

State Chamber Awards Gilman Bowl to David F. Lyons, Sr.

» In a surprise announcement at the 22nd Annual Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business virtual awards celebration, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce posthumously awarded the esteemed Gilman Bowl to David F. Lyons, Sr. His wife, Catharine N. Lyons accepted the award with her sons, David Jr. and Timothy by her side.

The Gilman Bowl was established as a tribute to small business leadership. It is named in memory of Marvin S. Gilman, who served as an exemplary leader and a paragon of small business in Delaware. The identity of the recipient of the Gilman Bowl was held confidential until its presentation at the awards ceremony.

“We are deeply honored to receive the Gilman Bowl on David’s behalf. He had an instinct for leadership and inspired us all with big ideas and the ability to make things happen,” said Ms. Lyons upon accepting the award.

David Lyons founded Lyons Companies in 1984 in the back of his father’s dental office. Over the last three decades, Mr. Lyons built the company to be one of the region’s largest independent and privately held risk management and insurance brokerage firms. Through the years, Lyons Companies has guided businesses through the roller coaster of recessions, dips in the market, and periods of substantial growth. The company now boasts 50-plus employees and a nationally recognized insurance advisory practice. His hard work, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit truly embodied the American Dream.



From left: David F. Lyons, Jr., Catharine N. Lyons, and Timothy J. Lyons at the Hotel du Pont

Mr. Lyons devoted his extraordinary energy and abilities to improving the community around him. In addition to his service as a member of the Board of Trustees at the University of Delaware, he chaired the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Council on Economic Education, where he founded the “Economic Forecast” event, bringing national economic policymakers together with business leaders in an annual forum covered by the national press.

“One of the most powerful tools an individual can provide others is education. To that end, David Lyons Sr. was devoted to educating both children and adults about economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship via his involvement as chairman of the Delaware Council on Economic Education (DCEE) and partner of the UD Center for Economic Education (CEEE),” states Carlos Asarta, president

of the DCEE and director of the CEEE. “Thanks to his personal support, the DCEE/CEEE is now able to reach more than two thousand educators a year who, in turn, provide an effective education to hundreds of thousands of students with the ultimate goal of seeing them graduate as economically literate and productive citizens.”

David was active in the Delaware Business Roundtable, advocating for sensible policies to encourage job creation and business growth in Delaware, serving as vice chairman from 2014 to 2018. He chaired the Garrett Lyons Dental Fellowship for Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. In 2016, Mr. Lyons ran and served as mayor of Henlopen Acres. He was also a member of the Tatnall School’s Board of Trustees and chaired New Castle County Ducks Unlimited.