

The son of 3rd generation German-French immigrants, Ed Eichenlaub was born at St. Joseph's Hospital on Pittsburgh's South Side. Ed was raised with his sister, Cathy, by his two loving parents, Cyril and LaVerne, in Bethel Park on his father's working class salary. When his father returned from fighting in the South Pacific during WWII, he obtained his degree in architectural drafting at Carnegie Tech and became a draftsman in the growing steel industry.

Ed's entrepreneurial spirit started at a young age, when at 12 years old he followed in the same path as his uncle and started his own landscaping company. At 15, Ed began working at McDonald's, but was soon offered a job at the then-new sporting goods department in Murphy's Mart. Ed worked at Murphy's Mart throughout high school and learned how to hunt, fish, and about the importance of gun safety.

After graduating high school in 1974, Ed was accepted to Alderson-Broaddus College in West Virginia, where he triple majored in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics on the pre-medicine track. After graduating 2nd in his class and a semester early, he decided to take an academic break and found work with American Bridge (AB) as a timekeeper in 1978, where he was fortunate to work in three US Steel Mills: Fairless, South and the world's largest mill, Gary, Indiana. When the Steel Industry fell on bad times, AB was sold to US Steel to acquire Marathon Oil in 1982 and Ed returned to Pittsburgh to pursue his medical career.

After returning to Pittsburgh, Ed's life changed forever when he met the love of his life, Sheryl. Deciding that the long hours and the demanding lifestyle of being a doctor would take a toll on his ability to raise a family, Ed decided to instead become a biochemical researcher.

After starting his research at Montefiore Hospital, his skills quickly caught the attention of the plastic surgery division. In 1983, he was asked to develop a new teaching method program to re-attach severed digits of both hands and feet and he began the Microsurgery Program for the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In 1983, Dr. Joseph Maroon, a neurosurgeon, caught work of his program. Upon his promotion to manage the Neurosurgery Division of Allegheny General Hospital, he asked Ed to join his team and develop the research department. A year later, Ed's team became the nation's only Microsurgery and Laser Research Department, developing micro-dissection surgery and working with an engineer from NASA to employ an experimental laser to perform the delicate tissue fusion of microsurgery.

Ed worked closely with Zeiss Microscope on the experimental laser project and eventually left Allegheny General in 1987 to become the company's product specialist after they perfected a line of medical lasers. In 1991, an offer to replicate his research

for Dr. Mark May at Shadyside Hospital brought him back to working in Pittsburgh, allowing him to spend more time with his family. While at Shadyside Hospital, Ed's research focused on video production and he and his team developed a state of the art video editing center. During the 1994 plane crash in Hopewell, Ed was asked by WTAE asked to aid in screening and editing of the footage from the crash, building a long term relationship. Ed continued with WTAE, editing the evening and weekend news. Ed remained at Shadyside after the UPMC acquisition in 1996, but Dr. May sold his practice. For over ten years Ed remained, and functioned as the Ear, Nose, and Throat Coordinator, of UPMC-Shadyside.

In 2012, Ed became a health inspector for the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). While Ed's job was to ensure that all restaurants/schools and institutions in portions of southern Allegheny County were in compliance with the county health guidelines, he believed that his job was to be there to protect the consumer and help small businesses and restaurants succeed, not penalize them. When the ACHD considered moving to the letter grading system, Ed was staunchly opposed to it, as it would have forced restaurants to put a letter grade in their window without giving them a chance to correct any issues found during an inspection. Ed firmly believes this would have had severe and drastic impact on the financial well-being of business owners.

In an effort to further improve the conditions in Allegheny County sought a way to become more vocal and have a greater presence and discovered there was a open seat on the Democratic ticket for the State Senate Seat for District 37. To be able to run Ed had to take a bid through his AFSCME Union as a jail caseworker II. This prevented a conflict as an inspector in Allegheny County and permitted him a chance to run. The year was very invigorating whereby he was able to met a great deal of people and actually came away with 52,000 votes roughly 40% of the district. Overall, it was a close election and the Republicans in their efforts pulled ahead and he is now considering other political aspirations.

Ed and his 5 sons who have been heavily active in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 25 years. He became Cub Master of Pack 36 and Scout Master of two Troops. Ed has a passion for gardening and is a Penn State Master Gardener and staunch proponent of the need for healthy eating and living. He enjoys growing a wide array of different fruits and vegetables on his small farm. He also serves as assistant treasurer of the friends of South Park.