
NJCCC Bids Sad Farewell to Bob Pellet

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) is mourning the loss of Bob Pellet, who served as council president during the 1990s. Bob, who died January 4 at his home in Highland Lakes at age 83, oversaw the organization during a difficult time when state budget cuts threatened the organization's future.

"What was remarkable about Bob was that he dared to dream, reached for the stars, and then worked hard to make it happen," said NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber. "We followed like puppies."

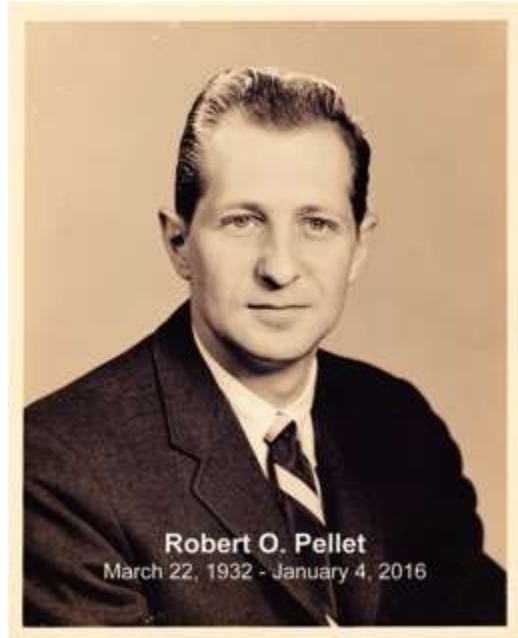
Bob worked tirelessly to achieve nonprofit status for what was then the CleanCommunities Committee, now the NJCCC. Bob knew that the CleanCommunities program would not survive in government; and that a nonprofit, with the ability to build a budget through donations, was the only way the program would thrive.

"As many of you know, he had been struggling with health issues over the past few years, but fought hard to stay with my mother, whom he loved beyond measure, and this world," said Bob's daughter, Jennifer. "When his time came he was where he wanted to be—in his own home at the lake with my mother at his side. Thank you all for your friendship over the years and support during this difficult time for our family."

Bob was born on March 22, 1932 in Hoboken. He lived in Bogota, Rivervale and Edison, before moving to Highland Lakes, where he had owned a home for many years, in 2005.

Bob graduated from Bogota High School and attended Westminster College, where he earned a degree in journalism. After college, Bob served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and in the Reserves until his discharge in 1962.

Early in his career, he was managing editor of the Teaneck Sunday Sun, editor of the Paramus Post and editorial and feature writer for the Ridgewood Herald News. He later served as manager of community relations at Merck and then as the director of public relations at Schering-Plough.



In 1977, Robert co-founded Coleman & Pellet, a public relations firm in which he served as principal until the mid-1990s. He also served as interim head of communications at Kean University in retirement.

"Bob was a wonderful and kind man with a warm heart, great energy and big smile," said Linda Doherty, a NJCCC board member and president of the NJ Food Council. "He really was a great leader and huge supporter of the Clean Communities Council. We are a better organization because of Bob's commitment to our mission. He will be remembered and missed by so many."

"Bob was a true gentleman," added Paul Bontempo, the NJCCC treasurer and a partner with MBI GluckShaw.

Barbara McConnell, a founding board member of the NJCCC, said she was saddened by the news. "He was such a kind and gentle man; and his passion for NJCCC was unprecedented. His leadership and friendship will long be remembered."

"Bob was a gentleman of great character whose calm and skilled leadership at the helm of Clean Communities established the foundation upon which today's highly successful organization was built," said James Morford, a former NJCCC president, credited with the passage of the 2002 Clean Communities Act.

"As time inevitably marches on, we lose more and more of the colleagues with whom we worked to create a better New Jersey," he added. "No greater tribute could there be than that the world is a better place because Bob Pellet was here. My deep sympathies to his family at this time of loss. He will be missed by many."

"Bob was truly the one behind the Clean Communities Advisory Committee and instrumental in it becoming the Clean Communities Council it is today," said Judy Murphy, who recently retired from the NJCCC board. "He hung in there through all the tough times we had trying to get a bill through the Legislature to legitimize us and was truly the backbone of the organization. He has been and will be missed. My deepest sympathies to Betty and his family."

Bob is survived by his beloved wife Betty; his children, Jeffrey R. Pellet and Jennifer Pellet, and four grandchildren.

His family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the NJCCC or the America Lung Association.

Relatives and friends attended a memorial service at the Highland Lakes Country Club on Saturday, January 9. For condolences and directions please visit www.fergusonvernonfuneralhome.com.

You can mail NJCCC donations to: New Jersey Clean Communities Council, Inc., 222 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608
