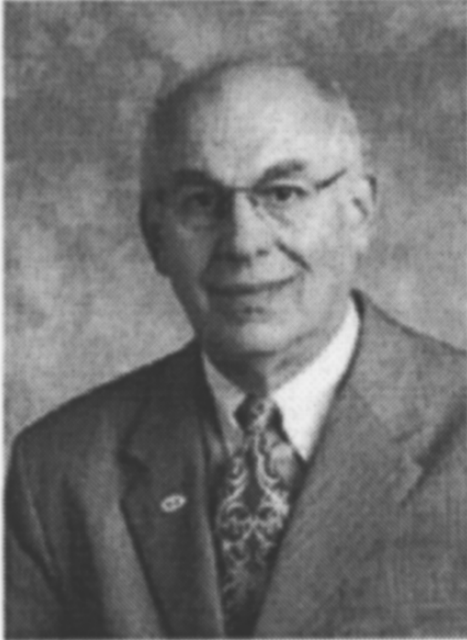


YSU Trustee F.W. Knecht III passes away



YSU Trustee F.W. "Bill" Knecht III of Boardman, CEO and chairman of Wendell August Forge, died today after battling cancer.

Knecht was named to the YSU Board of Trustees in 1999 and his nine-year term was scheduled to expire in 2008.

"Bill Knecht was a distinguished YSU graduate, an ardent supporter and advocate for his alma mater," said YSU President David C. Sweet. "As a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, he was always thoroughly prepared and was continually seeking ways to improve the institution. His loyalty, wisdom, generosity of spirit and incomparable enthusiasm will be greatly missed."

Knecht, a 1960 graduate of YSU with a bachelor's degree in foreign languages, was an active leader in university, alumni and community affairs.

He was honored by YSU with its Distinguished Citizen Award in 2001, the university's highest honor. That same year, a YSU scholarship, the F.W. "Bill" Knecht III Scholarship, was established in his name. He also served as YSU commencement speaker in August of 2001 and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree.

Former president of the YSU Penguin Club, he was named Penguin of the Year by that organization in 2003.

In January 1999, he was inducted into the Youngstown State University Athletic Hall of Fame as a contributor. Knecht also sat on the YSU Foundation Board of Trustees. "Bill Knecht was a valuable community asset," said C. Reid Schmutz, YSU Foundation president. "He contributed greatly to the success of both the YSU Foundation and the university."

He has been president of the Youngstown Club, the Boardman Civic Association and the Boardman Board of Education.

He served as a board member of the American Cancer Society, Mahoning County Unit, and as a member of the educational advisory board of both the Mahoning County Joint Vocational School and the Choffin Career Center. He served as a trustee of Grove City College and was on the boards of the Penn Northwest Development Corporation, the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, the Youngstown Club and the Rockwell Springs Trout Club.

Those who wish to make a memorial gift to the F.W. "Bill" Knecht III Scholarship can contact the YSU Development Office at 330-941-3119. Checks may be made payable to Youngstown State University.

Services will be 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, in Zion Lutheran Church, 3300 Canfield Road. Calling hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, in Zion Lutheran Church. Arrangements by Davis Funeral Home.