

THE POCONO BUSINESS NEWS

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

* SPECIAL TRIBUTE EDITION *

MAY 24, 2023

WHEELS UP & FINAL FAREWELL TO MOUNT POCONO BUSINESSMAN LAVERNE "VERN" MOYER



Sunrise: September 19, 1937
Sundown May 16, 2023

Tributes and final
interview
inside

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to another issue of *The Pocono Business News*, the Pocono Mountains' independent publication established to provide our residents with accounts of local business development and growth. As such, *The Pocono Business News* gathers, prints, and disseminates positive information about residents who exhibit exemplary leadership in business, industry, education, arts, and the profession, as well as provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, job opportunities, and other information.

In this issue, we celebrate the life Laverne "Vern" Moyer, Founder and former President of Moyer Aviation, Inc. located at Pocono Mountains Municipal Airport in Tobyhanna, PA. Vern passed away at his home surrounded by his family on May 16, 2023. He was 85 years old.

The Italian writer Leonardo De Vinci wrote: "When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward."

Vern turned Leonardo De Vinci's statement into reality. A U.S. Air Force Veteran, he was a long-time Pocono resident and an outstanding member of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono. He served as the Club's President in the 90s and continued to maintain his membership until his passing.

Alive, Vern was an institution. His name was synonymous with aviation in the Poconos. He loved flying, and built an empire for himself in the skies of the Pocono Mountains with his aviation business, running year-round tours over the skies of the Greater Pocono Mountains area for residents and visitors to the area.

Vern, along with his wife, Jean, established Moyer Aviation, Inc. with a \$3,000 investment in 1981 as a full service airline business that offered flight training, charter flights and a full service maintenance operations in the Northeast Pennsylvania. Under his leadership, Moyer Aviation, Inc. was licensed as Air Carrier to operate in the U.S. and Canada, flying single and twin-engine aircraft and as a broker for the sale of jets and helicopters. For over 40 years, Vern's company provided air tours to area residents and to tourists alike.

Vern was a consummate businessman. He loved flying, life, and his family. He also loved the Poconos and its people. Before his passing, Vern granted an exclusive and final interview to Hal H. Harris which, by permission, I am honored to publish in this Tribute Edition of *The Pocono Business News*.

Farewell, Mr. Vern Moyer

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Chief Editor

THE POCONO BUSINESS NEWS

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Exclusive Interview with Vern Moyer

by Hal H. Harris, President-Elect of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono

The name Laverne “Vern” Moyer is synonymous with aviation in the Greater Pocono Mountains Area. Over the course of 42 years, Vern owned Moyer Aviation, Inc, which provided employment and flight training to many residents of Pennsylvania. Vern was a veteran and also served the Mount Pocono community as a member and former president of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono. Vern embodied Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” axiom.

Vern transitioned from this earthly world on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, but before his passing, he granted an exclusive interview to Hal H. Harris, the President-Elect of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono. The interview of upstanding Pocono Businessman Laverne Vern Moyer was conducted on May 11, 2023.

The final interview of Vern appears below:

HAL: When and where were you born?

Vern: Montgomery County PA, in 1937. Moved to Mount Pocono for contract at Airport.

Hal: Did you ever serve in the military? If yes, what branch and how long?

Vern: Yes in the U.S. Air Force for four years. Ground crewman. In between Korean and Vietnam wars. Well Korea was just a conflict. Got my commercial pilot license while in the Military Flying Club.

Hal: When and why did you start Moyer Aviation, Inc.?

Vern: Always wanted to be in business. Worked as a flight instructor and brought Montgomeryville Airport incorporated. Sold plane and invested in business in 1968 to 1978. Airport disbanded in 1978. Flew for company and managed Pottstown Airport for three (3) years. Successful in bid in 1981 brought the airport and formed Moyer Aviation, Inc. with one airplane. Grew to six (6) airplanes at Mount Pocono Airport. Acquired Breeden Flying Service in 1996 and operated two businesses. In 2002 decided to move all operations from Mount Pocono Municipal Airport to Breeden and returned to Mount Pocono 2013. Sold Moyer Aviation, Inc. in Summer 2022 after meeting with Paul Morgan despite having various other interested and less experienced buyers. Selling price was about the same but my commitment to service was the major factor in the who I sold to.

