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Community West Foundation
 to advance the health and well being of our community.

Charles Rini: The Uncommon Life of a Common Man

Charles A. Rini was a common man who lived an uncommon life. As head of the industry-leading family of Stop-N-Shop grocery stores in the 1970's and 80's, Mr. Rini led one of the most successful businesses in the Greater Cleveland area.

But he was always known as a down-to-earth nice guy, someone who never forgot old friends while also pioneering philanthropy throughout the west side.

Mr. Rini, 74, died Sunday, March 24, after a battle with lung cancer.

Funeral services were held at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Fairview Park March 27, where Mr. Rini was a parishioner for many years.

"He never left old friends behind and he helped a lot of people privately as well as a myriad of people publicly," said Fr. Thomas Mahoney in his homily. "This man's support of Catholic education programs, parish community programs and programs of support for social services certainly helped to raise a lot of people up."

The filled sanctuary included the mass celebrants, Rev. Michael J. Lanning, Pastor of St. Angela Merici Church, and Rev. Thomas M. Mahoney, joined by the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, the Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, O.S.B., Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, as well as Rev. William Murphy, S.J., President of St. Ignatius High School, Fr. Phillip Berthier, Fr. Robert Welsh, S.J., Fr. Timothy Gareau, St. Raphael, Fr. Richard S. Rasch, O.de M., Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and many friends, business associates, and family members, including his wife of 50 years, Carol, and children Charles Jr., Christine Slyman, Nicole Bebie, Theresa Simms, Thomas and Steven, along with 15 grandchildren.

Mr. Rini's call to help others demonstrated his personal commitment to faith, said Fr. Mahoney - a commitment that spoke to Mr. Rini's spirit of giving. "He allowed Christ to live through him," said Fr. Mahoney. "We saw

in Charles Rini a reflection of a kind of fatherhood that God offers all of us."

"He lived within a community of believers," said Fr. Mahoney. "He took his faith seriously and put its application to his day-in and day-out living." Charles A. Rini was a simple man who touched many lives with a sense of personal paternal concern. "He was a good man, a loving man. He was a generous man to an extreme," said Fr. Mahoney. "He was a friendly man. He was a real man. But when I asked his son, Chuckie, how he would remember him, he simply said: 'He was my dad.'"

Much of Mr. Rini's philanthropy was directed through Community West Foundation, where he and his wife, Carol, were honored with the 2011 Art of Caring Award, the Foundation's highest honor for philanthropic leadership.

David T. Dombrowiak, President and CEO, Community West Foundation, offered tribute to the Rinis at the time of their Art of Caring Award. "It seems like there isn't a west side organization this couple hasn't touched. They have made significant gifts to educational, religious, and medical institutions. Their long legacy of philanthropy is honored throughout our city on historic donor walls and school wings, including St. Edward High School, St. Ignatius High School, Magnificat High School, The Cleveland Foodbank, May Dugan Center, Fairview Hospital, and

many others. The Rinis' support has been nothing short of amazing." Mr. Rini served on the Community West Foundation Board and played an integral role in the Foundation's success over the years.

Ron Compiseno, long time friend of Mr. Rini and the Rini Family, paid a beautiful tribute and shared touching and humorous stories of the Rini family and many friends. Mr. Rini's dedication and generosity to the community, unmatched and everlasting, will always be held in the highest regard.



Carol and Charles Rini, Sr., as they received the 2011 Art of Caring Award.

Prayers and thoughts of the Family of Charles Rini, Sr.

Your Prayer,

"I asked God to take away my pride and God said, 'No.'
 He said it was not for him to take away but for me to give up.
 I asked God to grant me patience and God said, 'No.'
 He said that patience is a by-product of tribulations.
 It isn't granted, it is earned.
 I asked God to give me happiness and God said, 'No.'
 He said he gives blessings; happiness is up to me.
 I asked God to spare my pain, and God said, 'No.'
 He said, 'Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.'...
 I asked God to help me love others as much as he loves me,
 and God said, 'Ah, finally you have the idea.'"

~ Author Unknown

Thank you!
 Love, Carol (50 yrs)

Dad,

Thank you for always loving us not merely with words but always by your actions.
 We never had to ask because you always knew what we needed (guessing mom told you.)
 Thank you for showing us that hard work and dedication pay off.
 Your faith and spirituality guided you on your journey and now we follow that path.
 Thank you for showing us the way and providing us the foundation to make a meaningful difference in the world around us.
 Your success and humility always amazed.
 Thank you for teaching us that life is more than accomplishments.
 We will always love you!
 We miss you deeply.

~ Chuck Jr., Chris, Nicole, Theresa, Tom & Steve

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