

2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

WILLIAM E. BLYSTONE '78



Bill Blystone graduated from West Chester State College in 1978 with his bachelor's degree in health and physical education.

Bill excelled on the football field and was selected as the 1976 American Football Coaches Association All-American Team First Team running back. He also received the prestigious Maxwell Award as College Football Player of the Week. The honor was based upon his record-setting performance running for 254 yards in a single game, setting a new West Chester school record. After graduation, Bill had a free agent tryout with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Bill turned his professional career to sales and marketing, joining the E.K. Lay Company in 1983, and has been an integral part of the company his entire career. Today, E.K. Lay is the largest and most successful manufacturers representative organization in the mid-Atlantic region, focused on food service packaging and janitorial supplies, and representing more than 25 manufacturers. Bill has been awarded numerous sales achievement awards including salesperson of the year by the manufacturers, distributors, and customers with whom he works. The company has been recognized nationally for its outstanding overall performance.

In 1995, Bill was inducted into the Killinger Foundation Football Hall of Fame at West Chester. The following year, he became a member of the Killinger Foundation executive board, which he has served for the past 27 years. The Killinger Foundation's mission is to provide football scholarships to worthy West Chester University scholar-athletes. Bill has given his time, talent and treasure to support the Killinger Foundation and West Chester University football.

He has volunteered within his community, serving on many volunteer organizations, coaching youth sports programs, and serving his church.

He met his wife, Jeanne Marie '78, their sophomore year at West Chester. They have been married for 44 years and have three sons, Bill, Mark, and John; two daughters-in-law, Diana and Cate; and four beautiful grandchildren, Johnny, Alyssa, Leah, and Luke. Bill and Jeanne Marie live in Unionville, PA.