



## Robert C Shinn Jr.

November 28, 1937 - May 5, 2023

Robert C. Shinn, Jr. of Hainesport, passed away at his home on Friday, May 5, 2023. He was 85.

Born in Mount Holly, Bob was a graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School and attended Drexel. He served in the US Army during Korea.

Mr. Shinn was a lifelong politician and public servant. His distinguished career spanned more than four decades, serving the public at multiple levels of government. During that time, Shinn made immeasurable contributions to safeguarding and improving environmental quality, deeply and positively influencing countless people along the way. He was the former Mayor of Hainesport Township in 1973-1974, served as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1977-1985, serving twice as Freeholder Director. Bob was a former Member of the NJ General Assembly from the 8th district from 1985-1994 and former Commissioner of the NJ DEP from 1994-2002 under Governor Christie Todd Whitman. He helped lead the “Environmental Commissioners of the 50 States” (ECOS) organization for the entire country in driving National environmental public policy in the 1990s. His knowledge of the environment and vision in addressing climate change and environmental results-based management (25 years ago) were unparalleled. Shinn’s accomplishments at DEP included the creation and implementation of a Geographic Information System-based electronic permitting system called

the New Jersey Environmental Management System (NJEMS); creation of the New Jersey Greenhouse Gas Sustainability Action Plan; and development of a National Environmental Performance Partnership System Agreement, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Shinn's interest in the environment started in childhood. He grew up on a farm in Hainesport. He spent summers plying the waters of Barnegat Bay on a small boat and enjoying the area's wildlife.

He worked in the summers from about 7th grade into high school cleaning up around a dock area on Long Beach Island. He once recalled a vivid memory of the oily wreckage of ships torpedoed by German U-boats washing up along local beaches during and after World War II.

Shinn's early influences and impressions evolved into strong interests as a public servant in water quality, solid waste management, farmland protection and preservation of the Pinelands.

As a township committeeman and then as freeholder, Shinn saw the seemingly endless streams of trash trucks from Philadelphia on the way to landfills in Burlington County and resolved to do something about it.

Shinn helped negotiate an agreement in which Philadelphia and Burlington County would recycle more waste and Philadelphia would ultimately stop sending its trash to Burlington County. This led to a countywide trash management system and construction of the Burlington County Resource Recovery Facility.

He also spearheaded county bond referendums to preserve farmland and ecologically sensitive areas of the Pinelands National Reserve, efforts that

have led to the protection of tens of thousands of acres in the state's largest county. He also served as vice chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission from 1977 to 1985.

In addition to politics and environmental issues, Mr. Shinn was founder and president of Material Handling System, S2 Concepts, and Hollyford Enterprises, Inc. He was always busy tinkering around and held two US mechanical patents. He was also a member and Past President of the Mount Holly Rotary Club. He enjoyed renovating old houses and his "blue barn". Bob was completely down to earth and treated everyone with dignity and respect. He enjoyed speaking and joking with everyone.

Bob is survived by his wife Paula of Hainesport; his daughter Debbie Shinn of Delran; step-daughter Jody Meeks of Woodland Township and step-son Scott Wiedemann of Atco; a grandson Dave Meeks. He is also survived by his sister Michelle Shinn, a nephew Nigel Encinas, and his former wife Barbara Shinn of Mount Laurel.

A Viewing will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 12pm – 3pm at the Perinchief Chapels, 438 High St., Mount Holly. A Service will follow at 3pm. Contributions in his memory may be made to Rancocas Valley Regional High School for a scholarship that will be started in his name.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

MAY 18. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

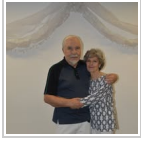
Perinchief Chapels  
438 High Street  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-0399  
info@perinchief.com  
<http://www.perinchief.com>

## Service

MAY 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels  
438 High Street  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-0399  
info@perinchief.com  
<http://www.perinchief.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *I went to school with Bob at RVRHS. The one thing that I can say about Bob Shinn? He was a good man. A very good man.*

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**Homer Felknor** - July 03, 2023 at 09:48 PM

TK

“ *Tom Whalen has many fond memories of attending Rancocas Valley Regional HS with Bob. And both of us remember all the parties at his home interacting with all their classmates. It is those memories that help to get us thru our senior years !*

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**Tom Whalen & Irene Kelly** - May 18, 2023 at 02:12 PM

RS

“ *Bob recognized issues and problems that would confront Burlington County and set out to design and initiate workable solutions. A true public servant who served modestly. As a reporter, and later as a county government employee, I was privileged to know him. My condolences to his family.*

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**Ralph Shrom** - May 18, 2023 at 06:54 AM

EM

“ Being from Hainesport, I knew Bob for 70 years and have memories of him mostly as a classmate at Rancocas Valley Regional High School. Two classic ones were riding back and forth to Philadelphia for prom decorations in his WWII jeep and leaving school a period early to collect wood for homecoming bon-fires, and years later spending many hours coordinating or hosting class reunions with Paula in their Hainesport house. Bob was a generous and true friend. A check in the name of the Rancocas Valley Regional High School class of 1955 will be donated to the Robert C Shinn, Jr scholarship fund.

