



HAROLD PAUL “HERK” WOLFE, SMA '49



(1931 – 2017)

“Herk” Wolfe entered Staunton Military Academy in the fall of 1945 as a freshman from Delphos, OH. He was about 6’ 8” tall, weighed over 200 pounds, and played varsity football, varsity basketball and was on the track team as a junior and senior. He was the second highest scorer on the basketball team as a junior and set scoring records in his senior year averaging 18.3 points per game. “Herk” — his nickname was short for Hercules — graduated in 1949 as a corporal in A Company (but had reached the rank of Technical Sergeant in the Band by the preceding year.) “Herk” had also played bass drum in the Winssocki Octet “spirit combo” as a junior.

He attended Northwestern University for one year where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. The next year “Herk” attended Findlay College (later Findlay University) where, as captain of the basketball team as a senior, he led Findlay College to its first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) appearance. He also led the nation in scoring in 1952-53 with 704 points and held the single-game collegiate scoring record of 62 points before being eclipsed by Wilt Chamberlin.

Following graduation from Findlay College in 1954, “Herk” worked in the sales and marketing department of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, OH, for five years before leaving in 1959 to work with his father in the crushed stone industry at Wyandot Dolomite in Carey, OH. He quickly became an integral part of the company, in the early 1960’s, they expanded the business to include asphalt paving, and opened rail distribution and unloading facilities for stone in Northeast Ohio. Wyandot Dolomite was a closely held private corporation. As investors divested, “Herk” and his father “Curly” Wolfe acquired stock to the point that they held controlling interest in the early 1970’s. His father died in 1977, and “Herk” was appointed president of the company and subsequently Chairman of the Board of Directors. Wyandot Dolomite went on to become one of the top producing crushed stone facilities in Ohio. As Chairman of the National Limestone

Institute “Herk” presided over the merger with the National Crushed Stone Association to create the National Stone Association (NSA), the largest such industry association in the U.S. He served the aggregates and asphalt industries in many capacities for over 40 years. He was Chairman of the Ohio Aggregates Association, NSA, Flexible Pavements of Ohio and served numerous terms on their boards of directors.

“Herk” was appointed by the Governor of Ohio as a commissioner on the Ohio Rail Development Commission where he served many terms. He was President of the Upper Sandusky School Board; on the executive committee of the Private Industry Council; board of directors at the Betty Jane Rehabilitation Center, Tiffin, OH; National Association of Railway Shippers; and many other charitable and industry groups. He was a 32nd degree Freemason and was involved with Shriner’s International.

He served his college alma mater, the University of Findlay, in many capacities: as a member of the Alumni Board of Governors, President of the Varsity F Club, Community Focus Group, Renninger Scholarship Endowment Fund and University Board of Trustees. A donation by the couple to Findley University in 2013 led to the *Harold “Herk” and Patricia (Gohlke) Wolfe Center for Alumni, Parents, and Friends* on campus. Another gift endowed a fund to support the basketball team in memory of his coach, Don Renninger. He was inducted into the NAIA, the University of Findlay, and Hancock County (Ohio) Halls of Fame.

“Herk” and his wife, Patte, were also strong financial supporters of the SMA Alumni Association, maintained contact with the members of the Class of 1949, and were constant attendees at the annual SMA reunions. He will be greatly missed!

He gave of himself to many other groups including the B.P.O. Elks lodge and the First Lutheran Church of Upper Sandusky. There are few who led a more fulfilling life, touched as many lives as he did and had grand fun doing so.

Harold Paul “Herk” Wolfe age 86 of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, passed away on Thursday March 2, 2017, at the Bridge Hospice Care Center, Findlay, Ohio. He is survived by the love of his life, Patricia Ann (Gohlke) Wolfe and by his children: David Joseph (SMA ’74) and his wife Bonnie (nee Frisch); Timothy Allen (SMA ’77) and his wife Katherine (nee Payne); Cathy (Wolfe) Cole; Lisa Kaye and husband Richard Dunn; 13 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

“Most people I met said he made people happy,” his son, Timothy, said in an interview with Toledo Blade sports writer Jim Richard. “Our friends were his friends and then some. He might mention a foible of his, but not an achievement. He never talked about his athletics. He talked about his teammates and his friends and would be very proud of them.”

Source: <http://www.lucasbatton.com/notices/Harold-Wolfe> and www.Toledoblade.com

Edits by Kelly McGavock, SMA '59