

Kenneth Francis Murrah – WPHS Alumni Circle of Distinction - 2007

Kenneth Francis Murrah arrived in Winter Park when his family moved to Orwin Manor in 1944. He was enrolled in the sixth grade at Park Avenue Elementary School, which was located where the Sun Bank Plaza is today. He graduated from Winter Park High School, valedictorian, class of 1951; Emory University, class of 1955; and Emory University School of Law, class of 1958. In 2002 Emory University School of Law honored Murrah by selecting him to be a recipient of its Distinguished Alumni Awards.

In 1962 Murrah established his law practice here in Winter Park. Murrah, Doyle and Wigle, P.A. is still serving the greater Winter Park community. Murrah is a distinguished practitioner of estate-planning and elder law.

The Murrah family's dedication and service to Winter Park is legion. He has served as a national chancellor and national alumni director of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; a member of its Foundations' Board of Governors; the first president of Orange County's school volunteer program, Additions; chairman of the Cornell Fine Arts Museum Board of Visitors; commissioner, City of Winter Park; president of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce; board member HCF Foundation (formerly, Hospice of Central Florida Foundation); Community Foundation of Central Florida; the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra; Mary Lee DePugh Nursing Center; and member of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church.

Murrah was married on July 19, 1958, to the late Rachel D. Murrah, a much-respected Winter Park City Commissioner, serving from 1989-2000. He has two sons, Kenneth F. Murrah Jr., the late Bert D. Murrah and three grandsons. He is now married to Ann McMillan Hicks.

In 1986 Kenneth and Rachel were the leaders and organizers of CIVIC (Citizens Investing in the Community), which was the name given to a group that led the effort to get the community involved in "furnishing" the Winter Park Civic Center. On Dec. 12, 2001 the Winter Park Civic Center was dedicated as the Rachel D. Murrah Civic Center.

In 1996 Murrah was the first person to be honored with the Winter Park Public Library's Evaline Lamson Meritorious Service Award. He was instrumental in helping secure state grants to finance the building of the library's third floor addition. The award is named for one of the library's founders. In 1885 Evaline Lamson housed the first library in her home at the southwest corner of Swoope and Interlachen Avenues