



Dr. Kenneth Callahan 1928-2011

Dr. Kenneth Callahan was a dentist by vocation, and a historian by avocation. He was a founding trustee of the Irish American Archives Society, a long-time IAAS supporter and Walks of Life 2010 honoree. Particularly during the Society's early years, his assistance on development initiatives helped get the organization "on its feet."

Dr. Callahan lived an extraordinary life of achievement, scholarship and community involvement. He was a 1946 graduate of St. Ignatius High School and obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from John Carroll University in 1950, his DMD from Case Western Reserve University and his post-graduate medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959.

For more than forty years, he and his dental school friend, Dr. Ronald Bell, practiced oral and maxillofacial surgery as Drs. Bell and Callahan. Dr. Callahan was on the staff at University Hospitals and served as a leader in a variety of service and alumni associations associated with his dental profession. He was also active on the boards and alumni associations of Case Western Reserve and John Carroll.

Dr. Ken Callahan was also among the first Presidents of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and was a frequent speaker on the Civil War and military history. He was a part-time lecturer at John Carroll University. His historical works have been published in the Wall Street Journal, American Heritage and the Cleveland Plain Dealer. In Florida, where he spent his winters, he discussed historical topics on his own local television show. He was a past Board Member of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Dr. Callahan and his wife Joan (nee Reilly) held frequent and large parties at their Shaker Heights home. The South Park Boulevard basement housed an authentic Irish Pub, a chapel, a civil war museum and a World War I museum. The couple hosted numerous political and social events for Greater Cleveland organizations at the pub and even boasted President George H.W. Bush as a guest.

After death in 1997 of his wife Joan, in 2001 Dr. Callahan married Jeremy Brayton Wilson, who died in 2010. The pair traveled extensively across the globe. He was survived by two siblings, five children, and five grandchildren to carry on his legacy of community commitment.

Irish American Archives Society
P.O. Box 91756
Cleveland, Ohio 44101-3756