Leon "Bud" Deraps,  
2010 Ethical Society of St. Louis Humanist of the Year

The Ethical Humanist of the Year Committee is extremely pleased to announce its selection of Leon "Bud" Deraps as the recipient of the 2010 Ethical Humanist of the Year Award. The Committee is especially delighted to have chosen one of “our own” to receive this award, which has meant so much to our Ethical Society community since its first recipient in 1976, James F. Hornback, in whose honor the award was established.

The Committee felt that, more than any of the other fine candidates submitted for consideration for the award, Bud exemplified these award criteria: An outstanding individual in the greater St. Louis area who has given long and dedicated service to a cause or project which furthers the goals and methods of ethical humanism, with societal consequences/impact from his or her actions; a role model with a track record/consistency of effort, integrated in his or her personal and professional life as well as exhibiting exemplary responses to ethical dilemmas.

Born in 1925 in New Town, Connecticut, Bud served in the Navy during WWII, graduated from St. Louis University in 1948 with an Aviation Administration degree and worked in the airline industry until 1986. Through extensive travels in Third World countries, Bud was exposed to social and political conditions which inspired his lifelong work toward the alleviating of suffering and the exposing of injustice, leading to his membership and work with such organizations as Pastors for Peace, Global Exchange, and Citizens for Global Solutions among others. His personal activism on such issues as military recruiting of youth, the health and welfare of the children of Iraq, the nutritional needs of refugees in Darfur, the dangers of depleted uranium and chemical weapons in Iraq to our military personnel and the economic advancement of the people of Haiti has been the courageous expression of his deepest beliefs. Locally, Bud has dedicated himself to the Ethical Society Ethical Action Committee, the World Community Center, and Operation Food Search. In 1997, Bud received the Missouri Peacemaker of the Year award from the Peace Studies Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Hear Bud's platform presentation.