

Thomas Armstrong Quintrell – Honorary Board Emeritus

Tom was born May 15, 1920 and spent most of his life dedicated to Gates Mills and especially to land conservation. He was an outstanding student and athlete at both University School (1938) and at Princeton University (1942). In World War II, he received the bronze star for his service as a Captain with the 7th Infantry Division. After returning from the war, he attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1948. He and his wife, Ella Hornickel, were married on July 7, 1950. They had four children, Lute, Margaret, Josie and Edith, who grew up in Gates Mills; Tom and Ella had eight grandchildren.

Tom began his legal career in 1948 with McKeehan, Merrick, Arter & Stewart and George William Cottrell, later known as Arter & Hadden. During his long career, he served with great distinction on many Boards in the legal and banking profession, was a Life Trustee of University School, served on Gates Mills Improvement Society, and as long-time Vice -President of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy providing rationale and stability for the organization.

It was after his retirement, that Tom became very active in land conservation. He was instrumental in the development of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy, the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc., and Grand River Partners, Inc. He was on the Executive Committee of the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts, and on the Ohio Advisory Board for the Trust for Public Land. He also served on the National Council for the Land Trust Alliance and its Conservation Defense Advisory Committee.

Tom was involved in GMLC's initial conservation efforts which included the Soltz Woods, a 14-acre donation, and a 3-acre parcel along the Chagrin River, which established a symbolic "green" marker as you enter the Village. Tom served on the GMLC Board of Directors ever since the organization's conception and continued to play a key role helping preserve more than 670 acres. Tom's last projects, were the Newell Conservation easement finalized in 2014, and the 92-acre Sherman Road Preserve located on County Line and Sherman roads in 2015.

Tom was instrumental in achieving the Gates Mills Land Conservancy's accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, in December of 2013; and the National LTA Award of Excellence, in 2014. This made the GMLC the third land trust in Ohio to be accredited, and the first All-Volunteer national association. While Tom passed away on March 3, 2015 at the age 94, he continues to be remembered by civic and conservation leaders as a model of grace and professionalism. He was incredibly industrious and thoroughly devoted to the success of the GMLC and the Land Trust Alliance. Tom was "young at heart and left people feeling buoyant and inspired to make a difference, and to make the world a better place."

"It was indeed an honor and a pleasure to know and work with Tom. He was very dynamic, accomplished and knew how to get things done. As a Trustee of the Gates Mills Improvement Society, Tom brought vibrant energy, dedication and determination to every task and each meeting. I miss him and I count myself fortunate to have known Tom as a friend."

Clark Langmack

In 2015, a red oak tree was planted on the grounds of the Gates Mills Historical Society, in honor of Tom Quintrell's dedication to the Village and the Gates Mills Land Conservancy.