

*The Edward C. Doll*

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

## Clemont R. "Cle" Austin III

If you've never heard of a "Cle-ism," you're in for a real treat as we honor Clemont "Cle" Robert Austin III with our 2020 Edward C. Doll Community Service Award. The award recognizes and celebrates community leaders in philanthropy and personal volunteerism.

"Insist on honesty in all dealings. In the long run, your reputation and that of your business are essential to success" a "Cle-ism" and one of many reasons the Foundation's Board of Trustees chose to honor Cle, E.E. Austin's fourth president.

Born in Erie on December 8, 1946, to C. Robert and Martha (Squier) Austin, Cle grew up in the family home at 240 West 41st Street with his younger siblings Melanie and Kevin. He walked to both Jefferson Elementary School and Memorial Junior High and is still friends to this day with his childhood playmates. During his youth, Cle spent Saturdays at the Downtown Y, learned to sail at the Yacht Club, and worked in various jobs for his father's business. He also became an avid Cleveland Indians fan as a youngster, listening to broadcasts on AM radio.

A graduate of Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, Cle's classmates nicknamed him "Bubbles" because of his irrepressible Erie loyalty. Cle earned his B.S. degree in Engineering from Cornell, where he met his wife, Penelope Smith Austin, who he married during his senior year at Cornell's Anabelle Taylor Hall in October of 1967. After undergraduate school, Cle and Penny moved West. Cle enrolled in Stanford Business School and earned his MBA. He double registered in engineering and earned an M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford's Construction Institute.

During the start of his construction career, Cle worked in California, Washington state, and Wyoming at various construction sites and power plants. While at the firm Rothschild & Raffin, he worked on the famed army base, the Presidio Project, which lasted four years. That experience was instrumental to the development of E.E. Austin when he and Penny returned to Erie in 1976 to assume leadership of the family construction business started by his great grandfather.

Cle and Penny raised three successful children: C. Robert IV Austin in Chicago, Julia Austin in Manhattan, and Peter (Amanda) Austin in Erie. They also adore their grandchildren Margot, Jack, Ella, Devon, Willa, and Annette.

### ABOUT THE AWARD

The Edward C. Doll Community Service Award is a prestigious community service honor, which is to be a prestigious community service award, which is presented each year at the Foundation's annual meeting. The award recipient is someone whose volunteer experience and personal philanthropy mirror the life and work of Ed Doll. Each year the Ed Doll endowment produces interest, which the recipients distribute to his or her favored charities. Often, the endowment produces enough income that the award recipient picks more than one nonprofit to receive a grant.

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### PHILANTHROPIC & PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- President of Erie Construction Council
- Board Member of the Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association
- Southern Tier Builder of the Year in 2013
- United Way Board Member
- Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership Board Member
- Erie Conference Executive Committee
- Erie Western PA Port Authority Member
- Erie Community Foundation Board Trustee and Executive Committee Member
- Erie Cemetery Association Board Member
- Hamot Second Century Foundation Trustee
- WQLN Board Member
- Capital Campaign Chair for Second Harvest Foodbank, Safe Net and Safe Harbor Behavioral Health

### CLE-ISM'S

- Show up on time, every time
- Focus on performance
- Do not cover up bad news
- Keep all of your promises
- Fix processes rather than blame people
- Apply discipline
- Maintain an open-door policy
- Work through channels rather than around them
- Stick with people over the long haul
- Always admit your mistakes and learn from them