

Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Scholarship

Holly Barbour |

Ernest Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, born the 12th of July 1907, is recognised as a well-respected Australian man who proudly served his country during the Second World War. It is widely agreed that Weary is one of Australia's most iconic war veterans. Weary is remembered for his compassionate medical care and leadership of the prisoners of war, those who were captured by the Japanese in World War 2.

He treated those soldiers as though their welfare was the most important thing to him, and on a number of occasions he put his own life on the line to defend his fellow POWs against cruelty and brutality by the Japanese. All of the prisoners suffered terribly primitive conditions, and Weary was revered for his care of the ill and his readiness to put others first despite being unwell himself. Because of this he was an inspiration to many of his peers' survival.

Returning from war, Weary made a priority of fostering the wellbeing of the returned soldiers. He assisted them in claiming government pensions and worked to influence governments on their behalf. Most widely recognised was his unwillingness to regard his former captors, the Japanese, with hatred. He is quoted as having said "that all men are equal in the face of suffering and death".

Whilst a renowned Surgeon in Australia and Europe, Weary's philanthropic outlook underpinned all of his career ventures. His numerous honours and awards recognised his outstanding achievements as well as the respect of his peers.

Weary's selfless determination to improve the lives of others was no better proven than when he had the opportunity to escape the perils of war at the time that Java fell to the Japanese in 1942. He was well aware of his fate, but he refused to abandon his patients.

His entire life was dedicated to the service of others, but he was reluctant to focus on his own achievements, saying that he was "only one among thousands". He is a true example of altruism; most diligently working towards a better outcome for others.

Weary very actively supported many social, educational and sporting associations. He devoted himself to the health and well-being of others. His tireless community work had a profound impact on the people of Australia and Asia.

He was heroic, inspirational, passionate, but most of all, modest. He gave his country a "vision of courage, compassion, sacrifice and service". He was a man of deep personal integrity, and perhaps the Mission Statement of the Freemasons, of which he was an active member, was the truest reflection of his beliefs: to promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a world-wide Brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the Great Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; by the outward expression of its concern, and by finding ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbours and self.

Source:

<https://fmv.org.au/masonic-conduct/>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/dunlop/bio>