

The Legacy of James F. Pye

The Artist



The legacy of James Pye Sr. is that of a man who was self-taught. James began drawing at the tender age of 5. His drawings were greatly admired by his classmates and teachers when they recognized he had no professional training. When outside playing, Mr. Pye would take sticks and other objects to create things that you could never imagine. His very first picture was that of a horse and after everyone in his class had a chance to view his work, they all wanted James to draw them a picture of a horse. And so the legacy begins.

Although Mr. Pye was employed at U. S. Steel for 38 years, he always found the time to do his most memorable work on canvas and paper. James would draw and paint pictures and portraits of people, infrastructures, places and other objects that soon grew to be admired by all that witnessed his great works. He extended his great talents by painting a picture of the Lighthouse of Lorain that is still there to this day, sharing his talents at the LCCC Art Gallery, various art shows. The most remarkable thing about James's work is that most of the time he painted and drew from memory that was incredibly outstanding because most of those pieces were from when he was a child to an adult. These pictures would range from the houses and landscapes in which he grew up, the Lorain Art Center, the Coke Plant at U.S. Steel and his medical doctors.

James loved to visit various art galleries in Cleveland in his spare time. Other than watching a baseball game on television, he enjoyed watching his favorite artist Bob Ross who gave him even more inspiration to do art as well as other famous artists.

Last, James and his wife Martha raised and nurtured 8 children, while some developed his artistic trait, only two flourished with the talent of art; Jeff Pye and Sharon Pye-Brown. As all the children grew up they became very proud of their father's talent and they all took turns taking his portrait of Abraham Lincoln to their elementary school for show and tell on President's Day.