

Andrew B. Kirkpatrick, Jr., Esquire

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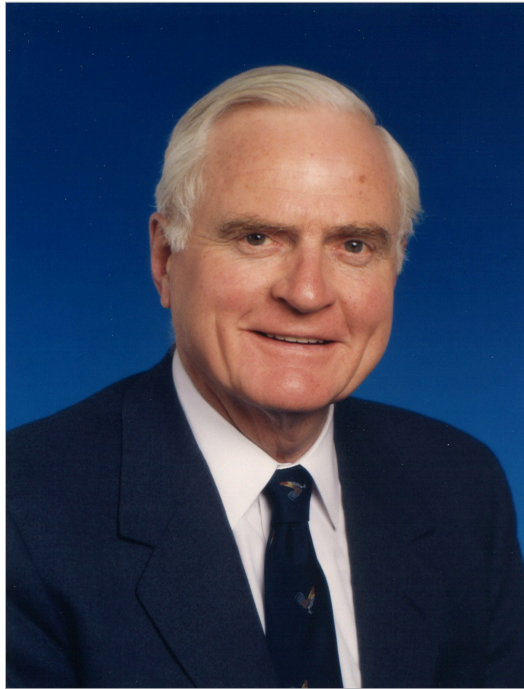
By A. Gilchrist Sparks, III, Esquire

Over the years, the Delaware Bar has been blessed by a handful of lawyers in each generation who have not only made extraordinary contributions to their profession and their law firms, but have also provided significant leadership to the broader community. Andy Kirkpatrick was one of such persons.

After service as an infantry officer in the Korean War and a clerkship with Third Circuit Chief Judge John Biggs, Jr., Andy began his litigation practice with what is now Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP, where he was to practice until his retirement after a career spanning over 40 years. Throughout his career, Andy was an accomplished and respected business litigator, trying cases in the corporate area as well as a number of significant cases arising out of aviation accidents. Among his many professional recognitions was his long tenure as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

When Andy came to Morris Nichols, he was one of four associates working for five partners. After the retirement of Sam Arsht and Judge Tunnell in 1979, Andy became the senior partner at Morris Nichols, and remained such for 16 years. When he retired in 1995, he left behind a law firm that had successfully transitioned from a small practice run by its founders to become one of Delaware's largest and most respected law firms, due in no small part to Andy's leadership and foresight in the implementation of modern management and compensation structures, and his early recognition of growth areas in the practice of Delaware business law.

While pursuing a demanding practice and devoting significant time and effort to firm management, Andy also made time to serve both the Bar and the broader community. Among his



contributions to the Bar was service as DSBA President in 1978-79 and an eight-year term as Chair of what is now the Supreme Court's Board on Professional Responsibility.

Andy's leadership in the broader community was also exemplary. Among other roles, he chaired the Governor's Commission on Organized Crime, was on the Board of the Delaware Academy of Medicine, and was a Trustee of The Tatnall School. Beyond that, and no doubt his proudest community contribution, was his service as a Trustee from 1982 to 2003 and as Chair from 1988 to 1999 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware. During his tenure as Chair, he oversaw a difficult transition in leadership at the University, ultimately resulting in the selection of Dr. David Roselle as President, which led to a remarkable period of growth and fiscal stability and laid the groundwork for the upward trajectory the University continues to experience today.

The institutional developments during Andy's leadership tenure both at Morris Nichols and at the University of Delaware stand as ongoing legacies resulting from his embrace of the concept that a Delaware lawyer not only should excel at meeting his or her day-to-day professional obligations to clients, but also should utilize broader leadership skills to better both the workplace and the community. It was Andy's extra effort, commitment and sacrifice to satisfy this dual mandate, coupled with his extraordinary proficiency in the practice of law, which made him one of the select handful to stand out in his generation as a true leader of the Delaware Bar. While Andy will be missed, his example remains for all of us to follow.

Mr. Sparks is Of Counsel to Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware. 