

Firelands Regional Medical Center President and CEO Martin Tursky once said, "If Sandusky ever had a Saint, it was **George Mylander**." Mylander, a distinguished community member and recognized philanthropist, continues to be celebrated for his work in both public and nonprofit sectors, and his generosity prevails within the community through education, veteran's affairs, politics, healthcare, and religion, among many others. Throughout his lifetime, Mylander served as both a leader and a giver, and his example remains an inspiration for countless community members today.



Mylander was born in Sandusky in 1932 to Dr. Lester and Christine Mylander. After graduating from Sandusky High School in 1951, he served in the United States Army where he received the National Defense Service and Good Conduct medals. Following his service, he attended Bowling Green State University, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1958 and his Master's Degree in Education Administration in 1970. In 2003, he received an honorary doctorate degree from BGSU. He gave 27 years of service to the Sandusky City Schools, teaching at Campbell and Sycamore Schools until he became the school principal at Monroe School and later at Campbell School.

With his passion for education, Mylander gave back to the schools he was a part of through his funding of scholarships at Bowling Green State University and Bowling Green State University, Firelands campus, as well as his donations of millions of dollars to both campuses. Mylander's leadership and charitable givings were also very prominent within the healthcare field. His father founded Sandusky Memorial Hospital in 1933, and in 1963 George was elected chair to the hospital's Board of Trustees. In 1985, George helped lead one of the most significant movements of hospitals in Erie County as he oversaw the merger of Sandusky Memorial Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital, a

combination that signaled one of the first times osteopathic and allopathic physicians would be working together. This new hospital became Firelands Community Hospital until 2001 when, in association with Providence Hospital, it was given its current name of Firelands Regional Medical Center. Mylander served as the Chair Emeritus of Firelands Regional Medical Center at the time of his passing.

Throughout his lifetime, Mylander held a variety of leadership positions, including serving on Sandusky city commission for sixteen years, six of which were as ex-officio mayor. During this time, he sponsored legislation that established the Boy with the Boot as Sandusky's official symbol. He served as President of Wightman-Wieber Foundation and was a board member at the Erie County Community Foundation, Stein Hospice, Erie County Board of Health, and United Way of Erie County. He was also recognized with an array of awards during his adult life, such as the 1982 Distinguished Service Awards, 1987 Sandusky Register's Community Service Award, 1999 induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and being named to the BGSU 100 Most Prominent Alumni list in 2010, among others.

In June of 1987, Mylander, along with the help of friend George Muehlhauser, established the Mylander Foundation in order to continue making contributions to the community from Mylander's funds. The foundation began with \$500,000 and is now growing with over \$3 million in funds. Each year, the foundation distributes mandatory grants to certain community organizations, as well as to a selection of worthy 501(c)(3) organizations in other non-profit sectors. Mylander passed away on January 3, 2016 in Providence Care Center. Although he was never married and did not have children, his personal estate continues to be incorporated into his foundation, upholding his legacy and tradition of philanthropic selflessness within the City of Sandusky and beyond.

