The Morris Family
A PASSION FOR PHILANTHROPY AND SERVICE

Life is so precious, that it just hurts to see it wasted. It is so beautiful as it is held together and it can’t really exist in its true sense without that overpowering and wonderful gift of God called LOVE— the most magnificent word in the world although it only consists of four letters. I can’t understand how life can have any meaning without it.”

These words were spoken by Nicholas R. MacElree, graduate of Owen J. Roberts High School and president of his class at Gettysburg College, long before he lost his life to cancer on December 12, 1968. Husband and wife team, Anthony (Tony) Morris, Esq, and Elizabeth (Betty) Morris, continue to keep Nick’s memory alive today through their charitable contributions.

Tony and Betty are active members of Chester County with a passion for service and philanthropy. Tony says they were both raised in faith-based households and learned about the strength of charity from the example of their parents and grandparents.

Today Tony, a partner at the law firm Buckley, Brion, McGuire & Morris, exemplifies civic engagement by his work as Chairman of the Chester County Community Foundation and as a member of the Chester County Estate Planning Council. He’s also been involved through board membership with the Chester County Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Wealth Advisory Board of DNB First (recently merged with S&T Bank) as well as volunteering with United Way of Chester County, Handicrafters, the Episcopal Academy, and the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester.

Tony was on Chester County’s first 911 Commission and served as a hearing officer of the Disciplinary Review Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

In December 2005, Tony and Betty established the Nicholas MacElree Memorial Fund with the Chester County Community Foundation to honor the memory of their late friend who attended the alma mater of their son, Jake. Tony and Betty explain, “It’s our honor to continue to shine Nick’s light on a world and a college he loved so much.”

Although Nick lost his life to cancer, his spirit lives on through the foundation, which makes grants to education and cancer organizations, along with a $2,000 scholarship to a deserving student at Gettysburg College.

Betty enjoys reviewing the scholarship applications with Tony and their four adult sons. “The students who apply must demonstrate financial need and a broad interest in extracurricular activities, particularly in student affairs or government. It’s heartwarming to see the enthusiastic leadership these students display,” notes Betty. “Nick’s aspirations are realized through the next generation of leaders.”

It’s our honor to continue to shine Nick’s light on a world and a college he loved so much through the Nicholas MacElree Memorial Fund.