

Fred Richmond Parry

He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1932 into a family with a tradition of hard work and dedication to family, friends, and community. Great grandson of Sir Francis Campbell who helped found the first school for the blind in America. Son to Mrs. Lemabel (Campbell) Parry, a home extension agent, who worked to help local families better their lives. In his youth he too yearned to serve and went on to become an Eagle Scout, a Scout Camp counselor, and a Cub Scout leader.

He served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps from 1952 to 1972, where he rose from the rank of private to Captain. An outstanding U.S. Marine All American swimmer, he narrowly missed being a finalist for the 1956 Olympics. He served multiple tours of duty at home and overseas, including Cyprus, Thailand, and two tours in Vietnam and earned 24 military decorations and multiple awards. Throughout these years he remained a dedicated husband and father and served as a church deacon, Sunday school teacher, and volunteer.

He returned to his beloved Pennsylvania in 1974 for a new career in manufacturing management with KD Tools, Bowen McLaughlin, Campbell Chain, Brownstown Computer, and Hamilton Technology. In addition to a successful career, he served his community through the Lions Club and held multiple officer positions from 1974 to 1987. He was elected District Governor and nominated for Director of the International Lions Club for Pennsylvania.

As Director of Purchasing for the Lower Merion School District from 1987 to 2005, he worked hard to conserve the school district's resources. His work led to contributions to Pennsylvania's Education Purchasing & Materials Management Manual and served as vice president and president of Pennsylvania's Purchasing & Materials Committee.

He served on the Phoenixville Area School District Board multiple times between 1995 and 2007. He brought his business and life experiences and a passion to provide the best public education possible for Phoenixville's families. He always exhibited extensive knowledge of the school board's business and budget. A man of strong beliefs and determination and an abundance of energy, he eagerly served on various school board committees and was treasurer for 6 years and vice president for 2 years. When he gave a promise, he kept it and he was ethical in all board deliberations.

He continues to be a true friend and ardent supporter of the Phoenixville Area School District and his township. He has served on the Phoenixville Library Board of Trustees (2008 – 2011), the Phoenixville Library Foundation Board (2011 - 2014), and the Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors (2010 – 2014) and currently serves as the president of Township Board of Supervisors.

Having lived in Phoenixville for nearly 30 years, the longest he has lived in one place, he remains committed to his community. He is an inspiration to all, especially the young people, as a speaker at leadership forums, youth organizations, and in numerous education forums and advocacy groups.

A long life well lived; one of hard work and dedication to his family, friends, country, and community.