

# Cleve Carney, 1939-2013

## Philanthropist, art lover had a passion for DuPage County

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Cleve E. Carney championed a range of nonprofit groups and causes, including the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, the B.R. Ryall YMCA in Glen Ellyn and the DuPage Community Foundation, which named him "Philanthropist of the Year" in 2007.

A longtime collector of contemporary art, Mr. Carney also was passionate about public art institutions, supporting the Elmhurst Art Museum, Chicago's Hyde Park Art Center and the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

"Cleve was a great philanthropic ally who was not only Mr. DuPage Community Foundation, he was Mr. DuPage," said David McGowan, the foundation's president. "He was passionate about

many areas of philanthropy — the arts, the environment and the general welfare of people in the community. He was one of DuPage County's greatest assets."

Mr. Carney, 74, died Wednesday, July 31, at his Glen Ellyn home of progressive supranuclear palsy, said his brother, retired DuPage County Recorder J.P. "Rick" Carney.

Born in Aurora, Mr. Carney was the son of parents who had run the Carney Bakery in downtown Wheaton. He graduated from Wheaton Community High School in 1957 and earned an economics degree from Dartmouth College in 1961. He then served in the Navy as a lieutenant junior grade.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Carney earned an MBA from the University of Chicago and co-owned Aurora-based Olsson Roofing with his roommate from Dartmouth.

Separately, Mr. Carney purchased and sold the Bank of Batavia to Gary-Wheaton Bank, an investment that allowed him to retire early and devote himself to art, golf and philanthropy.

"Cleve was not scared to lead," said fellow arboretum trustee Ann Grube. "He stepped up to the plate. He was an example to everybody in his philanthropy. No one believed in doing more for DuPage County on the philanthropic side than Cleve."

Last year, College of DuPage and Mr. Carney announced that he would donate about \$1 million in cash and art to the college. That gift, which consisted of \$600,000 upon



Cleve Carney called "one of DuPage County's greatest assets," championed art, golf and philanthropy

his death, artwork valued at \$300,000 and \$100,000 he already had donated, was the largest gift in the college's 46-year history. The money will help establish the Cleve Carney Arts Gallery in the college's arts center and also allow the school to buy artwork for its permanent collection.

"He championed the artists," said Stephen Cummins, former COD director of performing arts. "For decades to come, life will be richer in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn because of the gifts he gave to his community."

As a member of the Wheaton Sanitary District board for more than 38 years, he helped oversee construction of a massive pipeline that was the district's most expensive construction project in its history.

Two marriages ended in divorce. Mr. Carney also is survived by two sons, Cleve Jr. and Daniel; a daughter, Jennifer Elling; and four grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Williams-Kampp Funeral Home, 430 E. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton. A service will take place at 10 a.m. Aug. 19 at the funeral home.