

## Cyril J. Marx

We are happy to name Cyril J Marx the 73rd inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Cyril Marx was nominated by his son, Joe Marx, and granddaughter, Marie Luchterhand

The Marshfield community was important to Cyril Marx. He was always interested in its well-being. Because of his interest and his belief in the community, he gave much of himself, both time and talent, to promote its growth and prosperity.

He was born here in Marshfield, the second of John and Theresa (Leinwander) Marx's five children on March 20, 1911. As a child, he attended St. John's Parochial School, and then went on to graduate from McKinley High School in 1929.

As a young man during the early years of the Great Depression, he worked in local grocery and meat businesses and then, like other young men of the time, labored on work projects for the city. In February 1935, he started work at the Roddis Plywood Corporation. He would work there, and for its successor, the Weyerhaeuser Company, until his retirement 42 years later.

At Roddis, Marx got involved in union affairs. He served as the president of the Central Labor Union for nine years and as the recording secretary of Millmen's Local No. 1733, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for thirteen years.

In 1958 Marx ran for, and was elected, alderman of the First Ward, a position he held for the next 24 years. During his tenure on the Marshfield Common Council, he served as its president for seven terms. Leaving the Common Council in 1982, he was elected to the Wood County Board of Supervisors. For the next seven years, he represented the Third District.

Marx was pleased with his record of accomplishments while in office, but a personal highlight of his political career happened in 1959, when he was able to officially welcome Senator John F. Kennedy, the likely Democratic nominee for President of the United States, and his wife, Jackie, to Marshfield and then provide them with a tour of the community.

Beyond local politics and union affairs, Marx also worked tirelessly for other local causes. He assisted with fund-raising activities for St. Joseph Hospital and Columbus High School. He participated in and promoted programs of the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as activities of local service clubs like the Eagles, Lions and Rotary just to name a few.



After a lifetime of working on the community's behalf Marx passed away at age 84 on March 11, 1996. Following his death, the Marshfield News-Herald shared the following tribute on its editorial page.

"Community service was something that Cyril Marx worked at all his life as a politician, union leader and volunteer in any number of programs for the benefit of this community, where he was born and raised.

"He spent more than 30 years in the public arena, after earning his first term as 1st Ward alderman in 1958. He would stay with that job nearly a quarter of a century, when he decided to run for mayor of Marshfield, the first political test he lost. After that, he served seven years as a supervisor on the Wood County Board.

"On the exterior, he sometimes seemed like a gruff, opinionated politician who was not prone to change his mind on the issues. Yet he was always willing to listen to the people. And he proved to be an astute and hard-working politician, who knew how to get things done and who had a lot of foresight on where this community was and should be headed.

"That was most clear in his untiring work as chairman of the University Center Commission, which found the site and made building plans for the Marshfield campus. And in his 18 years of work with Greater Marshfield Inc. and the Industrial Park Authority, which helped develop and fill industrial land here. When he retired from Council duties, he also spoke with pride about the development of the Marshfield Municipal Airport and the wastewater treatment plant. He had reservations, however, when the city went to a private garbage collection service, concerns about the subdivision control ordinance, and the costs of and need for a full-time mayor.

"He also was closely aligned with union efforts and as a union officer in his work as a machine setup man and toolmaker at Roddis Plywood Corporation, and later Weyerhaeuser Company. Never one to fully retire, his interests later found him as president of the Senior Citizens Club and as an active volunteer at tax assistance and with other programs of that group.

"Cyril Marx gave so much of himself to this community, as was evidenced by the special recognition service awards he received from the Rotary, Lions and Senior Citizen organizations. Without question, he always stood up for and fought for causes that he believed in and the people he represented. He put his time and effort on the line time and time again."

The Marx family is proud of all that our father and grandfather accomplished during his life. We appreciate the accolades he received, the Lions Club Good Citizenship Award (1982), Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award (1987) and the Senior Citizen's Club Award, and we would be proud to see his name listed on the register of Marshfield's 150, Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present.