Hal: What advice would you give to anyone who wants to pursue a career in aviation?

Vern: Start out with lots of money because you will end up with less. Get as much experience in the business as you can get to establish contacts that you can call on if you need them. Cannot depend on being able to hire people.

Hal: Who will run Moyer Aviation, Inc. after you transition?

Vern: Paul Morgan. None of my family members will be involved after June 2023.

Hal: When did you join Rotary Club Of Mount Pocono & what lasting impact do you believe it has had on the Mount Pocono and surrounding community?

Vern: Joined in 1992 and became Secretary right away, then Vice President and I became President in 1993. George Bynack, former radio owner (WPCN) and RCOMP President at the time tried had to get me to join for a long time. The Fly-In breakfast started in



Mr. Laverne “Vern” Moyer

1992 as an alternative to just doing the Pancake breakfast at the local high school and has become a tradition that lets RCOMP raise money to help the community. Dave Moyer, Mark Turner, and Gina Bertucci came on board as non-Rotarians, in the mid ninety’s after doing a benefit at the airport after a Ross Township shooting.

Hal: What is your greatest wish for your family and especially for your grandchildren?

Vern: That they all be successful in their chosen walks of life and take care of people that need help. “Very proud of all my children and Wife”

Hal: How would you like to be remembered?

Vern: As somebody that could help someone when they needed help. I am 85 years old and had pretty good time. My favorite place to be is at home – where I am now.

Hal: What was the happiest moment of your life?

Vern: When I saw my kids for the first time – when they born and when I got Married. I have been married for 55 years. I asked her to marry me, and we figured on waiting a couple of years but invitations were sent out and we were married two (2) months later.

Hal: Who would you like to nominate for the 2023 Vern Moyer RCOMP Man of the Year Award?

Vern: John H. Davis. Because he has served Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono for many years.

Hal: Is there anything in particular you would like to state in your tribute?

Vern: Everybody should strive to do Service Above Self and live by the Rotary’s Four Way Test. Follow the rules and don’t get in trouble.

Hal: What’s the first thing you going to say to God when you see him?

Vern: Please forgive me for my sins.

Hal: What personal advice would you give me, Hal H. Harris, as incoming President of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono?

Vern: You have a lot of good ideas but should talk to

the people who have been around before you go ahead with them and stand back and listen more to what they have to say.

Hal: What personal advice would you give to Elseah Chea, Publisher of The Pocono Business News, who is becoming a new member of our Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono tonight?

Vern: Do things to help the community and the world.

Hal: Who are some of the famous people you have flown?

Vern: Governor Josh Shapiro, when he was Attorney General, Heavy Weight Boxing Champ Larry Holmes – he’s Great Guy, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr., U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Sr., Congressman Matt Cartwright, and another Republican Senator but I can’t remember his name.

Hal: What church do you attend?

Vern: Zion United Church Of Christ, been a member for forty (40) years.

Hal: What was the first car that you owned?

Vern: Chevrolet.

Hal: What was the first airplane that you owned?

Vern: Red & White Piper cub.

Hal: Thank you Vern. It has been a sincere pleasure knowing you and I will miss you.

Vern: Same here.

Footnotes By Hal H. Harris:

The above interview took place in Vern’s home in Tannersville, PA, while Vern was still strong of mind, heart and voice after Vern and I, had, as brothers in Christ, took time to pray and take communion together.

Vern allowed me to scan the picture of his first airplane, and take a picture of his Lifetime Service Award, that appears on page 6, presented to him the day before, on behalf of all members of Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono (RCOMP), by Frank Celafi, C.P.A., John H. Davis and Mitchell K. Marcus, RCOMP’s current President. Other pictures that appear in this Tribute Edition were provided to Pocono Business News by Vern’s family members at my request.

