PEOPLE you should know

THE FOUNDATION FOR DANSVILLE EDUCATION

William C. Packard - 2025 Inductee



William C. Packard was a successful local businessman and community supporter for over 40 years. Bill was born in Grandville Summit, Pennsylvania in 1924, and he married the love of his life, Mary Alice Mott in 1944. After his honorable discharge from the Army Corps of Engineers in 1946, they made Dansville their home.

Bill began his career in the automotive business working at the C. H. Meeker car dealership. He acquired the dealership from the Meeker estate in 1970 and it became Dansville Chrysler-Plymouth. In 1978 Bill and Graham Frazer acquired the Dodge dealership. Bill was an active member of the NYS Automobile Association, holding several offices. As a zone chair of the National Dealers Council, he worked with Chrysler's then CEO, Lee Iacocca, to develop a loan guarantee in 1980 to pull Chrysler back from the brink of bankruptcy.

Customer service was his business model as reflected by many Awards of Excellence. While Bill's business pursuits were many he was also a strong supporter of the Dansville community. He was an enthusiastic sponsor of WDNY radio. As a veteran, he was an active member of the American Legion Post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1975 he donated a 1975 Fury auto to the American Legion for a raffle. You could enter for $1.00 a chance.

Bill was active in the Dansville Chamber of Commerce and was named Citizen of the Year in 1983. He actively supported the Noyes Memorial Hospital. He also supported Dansville Schools by first driving a school bus and later serving a term on the Board of Education. He funded the Packard Technology and Packard Art Scholarships for many years.

Being a man of God, Bill attended the Dansville Presbyterian Church, where he served as an Elder and Trustee and taught Sunday School. His beliefs were a strong influence on how he conducted business and served local organizations. One of the many service organizations Bill supported was the Boy Scouts of America, where he was on the Five Rivers Council for many years. He received their 1987 Silver Beaver Award for exemplary adult leadership. Bill served on the Town and Village Planning Board and was a Director of the Clara Barton American Red Cross Chapter #1. He was a member of the Protectives Fire Company, the Dansville Fish and Game Club, and the Loyal Order of the Moose. Bill was famous for his desire to work behind the scenes for the betterment of the community. His modesty typified the man. He was quiet, caring, generous, optimistic about the future, and a leader in the community.