



# Hariri-Gram

A publication of the Hariri Foundation-USA

Building the human resources of Lebanon through education since 1985.

Fall 2011

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## Remembering Charles H. Percy

*September 27, 1919 - September 17, 2011*

With the passing of former Senator Charles H. Percy, the Hariri Foundation-USA has lost a principal architect of its establishment in 1985. Serving as the foundation's Chairman of the Board from 1985 to 2005 and as President from 1985 to 1993, he guided the structuring of the organization and its operations as it initiated its education, training, and research programs in North America. Within just a few years of its incorporation in 1985, the Hariri Foundation-USA was sponsoring over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students at universities throughout North America.

While Senator Percy took considerable pride in the success of the foundation's programs, he also took great care in those initial years to credit its staff of 50 for the important role they were playing in this success. Such care exemplified an executive style informed by his generosity, energy, and great personal charm. He took time to get to know each



member of the staff, an effort that was and remains greatly appreciated. Whenever the foundation held one of its office holiday luncheons, no luncheon was complete without his inviting staff members to share their holiday plans with their colleagues. This was a simple act, but one which enhanced the sense of belonging to a community at the workplace.

His gift for motivating others carried over to his interactions



*Rafik Hariri with Senator Charles Percy holding Distinguished Service Award given to Hariri by Save the Children on April 27, 1983 in Washington, DC.*

“The stars by which Charles Percy navigated were the eternal verities: truth, honor, justice, duty, generosity of spirit, love of family, and service to others.”

with Hariri scholars as he visited them on campuses throughout the country, an activity which he clearly enjoyed. While meeting with these students, he always encouraged them to contribute to the reconstruction and development of their homeland, Lebanon, after completing their degree programs. This reinforcement was vital to achieving the mission which Rafik Hariri entrusted to the foundation upon its establishment in 1985.

Senator Percy’s firm commitment to the work of the foundation and his readiness to carry its message to campuses throughout the country were critical to the early success of the foundation. Rafik Hariri often voiced his admiration for the Senator and his appreciation of the Senator’s efforts on behalf of the foundation.

As Chairman and President of the Hariri Foundation - USA, Senator Percy drew upon his extensive connections and influence among educators, diplomats, international exchange organizations, and

members of government to form distinguished Boards of Directors and Advisors that endowed the foundation with the stature and credibility which were so essential to achieving its mission. In addition, the wisdom and experience he had acquired over a long and successful career in business and government enriched the foundation with an inexhaustible and matchless resource. This was his treasure which he liberally expended on behalf of the foundation.

The stars by which Charles Percy navigated were the eternal verities: truth, honor, justice, duty, generosity of spirit, love of family, and service to others. His optimism and positive approach to problems were tonics to all those who worked alongside him. Above all, his essential goodness of soul was such that he endeared himself to those around him simply by being who he was, a man at peace with himself and with the world. ■

## Tribute from the Family of Charles H. Percy



Senator Percy chairing a meeting of the Hariri Foundation Board of Advisors with Rafik Hariri present on November 3, 1986. Sitting left to right: Anne Murphy, Robert McFarlane, Rafik Hariri, Senator Percy, Cassie Pyle, Ambassador Abdallah Bouhabib. Standing left to right: Jack Reichard, Dr. Frederick Herter, William Allaway, Earl Foell, Thomas Malone, Adele Simmons, Alfred Atherton, Jr., Rafic Bizri.

Statement released on 9/17/11 by Senator Jay Rockefeller on behalf of the Percy and Rockefeller families:

*It is with a profound sense of personal loss that the family of former Senator Charles H. Percy announces his death on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at the age of 91.*

*He loomed as large in his private life as he did in his public one. His determination to overcome odds, to help others, to persuade decision-makers to actions he believed were important showed us how much can be achieved through the inspiration of a single man.*

*The energy and enthusiasm he brought to everything in his many-faceted life encouraged us to rise early and to embrace each day's opportunities for work and fun until late at night, and buoyed us up when we flagged. His courage in the face of devastating adversity made us braver and taught us resilience. His insistence on a balanced perspective in his public life, (calling himself "fervently moderate"), helped us understand it is both possible and preferable to live in a world without partisanship.*

*He led by example with his self-confidence, relishing the company of people who challenged and informed his thinking, including his outstanding business and Senate staff. He provoked animated discussions around the dinner table and roared with laughter at Capitol Steps skits at his expense. His voice was strong and deep, and it filled and warmed a room.*

*He taught us humility and respectfulness as, win or lose, he would show up at the Chicago Loop the day after each election to thank the voters. He taught us generosity, as he tried to help others as he'd been helped along the way. He taught us how powerful unconditional love can be.*

*He went through life with his arms flung wide. He welcomed all who wanted to accompany him on his journey, celebrated the victories with them, and supported and comforted them through his own difficult times. He unreservedly believed he would be joining the loved ones who had gone before him, and in the face of such conviction we cannot but believe he is having the joyous reunion he had longed for.*

*We also believe he would want to thank extended family, friends, colleagues, and compatriots for so enriching his life. We will all miss him. ■*

# Hariri Foundation

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## Our Friend and Colleague

Those of us who knew and worked with former Senator Charles Percy at the Hariri Foundation-USA were truly saddened to learn of the death of our good friend and esteemed colleague Chuck. We will always remember and be grateful for the crucial role he played in establishing the Hariri Foundation-USA and ensuring that it fulfilled the mission entrusted to it by its founder, Rafik Hariri.

It was an honor and a pleasure to work with Chuck. Without his sincere and enthusiastic commitment to the Hariri Foundation it would not have been possible to assemble the distinguished Boards of Directors and Advisors whose experience and wisdom benefitted the foundation so importantly. By lending his personal stature and influence to the foundation he validated its sponsorship programs and endowed it with a credibility that not only opened many doors for it, but also guaranteed that the community of international educators would in turn do its utmost to facilitate the foundation's activities.

Chuck's unimpeachable probity and strength of character, his warmth and generosity, his freely given words of praise and encouragement, his magnanimity and largeness of vision - all of these aspects of the man endeared him to us in a lasting and much cherished manner. We feel privileged and grateful to have known and worked beside such a wonderful soul.

**May he rest in peace and in dearly held remembrance.**

