



John Lampton Belt

March 14, 1936-March 10, 2013

A friend is defined as a person whom one knows, likes and trusts. John Lampton Belt was a true friend to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and had been for nearly 30 years until his death on March 10, 2013. Our friend, who also served as our general counsel since 1984, played an invaluable role in the growth of the organization.

His work with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation started a year before the hiring of Nancy Anthony as executive director in 1985.

“John had only been there a year, but he certainly acted like he had much more experience than I did,” Nancy recalls. “It took me a few years to figure out that a lot of that was just his presence and ability to act wise and helpful.

“But he was certainly sincere in all of his advice and counsel,” she adds. “It was the bedrock of our growth beyond the Kirkpatrick legacy.”

Carla Pickrell joined the organization as director of administration in 1986, a position she held until her retirement in 2010. She says Mr. Belt’s value to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation went far beyond his legal expertise and she considered him a secret asset of the organization.

“He was there during the formative early years and remained at this post for the rest of his life, providing an essential stability to the organization,” she says. “As we grew in size, services and outreach to the community, John was always there supporting and encouraging that vision, while asking the necessary critical questions to keep us on our primary course of supporting endowment funds for the community. I was personally very proud to call him my friend.”

Following the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Mr. Belt was integral in helping to get the legalities in order to establish the Oklahoma City Disaster Relief Fund that continues to meet unmet needs of those directly impacted by that disaster. He would go on to serve as a trustee of the Disaster Relief Fund until his death.

For the Oklahoma City Community Foundation staff, Mr. Belt was always friendly, upbeat and ready with a smile and praise for a job well done. While we feel his loss, we are left with his legacy of giving back, whether it’s through the Paseo Arts District, Harding Fine Arts Academy or the more than 40 nonprofit organizations in Oklahoma City that he helped to establish.

Sculpture Planned

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the Paseo Artists Association are collaborating on a competition to create an outdoor sculpture that will honor Mr. Belt. The selected artist or team of artists will receive a \$30,000 award to create a sculpture that will be permanently installed in the median at the intersection of Paseo Drive and Northwest 29th Street in the Paseo Arts District. The selection committee anticipates announcing the chosen artist/artist team by the end of 2013. The sculpture will be dedicated on March 14, 2015 on what would’ve been Mr. Belt’s 79th birthday.

Mr. Belt’s relationship with the Kirkpatrick family was as both counsel and friend. Read more about his work with the family on pages 54-55.