



Bob, (also known in high school as Louie), graduated from Liberty's Vo-Tech, where he studied Building Construction. As a hands-on part of the course, he helped build a garage in his junior year and a basement recreation room in his senior year. Unsure of what direction he wanted to go career-wise, Bob worked as a laborer and skimmer (removal of slag from molted iron) for Bethlehem Steel's Iron Foundry, and later operated a pleating machine for Sure Fit.

Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1964 and completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. From August to October, 1964, he attended the Medical Helper School at Greenville Air Force Base in Greenville Mississippi. Because Bob graduated first in his class, the Air Force gave him the choice to either go for advanced training or select a hospital to be assigned to. He selected advanced training and was assigned to Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama to attend Medical Specialist School. Again, because of his academic achievement, he was allowed to choose his next assignment and he chose Tachikawa Air Force Base in Tachikawa, Japan. After rotating Bob through various departments, he was designated to work in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

During the mid-1960's, the Vietnam War was escalating and American casualties were increasing rapidly. Bob, along with his colleagues, took care of a great number of troops assigned to Special Operations Units. As the war injuries became more serious, the Air Force Medical Service started a Renal Dialysis Unit to treat soldiers whose renal (kidney) functions were impaired. Because of its success, Bob's unit became air mobile and they set up Renal Dialysis Units at military bases in Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines.

In early 1966, the Air Force assigned Bob to temporary duty at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines. Shortly after his assignment became permanent, he was deployed to the Air Force Base in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, where he operated a kidney machine, managed the frozen blood bank, and assisted in the surgical ICU units. In December of 1967, Bob returned stateside and spent his final four months at the Plattsburg Air Force Base, Plattsburg, NY. He was discharged from the Air Force in 1968 with the rank of E-5 Staff Sergeant.

Resuming life as a civilian, Bob came back to Bethlehem and returned to working in the Bethlehem Steel Company iron foundry. Bob also studied at Northampton County

Community College from where he graduated in 1970 with an Associate's Degree. Realizing that a quality education was necessary to prosper financially and professionally, Bob furthered his schooling at Penn State University (Capitol Campus in Harrisburg), from where he graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting and Economics

In July of 1972, Bob was hired by J.C. Penney, Springfield, N.J., as an Auditor. In 1974, he was transferred to Pittsburgh, Pa., as a Senior Internal Auditor. The company offered him a position in their New York City corporate office, which he declined. Bob accepted employment with Dentsply International (York, PA.) as a senior Auditor and Merger Accountant. In 1978, he was hired by the Irex Corporation, an industrial, commercial and specialty contracting company, located in Lancaster, PA., to establish an Internal Audit department. After five years, Irex promoted him to Manager, Office Administration, with responsibilities for managing the facilities, print shop and construction. A year later, he was promoted to Real Estate Manager of all 120 locations, in charge of lease preparations, telecommunications, fleet administration and facilities. Although Irex was a profitable company, a sequence of business declines caused Irex to economize, resulting in Bob losing his job. In the year 2000, Bob was hired by Susquehanna Bancshares (Lititz, PA) as the Corporate Real Estate and Facilities Manager covering 240 locations throughout four states. He remained in that position until he retired in September Of 2010.

Bob has been married to Lynn (Ford) for 18 years. Lynn, a graduate of Millersville University, is from Old Bridge, New Jersey. Although they have no children, Bob was active in helping youth and young adults improve themselves by participating in the Big Brothers program and the Special Olympics.

Big Brothers is a mentoring program that matches youth, predominantly from low-income and/or single-parent households, with volunteer mentors who help young people thrive and succeed in life. Bob participated in Lancaster County's Big Brothers program for 25 years. Of the six boys he helped and guided, all graduated from high school and two graduated from college. Bob served on the local Big Brothers Board of Directors for nine years, including a term as Board President and Board Chairman. In 1994, he won the Big Brothers of the Year award.

Bob was also an active volunteer for the Lancaster County Special Olympics for over 37 years. Special Olympics provides sports training and competition for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities. For 25 years, Bob was the county



manager, coached seven different sports, and coached the Pennsylvania soccer team at the 1999 World Games. In 2014, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, and in 2017, was selected as Vice Chairman of the Board. He will become Chairman in 2020. Because of Bob's work with underprivileged young people, he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Special Olympics Hall of Fame. He was also honored by the Lancaster Sertoma Club, when, in 1965, he was selected as Man of the Year.

Bob and Lynn have always relished new experiences and challenges. Over the years they visited Canada, Mexico, the Eastern Caribbean Islands, and, with the exception of New Mexico and Idaho, the entire United States. Bob's participation in the Big Brothers program and Special Olympics has made a positive impact on youth by helping them get along better with others, increasing their self confidence, working together, helping them live more independently, and learning the value of being a good citizen.