

## **Christian A. Haller Biography**

Chris was born in Hamburg, Germany, on January 14, 1937. In Germany he learned the brick laying trade. He came to Rockford, Ill., in 1954 at the age of 17 with only \$25.00 in his pocket. He joined his brother Carl to work in construction laying bricks. His mother Paula Haller and younger brother Michael joined them in Rockford later.

Chris served in both the National Guard and the Navy Reserves as a medic. He took extra public health medical training in the National Guard.

Chris met his wife Kathleen Juola and they married in December 1958. Together they had three daughters, Anne and twins Barbara and Joyce. His daughter Anne Haller-Wildfong has now taken over his territories in order to continue his business. Chris and Kathy were happily married for 48 years.

Chris got his start in the glass business as a salesman for Cardinal Glass Co. in Rockford, Ill., in 1960. Then in 1966 he became general manager of Rock Island Glass, owned by Cardinal Glass. In 1970 he moved back to Rockford and became vice president of Cardinal Glass Co. To increase his opportunities for growth, he accepted a management position with Weather Shield and opened a window manufacturing plant in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1976. In 1978 he became a manufacturer's representative and took over the territories of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois once serviced by Mel Reed. The companies he represented included Virginia Glass Corp., Virginia Mirror Laminated Glass Co., Kentwood Mirror, California Glass Bending, Agalite Shower Doors and Central Glass Co./Glass Supply International.

Chris was known for his knowledge of the glass industry. He could solve just about any problem. He loved visiting with the glaziers and offered advice when needed.

Chris was a member of the Detroit Glass Dealers Association and the National Glass Dealers Association. He was also an active member of the Lions Club since February of 1966 and most recently a member of the Wyoming Lions Club. He served as deputy district governor, treasurer and president in Moline, Ill. He received many awards, including a distinguished service award in 2004 and Lion of the Year in 2005. After Chris retired because of his illness, he invested much of his time collecting used eyeglasses that were processed and then distributed in South America. He took great pride in this and the Lions Club honored him for his efforts. He collected several thousand pairs of glasses.

Chris was also a member of First United Methodist Church for 30 years.

Chris's three daughters are now married and he has three granddaughters. Anne married Mike Wildfong; their daughters are Nicole and Christa. Barbara married Richard Moser and their daughter's name is Amanda. Joyce married Joe Weise. Chris was a devoted father and grandfather and spent a lot of time with his family.

If Chris were here today he would want to say thank you for the many years of friendship and business opportunities. He truly loved his customers and his job. He would be very proud that this event was dedicated in his honor.