



## 2023 Walks of Life Honoree

### Adele Ryan Malley

After Adele Ryan Malley retired from Malley's Chocolates in 2003, she decided to write a book to share the knowledge and experience she acquired during her 40-plus years of leadership in the company that has provided delicious chocolates for almost 90 years.

The just-published "Conversations with Adele" is her advice to novice retailers not only about how to operate a business best but also how to create the confidence and knowledge needed to appeal to the retailer's customers. "It takes a lot of thought and effort," she said. "In my Malley's School of Merchandising School, I learned about how much alike merchandisers are in finding ways to please our customers. I thought I'm going to write a book about this because small business owners and entrepreneurs have so much to learn, and I thought if I could help someone by giving them some pointers, I would."

Adele, whose parents owned a meat Provision Company next to the West Side Market, grew up in Fairview Park and attended St. Augustine Academy and Immaculata Junior College in Washington, DC. Afterward, she was educated and trained at John Robert Powers modeling agency in New York, where she inspired and taught women to be their best selves.

She met Bill Malley, son of company founder Albert (Mike) Malley in 1958 and the couple married a year later. They were blessed with sons Michael, William (known as Bee), Daniel, and Patrick (Packy), plus daughters Adele (Sis Malley) Johnson and Megan (Malley) Cannon. All the children worked at Malley's Chocolates at some point.

After marrying Bill, Adele became the voice of Malley's radio commercials, which she still is. She also developed Malley's School of Merchandising to advise other confectioners on maximizing sales by improving store layouts, packaging, lighting, and product presentation.

After opening stores throughout Greater Cleveland, the Malley family expanded their operations in 1990 by purchasing a vacant building in Brook Park and converting it into a modern manufacturing facility with a large kitchen, offices, and store. The company now has 19 neighborhood stores. When Bill Malley retired in 1996, Adele became the company's president and chief executive. Her husband died seven years ago.

Both Adele and Bill were honored by Retail Confectioners International with the title of Master Confectioner Emeritus. Inside Business honored the couple with a Hall of Fame induction in 2002 and subsequently recognized Adele's leadership by naming her one of Cleveland's most Influential Women. She was also honored by the Pennsylvania Retail Association with a Gold Cup Award for her "Inspiration to Retailers." She was the first retailer inducted into the Candy Industry Hall of Fame, and the first woman to preside over the Retail Confectioners International in sixty years.

Adele has homes in both Fairview Park and Venice, Florida.

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