OBITUARY

Laverne S. Moyer's Obituary



The Moyer Family

Laverne S. Moyer (Vern), 85, of Tannersville, PA passed away on May 16th, 2023 at home surrounded by his loving family. Vern was born in Morwood, PA on September 19, 1937 to Mary Etta and Marvin A. Moyer. After Vern graduated from Pennridge High School in 1955 he enlisted in the Air Force where he served from 1958-1962 and was stationed with the Strategic Air Command. In 63-64 after achieving his commercial pilots license he was an agricultural pilot in Mississippi and Delaware.

In 1965 Vern took a job as a flight instructor at Montgomeryville Airport which is where he met the love of his life. Vern and Jean were married in 1967 and were married for 55 years. In 1968, along with 2 partners, Vern purchased Montgomeryville Airport Operations which lasted until 1978 when the airport closed.

From 1978 – 81 Vern flew corporate planes and managed the Pottstown-Limerick Airport. In 1981 they won the contract to operate the Pocono Mountains Municipal Airport and relocated to Tannersville, PA when

they formed Moyer Aviation, Inc. In 1996 they acquired an additional operation in Forks Township, Braden Airpark.

In 2013 all operations were moved back to Pocono Mountains Municipal Airport, later renamed Pocono Mountains Regional Airport, which they ran until December of 2022 when Moyer Aviation, Inc was purchased by Axxcess Group who will continue to run the business as Moyer Aviation.

Vern was an active member of the Rotary Club of Mount Pocono and a past President where he received the prestigious Paul Harris Award and the Lifetime Service Award. Vern was also a former board member of the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania, a member of the Ancient & Secret Order of the Quiet Birdmen and a Charter Member and the 1st Chairmen of the Flight School Association of North America.

Vern was a dedicated member of Zion United Church Of Christ, located in Stroudsburg, PA for 40+ years where he was an Elder and a member of the men's signing group

“The Keepers.”

Vern was awarded the Fifty Years of dedicated service in Aviation Safety on November 2, 2007. Many of Vern's flight school graduates have gone on to have successful aviation careers. Vern was also an FAA Flight examiner for forty years and has over 25,000 flight hours.

Vern was predeceased by his parents Marvin A. and Mary Etta Moyer and brother Lester Moyer. Vern is survived by his brother Marvin S. Moyer (Judy), sisters Shirley Moyer, Nancy Moyer and Doris Rempel, sister-in-law Susan Moyer and his loving family, which he is most proud of, including his wife Jean of 55 years; children, Tracy Burkhardt of Saylorsburg, Rebecca Weirich (Erick) of Pocono Pines, Eric Moyer (Marla) of Macungie; grandchildren, Matthew Serfass (Kristen) of Stroudsburg, Caroline and Joel Weirich both of Pocono Pines; great-grandchildren, Caleb and Sayde Serfass both of Stroudsburg.

In Lieu Of Flowers, Donations Can Be Made To: American Lung Association – <https://action.lung.org>,



Mr. & Mrs. Vern & Jean Moyer

Kidney Foundation – <https://www.kidney.org> or Zion United Church of Christ at 14 N8th Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Vern's funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clarks Funeral Home. Services will be held at Zion United Church of Christ on Sunday, June 4th 2023. Viewing hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Service will begin at 3:30 p.m. At the family's request, burial services will be private.

New Ownership For Moyer Aviation, Inc.

aXcess Group, under the leadership of Paul Morgan, recently purchased Moyer Aviation, Inc., ending Vern Moyer's family ownership of the airline after more than 42 years in the aviation business in the Pocono Mountains. PBN spoke with Mr. Morgan about his plans for Moyer Aviation, Inc.

According to Mr. Morgan, his company purchased Moyer Aviation in December 2022 to help transition the business and build on the Moyer's legacy of great service. Vern

and his wife Jean agreed to sell their family-owned business which they had built up from just one plane. Mr. Morgan stated that despite health challenges, Vern was present and very instrumental with the ownership transition.

Asked who or what influenced his decision to buy Moyer Aviation, Inc. Mr. Morgan said his decision was largely influenced by Moyer's great reputation and well established model.

Since purchasing Moyer Aviation, his team has made some much needed renovations to the Airport hangar in Tobyhanna, PA. His goal is to position Moyer Aviation as the premier aviation company in the Northeast.

