

Richard P. Grist



Richard P. Grist was born in Bessemer, Pennsylvania. For 47 years, Mr. Grist has been an active member of the forest community in West Virginia.

Over the years, Mr. Grist has served as a leader in many different capacities. He has served on the West Virginia State Forestry Advisory Commission, West Virginia Forest Management Review Commission, Voluntary Compliance Committee to the Forest Practice Standards and Visitation Committee for Continuing Education at West Virginia University. Mr. Grist was also a member of the committee that wrote the first voluntary Forest Practice Standards for West Virginia in the early 1970's; and played an active role in the West Virginia Forestry Association. He has sat on the board of directors at various times throughout his years of service to the industry and served as president of the Association for the 1983-1984 term.

For his work and efforts to the forestry industry of West Virginia, Mr. Grist received numerous honors and awards. In 1971, he received the Kentucky Colonel Award. In 1986, he was awarded the Outstanding West Virginia Forester. He received the West Virginia Forestry Association's award for service to the Association and forestry in the State of West Virginia in 1992. In 1994, Governor Caperton presented Mr. Grist with the Governor's Distinguished West Virginian Award, given for work in the forest community.

Mr. Grist has also been very active on community, county and regional levels. He served on the Advisory Committee to the United States Forest Service Eastern Division. He was also a member of the Public Timber Purchasers Association and served on the task force on the Harvesting of Timber on the Monongahela Forest during the highly emotional period of the clear-cut moratorium of the 1970s.

Mr. Grist served from 1970-1971 as director of the Bank of Rainelle; and, from 1988-1991 on Princeton's Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as the Mercer County West Virginia Development Authority Task Force on wood. He served from 1992-1994 on the city of Princeton's Long Term Planning Commission. He has also served on the board of directors for Bluestone Conference Center.

The church has always been a very important part of Mr. Grist's life. In 1993, he was recognized as a nominee from the Perbytery of West Virginia for the "Zoulan Anderson Award" for distinguished service in Bible study from Montreat College.

Mr. Grist has always tried to contribute his time and talent to the forestry industry in a constructive way. When asked to serve, he did so with fervent commitment to the betterment of the industry. Many times he played a lead role in the resolution of problems affecting the industry. Mr. Grist never hesitated to stand firm in situations that were confrontational or highly emotional in nature. He remained consistent in his beliefs of what was right and wrong for the industry throughout his career.