



Paul M. Henkels
1924-2009

Paul MacAllister Henkels, 84, Chairman of the Board of Henkels and McCoy in Blue Bell, PA, passed away January 8, 2009, after a two-year battle with a brain tumor. He was at his home in Plymouth Meeting with Barbara, his wife of 51 years, and two of his ten children, Christopher and Barbara, by his side.

Born on October 7, 1924 to John B. Henkels Jr. and Anne McCloskey Henkels, he grew up on School House Lane in Germantown with his older brother and three sisters. His childhood summers were spent at the family farm in North Wales, where they grew their own food to help weather the Great Depression. He graduated from Germantown Academy in 1942, and from Haverford College with a BA in Electrical Engineering in 1947. He served in the Army from 1944-1946, and was stationed in France at the close of World War II. As a young man he played semi-pro baseball in Norristown and Glenside.

On January 4, 1958, Mr. Henkels married Barbara Brass of Wilmore, Kansas. They lived in Elkhart, Indiana for several years before relocating to Plymouth Meeting, a suburb of Philadelphia, in 1961, where they settled into a life “rich in kids”, as one of their young sons once described it.

As a high-schooler Mr. Henkels began work as a laborer at Henkels & McCoy, the construction company founded in 1923 by his father, and was a driving force there for over 60 years. He helped expand the private company into an engineering and construction firm operating for electric, communications and gas utilities, corporations, and government institutions. He became president in

1972, and served as Chairman until his death. Building on the company's steadfast commitment to integrity and quality work, he led the growth of Henkels & McCoy nationally and internationally into a leader in its industry.

Mr. Henkels, a recognized expert in labor relations, always said of H&M employees, now 5,000 strong, "They don't work for me; I work for them." He lectured on Ethics in Business at numerous colleges and universities, including annually at Princeton and Chestnut Hill College.

A devout Catholic who lived his faith, Mr. Henkels received the Barry Award from the American Catholic Historical Society and the Sourin Award from the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute, and was a Knight of Malta for sixteen years. He was on the Boards of the Papal Foundation, the Vatican Observatory Foundation, which he chaired, and Legatus, on which he served as Vice-Chair of the National Board and Chair of the Philadelphia Chapter.

Mr. Henkels immersed himself in numerous religious, cultural, and civic philanthropic endeavors. His foremost commitment was education, and he believed strongly in enabling all children to benefit from the solid foundation of a good education. "Education is our nation's number one crisis and school choice is the solution. In this age, an education is essential to a productive and fulfilling life," Mr. Henkels said in a 2007 speech. As co-founder, in 1991, and later Chairman of the REACH Alliance (Road to Educational Achievement through CHoice), he championed the passage and enactment of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, which has offered more than 240,000 educational scholarships to children across Pennsylvania, thousands of which have been facilitated through the Henkels Foundation. In 2003 he co-founded, along with his wife Barbara and others, and served as first Chairman for, the Regina Academies, Regina Coeli Academy in Wyndmoor, PA, and Regina Angelorum Academy, Ardmore, PA (founded in 2007), K-8 Academies which offer a Catholic classical liberal arts curriculum.

Fiercely dedicated to the value of a strong liberal arts education, Mr. Henkels served actively until his death on various Boards, including Ave Maria University in Florida, of which he was current Chair, the American College of Louvain University in Belgium, and the Arts & Letters Advisory Council of the University of Notre Dame, which he chaired from 1968 to 1970. At Notre Dame he established a lecture series which he and Barbara later extended to Franciscan University of Steubenville and Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, CA. Additionally over the years he served on various other educational boards, including St. Joseph's University, which he chaired from 1990 to 1993, Temple University, Chestnut Hill College, the Foundation for Independent Higher Education, and the Foundation for Independent Colleges of Pennsylvania, which he chaired from 1980 to 1983. He was awarded honorary degrees from St. Charles Borromeo College and Chestnut Hill College, and received the Hogan Award from St. Joseph's University, as well as the Chestnut Hill College Medal.

Mr. Henkels had a lifelong passion for classical music. In high school he organized student trips to the Philadelphia Orchestra, and then became an annual subscriber and contributor in the 1960s. In 2003, he and his wife Barbara endowed the Principal Flute Chair. He enjoyed all the great composers, but he loved Beethoven. After the crescendo at the end of another great night at the orchestra, he

would often quote his mother Anne, who liked to say “they always wake you up before they send you home.”

From 1975 until his death Mr. Henkels served on the Board of Governors of Temple University Hospital and the Episcopal Hospital Corp. Board. He also served on the Boards of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the National Electrical Contractors Association, The Telephone Industry Association, the Electronic Industry Association, the Academy of Applied Electrical Sciences, and Beneficial Savings Bank. He was the first President of both the Greater Philadelphia Utility Contractors Association and the Atlantic Contractors Association.

Mr. Henkels had a great affection and affinity for the city of Philadelphia and its intellectual, cultural and social institutions, taking his children to the zoo, the Art Museum and Phillies games from their earliest days. He often said that the river drives (now Kelly and Martin Luther King Jr. Drives) and Ben Franklin Parkway offered the most beautiful entrance to a city anywhere in the world. For thirty years he and Barbara opened their home to people from around the globe who came to them through the International Visitors Council of Philadelphia.

An enthusiastic golfer, Mr. Henkels belonged to Pine Valley Golf Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club, and enjoyed playing ProAms with legends like Arnold Palmer and Julius Boros.

To his children and grandchildren he conveyed his love of literature, especially Shakespeare and other poets, the fun and beauty of bird watching, and, through the example of his personal and professional life, the importance of perseverance and integrity. He often told the story of when, as a young student at Norwood Academy in Chestnut Hill, he once asked a nun what perseverance meant. To her answer he responded, “That’s me!”

Paul Henkels is survived by his wife, Barbara (nee Brass), his daughters Marin, Amy Healey, Angela Dale, Carol Lilley and Barbara Gorman, and sons Paul, Christopher, Andrew, T. Roderick, and Timothy, as well as his brother John and sisters Nancy Moriarty and Sue Tucker. Relatives and friends are invited to the viewing on Tuesday January 13, from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Philip Neri R.C. Church on Ridge Pike. His mass of Christian burial will be on Wednesday at 10 AM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Ave Maria University, 5050 Ave Maria Blvd., Ave Maria, Fla. 34142, or the REACH Foundation, Box 1283, 20 N. Market Square, Harrisburg, Pa. 17101.