

They Don't Make Them Like Charlie Anymore



By Anita Wagner



On August 23, 1989, the St. Paul's Cathedral nave was filled to overflowing with mourners paying tribute to Charles A. Schoeneck, Jr., a St. Paul's parishioner and senior partner in the Bond Schoeneck & King law firm, who died at the age of 77. BSK offices were closed so that all partners and staff could be in the procession, along with numerous judges, members of the state Assembly, and former Governor Malcolm Wilson. The Syracuse Golfing Bandits were seated together, all wearing their green blazers with the group's personal crest.

"He was my good friend, a superb legislator, a superb lawyer and a superb gentleman. I will miss him greatly," said Gov. Wilson to the New York Times. Lobbyist and friend John Mahoney was quoted in the Syracuse Herald Journal, "They don't make them like Charlie anymore." Let's get to know Charles Adolph Schoeneck, Jr.

#27

Born in 1912 in Syracuse, Charlie was a graduate of Nottingham High School (1929) and Syracuse University (1933), where he majored in political science, managed the men's swim team, and sang bass in the Glee Club. After receiving his law degree in 1936 from Harvard University Law School, Charlie joined the Syracuse-based law firm his uncle, Edward Schoeneck, had formed with George Bond and Clarence King in the early 1900's. Charlie attributed his interest in law and politics to his uncle Edward, who served in the New York State Assembly and was Lt. Governor and mayor of Syracuse.

During World War II, Charlie attained the rank of U.S. Army captain, serving in the Pacific Theater. Upon discharge, he resumed his law practice at BSK. On October 11, 1946, he married Elizabeth Ellen Brandt at St. Paul's Church in what the Syracuse Herald-American described as "an impressive evening ceremony," led by the Rev. George C. Stierwald.



The couple raised two children, Charles III and Elisabeth (Liz). With his keen interest in sports, Charlie served on the Board of Directors of the Syracuse Chiefs, then a Yankees farm team, and was part owner of the Syracuse Nationals basketball team. He was a member of the American Legion, Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, and the Onondaga County, New York State, and American Bar Associations.

·Filename:sya0608.jpg

·Photo credit: Syracuse Post-Standard

They Don't Make Them Like Charlie Anymore

continued

By Anita Wagner

He was elected to the State Assembly in 1951 and was appointed majority leader in 1959. He was defeated for re-election in 1960 after supporting Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's plan for a state income tax increase. In 1967, anticipating that Charlie would be appointed as the next Republican state chairman, Associated Press reporter Charles Dumas referred to Charlie as "a big man in the GOP" (due to his 6'4" height), and described him as a good golfer, with a resonant, bass voice, amiable personality, and reputation for forthrightness.

In 1969, Charlie resigned as Republican state chairman and returned to his law practice. In the ensuing years, he served on the Board of Directors of Syracuse Stage and Oakwood Cemetery Association. He was named to Syracuse University's list of Outstanding Alumni. In 1979, Charlie and Elizabeth co-chaired a Syracuse Orchestra fundraiser that brought Danny Kaye to Syracuse.

Charlie was elected to the St. Paul's Vestry, serving from 1978-1980. During that span, Charlie and Elizabeth co-chaired the St. Paul's Capital Funds Drive for roof repairs, demolition of the Eckel Theater, and construction of a 33-space parking lot. The initial estimate for these projects was \$170,000, but as complications arose, an additional \$25,000 had to be raised (in total, approximately \$1 million today).

In March 1983, capping off decades of involvement in politics, Charlie was the guest of honor at a Republican Party banquet held at Hotel Syracuse, attended by Gerald Ford and 800 guests.

We likely can all agree with John Mahoney – they don't make them like Charlie anymore!



•Filename: sya07177.jpg

• Photo credit: Syracuse Post-Standard

Onondaga County Republican Chairman Norman Rothschild looks on as former president Gerald Ford admires the package of golf balls he was given. The guest of honor, attorney Charles Schoeneck, is on the left. At center is Chris Whiting, chairman of the Metropolitan Development Association.