



IAAS Walks of Life 2003
Murlan and Margaret Murphy

Murlan J. Murphy and Margaret S. Murphy (Jerry and Sis), now in their 58th year of marriage, were introduced long ago by a friend, Bill Stack. Some time later they met by chance at Our Lady of Peace Church on New Year's Day. That, as the time-honored song goes, "was the start of something big." They married at Our Lady of Peace on Aug. 19, 1944 and are the parents of five, grandparents of 17 and have one great-grandchild.

Murphy is former chair and CEO of The Murphy-Phoenix Company, makers of Murphy Oil Soap. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1936, and in 1941 from Case Institute of Technology, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. His career included five years at Ferro Corporation in research, engineering and plant management. He joined his father at the Murphy-Phoenix Company in 1946 and led it through several decades of significant growth culminating in a merger with Colgate-Palmolive Company in 1991.

In addition to his family and his Catholic faith, Murphy's current interests include investing, philanthropy, and research into the causes of cardiovascular disease.

Margaret grew up in Lorain, Ohio, where her father, Michael J. Scanlan ("Black Mike") was an undertaker. He emigrated to the U.S. from his Irish birthplace, Killaloe in County Clare. Margaret's mother was Florence Flanagan. Following her graduation from Marygrove College in Detroit, Margaret lived and studied in New York City. She then worked as a commercial artist doing fashion advertising for The Halle Brothers and Higbee stores.

As the Murphy family grew, Margaret devoted herself to rearing her children and caring for the family. She spent many volunteer hours with the Women's Guild of St. Dominic Church, and on various committees for her children's schools. Surnames on Murlan's side of the family are Murphy, Hughes, Whelan, McMahon, Bonfield, Sords and Burke. Surnames on Margaret's side include Scanlan, Flanagan, Smith, Reidy and Rohan.

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