

William (Bill) S. Dietrich II

William (Bill) S. Dietrich II, who once said that he earned his success through “luck and pluck,” is the former chairman of Dietrich Industries, Inc., a subsidiary of Worthington Industries, Inc.

Born in Pittsburgh, the son of Marianna Brown Dietrich and Kenneth P. Dietrich on May 13, 1938, Bill Dietrich was named after his grandfather.

A lifelong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1955 and would later receive The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1999. Bill graduated from Conneaut Lake High School in 1956 and later earned an A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1960.

Following his active duty in United States Marine Corps Reserve, he joined his father at Dietrich Industries, Inc., which was at that time a small steel warehouse and distribution business located east of Pittsburgh.

After transforming the business into the nation’s largest manufacturer of light metal framing for the construction industry, Dietrich Industries was sold in 1996 to Worthington Industries, Inc., where Bill remained a director until 2008.

Bill’s commitment to Western Pennsylvania is remarkable and long-standing. He has served actively on the boards of many regional institutions, including: Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and the UPMC Health System and the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as chairman of the board of trustees.

In 1980 and 1984, respectively, he earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh. A voracious reader and skilled storyteller, Bill has published several short, historical accounts of influential Pennsylvania events and personalities.

He is author of “In the Shadow of the Rising Sun: The Political Roots of an American Economic Decline.” This year, Taylor Trade Publishing issued “Eminent Pittsburghers,” a collection of his essays.

Bill is currently writing another book with the working title of “American Recessional: The U.S. Decline and the Rise of China.” His extraordinary combination of business experience, extensive travel, academic expertise and pointed prose has made him unusually well qualified to address the complex practical and theoretical global issues he tackles in his writings.

For more, visit www.cmu.edu/dietrich.