



## John Edward “Jack” Fahey - *Public Service*

For 30 years, John Edward “Jack” Fahey served his community faithfully and unselfishly in a variety of roles, including Wheeling City Council member, Mayor, Ohio County Commissioner and West Virginia Delegate.

In 1971, after many years of involvement with St. Joseph Cathedral parish activities and having much interest in local and national politics, Fahey decided to run for Wheeling City Council. He had no prior political experience, but won the Second Ward seat by defeating six other candidates. As a new member of City Council, he learned quickly that political life was quite challenging, but he always stood up for his beliefs. In 1975, he was re-elected to Council from the Second Ward and was then elected Mayor by the vote of the City Council. He was proud to serve as Mayor and was a great ambassador for the city.

In 1982, Fahey was elected as an Ohio County Commissioner, a position he held for 12 years. During his tenure, he served on many boards and commissions. He was appointed to the West Virginia Regional Jail and Prison Authority.

He served as President of the Ohio County Commission, director of the National Association of Counties and board member and President of the West Virginia Association of Counties and the West Virginia Association of County Commissioners. He also served on the boards of Bel-O-Mar Regional Planning Council, Ohio Valley Industrial Business Development Corporation and Wheeling Hall of Fame and was President of the Ohio County Board of Health.

In 2000, Fahey was again called to public service as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and served until 2002.

During his time of public service, Fahey was vigilant in the quest to complete the Wheeling Creek Watershed project. Construction of a series of seven dams started in 1975, as he began his term as Mayor. The final dam was built in the mid-1990s, as he completed his second term as Ohio County Commissioner. The Wheeling Hall of Fame was established in 1977 under Fahey’s direction and leadership as Mayor. He began a push for a city charter review in 1975; the project reached the voters in 1991.

The future civic leader was born on November 28, 1928, the fifth of 11 children of George and Blanche Schiffer Fahey. After graduating from Wheeling Central Catholic High School, he worked at Sealtest Ice Cream for a short time before beginning a career with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in August 1947. He joined the B&O as an outside caller, then worked as a teletype operator and, within three years, became yardmaster. He served in that capacity for 36 years.

He married Catherine Ann “Katie” Flading in 1948. They have seven children, 17 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He is “Uncle Jack” to 18 nieces and nephews, and many great-nieces and great-nephews. As the patriarch of a large family, he instills love for his church and his country in every aspect of his life. He is proud of his Irish heritage.

While his accomplishments as a community leader are countless, Fahey is most proud of his family, his unwavering faith in God, and his love for the city of Wheeling. He is the epitome of a public servant. His passion for the city will be his legacy.