

Our Board – Dr. John R. Kramer

Dr. John R. Kramer is the son of WWII veteran Jack Kramer and Janice Dye, a descendant of the Covert and Judd families, who were pioneers living in Gates Mills since the early 1800's and are buried in the Gates Mills North Cemetery. Their son, John was born on a military base in Alabama where Jack was stationed early in the war. Following the war, Jack Kramer worked for General Motors as an executive of Human Resources, and during the 1960's they moved to a century home on Chagrin River Road, just north of Wilson Mills Road.

John R. Kramer attended Brush High School, went to Oberlin College and received his medical degree from the University of Virginia. During his post-graduate training at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, he was conscripted to serve two years as a Major in the Medical Corps of the US Air Force in Wichita Falls, Texas. He participated in "Operation New Life" at Anderson Air Force Base on Guam, during the evacuation of Vietnam. He treated US military forces and many Vietnamese being evacuated by airlift after the fall of Saigon.

Dr. Kramer retired from the staff of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine Cardiovascular Laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic and the G.R. Harrison Spectroscopy Laboratory at MIT where he was a core investigator. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the Ohio Academy of Science, and is a member of the MIT Quarter Century Club. He has over 54 years of experience as a cardiac specialist.

John and his wife, Christine (Chris) have been married for 48 years. They have resided in an historic house near to his parent's homestead in Gates Mills for 45 years. Their son Mark Kramer, Ph.D. is a tenured researcher at Boston University. Their daughter Lindsay has a Masters in Marine Science and is studying Coral Reefs in Hawaii.

Always committed to Gates Mills, Dr. Kramer is on the Boards of both Gates Mills Improvement Society and Gates Mills Historical Society, and was Chairman of the Gates Mills Gas Well Safety Committee in 2009.

John's involvement with the Land Conservancy began as a mayoral appointee to the GMLC Board in 2000. In 2012, when John became president of the GMLC Board, GMLC had just started to work on a pre-application for the national Land Trust Alliance accreditation. As Board president, John shepherded the GMLC through the initial process to align our board governance policies and record keeping practices with the stringent standards required by Land Trust Alliance. John worked closely with Tom Quintrell and Henrietta B. Jordan of Trailmarker Associates, a team of consultants specializing in services to land trusts and other nonprofit organizations, who assisted in preparing and defending our application for the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation.

John has always guided the GMLC to adhere to the strict core principles that are unique to an accredited land trust, directing our focus to ensure that the organization does not veer from our mission for which we were established. His guidance has urged us to take action on important issues like policies and standards that have so effectively preserved his beloved community.

The Land Conservancy Board is forever grateful for John's kind yet focused leadership.