



Invest in Our Vision

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**STATEMENT FROM THE MORRISTOWN PARTNERSHIP
ON THE PASSING OF PHIL DEL GIUDICE**

The Morristown Partnership is deeply saddened by the passing of Phil Del Giudice, Emeritus Board Member and former Chairman. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we extend our deepest condolences to his wife Kathy, his children, grandchildren, and the entire Del Giudice family.

Phil was a founding member of the Morristown Partnership and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1994 during the organization's first election by the membership. He joined the Executive Committee as Vice Chairman in 1998 and became Chairman in 1999. He served in that role for 17 years, guiding the Partnership through a period of significant growth and transition until 2016. After stepping down as Chairman, he remained involved in an emeritus role.

"Phil's leadership helped shape the Morristown Partnership during some of its most formative years," said Ryan Dawson, Board President. "His steady presence, thoughtful guidance, and extraordinary commitment to this organization set a standard for board service that few achieve. He cared deeply about Morristown and about the long-term strength of our downtown."

"Phil's connection to the Morristown Partnership and the local community spanned decades," said Jennifer Wehring, Executive Director. "He carried a deep knowledge of the organization's early years and of the people and decisions that guided the growth of downtown Morristown. That perspective mattered, and I appreciated being able to lean on it over the years. His long commitment to the Partnership and Morristown's business community will not be forgotten."

Phil's roots in Morristown ran deep. His family's business began in 1949, when his father, Jack Del Giudice, and uncle Jim opened Del's Market after moving from Mine Hill. Over time, the business evolved into Del's Novelty & Party Supply Co., which became a fixture on Elm Street for 67 years. Generations of Morristown families remember Del's, particularly during the Halloween season, when the store was filled with costumes, decorations, and traditions that became part of the fabric of the community. In January 2015, a devastating fire destroyed the Elm Street building and brought an end to the historic storefront. Phil faced that loss with resilience and dignity, and his commitment to Morristown never wavered.

As we mourn his passing, we also recognize the lasting impact of his loyalty, perseverance and leadership. Phil's contributions helped strengthen the Morristown Partnership and the downtown community he loved.