

Name

Donald (Dēk) Kanally

Year of Graduation

1941



DONALD KANALLY
"Dek"
... promoter ... voluble ...
a candid camera addict

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After graduating from Port Allegany High School Mr. Kanally attended Grove City College. With the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of that year Dek enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. This allowed him to complete his Bachelor's Degree after a transfer to Bucknell University.

In 1944, he graduated from Bucknell and went into active duty after completing boot camp at Parris Island and officer's training at Camp Lejeune. In 1945, Mr. Kanally was assigned to Camp Pendleton, 6th Marine Division, 3rd Amphibious Force. The group had orders to attack Kyushu, Japan in Operation Downfall. This attack did not occur after the Japanese surrender with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mr. Kanally's Division was sent to the China Sea and Dek witnessed the signing of the surrender of the Empire of Japan on September 2, 1945. After the surrender the 6th Marine Division, 3rd Amphibious Force was assigned to repatriate more than 500,000 Japanese soldiers in China back to Japan.

In 1946, Dek returned home and began working for the George Flemming Insurance Company. The following year he enrolled in the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he received a Master's Degree in Economics.

In 1948, Mr. Kanally returned to Fleming Insurance where he worked for 40 years after becoming a partner and sole owner after Mr. Flemming's retirement.

Dek was recalled to the Marine Corps and served on the U.S.S. Chilton in 1950. Serving in the Mediterranean, Dek met Pope Pius XII at Gandolfo, Italy which was the Pope's summer residence.

During his adult years in Port Allegany, Mr. Kanally was active in the community with the Port Allegany Recreation Authority, Rotary and Exchange Clubs, the Port Allegany School Board, Borough Council, Economic Development Corporation, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Dek taught water safety classes for many years to students in the area who wanted to be life guards at area pools.

Mr. Kanally married his wife Ann in 1949. Ann Kanally was a former teacher at Port Allegany High School. They have two sons, David (Dallas, TX) and Kevin (Bradford, PA).

Where do you currently live?

Port Allegany, Pa

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

Edison O. Bates (Biology/Science), "He was an excellent teacher." Ruth MacFarland Glesk (English/Library), "She gave students an appreciation of the importance of national defense and also taught them the importance of a good handshake."

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

The outings Mr. Bates took his classes on not only during school but also on weekends and during the summer.