

NARRATIVE
ALLEN DEVILBISS GUTCHESS JR.
May 13, 1928 – October 15, 2013

Allen DeVilbiss Gutches, Jr. was born on May 13, 1928 to Julia and Allen D. Gutches. He grew up in Ottawa Hills. His great-grandfather, Allen DeVilbiss, developed the spray atomizer which was the founding product for the DeVilbiss Company. Allen's father was chairman of the DeVilbiss Company which was then the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of spray-painting equipment and atomizers.

Allen was a talented student and he took a semester of courses at the University of Michigan the summer before he started his senior year in high school. After graduating from high school at the age of 17 Allen enrolled in the University of Michigan. Allen graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Mechanical Engineering in 1949. He received his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 1951.

Allen was in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955. He served in the Korean War as an Air Controlman. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Allen worked fulltime at Surface Combustion while attending the University Of Toledo College Of Law at night. Allen graduated cum laude from the University Of Toledo College Of Law and was admitted to practice in the State of Ohio in 1960. Dean Charles Fornoff wrote the following note upon Allen's successful passage of the Ohio Bar: "We are very happy over it and very proud that this group of candidates came through 100% successful. Of course, I had no worry at all about your immediate success because I am entirely satisfied that a brilliant record such as you have achieved in law school measures a very high achievement".

Upon graduating from Law School Allen joined the firm of Owen & Owen and started his career as a patent attorney. Allen worked at Owen & Owen from 1960 until 1969. While at Owen & Owen, Allen developed a close relationship with Games Slater the Chief Engineer and Scientist at Owens Corning Fiberglas. Allen worked closely with Mr. Slater to patent many of the technical innovations that helped to establish Owens Corning as one of the world leaders in the production of fiberglass products. After leaving Owen & Owen, Allen engaged in a lengthy career as a sole practitioner. He assisted many companies by obtaining patents on the inventions made by the companies. During his career Allen prepared and prosecuted more than 600 patent applications with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Allen also obtained patents on many of these concepts in countries throughout the world for his clients.

Allen was a past president of the Toledo Patent Law Association and was a loyal supporter of this organization for over 50 years. Allen was a past president of the University of Toledo College Of Law Alumni Association and was an active participant in the Alumni Associations activities for many years.

A Judge of Allen's acquaintance remembers how Allen, whom the Judge came to know through some long-gone bar association event or activity, was forever quietly cordial and friendly -- the kind of professional gentleman who, though from an area of practice one would see only occasionally, helps to make being in our profession in Toledo so pleasant.

During his educational studies Allen was a member of Phi Theta Phi Honor Fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity. Allen was a faithful attendee of the Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity meetings.

Allen was a lifelong active member of Epworth United Methodist Church. As a member of SERTOMA Club, a service organization, Allen assisted the less fortunate in our community.

The family cottage in Alpena, Michigan gave Allen an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and to spend time with his family. Watching nature at the family cottage or in his backyard in Sylvania provided hours of enjoyment for Allen and his family.

Allen is survived by his children, Heather Paschall, Heidi (Francisco) Morales, Matthew Gutches and Holly (Brian) Bolenbough.