

# Alvy Kelly

## BACKGROUND

- Jan 27, 1933 Born and raised here in West Chester and attended West Chester High School.
- 1950-1954 Served in the United States Air Force - rank of Sergeant.
- 1954 Married Adelyene Izzi - have 3 children Karen, Doreen and Steve - have 5 grandchildren John, Shawn, Steven, Matt and Kara.
- 1955-1957 Played semi-pro football for the Kennett Crusaders as their center and won Most Valuable Player award in 1955.
- 1955-1972 Worked for Burroughs Corp in the Defense and Space Missile Division. Helped install the 1st Atlas Missile site at Cape Canaveral. Layed off at age 40 because of lack of government contracts.
- 1972-present Along with his wife, Addy, he established Kelly's Sports, Ltd., in the Parkway Center, West Chester and as co-owner he holds the office of president of the corporation. They expanded a second store in the New Garden shopping center, Kennett Square in 1980, with their son Steve taking office as vice-president of the company at that time. Kelly's consolidated into one store at 202 by-pass and Matlack Street in 1985. They have over 45 employees and have sponsored approximately 50 youth and adult sports teams per year and have made it a practice to donate award jackets to any area high school athletic team that wins a State championship.

## COMMUNITY

- 1956 Engineered the rearranging of Green Field to a Softball/Football field which is used by thousands of community residents every year. Designed and installed lights there for night play for both sports.
- 1957 Upon seeing a group of kids playing unsupervised football without equipment he founded the Little All American Football League (LAFA). The first year there was one division and four teams. It has grown to three divisions and twelve teams. Also coached ten years of East Side Little League Baseball.
- 1960 West Chester Community Center needed lighting for their outdoor basketball courts. Al donated and installed the lights. In 1990 he replaced the lights along with providing new basketball poles and backboards. In 2000 he repaired and put macadam on the surface of the basketball and tennis courts.
- 1995 Al and his wife Addy, formed the West Chester Area Sports Association and donated the initial \$25,000.00 to form a non-profit organization whose purpose is to build a five field completely lit sports complex for the youth and adults of the West Chester community. It is located at the Westtown exit of the Route 202 by-pass in front of the County services building.
- 1997 Donated two basketball backboards and volleyball standards to the West Goshen Township Community Park.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Veterans of Foreign War, American Legion, Fame Fire Company, Goshen Fire Company, Knights of Columbus, Italian Social Club, Chester County Commemorative Committee in observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II, West Chester University Killinger Foundation and Golden Rams Football Club.

He has restored four authentic military jeeps - Army, Navy, Marine and Airforce to represent their presence in the War and has participated in numerous parades for their display.

## **WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY**

- 1991 Restored Hollinger Field House by installing fifteen cases to display over 500 refurbished trophies that were found in a third floor attic.
- 1994 Renovated a room off the basketball court and dedicated it as the Robert W. Reese Memorabilia Room.  
This is now used as a recruiting area for perspective new athletes and also as a small meeting room by the University.  
Yearly donor to Presidential Scholarship award and Capital Campaign for the installation of an astro-turf field.  
Now actively involved on the committee to re-erect the old main arch on campus.
- 1996 Designed and constructed two 20 foot video towers on the practice football fields.
- 1998 Designed and renovated area above the press box at Farrell Stadium as a Super Box.

## **DONATIONS**

Major donor to Veterans Memorial Garden in front of the Municipal Building.

Donor to the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad team.

Sponsor of the Henderson Hall of Fame each year.

Donated the baseball scoreboard to Henderson High School and Kennett High School and donated the basketball scoreboard to East High School.

Donated two sets of basketball goals and two sets of volleyball poles for the new West Goshen Township Park.

## AWARDS and PRESENTATIONS

- 1982 Little All American Football Association (LAFA) 25th Anniversary Commissioners award for outstanding service and dedication for founding the league.
- 1983 West Chester University Golden Rams Club President's award.
- 1989 West Chester University Baseball Distinguished Service award.
- 1991 West Chester University Presidential Medallion award.
- 1991 West Chester University Killinger Football Foundation President award.
- 1991 West Chester University Hollinger Field House Foyer dedicated to Al and Addy Kelly.
- 1992 Bestowed as honorary alumnae member of West Chester University.
- 1996 Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Club Vocational award for outstanding service to the West Chester community.
- 1996 West Chester University citation for outstanding service to the Golden Rams Football Team for erecting two observation towers.
- 1997 West Chester University President's award for outstanding donor leadership and volunteer service.
- 1997 National Youth Sports Program Humanitarian Award from Cheyney University
- 1997 Senatorial Citation for 25 years in business from Senator Robert Thompson
- 1998 Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award
- 1998 Rotary Club of West Chester Community Service Award
- 2000 Cheyney University Living Legend Award
- 2001 Testimonial Dinner given by the Italian Social Club – Citations given by Senator Robert Thompson, Representative Elinor Taylor, Commissioner Andy Dinniman. Mayor Clifford DeBaptiste named Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Alvy Kelly Day.
- 2002 PA State Eberly Award for Volunteerism through West Chester University

Al has shown a passion for giving freely to the West Chester community where he has lived for 68 years.