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## Life Legacy Award

### *Cyril Connelly, Principal, 1982-1988*

Cyril Connelly was born in Maryport, England, and immigrated with his family to Ontario, Canada, as a young child. He graduated from Oshawa Missionary College, Andrews University, and Loma Linda University, where he earned a doctor of education degree. Cyril married Lyn Perrine Connelly in 1966 and the two were married 54 years.



Cyril taught history and English at Bass Memorial Academy and later became principal at Bass. He was also principal at Gem State Academy. He became principal at Georgia-Cumberland Academy in 1982. Cyril's leadership at GCA transformed the school, and enrollment grew from 125 in 1982 to 227 in 1987-88. The Connellys fondly recalled the friendships and fun they had while at GCA.

After their children, Alan and Cathy, graduated from GCA in 1988, Cyril accepted a call to Andrews University as Associate VP for Enrollment Services. In 1992 he moved to La Sierra University as VP of Enrollment Services, and then in 1997 transitioned to Loma Linda University School of Public Health as Associate Dean for Enrollment Services.

After 14 years in higher education, Cyril served as principal of San Gabriel Academy for one year, then La Sierra Academy for seven years. Cyril retired in 2010 and was awarded a Medal of Excellence from the General Conference Department of Education. However, retirement wasn't yet a reality. Cyril continued serving as interim principal at two schools, taught and mentored education students, and chaired numerous accreditation committees. Sadly, Cyril passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

Cyril had the ability to easily connect with students and is remembered fondly by the class of 1985. Betsy Butterfield Dickerhoff said, "He was a constant source of joy, warmth, and hospitality. His influence helped shape our lives in a profoundly positive way." Donna Denton Jennings shared, "I recall a quirky man with a dry wit that was as compassionate as he was funny. He was hired at a challenging time in GCA's history and tasked with taking the school in a new direction. As a leader he, with his team of faculty and staff, undertook a monumental feat."

It is with great admiration, love, and respect that the Life Legacy Award is being presented to the family of Dr. Cyril Connelly by the class of 1985.