Edward Markowski - May 17, 2023 at 03:01 PM

TF

“ The Bender family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Robert C Shinn Jr..



The Bender family - May 17, 2023 at 02:24 PM

SP

“ Shirley H. Powell lit a candle in memory of Robert C Shinn Jr.



Shirley H. Powell - May 12, 2023 at 11:15 PM

BS

“ I served on the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders with Bob. During that time, Bob lead the efforts to create the Resource Recovery Facility (the county landfill). I was always amazed at his tenacity in overcoming all the challenges confronting the Freeholders in establishing that facility. Bob was tireless. He lead the way in farmland preservation, recycling and locating the Mt.Laurel campus of Burlington County College. His work will benefit Burlington County for decades to come. I feel fortunate to have known and worked with Bob Shinn. May God bless and keep this great public servant.  
Brad Smith

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**BRADFORD S SMITH** - May 10, 2023 at 04:31 PM

PR

“ Such. Wonderful man who gave so much to Burlington County. So sorry for your loss RIP Bob

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**Patricia Rainier** - May 10, 2023 at 07:57 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C Shinn Jr..



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May 09, 2023 at 06:10 PM

JF

“ Bob Shine was a wonderful public servant. I respected & liked him very much. I worked with him when I served a sDEPE Deputy Commissioner & Commissioner & he chaired the relevant Assembly Committee. I actually recommended him to Hazel Gluck/Christie Whitman to be DEP Commissioner. We worked closely together for the 7 years when he was at DEP & I was at EPA. We routinely met every 3/4 months at Mastoris Diner that entire time with Mark Smith, Bill Muszynski & relevant directors. We settled many issues & moved matters along. We worked well together. He was a pleasure with whom to work. I am originally from Burlington County (Maple Shade) & have relatives in Hainesport & Mount Holly. Bob's reputation was sterling. God bless Bob Shinn for all he accomplished for others. New Jersey's environment benefited from his stewardship.

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**Jeanne FOx** - May 09, 2023 at 05:22 PM

RN

Sincere Condolences to the family on their loss. I'd like to share two of my memories of Bob: First is my several opportunities to experience the combined educational/research facilities near the entrance to the B.C.. Resource Recovery Facility. Its design was remarkable for the time when it was built for incorporating so many energy conservation measures as well as multi-use features. I also remember that Soon after Christie Whitman appointed Bob to be NJDEP's Commissioner, they toured one of the PineBarrens' streams in a canoe. A news photographer took a photograph of them just before a bridge. Bob was in the bow, presumably to show her the unique features of the Pine Barrens and to alert her to about the impediments in the river way cc'ed to go along the narrow waterway. But the Governor was in the stern, the typical position for the steering and maintaining control of where the canoe would go. In my experience, the heavier person is usually in the stern of a canoe. But not that times

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**Ray N** - May 14, 2023 at 12:53 PM

LS

“ *L. Strazzeri lit a candle in memory of Robert C Shinn Jr.*



L. Strazzeri - May 09, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert C Shinn Jr..*



May 09, 2023 at 02:06 PM



“ *I had the privilege of interacting with Bob while he served as /dep Commissioner and I served as Port Director at the PANYNJ. He was a fair, honest broker who worked very effectively and diligently to obtain satisfactory solutions to our environmental issues-which had arisen with dredging and disposal needs.*

*Mrs. Shinn my thoughts are with you at and your family at this difficult time.*

*I pray that you recall the wonderful times and very many happy days you enjoyed together.*

*Lillian Borrone*

Lillian Borrone - May 09, 2023 at 01:51 PM

VR

“ *Deb so very sorry for your loss. Your Dad is at peace and pain free. I hope that all your many wonderful memories you have can start to weave a patch over the hole in your heart his passing has created. My deepest condolences to the entire family. Vera*

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**Vera Rhoades** - May 09, 2023 at 11:50 AM