



Jerry G. Berka '59

Jerry G. Berka has served as a member of the Board of Education since 1969, including eleven years as President and nine years as Vice President. Mr. Berka was born in Bay Shore and graduated from Bay Shore High School in 1959. He was the Valedictorian of his class, President of the National Honor Society and the Latin Club, and a member of the High School Band and Varsity Baseball Team. Following his graduation from Bay Shore High School, Mr. Berka attended Wesleyan on a four-year scholarship, where he received his B. A. Degree, graduating "cum laude". He then earned his Doctor of Law Degree (J.D.) via a three-year law scholarship at Cornell Law School where he graduated in the top ten percent of his class. Other academic honors include the staff of the Cornell Law Review, President of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and membership in Phi Kappa Phi.

Mr. Berka is a member of the Bar of New York State and the District of Columbia and is certified to practice before the U. S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. He is a certified Military Judge and trial and defense counsel for General Court Martial. He served three years in the United States Navy as Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corp. (J.A.G.)

Always active in the Bay Shore community, Mr. Berka has served as Chairman of the Student Aid fund for the past 34 years, has been a coach in the Bay Shore Soccer Club, and is a founder of the Bay Shore Historical Society. He is also a former member and founder of the Bay Shore Day Care Center. In addition to representing several churches and local civic associations, he was until this year a member of the Advisory Council of Southside Hospital. He is currently on the advisory board of Chicago Title Insurance Company.

Mr. Berka has practiced law in Bay Shore since 1969. He resides with his wife Dr. Marianne G. Berka, a Professor at Nassau Community College since 1968 and an adjunct Associate Professor at Hofstra University, and their daughters Katie and Keri, at 90 Bay Way Avenue, Brightwaters. Both daughters are graduates of Bay Shore High School. Katie is a graduate of Skidmore College and received a dual Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and Art Therapy from Long Island University. She holds an administrative position with AHRC. Keri, Valedictorian of the Bay Shore High School class of 1996, is also a Skidmore College graduate and is currently in her third year at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.