

John F. Downes

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Gifford Corp. taps executive

John F. Downes of 709 Salt Springs Rd., widely known in civic and educational circles,



JOHN F. DOWNES

today was named executive director of the Rosamond Gifford Charitable Corp. effective June 15.

The appointment of Downes as successor to the late Irving G. Berman, who died unexpectedly Jan. 2, was announced by the board of trustees of the corporation.

The corporation was established in 1955 by the will of the late Miss Rosamond Gifford for general charitable purposes in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Downes, 54, is director of the Citizens Foundation of Syracuse, having served in that capacity since 1952 when he succeeded the late H. R. Ekins.

In his work with the Citizens Foundation, Downes directs a membership of 250 in carrying out various community education activities including programs related to youth, education, clergymen, social agen-

cies, service clubs, business and industry.

Activities of the Citizens Foundation centered on extolling American freedoms and the American way of life.

Under his directorship, the Citizens Foundation had, on nine occasions and in national competition, received the coveted George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge for its program of community action.

It has also received awards for exceptional service from the Future Farmers of America, the Future Teachers of America, and the YMCA "Youth and Industry" Conference Board.

Downes, a native Syracusean, was salutatorian and president of his class on graduation from St. Bonaventure College. He later received a master's degree in education from Syracuse University.

Downes, who goes to the Gifford Corporation well equipped to handle the distribution of funds, has had a varied career, all geared toward public service.

He taught English and history in the school systems of Syracuse and North Syracuse, served as a training administrator at Rome Air Depot where he headed a faculty of 40 in training civilians and military personnel in the receipt, storage, and issue of Air Corps materials. In addition he served 20 months in the Air Corps in World War II.

Downes was a charter faculty member of the Mohawk Valley Technical Institute and taught there five years. At the time the institute was an experimental unit of the State Education Department and was the forerunner and pattern setter for the present day community colleges. He

taught psychology and community relations.

Downes holds honorary membership in the Future Teachers of America and in 1962 received an Education Distinction Award from the Syracuse School District. In 1967 he received an Excellence Award from the National Security Council for a 30,000-word essay, submitted in national competition "The Role of Business and Industry in the Cold War."

He is a member of the nominating committee of the Car Fire Girls and is affiliated with the Catholic Welfare Board, the University Club and the USP Board of Directors. He is vice president of the Syracuse Friends Reading.

Downes is married to the former Margaret Barrett and they have seven daughters and a son.



MRS. DOMINIC VELTRI
Catherine Downes

Veltri vows

Danbury, Conn., will be the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic N. Veltri, who were married Saturday in Our Lady of Solace Church before the Rev. Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy.

The bride, the former Miss Catherine Downes, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Downes of 709 Salt Springs Road. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guglielmo Veltri of Fairfield, Conn.

Maid of honor was Miss Elizabeth Downes.

Nicholas Veltri, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

After a reception in Bellevue Country Club, the couple left for Aruba.

The bride is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University where she studied health planning and hospital administration. She is a pharmaceutical representative for Merck, Sharp and Dohme in Boston, Mass.

The bridegroom earned a degree in electronic engineering from State University College at Bridgeport and a master's degree in computer science at Union College. He is employed by the IBM Corp. in White Plains.