

The Kansas City Symphony family mourns the loss of Robert A. Kipp, dear friend, long-time Board member and devoted supporter. Bob is well-known in the community from his years as Director of City Development and City Manager of Kansas City, Missouri before joining Hallmark and serving as chairman of Crown Center. He devoted untold hours to better our community through service on numerous boards, including those of the Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, University of Kansas Center for Research, Midwest Research Institute, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Starlight Theatre, among many others.

Bob joined the Symphony Board in 1994 and has served continuously since then. Consistent with his leadership skills, he was elected an officer in 1995 and served as Vice President, First Vice President or Vice Chair continuously through 2018 when he was made an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

Bob loved attending Symphony concerts, reveling in the beauty of the music and deeply appreciative of the musicians sharing their talents. He often related the story of his introduction to music as a child seated upon his grandfather's knee, listening to masterworks played on an old "wind-up" Victrola. This was music that his grandfather heard in the early years of the 20th century during his graduate studies in Berlin, and decades later eagerly shared with his impressionable grandson. Years later, Bob and Debbie decided to honor that gift of music by creating the Almy Legacy Fund named after his grandfather, John E. Almy. Their generosity makes it possible for the Symphony to feature brilliant musicians from the renowned Curtis Institute each year as they launch their professional careers. Bob especially delighted in meeting these young musicians, hearing them play and helping them along their career path. Creating synergies with an eye to the future was how Bob viewed the world. We are deeply blessed by his foresight and dedicated service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie and the Kipp family at this time.