

## **Richard “Dick” Knoebel**

*2008 Distinguished Alumnus- presented June 8, 2008*

Richard “Dick” Knoebel was valedictorian of Ralpho Township High School’s Class of 1957. Immediately after high school, he attended Lehigh University graduating with a B.S. degree in Engineering Geophysics in 1961.

He entered the U.S. Marine Corps in March 1962 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

After active duty, he returned to civilian life in 1965 working at Knoebels Grove, and in 1988 was elected President of H. H. Knoebel Sons, Inc., which includes Knoebels Amusement Resort and Knoebel Lumber. Since 1965, Knoebels has more than doubled in size and has become the largest free admission, free parking amusement park in the United States.

He is an active member of the Elysburg Presbyterian Church, the Ralpho Township Business Association, a charter member of the Susquehanna Personnel Management Club, past president of Susquehanna Valley Industrial Management Club, and served on the Board of Shamokin Area Industrial Corporation. He has long been associated with the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association and served two years as president and is presently Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1966, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Sunbury community Hospital, and in 2001 was awarded with the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Susquehanna Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is married to the former Barbara Cook, and they have two sons, Rick and Brian.