



Riley (R), then Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, sits beside current Chairman Dave Kellogg (C) at 2011's Inaugural Commencement.

CHAMPION OF THE COLLEGE'S EARLIEST YEARS: VICTOR RILEY



Victor J. Riley Jr., first Vice-Chairman of Wyoming Catholic College's Board of Directors and a generous supporter of the College from its inception, passed from this life on July 21st, 2018, in Cody, WY. Early friends of the College

will immediately recognize that WCC owes its existence to him through both his philanthropic support and his role as Vice-Chairman. Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1931, Victor received his Bachelor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame in 1953, and served two years in the United States Army before beginning his banking career in the Trust Division of the National Bank of Miami in 1955. He joined First National Bank & Trust Co. in Albany in 1964, and he was named President and CEO of the holding company in 1973. Victor oversaw its transition to KeyCorp, and during his presidency, it grew from \$1.2 billion in assets with 89 offices to \$67.7 billion in assets and over 1,300 banking offices. In 1995, after twenty-six years, he retired from his position as Chairman, but remained involved as Chairman Emeritus.

Victor's business accomplishments were certainly imposing: he was a Class A Director of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Director of the Association of Bank Holding Companies, and President of the New York State Bankers Association. Yet they were easily matched by his charitable efforts. He was instrumental in the formation of the Center for Economic Growth in Albany, served as Chairman of the Trustees for the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and for the Pius XII Foundation, as a board member for the Albany Medical Center and Clarkson University, as a member of the State University of New York at Albany Foundation, and as chairman or honorary chairman of numerous fund-raising efforts, such as the March of Dimes, the Cerebral Palsy Center, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

At retirement, Victor chose Cody, WY, as his new home because he loved the beauty and peace of the state. Soon,

however, he was "up to his old tricks," serving as a trustee for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, as a founder and president of the Boys and Girls Club of Park County, and eventually as Chairman of the Board of the Victor J. Riley Ice Arena and Community Events Center. Through this involvement with the city of Cody (and its efforts to convince WCC's leadership to consider the town for its initial campus), Victor first met the College and its three founders, Bishop David Ricken, Dr. Bob Carlson, and Father Bob Cook.

Despite Victor's support, Cody was not selected, but he was convinced that WCC was a noble endeavor. He threw himself into the project of Wyoming Catholic with the same energy and determination that had made him such a successful businessman and beloved philanthropist. Accepting the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, he helped guide the College and its leaders through the first years of existence, bringing his experiences in both the business and nonprofit world to bear on the challenges that faced the fledgling institution.

He served as Vice-Chair for the College's first seven years, and then as Vice-Chairman Emeritus as his health declined. While his participation in the daily operational life of the College grew more infrequent, he never lost his interest and affection for "his college," visiting Lander as often as his health would permit and never failing to charm a roomful of students each time he arrived.

"We at the College will never forget what Victor has meant to us," says President Glenn Arbery. "Were it not for his support and leadership, we would not exist today. Every future Wyoming Catholic College student who enters our doors at Matriculation and crosses our stage at Graduation will be a reminder of his legacy and of his great generosity to Wyoming Catholic College."