

Donald Rieb

Bellport High School Class of 1956



Don Rieb has led an eventful life serving his country, family, and the community. His passion for serving communities then led him to spend his career advocating for the most fragile in society – those with serious mental and intellectual disabilities.

His journey began at Bellport High School (Class of 1956), when all grades were in the same building. He speaks fondly of his time at Bellport and often reminisces about his favorite teachers: Mr. Feeney (Homeroom), Mr. Reynolds (English), Mr. Baldwin (Science), and Coach Ernie Robertson. After spending three years in the Marines, Don continued his formal education earning a Bachelor's in Social Sciences from Stony Brook University, a Master's in Behavioral Sciences at C. W. Post, and completed an Executive Management Program at Columbia University.

In 1983, along with Parent advocates, Don established a non-profit organization called Aid to the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) and opened its first residential program in Riverhead. His efforts helped ADD rapidly grow into a multi—service organization with 32 locations throughout eastern Long Island with 300 employees. Over these many years, ADD has significantly benefited the lives of thousands of individuals and their families. Additionally, ADD had a positive economic impact in many East End communities as a major employer and stimulating up to \$300 million in revenue.

Don Rieb was actively involved in a number of state and community organizations including serving a two year appointment to the NYS Empire Zone Board of Directors for the former (Grumman) Calverton facility, President of the Board of Directors for Riverhead Theater Corporation, and President of the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce.