



Gretchen Hirsch

Henry Ford II and his wife, Kathy, are pictured earlier this year at a party. They are joined by friends Myra Citrin, left, and Nancy Joan Lieberman.

Henry Ford II

'He had great compassion'

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

Friends and associates of the late Henry Ford II say he was a warm, compassionate man who made an indelible mark on this area and the people who live here.

Ford, 70, died at 7:21 a.m. Tuesday, at Henry Ford Hospital after a battle with pneumonia. His wife, son and stepdaughter were at his bedside.

Ford retired as chairman of the board of Ford Motor Co. in 1980 after 40 years of working in the company his grandfather founded. A private funeral for family members will be held this week. A memorial service for friends and relatives will be held in Detroit in about two weeks.

The Fords lived in Palm Beach, Florida, but kept a home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Mort and Mary Jean Lieberman of Bloomfield Hills were close family friends to Ford and his wife Kathy.

"I'VE KNOWN HENRY for more than 15 years and Kathy for at least 20," said Mort Lieberman, president of Dynamic Industries in Warren. "The thing that always impressed me about him was whenever Henry was introduced to someone for the first time he had that great quality

that exuded warmth and made that person feel very important."

"He was a true friend," he added. "He was never impressed with himself and he considered all people to be important. He had great compassion."

Bonnie Silva is a Birmingham resident and close family friend.

"He was a very positive influence and always willing to talk to everyone," Silva said.

DONALD E. PETERSEN, chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer at Ford Motor Co. said everyone is saddened by the death of Henry Ford II, "who gave so much of himself to this company and the world at large."

Lee A. Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Corp., former Ford executive and a Bloomfield Hills resident, said of Ford's death that "all of American business has lost a true leader."

Roger B. Smith, a Bloomfield Hills resident and chairman of General Motors, said the auto industry has lost a legend as well as a leader.

"His leadership and candor won him the respect of leaders the world over as well as employees on the plant floor," Smith said. "He was a brilliant businessman."

FORD IS SURVIVED by his wife, Kathleen; son, Edsel B. Ford II; daughters Charlotte Ford Downe and Anne Ford Scarborough; brother William Clay Ford; sister Josephine C. Ford; and six grandchildren.

Ford didn't start at the top when he embarked on his career in the business. His first job was as a mechanic in the dynamometer room in Dearborn. Later he worked in installations at the Rouge plant and in the company's engineering test garage.

Ford left the company in 1941 to join the Naval Reserve, but returned in 1943 to run the company's war production after the death of his father, Edsel B. Ford, then company president.

After assuming control of the company in 1945, Ford expanded its sales from \$894.3 million in 1946 to \$43.5 billion in 1979.

ASIDE FROM business duties, Ford also was active in civic affairs, including serving as chairman of the board of trustees of the Henry Ford Health Care Corp., the parent company of Henry Ford Hospital. He helped to organize Detroit Renaissance, a plan to implement the commercial and civic revitalization of Detroit, and launched the development of the Renaissance Center.

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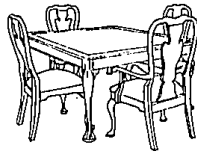
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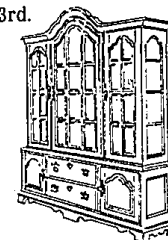
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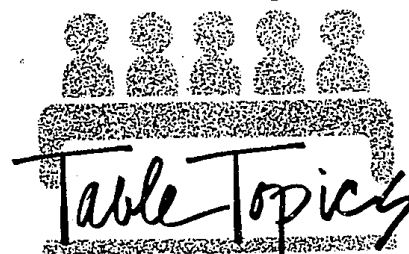


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