



John Rowland

Assistant Superintendent of Rocky River Public Schools 1961-1962

Following his WW II service as Officer in Charge USN Landing Craft Tank 933 in the Marshall Islands, South Pacific, Mr. Rowland married his high school sweetheart Carolyn Woods in 1946 and returned to Yale University to complete his BA degree and then on to Columbia University for his Masters degree. His career with the Rocky River schools began in 1949 teaching math and serving as the first guidance counsellor in the RR Schools. In 1956 Mr. Rowland was promoted to Director of Curriculum and Special Services and in 1961 became Assistant Superintendent. John and Carolyn lived on Northview Rd. with their four children, Lyn, Gwen, John and Beth all of whom graduated from RRHS. During the 1960s Mrs. Rowland, who had taught home economics in New Haven and New York City, tailored and fitted the cheer leader uniforms for the RRHS team. In 1963 Mr. Rowland became Administrator of Bay View Hospital in Bay Village. In 1978 he founded St. John and West Shore Hospital and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer until 1988. Under his leadership St. John and West Shore hospital (Now St. John Medical Center in Westlake, Oh] was constructed and opened on March 1, 1981. Bayview Hospital was closed and the property redeveloped as the Cashelmara Condominiums on Lake Rd. in Bay Village. Since his retirement Mr. Rowland volunteered for ten years constructing homes for Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, travelled and vacationed throughout western Europe and continued sailing the great lakes out of the Cleveland Yachting Club. Mr. Rowland continues to be a booster of the Rocky River schools by volunteering for school levy campaigns and serving in 2010 and again in 2015 on the Strategic Plan Core Planning Team. John and Carolyn celebrated their 90th birthdays and 68th wedding anniversary in 2014 and now reside at The Normandy Apts in Rocky River where they enjoy frequent gatherings with the families of their four children, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.