Mr. Morgan shared that Moyer Aviation's



Picture provide by Paul Morgan

flight school has multiple affiliates including County College of Beaver County, PA which provides grants to Pennsylvania students looking to get their aviation degree. To continue the tradition that, Vern started over 25 years ago, Mr. Morgan has graciously provided free use of the Moyer Aviation hangar & facilities in Tobyhanna, PA to Rotary Club & Rotary Foundation Of Mt. Pocono to conduct the 26th Annual Rotary Community Aviation Day & Fly-In Drive-In Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

Moyer Aviation offers charter flights, aircraft maintenance, flight training, and air tours.

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- Mental Health
- Clean Drinkable Water
- Better Education
- Lower Utility Bills
- Community & Economic Development
- Other

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE FORUM? YOU! And anyone that lives, works, and/or owns property or operates a business in Mount Pocono, Tobyhanna, Pocono Summit and/or other communities that connect to Mount Pocono.

INVITEES: YOU! And All Community Residents, Elected Officials, Community Stakeholders, Non-For-Profit Organizations, Owners/Key Executives Of Major Businesses & Employers Located In Or Near Mount Pocono.

FORUM PURPOSES: 1) Find Out What The Community's Most Pressing Needs Are From Community Residents & Business Owners/Operators 2) Help Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono & Rotary Foundation Of Mt. Pocono to better understand the Community' needs so we can design future community service projects and financial assistance grants to have the greatest positive impact, in line with Rotary International's 7 Areas Of Focus and 3) Serve as a Community Connection Event so residents and small business owners can connect with YOUR elected officials, larger employers, community stakeholders and non-profit service providers so YOU can learn First-Hand what services/resources are available to YOU.

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For more information & updates visit: www.RotaryClubOfMtPocono.Org or email: RCOMPpresident@Gmail.com

Rotary



Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono

We Extend Our Condolences To Our Former Club President & Friend Laverne (“Vern”) Moyer

Although I only knew Vern for a few years through our Rotary service, I feel very blessed to have known him. He was a great guy and very dedicated Rotarian. He was always on point with his Rotary obligations making sure we were all properly outfitted with our Rotary pins. Vern will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Vern. —Jamie Levy

While I’ve only met Vern Moyer twice once at the 2022 Fly In Drive In breakfast and the second with his wife Jean in support of my documentary, May Vern’s transition from earth be pleasant and may his legacy live on through on. —Hamilton Chango Harris

As a new member of the Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono, I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Vern’s family. May God bless you all and may his soul, Rest in Peace! —Respectfully Submitted, Charlotte Jones

“The quality of any person’s life is measured by how many people consider themselves his or hers friend. Friendship is earned, and Vern’s cup was overflowing with fellowship.” —Arthur King

I’ve been blessed knowing such an amazing and humble person, Vern you will be greatly missed. —L Marisol Lopez

Unfortunately, I didn’t get that chance to know Vern like so many of you do. However, I met him once and have had several opportunities to speak and listen to him at meetings via zoom. There is no doubt in my mind that the knowledge and wisdom that he imparted to so many people, will be greatly missed. I pray that his soul will have eternal peace. I also pray that God will give comfort to his family during these difficult times. ---Blessings, Mary Jones

Vern was a longtime dedicated member and past President of Rotary Club of Mt. Pocono PA. Since the day I became a Rotarian in 2005 I knew Vern as a kind, friendly, knowledgeable, and wonderful family, and businessman. Honest and ethical as the day is long. His strong ethics, great business mind, skills and decency were his strengths.

Vern was a true Rotarian. He gave meaning to our creed *“Service Above Self.”* Vern will always be known as the man that started our annual Rotary Fly-In Drive-In Pancake Breakfast. Thanks to Vern and his endeavors Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono has been able to provide donations to many charitable organizations that serve the Mount Pocono and surrounding areas. Vern was also a great mentor to me and other Rotarians. Vern will be forever remembered as a giant amongst men. God bless Vern!

