



Arch Gleason: Remembering an Industry Giant

Arthur L. “Arch” Gleason Jr., a husband, father, grandfather, friend and globally-recognized business professional—with a heart as big as the sky—passed away on July 1, 2016. He was 69 years old. In addition to being an industry giant for more than 25 years, in addition to tirelessly serving the industry associations in almost all of the offices up to and including president, Arch Gleason was the most genuinely kind and thoughtful person you could know. This spirit of generosity and compassionate wisdom engendered such strong feelings of affection among his countless friends.

Arch had just recently announced his retirement from the Kentucky Lottery. At that time, he said, *“The Kentucky Lottery has generated billions of dollars for Kentucky education, with a record \$236.1 million contribution in 2015. Over the years we’ve built one of the most successful lotteries in the country, a powerful economic engine for our state which will run for years to come. I’m so proud of our efforts.”*

For nearly 23 years, Arch served as president and CEO of the Kentucky Lottery Corporation. He oversaw the growth of the lottery to an operation with nearly \$1 billion annually in sales. Arch handed numerous four-foot-long checks to Powerball winners, never missed recognizing an employee’s birthday, and most importantly oversaw the Kentucky Lottery’s transition to be the funding source of college scholarship and grant programs. *“Arch leaves behind an amazing legacy,”* said Kentucky Lottery Board Chair June Hudson. *“He took such great pride in the Kentucky kids that went to college using more than \$2.5 billion in scholarships and grants generated during his tenure. He would often relate stories of young people he met and how gratifying it was to hear how education had helped shape their future. And he always refused to get an unlisted home telephone number, in case a player wanted to call him with a question or concern. That was Arch.”*

Arch spent two decades as a CPA before entering government service. Prior to coming to Kentucky, he served two separate terms as director of the West Virginia Lottery, and as secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, special assistant to the governor of West Virginia, and chairman of the Public Port Authority.

Arch rose to become recognized as one the most respected and accomplished lottery leaders in the U.S. and the world. He truly had a servant’s heart, and it steered much of his work. He led Kentucky to be one of the first U.S. lotteries to establish a responsible

gambling program. He also took this work to the global community, serving five years as president of the World Lottery Association, working to establish the first-ever responsible gambling standards for lottery use on a world-wide basis. Arch also served as president of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) and as president of the Multi State Lottery Corporation (the oversight agency for the Powerball game). He was a member of the Public Gaming Research Institute’s Lottery Hall of Fame, and recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award. Arch was set to receive the Lottery Industry Statesman Award at PGRI Lottery Expo in Miami in September. There will be a ceremony at Lottery Expo to honor Arch and all that he has done for this industry.



His charitable efforts over the decades were endless, but he particularly enjoyed his work on the boards of directors for Bridgehaven Mental Health Services (where he served as board president), the Fund for the Arts and the American Heart Association. Arch was also a member of the Metro United Way’s Tocqueville Society.

Arch is survived by the love of his life Annie Gleason, his bride of nearly 48 years. He was the proud father of four, Archie (Rachel), Colleen, Katie and Ryan (Kenzie), as well as seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. ■