

Fred R. Nance, Sr.

Business



Fred Nance, Sr. was born at Cleveland, Ohio's St. Luke's Hospital to parents Charles and Lucille in 1923. As the youngest of five, he along with brothers Charles and Kenneth and sisters Marie and Helen moved to the Collinwood area on London Road a year later in 1924.

Central to his life at Collinwood High School was Athletics. While Fred was a member of the Football and Basketball teams, he excelled at Track where he eventually became the Captain of the team. Track and Field was a family affair that made Collinwood High School history. Brother Charles (Class of 1935) was the lead man on the Half-Mile Relay team that won the State title. The unparalleled accomplishment was achieved when Fred (Class of 1941) ran, like his brother Charles, as the lead man on the half Mile Relay team and also won the State title.

Following Commencement, Fred worked full time and attended Western Reserve University on a part time basis. During the war years, Fred built B-29 Aircraft at the General Motors Assembly Plant on Coit Road and joined the Union. After the war, Fred remained at the plant as a spot welder in Metal Assembly building automobiles. In 1945, Fred was asked to become a Union Steward and in so doing, began his journey with Local 45.

After serving as an Alternate Committeeman, he was elected by the plant-wide Union membership to 1st Shift Zone Committeeman over all production and Vice President of Local 45. In 1968, Region 2's Tri-State Organizing Staff of the United Auto Workers (UAW) offered him an opportunity to work with them. As a member of the team, from 1968 through 1970, the Region 2 Organizing Staff set a record as to the number of people/plants that became members of the UAW.

In 1975, Fred left the General Motors Assembly Plant in Cleveland, Ohio to join the International Staff of the United Auto Workers in Detroit, Michigan. Fred became a member of the Strike Insurance Department responsible for the oversight of Unions throughout the entire Midwest.

Each of the Nance family's six children have achieved success professionally. Sharon has earned a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Agricultural Economics and works for the United States Department of Agriculture. Teresa earned a Ph.D. in Speech and Communications and is the Assistant Vice President of Multicultural Affairs for Villanova University. Fred Jr. received his Law Degree and is the Managing Partner for Squire Sanders and Dempsey Law Firm. Marc has a Masters Degree in City Planning and is Regional Vice President for Axis Insurance Company. Marcelle has a Fashion Merchandising/Business Degree and is Director of Retail Operations for Delaware North Hospitality Group. Christopher has a Political Science degree and is Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones of the 11th District in Ohio. Fred also has nine grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 20.

In 1984, Betty Jean died from cancer. Four years later Fred retired from the International Staff after 45 years on the job and was presented the coveted "Solidarity Award" by the President of the United Auto Workers.