Sincerely,
Mitchell K. Marcus, President
Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono

Sending my condolences to all family members and friends. God be with you. —Sincerely, Sarinthia Saunders

As you depart, know you were loved because you lived not only for yourself, but you also lived for others. May you rest in perpetual peace, Vern. —*Elviah Chea*

Vern was truly a Rotarian who served others and not just a Rotary member who showed up to meetings and did nothing. Even at age 85 Vern placed “Service Above Self” and was an active member who was dedicated to serving the Mt. Pocono and surrounding communities. I had the distinct honor to interview Vern less than a week before his passing and I was amazed by the peace beyond understanding that Vern exuded, though he knew he was dying. Vern’s love of God and his family where evident in his every word. Though Vern was humble and small physically his was colossal his deeds and actions to help others. I will miss you Vern. I extend my condolences to the Moyer Family.

Hal H. Harris
President-Elect
Rotary Club Of Mt. Pocono

Condolences to the Moyer Family from The Keeler’s. Vern will always hold a special place in our hearts. —Best regards, Stacy and family

Since joining the Mount Pocono Rotary Club in January of this year, I have witnessed Vern’s dedication and loyalty to the Rotary cause. He will be missed! May Vern rest in eternal peace and May God bless his family. With sincere condolences. —Veronica Y. Commock

The Pocono Business News Salutes Laverne Vern Moyer and extend our condolences to his wife Jean and family.

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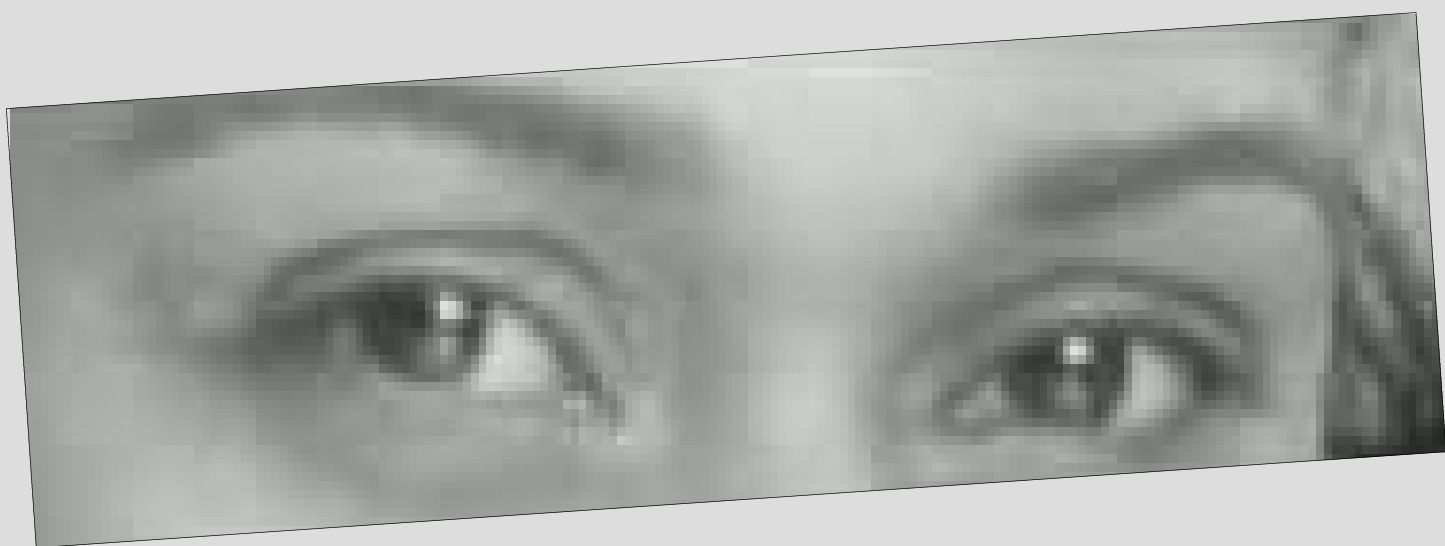
Rotary



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"Service Above Self"

Community Needs Assessment Forum

Date & Time : Saturday, July 15th, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Community Church * Tobyhanna, PA



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Save The Date:

Friday, July 7, 2023 - New Office Grand Opening