

Sumner E. Kibbe Memorial Fund



Sumner E. Kibbe was present at the very beginning of the PFEW journey in 1978 when a group of Erie business leaders got together and dreamed about founding a program that would celebrate all that is best in our American free enterprise system. For the next 25 years he served in every imaginable capacity and brought all of his extraordinary enthusiasm, talent, and grace to our mission. A founding Director, he served on our Board with great distinction from its inception in 1979 until his death this past September. He was then serving his fourth distinguished term as our Chairman. At various times throughout PFEW's history, Sumner served as a Company Advisor, Speaker, Judge, as well as an annual donor, making personal gifts to sponsor students in areas where he knew there was little or no scholarship money available.

Sumner was unabashedly enthusiastic and passionate about American ideals of liberty and private enterprise. Enjoying a long and distinguished career at the highest levels of corporate America, Sumner ran divisions of companies that included General Electric, Cooper Industries and others. No matter how high he rose in the ranks of management, however, he always had time for friends, coworkers, and colleagues in their time of need. PFEW has been blessed with thousands of generous men and women throughout its 25-year history, but everyone who knew him would agree that Sumner was in a class by himself.

Preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara Ann Kibbe, in 1996, Sumner is survived by his wife, Evelyn Sue Nies Heil Kibbe; two sons, Mark W. Kibbe and Matthew B. Kibbe and their wives; four stepchildren and numerous grandchildren and step-grandchildren. A memorial scholarship has been established in Sumner's name to provide scholarships in perpetuity to students wishing to attend his beloved PFEW.