

ALEXANDER M. LANKLER

“Sandy”



The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) would like thank the Lankler Family Foundation for their generous gift in support of Hire Autism: The Sandy Lankler Jobs Portal. OAR is honored to have Sandy Lankler and the Lankler family name associated with this project.

Sandy was the rare mix of lawyer, lobbyist, philanthropist and politician. He took genuine pleasure in the twists and turns of life. The tread that connected those twists and turns was his ability to see *what could be*. Sandy had vision; he could see what others could not imagine. He had the ability to solve problems and a knack for bringing people together. He was a social person who believed in establishing coalitions among diverse groups to create mutual opportunities. Throughout his life's journey, he never forgot his modest upbringing or his personal struggles. That perspective led Sandy to provide opportunities to others so that they could reach their dreams.

Sandy was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1928. He was raised in Brooklyn, NY and graduated from high school in Cortland, NY. He was married to Dr. Sara Ashworth Lankler and was previously married to Celeste Baldwin Skeen for 42 years and to Anita Andreason for 10 years before their deaths. He has two daughters, Melissa Lankler and Lesley Dangerfield, and two granddaughters, Celeste Kelly and Stratton Dangerfield.

Politics were Sandy's passion. At 14, he was introduced to leading journalists and political leaders such as Lowell Thomas, Edward R. Murrow, Thomas Dewey, and

Herbert Hoover in Pauling, NY where Sandy's father served as a minister. While still in high school, Sandy founded and served as the first National President of the Younger Republican Clubs of America. He traveled the US speaking to other high school groups trying to inspire student's interest in politics.

While at Hamilton College, Sandy created the School of Politics and traveled on the Presidential campaign trail with Thomas E. Dewey. In 1948, he graduated from Hamilton College and in 1951 received his law degree with honors from Cornell Law School. After graduation, he served with distinction in the United States Coast Guard from 1951 to 1953. Following his service, Sandy served as Assistant to Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Deputy Manager of Nelson A. Rockefeller's national campaign for President, and Chairman of the Republican State Committee in Maryland before eventually practicing law in private firms in New York and Washington.

In addition to Sandy's law and political practice, some of his additional endeavors included serving as a Director of Potomac National Bank and founding the Potomac United Presbyterian Church in Potomac, Maryland. While a resident of Bal Harbour, Florida, he founded the Bay Harbor Inn, a hotel and restaurant project. In 1998, Sandy was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration from Johnson and Wales University for his contributions to the hospitality and restaurant management industry.

Sandy is best remembered for his private generosity to others. He and his wife Sara were the founders of the Renewal Coalition, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to assisting wounded service members and their families in their transition from military to civilian life. Their organization in Jupiter, FL offers a retreat experience at Florida residences with the intent of providing these families a time to reunite and bond in a relaxed, stress-free, and welcoming environment.

At a given point in his career, Sandy became sensitive to the needs of the autism community through his affiliation with friend, attorney, and OAR Chairman, James M. Sack. That awareness led to the creation of a therapeutic riding center in Dickerson, Md and the gift that made Hire Autism possible.

Sandy would be pleased to know that his spirit and generosity continue to inspire others to participate in worthwhile causes. He would be thankful to play a role in helping others find more fulfillments in their lives and he would feel honored to be associated with Hire Autism.

