



Robert Newton Pursel was a shining example of duty and philanthropy, both in the military and in his involvement with many local organizations.

Pursel's were one of the first settlers in the Danville area. His family had an early history of farming in Limestone Township and later as blacksmiths in the village of Danville. Pursel's father was involved with several of the mills in Danville and served terms as burgess, school director, Danville National Bank president, Danville Borough treasurer, Board of Water Commissioners president, and Danville YMCA director.

Born in 1902, Robert N. Pursel attended Mercersburg Academy and graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in mining engineering. He worked and travelled in the Middle East, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia while in the employ of gas and oil companies. Pursel served as a Lieutenant Colonel under General Eisenhower during World War II.

Upon his retirement in 1960, Pursel returned to Danville and the family home on West Market Street. Like his father, the community of Danville was important to Pursel, and he quickly became involved with many philanthropic and civic endeavors. He was a founding member of the Danville chapter of the American Red Cross and served as part of the National Railroad Historical Society, the League of Women Voters, the American Cancer Society, and the Antique Automobile Club. As one of the five founding directors of the Greater Danville Area Industrial Development Corporation, Pursel played an instrumental role in attracting new industries to Danville and served as secretary of the Corporation until his death in 1999.

A local man of renown kindness, action, and commitment to community, Robert N. Pursel has long been recognized as Danville's standard for a "good neighbor". The Neighbors Helping Neighbors event committee annually honors outstanding neighbors (individuals, families, and organizations) that exemplify this same generous spirit of community service in the greater Danville area. Recipients of the **"Neighbor of the Year" Award in memory of Robert N. Pursel** join a list of over 40 past recipients—neighbors honored for their dedication to our community's growth and vitality. We are proud to celebrate these neighbors and all who continue to make a significant difference in our community!

For a full list of past award recipients and more information, visit csgiving.org/neighbors.