation he became known as the father of the Kansas Foundation. He was honored by the Kansas Foundation in 1997 with the Kiwanis International Table of Honor award with the funds going to the Iodine Deficiency Disorder Campaign. James also founded the Emporia State University Endowment Association and had been a member of the executive board since 1952. He was a active supporter of then Upper Room scholarship group. In 1997, he was inducted into the Topeka High School Hall of Fame. Jim's father had been a member of the Topeka Kiwanis Club.**

**James W. Putnam retired from his private practice 1989. He served as Emporia City Attorney for 29 years. Jim passed away December 3, 1997 at the age of 83.**