

Reginald A. and Elizabeth S. Lenna

Reginald (Reg) A. Lenna was born in Jamestown, New York. He graduated from Jamestown High School, Manlius Military School, and the engineering school at Lehigh University. He became assistant to the President of Blackstone in 1947 and brought with him new technical concepts and was instrumental in entering the Blackstone Company in the international market. When he became President of the corporation in the early 1960's he opened the first Swedish Blackstone plant. The company expanded under his leadership to open factories in Canada and other parts of the world. Reg Lenna was one of the first to recognize the realities of a world economy and he acted upon it.

Mr. Lenna was knighted by the King of Sweden, the Royal Order of the North Star, in 1976 and received an honorary doctorate in 1981 from St. Bonaventure University. In 1975 he received the Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He was active in many other organizations such as the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County, the United Jewish Appeal, the Jamestown YMCA, Chautauqua Institution, and served as president of the Lenna Foundation. Reg Lenna died in February 2000.

At the funeral of Reg Lenna on February 9, 2000, Thomas Becker, Vice President for Development at Chautauqua Institution, stated: "My association with Reg Lenna has spanned the final fifteen years of his life. During that time I saw a man of immense business acumen apply those skills to the betterment of the community in ways overt and compelling and in ways quiet and invisible. He negotiated with his head - he gave from his heart."

Elizabeth (Betty) S. Lenna was born in Louisville, Kentucky and moved to the area at the age of 5. She graduated from S.S. Peter and Paul Parochial School, Jamestown High School, and Jamestown Community College. She has always enjoyed art and music, and has visited Chautauqua Institution all her life.

Betty Lenna is a member of the Chautauqua Development Council, a former member of the Chautauqua Board of Trustees, and a former director of WCA Hospital. She is a trustee of the T. James and Hazel Clarke Trust, a member of the advisory board for HSBC and a former president of The Creche Inc. She was a director of the Blackstone Corporation and is Vice President of the Lenna Foundation.

Mrs. Lenna was one of the "Founding Fathers" of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and served on the Board of Directors, holding the office of First Vice President until retiring in June of 2006. She continues to serve the Foundation as a member of the Investment Committee. Together Mr. and Mrs. Lenna have been instrumental in setting up several funds with the Foundation.

Both Reg and Betty Lenna have made innumerable contributions to the Southern Tier West region. They have given generously of their time and talent serving on many committees and boards: the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Jamestown Community College, WCA Hospital Board of Directors, Creche, Chautauqua Institution, S.S. Peter and Paul Parochial School, and more.

They both have given financially to worthy programs in the region and two large examples of their generosity are the Reg Lenna Civic Center in Jamestown and the Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall at Chautauqua Institution. Contributions were also provided to: Saint Bonaventure University, Jamestown Community College Foundation, Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Girl Scout Camp Timber Crest, WCA Hospital, S.S. Peter and Paul Parochial School, and the YWCA in Jamestown.