In memoriam: Russell Pry

Summit County Executive Russell Pry passed away on Sunday, July 31. Pry had planned to return to work on Aug. 1 following colon cancer surgery in June.

A life-long resident of Summit County, Russ began his political career in 1978 at age 19 when he was elected to the Mogadore Village Council. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Kent State University and a Juris Doctorate from The University of Akron School of Law. Russ served as the lawyer for the Village of Boston Heights, Mogadore Local School District and Green City Fire Department and as treasurer for the Summit County Democratic Party. Appointed county executive in 2007 to the unexpired term of Jim McCarthy, Russ was elected in 2009 and 2013 and, until late last week, was planning to seek reelection.

The Summit County community will remember him as a leader who helped restore stability in county government, steered it through the recession following the 2008 housing collapse and worked for military veterans, children and the less fortunate.

A public memorial to honor Russ will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the John S. Knight Center, 77 E. Mill Street, in downtown Akron. The memorial will be followed by a Celebration of Life from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tangier, 532 W. Market Street, in Akron.

CCAO extends heartfelt sympathy to the residents and staff of Summit County and the family and friends of Russ Pry.