



John Frederick Agel, Sr.

John Frederick Agel, Sr., 88, a prominent local civic leader, businessman and community volunteer, passed away at his home in Doraville, GA, on Sunday, June 5, 2016, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, the former Catherine Bray, sons Dr. John Frederick Agel, Jr., John Louderman Agel, and John Christopher Agel and his wife Lisa, daughters Laurie and her husband Dr. James Richard Amerson, and Lindy A. Day, all of DeKalb County, GA, sister Betty Anne Steen of Ridgewood, NJ, stepson Charles H. Moehrke and his wife Carrie of Cary, NC, stepdaughter Melissa M. Chanin and husband Jacob of Decatur, GA, thirteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a nephew, two nieces, and countless friends. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sara Elizabeth, who died at age six in 1959 of an inoperable brain tumor. In her memory, he pledged to set aside a tithe of ten percent of his time in volunteer work, a pledge he more than kept.

He was born to Alfred R. and Elizabeth Louderman Agel on November 19, 1927, in Ridgewood, NJ. In 1945, he graduated from Ridgewood High School, where he pitched a no-hitter in a baseball game against rival Midland Park. After graduation, he joined the United States Army and served in the Philippines, rising to the rank of staff sergeant at the time he was honorably discharged.

After returning from military duty, he came to Atlanta in 1948 and enrolled at Oglethorpe University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business in 1952. While a student at Oglethorpe, he was a member of the Boar's Head Fraternity, played on the school's intercollegiate baseball and basketball teams, and was president of his sophomore class. He maintained close ties with the university for the rest of his life, serving as president of its National Alumni Association's board of directors in 1976-1977, and for eight years beginning in 2008 as a member of the university's Board of Trustees. At the time of his death, he was a

trustee emeritus. In recognition of his achievements, the university awarded him an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 2013. In 1985, he was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame as a baseball player, and in 1987 he was awarded the Samuel Talmage Award given annually to an alumnus or alumna who contributes time, talent or financial resources to one or more programs of the university and/or is distinguished in the business or professional world. For the last decade, he volunteered in the archives of the university's library and enjoyed interacting and having lunch with students on campus. Among his proudest moments as a benefactor of the university was his endowment of the J. Frederick Agel, Sr., Achievement Scholarship awarded annually to an academically qualified rising senior who has contributed significantly to student life.

Dr. Lawrence M. Schall, Oglethorpe University president, reflected, "Fred has not only been an extraordinary friend of the university, but more specifically, he has been a friend and mentor to countless students for more than five decades. We will all miss his daily presence on campus."

He was associated for many years with the John Rogers Company and later with Bowman Distribution, both automotive parts companies. He served as president of the Atlanta Automotive Booster Club, and chair of the Rebuilders Division of the Automotive Service Industry Association.

He was a member of the Brookwood Rotary Club in the 1970s, serving as its president in 1974.

Liane Levetan, former DeKalb County CEO, said, "Fred Agel made an enormous contribution to the civic life of DeKalb County, Atlanta, and the State of Georgia. His 25 years as a member of the DeKalb County Board of Health, the last 21 years as chair, and his service on the governing board of Senior Connections and the Board of Trustees of Oglethorpe University are representative of his generosity with his time and financial support of many social, health, educational, and religious organizations."

Appointed as a member of the DeKalb County Board of Health in 1980, he served as its chair from 1984 to 2005. He was a founding member of the Georgia Association of Local Boards of Health, and in 1997 was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Governor's Council on Tobacco Use of Minors. He served on the steering committee representing six states that created the National Association of Local Boards of Health, was one of the original members of its board of directors, and received its President's Award. He served as president of the Georgia Public Health Association and as a member of the Community Guide Taskforce of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He served on the citizens advisory councils of the Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Program of the DeKalb County Board of Health and the Georgia Mental Health Institute. When a 1993 state law separated local public behavioral health and developmental disabilities programs from county boards of health by creating community service boards, he became the first chair of the DeKalb Community Service Board. He was a

member of the initial board of directors of the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards, and served on the board of directors of Compeer, a non-profit agency that matched supportive volunteers with persons receiving behavioral health treatment.

In December 2002, the DeKalb County Community Relations Commission awarded him its community service award for his contribution to the county's status as a place to work, live, and play, noting that, in addition to his service with the DeKalb County Board of Health, for many years he baked over 350 loaves of bread annually for charities as well as personally cooking, packaging and delivering meals to elderly persons and shut-ins on weekends. A December 27, 1989, article in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution reported that the third most requested recipe for 1989 was submitted by Fred Agel for a starter and the bread made from it.

On February 28, 2013, he was recognized by the Georgia State Senate on the occasion of his selection by the Georgia Council on Aging as the 2013 Distinguished Older Georgian. He served on the board of directors of Senior Connections and as treasurer of the DeKalb County Council on Aging. A long-time Meals on Wheels volunteer, his other philanthropic and community service activities included DeKalb County United Way Council board of directors, Metro Atlanta United Way board of directors, DeKalb County Council on Literacy chair, Jerusalem House board of directors, and president of the Sagamore Hills PTA. In 1997, he was honored by Kentucky Fried Chicken with its Colonel's Way Award, named in honor of its founder Colonel Harland Sanders and presented to exceptional senior citizens for their late-in-life achievements.

A member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church since 1969, he served as its treasurer for ten years, vestry member, senior warden, lay reader, and co-chair of its Olde English Festival. He served as president of the Episcopal Charities Foundation of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

An avid traveler, he and Catherine joined tours in the United States, Canada, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, and South America. Many of these trips were with members of his church. He said his favorite trip was to China in 1989.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 18th at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 11: 00 AM with the Rev. Beverley Elliott officiating. Interment of Mr. Agel's ashes will take place in the church's St. Joseph of Arimathaea Memorial Garden immediately following the memorial service. The family will greet friends at a reception held immediately following the interment service in the church's Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the endowment fund of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 LaVista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 or Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree Road, NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319.