

Philip Vincent Robey
Manufacturer's Representative
Community Service and
Activist
Class of 1964



Phil Robey has found joy and satisfaction on three fronts: His business, his community, and his family. In Phil's case, the last comes first. His wife Allie and their two daughters obviously are in the top spot, and he stresses the support they have given him in his other endeavors. Further, no story of the Robeys would be complete without mention of Phil's twin brother Paul and his brother-in-law Jim Cruickshank -- long-time coaching colleagues -- as well as his close extended family.

Following his 1968 graduation from Providence College and after fulfilling his basic training obligation in the National Guard, Phil joined a local electronics firm, Cramer Electronics, where he rose through the ranks to become a director of product marketing. In 1979, he, along with a senior industry leader, started a new company, and then in 1983, needing a change of venue, he joined his present company, Component Technology, Inc., a manufacturer's representative organization, where he is an owner and partner.

The third major facet of his life is community service and activism. Few in Needham have not been enriched by his contributions. To cite but a few examples -- Sports: How many youngsters have been touched, directly or indirectly, by his thirty years of coaching (in Little League and summer baseball) and six years of presidency of the Little League? Exchange Club: How proud is Needham of its Charles River ARC, an active and progressive center for retarded citizens, where Phil serves on the Board of Directors? Or the Child Abuse

Prevention Center, known for its CAPP program, which Phil and others founded to respond to the need to educate children and families about this problem? And how many families have enjoyed the fireworks and other activities of the Fourth of July?

Phil was also a principal in the building of the Carleton Pavilion at the DeFazio complex. And, possibly because of his time spent on Needham's playing fields and his desire to maintain open space, he was appointed and eventually elected to the Park and Recreation Commission, which he has chaired for the last several years. He sits on the board of the Richard P. Melick foundation, which recognizes outstanding acts of local citizens, and the Charles Wyckoff Science and Society Project, which promotes education in the sciences.

Underlying his satisfaction in all these activities is Phil's respect for the individuals with whom he has worked and volunteered. He feels that he was exposed to the importance of discipline, motivation and teamwork at Needham High School and that the influence of coaches and teachers, along with activities such as sports, student government and student clubs, contributed to his lifelong interest in serving others.

The breadth of his activities gives testimony to Phil's sense of responsibility and his dedication to his town. He does what he does, however, mainly because he just plain enjoys it. Needham High School is proud to recognize a graduate who takes such pleasure in using his abilities and energies to enrich the lives of others.

S. G. G.