

RUSSELL EARL FULLER

Russell E. Fuller, lifelong resident of Boylston, Massachusetts, passed away at age seventy-seven on June 21, 2003. He left his wife of fifty-eight years, Joyce I. (Adams) Fuller, two sons, Lincoln E. Fuller of New London, New Hampshire, and Mark W. Fuller of Boylston, a brother, Wesley M. Fuller of Saint Petersburg, Florida, as well as seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and assorted nieces, nephews and cousins.

A World War II army veteran, Russ and his wife, Joyce, founded REFCO, Inc., a specialty supply company, in 1959. He served as its president for thirty-nine years. He was a lifelong member of the First Congregational Church of Boylston, serving the church in virtually every imaginable capacity: deacon, trustee, Sunday School teacher, superintendent, choir master, and supporter. He served, at various times, on the boards of Nichols College, the former Central New England College, the Memorial and UMass Worcester Hospitals, the UMass Memorial Foundation, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the Wyman-Gordon Foundation Company, as well as the George and Sybil Fuller Charitable Foundation. He received honorary degrees from Assumption College and Central New England College, and the Worcester Isaiah Thomas Citizenship award in 2002. He played at golf, too!

It is a huge understatement to say he was, throughout his life, an unparalleled advocate, booster, and supporter of all immediate and extended Fuller-family relationships, in addition to—at some time or another—virtually all good causes in the Worcester area, and beyond, too. And, while there might be a few people who might disagree, it was in this latter arena—in the Worcester community at large—where Russ really came to make his mark, especially later on in life. As he passed company management issues and responsibilities on to his son Mark and his family and he became chairman of the Fuller Foundation, Russ really found a niche which he loved, an area in which he and his ‘keep smiling’ style truly excelled. In many ways he assumed,

willingly, enthusiastically and innovatively, the mantle of Mr. Philanthropy in the Worcester area. If you had Russ on your side, no matter the issue, you were already several giant steps ahead before you even started.

He absolutely loved helping people, organizations, and communities, especially in Worcester County. With the considerable resources of the Fuller Foundation, he had a wonderful vehicle to not only promote much good in the communities he touched, but, more importantly, to do so in the most positive and healthiest of ways. Russ had no biases; historical interests, perhaps, based on interests of his uncle and aunt, George and Sybil Fuller, who had established and founded the Fuller Foundation, to which he would always be loyal, but no biases. Any organization or individual who sought his counsel received it openly, honestly, and compassionately. If support might just not happen to be in the cards, Russ would extend himself to provide assistance in other ways. He was a collaborator, a facilitator—often behind the scenes—who wanted all the good causes that came to his attention to succeed. Whatever way the chances for success could be improved was the way he would approve and support. . . . And he absolutely loved this role. He reveled in the many community successes he saw, both those in which he participated and myriad others as well.

Russ was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in April 1989, but by then his philanthropic association had already been established. The Fuller Foundation was a generous contributor to the renovation of the Goddard-Daniels House in the early 1980s when the Society took possession of it. His interest in the library led to contributions to acquisitions endowment, the early stages of computerizing the catalogue records, and, most recently, a major grant toward the purchase of the compact shelving system for the new book stack.

The Worcester community 'keeps smiling' today in part because Russ taught us to, and, although it is a lot tougher to do without Russ, when you look around Worcester County, . . .

almost anywhere you look for that matter, and when you see what he helped fashion for the enduring benefit of this community, it is very easy to 'keep smiling.'

Warner Fletcher

JOHN HIGHAM

John Higham, retired professor of American history at the Johns Hopkins University and a major commentator on American immigration history and nativism, American cultural history, and American historiography, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in North Baltimore on July 26, 2003. He was eighty-two years old.

Born and reared in Jamaica, New York, he earned his bachelor's degree in history at Johns Hopkins in 1941, and served with the historical division of the 12th Army Air Force in Italy. Following his discharge in 1945, Higham served as assistant editor of the *American Mercury*, founded by H. L. Mencken, before resuming graduate study in American history at the University of Wisconsin. He studied there under the intellectual historian Merle Curti, receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1949. Over an academic career that spanned across more than five decades, he held teaching positions at the University of California, Los Angeles; Rutgers University; Columbia University; and the University of Michigan before returning to Johns Hopkins permanently as the John Martin Vincent Professor of History in 1973. That same year, he was elected president of the Organization of American Historians. In addition, Higham received many fellowships and other honors in his distinguished career.

Higham's first book, *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925* (Rutgers University Press, 1955), quickly won him acclaim for his discerning investigation into the complex set of beliefs that comprised nativism. Higham depicted these beliefs against the backdrop of American nationalism and

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