



IAAS Walks of Life 2004
William Chambers

William F. Chambers was the first child of an Irish-American mother, Agnes (nee Chambers) and an Irish-bom father, William F. Chambers, Sr., from Newport, County Mayo. Agnes and Willy, as his father was fondly known, founded Wm. F. Chambers Funeral Home in 1933. They moved into its Rocky River Drive location in 1937 and when "Billy" was registered in the first grade at St. Patrick (West Park) School, he told the nun his name was "William Francis Chambers, Jr., Undertaker."

Following the unexpected passing of his father, just weeks following his graduation from Holy Name High School, Chambers attended night classes at John Carroll University so that he might help his mother run the funeral home during the day. He received his funeral director's license in December five years later and his mother hung it on their Christmas tree; he has maintained that it was his best Christmas present ever.

His dedication and love of his profession has grown the small family-owned funeral home into today's larger, still family-owned and operated Chambers Funeral Homes, Inc., with locations in Berea and North Olmsted in addition to the original West Park site. With the help of a growing family and staff, he continues to make it his "life," not a "job."

Bill Chambers has held a number of leadership positions in professional associations. He is a founder and past president of the Callistian Guild of the Cleveland Diocese Catholic Cemeteries Association as well as a past president of the Cuyahoga and State of Ohio Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. He also is a past president of the West Park Kiwanis Club and of the St. Patrick (West Park) Holy Name Society, and is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a board member of the YMCA.

His leadership in things Irish is equally impressive. He not only is a co-founder of the United Irish Societies, he has held every leadership position for Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade, including co-chair, executive director and Grand Marshall.

Bill is the husband of Shirley Frindt Chambers and the father of Therese Chambers Arth who, with her husband Kevin, is described as "the light of his life."

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