

WILLIAM T. BOYLE AWARD

As Chairman of the Selection Committee for the William T. Boyle Award for Distinguished Community Service, I am happy to report that the jury has reached its verdict. It was unanimous, although I should add that the Committee did have a number of deserving individuals under consideration for the honor the Camden County Bar Association bestows today.

Our nominee has won many deserved honors and awards in the last two decades. He has been recognized in many ways, by different groups for different reasons. Today the Bar Association recognizes this man, a man who has had so much to do with the development of our community.

He is, as most of you now know, William J. Myles, a business executive who lives in Cherry Hill; conducts his transportation company and freight terminal business in Camden; and labors for his fellowman and church throughout South Jersey.

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To know Bill Myles is to know a wonderful human being - a man who has walked in the ways of his Lord from his earliest days in Camden City's Hell's Half Acre.

To know Bill Myles is to know the MOST OUTSTANDING Catholic layman in South Jersey.

To know Bill Myles is to know a man who takes uncommon pleasure from helping his fellowman. When you think about this man, you think about the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter Six, beginning with the first verse. Let me quote it for you:

"Take heed that ye do not put your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your father which is in heaven... But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

"That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself, shall reward thee openly."

Our nominee is a man who "doest" his alms in secret. The many works of charity that our nominee has performed are hidden from view. Somethings he could not keep secret. They involved the community, when his gift for leadership and organization required public participation.

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Bill Myles has left his mark in South Jersey. He stands tall among a handful of business leaders without whom many institutions we take for granted would not be standing today. These good works he could not shield from view.

-In 1948 he was tapped as co-chairman of the first Committee of Professional and Businessmen which was to raise, eventually, three million dollars for the construction of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

-In 1954, he was named chairman of the Bishop's Committee for Charity, a drive now known as the House of Charity, which raises \$875,000 annually in the Diocese of Camden to help the unfortunate in South Jersey.

-In 1955, he was named to an important committee of Camden Hospitals Improvement and Enlargement Fund, which raised over seven million dollars for the three Camden City hospitals - Cooper, West Jersey and Our Lady of Lourdes.

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-In 1962, he served as general chairman of the business and industry phase of a major fund-raising campaign for the Diocese of Camden - a drive that raised seven and a half million dollars for construction of Camden Catholic High School, Paul the Sixth, Holy Spirit High in Atlantic City and additions to various parochial schools.

A person can't labor so long and so hard in the vineyard without attracting public attention - and public esteem.

But what about the man who is Bill Myles?

Born and reared at 15th and Federal Streets, he was a product of Hell's Half Acre. His family was poor. He had to leave school to help support himself and his widowed mother. But if he was a product of a poor city neighborhood where everyone scratched for a living, he was also the product of love from the kindly priest and nuns into whose charge he often came.

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Many the pair of pants the good Father Shevlin put on Bill Myles; many the pair of shoes he gave. The priest was a saint, as Bill Myles will tell it, to the poor. This priest's love was the greatest gift he ever received as a boy. He will never forget it.

"What I have given," says our nominee, "would not even amount to the interest on what I received from this man."

And, we all know that Bill Myles has given much of himself.

Here then is the beginning of his love for his church and its priesthood. To this day he hasn't missed an ordination ceremony for new priests in Camden - unless he happened to be in Rome, visiting the magnificent Basilicas.

Another man who gave him inspiration and encouragement was the late Frank Folsom, president of Radio Corporation of America. Folsom came up the hard way, too, and respected the industry, drive and sincerity that was the hallmark of Bill Myles. And, if all good things come in threes, there was still a third man who had a profound influence on the life of our nominee. He was the late Bishop Eustace who took a fatherly interest in Myles, further strengthening Myles' respect for his church and its priesthood.

The nominee gave much of himself - in many ways.

He has served his God, his Church, his family, and his community, and with distinction I might add. Through it all he found time to interest himself in public education by serving on the Board of Education of the Camden County Vocational and Technical School as a member and as vice chairman. He also served as a non-salaried member of the Camden County Park Commission. He served as a director of the Camden County Mental Health Board; and he still serves as a director of the Camden County Heart Association.

When Villanova University needed $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars for its new law school building some years back, Bill Myles was again called. He was named one of 25 members of the Advisory Board of Lay Trustees throughout the country. Yes, the law school was built and paid for.

Bill Myles has been given the highest honors his church can bestow. The latest was in 1969 when he was made a Knight of the Order of Holy Sepulchure. His wife was named a Lady of the same order at prestigious ceremonies in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, at the same time.

Only a few months ago the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden asked for his help in raising funds to refurbish this beautiful center Camden City landmark. Again, he answered the call. Today, more than \$30,000 has been raised. And that drive is continuing.

Distinguished community service? We think so. And, over the past 20 years.

Mr. President, your committee takes pride in recommending that the William T. Boyle Award for Distinguished Community Service be conferred on William J. Myles. He has eschewed materialism for spiritualism and because of it Camden and South Jersey are a much better place today.

Joseph L. Boyle
Chairman