

Edwynne P. Murphy (-1993)

Edwynne P. (Paul) Murphy, a retired executive of an engineering company in St. Louis, died Saturday (March 20, 1993) of heart disease at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in Creve Coeur.

He was 76.

Mr. Murphy lived in Ballwin, but he also had lived for many years in the Central West End.

He was president of the old Edwynne P. Murphy Co. Inc., a design, engineering, and marketing business that handled automation systems for conveyor and air filtration products. The business, which for years was on Manchester Avenue, was sold about 1982.

Before establishing the Murphy Co., Mr. Murphy was vice president and sales manager of Art Metal Co. He also was a sales consultant to Mexicana Petroleum, a Mexican government agency. In that job, Mr. Murphy developed a program using liquefied petroleum to save that county's rapidly disappearing forests.

Mr. Murphy was a native of St. Louis, where he attended Washington University and earned a degree in mechanical engineering from St. Louis University.

His wife, the former Jeanne C  rr   Chouteau, is a descendant of Auguste Choteau, a co-founder of St. Louis.

In the 1960s, he was chairman of the Topping Out and Arch Dedication committees for the Gateway Arch. He was a longtime member of the board of trustees of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association.

He was a founding member and longtime vice president and executive committee member of the St. Louis Ambassadors. He was chairman of the Ambassadors' annual ball from 1966 to 1973 and later served as president of the organization for two terms.

In 1972, then Gov. Christopher S. Bond appointed Mr. Murphy as state chairman for the Mississippi River Tricentennial, a nine-day celebration that attracted more than 750,000 people to the Arch grounds.

He was a charter officer of the St. Louis (illegible) and was influential in bringing the event to downtown St. Louis in the 1970s from Columbia, Ill. Mr. Murphy was also a commissioner of the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority, a member of the St. Louis Redevelopment Corp. and treasurer of the Lyon, France – St. Louis Sister Cities board of directors.

In 1976, Mr. Murphy was decorated by the French government as a "Chevalier Ordre National Du Merite" for his service as chairman of many civic endeavors highlighting the French heritage of the Mississippi Valley.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Cathedral of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Boulevard. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Ambruster - Donnelly Mortuary, 6633 Clayton Road, Clayton.

In addition to his wife, among survivors are six daughters, Jeanne C  r   Fox of Ballwin, Renee C. Backermam of Clayton, Stephanie C. Murphy of Chicago, Michele C. Francis of Creve Coeur, Antoinette C. Johnson of Des Peres and Gabrielle C. Glenn of Raleigh, N.C.; a son, Edwynne C. Murphy of Lake Saint Louis; a sister, Jane Frances Roth of St. Louis; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

from funeral bulletin, Ambruster – Donnelly Mortuary.

(Murphy was a Founding Director of the Foundation, 1969; the first President, 1970; and a Director, 1972-73.)

*Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011*