



IAAS Walks of Life 2010

Dr. Kenneth R. Callahan

Dr. Kenneth R. Callahan, a founding member of Board of the Irish American Archives Society, traces his family's Irish history back to the 10th Century, when, he learned, Donal Callahan became the military scourge of the Norse Invaders and his descendants later settled in a village in Cork called Mallow.

Dr. Callahan's pride in his Irish history inspired him to create a replica of a turn-of-the-century Irish pub in the basements of both his Shaker Heights house and in his present Pepper Pike home. The pub features a 12-foot-long bar, three booths, flock wallpaper and a tin ceiling -- common elements of early 1900 pubs. He also created an electric display depicting the three day battle at Gettysburg. His extensive research and broad knowledge has inspired frequent lectures and articles about the Civil War, the World Wars and the Korean conflict. He was a guest lecturer for a military history course at John Carroll University for 20 years and now teaches a course in Vero Beach, Fla. He is a member and past president of the Cleveland Civil War Round Table.

Dr. Callahan, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, is on the staff of University Hospitals of Cleveland and part of the hospital's resident program teaching team. He is past president of the Northeast Ohio Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

He grew up in St. Ann Parish in Cleveland Heights, graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1946 and four years later earned his pre-med degree from John Carroll University. He graduated from the Western Reserve University School of Dentistry and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine.

Dr. Callahan was instrumental in supporting the establishment of Irish archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society, where he is on the board. He also helped implement the Irish American Archives Society's Lifetime membership program.

He is past national president of both the John Carroll Alumni Association and the Case Western Reserve Dental Alumni Association. He is a founder and past president of the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine Board of Overseers. He served 18 years as a trustee of John Carroll University and received its Alumni Achievement Award in 1987. This year the Case School of Dental Medicine presented him with its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award.

Dr. Callahan and his wife, Jeremy, currently divide their time between Pepper Pike and Vero Beach, Florida. Dr. Callahan has four sons, Ken Jr., Kevin, Chris and Collin; and a daughter, Kate.

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