



# WHEELING

➤ HALL OF FAME ➤



*giving sharing caring loving living*



# 2021

## Induction

September 10

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# Wheeling Hall of Fame Board

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During the early planning stages for the Wheeling Civic Center, one of the members of the committee suggested that a “Hall of Fame” should be included in the Center to give recognition to former residents and present residents who had attained considerable distinction in some specific field and thus brought honor to their home city.

The City Council studied the matter and solicited suggestions for guidelines and procedures.

On February 3, 1977, council passed an ordinance (No.6179) creating the Hall of Fame Board. In July 1977 the Mayor, with the approval of Council, appointed 18 citizens to serve on the Board with designated terms of two, four, and six years. The Board also includes a representative of City Council and the chairman of the Civic Center Board as an ex-officio member.

The membership of the Board has changed as new appointments have been made by the Mayor and Council from time to time.

The Board set up specific procedures for the selection of nominees and proceeded to select the first 18 people to be named to the Hall of Fame. Those considered had to have achieved distinction in one of six categories and had to have lived in Wheeling at least 10 years.

Three persons were named in each of the six categories. These 18 people were inducted into the Hall of Fame at a formal ceremony and dinner on April 13, 1980. The Hall of Fame Board later selected 12 additional people to be honored and these people were inducted on May 23, 1982. Ten more were inducted on May 20, 1984. Eight were officially added at ceremonies on October 26, 1986. Six inductees were enshrined on October 21, 1990. Five more were ushered into this distinguished company on November 29, 1992. Six people were inducted on November 20, 1994. Seven people were inducted into the Hall of Fame at ceremonies on September 20, 1998, eight on November 26, 2000, and five more on December 1, 2002. Six honorees were inducted in 2004, five in 2006, six in 2008, seven in 2011, five in 2013, nine in 2015, ten in 2017, and twelve in 2019. The current group of ten honorees brings the total number of people enshrined in the Wheeling Hall of Fame to 155.

The preamble from the Ordinance establishing the Hall of Fame Board reads as follows:

*“A Hall of Fame to honor Wheeling citizens and former citizens for outstanding accomplishments in all walks of life shall be established in the halls of the Wheeling Civic Center. While outstanding public services were rendered by our founding fathers and early citizens, these worthy deeds are recognized by historical publications and appropriately honored in other halls, museums, and memorials. Therefore, honorees in the Wheeling Hall of Fame shall be selected on the basis of accomplishments after 1863 (later amended to 1836). For purposes of selection and designation, the human endeavors of the honorees shall be divided into the following six major categories:*

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Music and Fine Arts    | (4) Sports and Athletics |
| (2) Business and Industry* | (5) Public Service       |
| (3) Education and Religion | (6) Philanthropy         |

*\* became Business, Industry and Professions in 1996.*

The first officers of the Board were: Forrest H. Kirkpatrick, Chairman; James J. Haranzo, Vice Chairman; and Sister Anne Regina O’Leary, Secretary-Treasurer.

The late Charles L. Ihlenfeld succeeded Dr. Kirkpatrick as chairman and was, in turn succeeded by Harry L. Buch. Dr. Kirkpatrick was subsequently elected to succeed Buch, who was then selected as successor to Sister Anne Regina O’Leary as Secretary-Treasurer. With the retirement from the board of Dr. Kirkpatrick, James Haranzo was elected chairman in 1990 and Michael Pockl was named Secretary-Treasurer, to be succeeded in that position by James Seibert.

In January 1996, James Seibert was elected chairman. James Haranzo was elected Secretary-Treasurer. In February 1999, S. J. “Dick” Dlesk was elected chairman, Patricia Pockl was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Jim Squibb was the next elected chairman in 2009.

Robert DeFrancis was elected chairman in 2015, along with Jeanne Finstein as vice chairman. Philip Stahl became the secretary - treasurer in 2018.



**WHEELING  
HALL OF FAME**

**Wheeling Hall of Fame Board Officers**

Chairman – Robert DeFrancis  
Vice Chairman – Jeanne Finstein  
Secretary-Treasurer – Philip Stahl

**Wheeling Hall of Fame Board**

**Business, Industry and Professions** – Jeanne Finstein, chairperson; Jon-Erik Gilot and Kim McCluskey  
**Education and Religion** – Bob Willits, chairperson; Darrell Cummings and Dianna Vargo  
**Music and Fine Arts** – Robert DeFrancis, chairperson; Chris Villamagna and Maureen Zambito  
**Philanthropy** – F. Wayne Barte, chairperson; Ben Exley and C.J. Kaiser  
**Public Service** – David Javersak, chairperson; Jay Frey and Philip Stahl  
**Sports and Athletics** – George Frazier, chairperson; Richard L. Coury and Kelly Rine  
**Wheeling City Council Representative** – Jerry Sklavounakis



## **2021 Induction Ceremony September 10, 2021**

Lisa Allen – Business, Industry and Professions  
Karla Boos – Music and Fine Arts  
James Buchanan “J. B.” Chambers – Philanthropy  
Ron DiLorenzo – Education and Religion  
Beverly Fluty – Public Service  
Doug Huff – Sports and Athletics  
Don Levenson – Business, Industry and Professions  
Hugh Stobbs – Sports and Athletics  
B. E. Taylor – Music and Fine Arts  
The Rev. Bonnie Thurston, Ph. D. – Education and Religion

### **➤ PROGRAM ➤**

National Anthem  
Invocation – Rabbi Joshua Lief of Temple Shalom  
Master of Ceremonies – Robert DeFrancis, Chairman, Wheeling Hall of Fame Board  
Official Welcome from the City of Wheeling – Mayor Glenn Elliott  
Induction of Honorees into the Wheeling Hall of Fame – Hall of Fame Board Members  
Responses – Hall of Fame Inductees or Their Representatives  
Closing Remarks – Robert DeFrancis  
Benediction – The Reverend Bob Willits



## Wheeling City Council

Mayor.....	Glenn Elliott
First Ward Councilman.....	Chad Thalman
Second Ward Councilman.....	Ben Seidler
Third Ward Councilwoman.....	Rosemary Ketchum
Fourth Ward Councilman.....	Jerry Sklavounakis
Fifth Ward Councilman.....	Ty Thorngate
Sixth Ward Councilman.....	Dave Palmer



## **Lisa Allen** – *Business, Industry and Professions*

Lisa Allen is the daughter of Roslyn Lando and the late Charles Lando. Born in Wheeling and educated in Ohio County public schools, she is a graduate of Triadelphia High School. After high school, Lisa pursued higher education at Ohio University, where she earned a bachelor of science in parks and recreation and a minor in business management. Lisa attributes her passion for outdoor activity as a fundamental enabler of her leadership style, as she always is engaged, actively involved, and driven to achieve.

In her early career, she held various positions with the YMCA and Oglebay Park. Because of her strong work ethic and the desire to be “in the room where it happens,” Lisa quickly made impacts within these organizations. While at Oglebay, she began consulting work from her home and traveling to client locations. Lisa’s aspirations to be involved in company improvement and affecting change began the framework for her career and future direction of the Ziegenfelder Company.

In 1999, Lisa stepped into the role as a sales representative for the Ziegenfelder Company. She spent the next few years learning the business, traveling, meeting, and building relationships with Ziegenfelder retail and wholesale customers. Lisa’s time as a sales representative was a true highlight of her career, as she was working directly with her father and their customer decision makers. Charles and Lisa spent that time sharing business strategies and learning how to marry mind, heart, and soul together for the benefit of the Ziegenfelder “Tribe” and consumers.

In 2003, Lisa took on the role as president and chief executive officer of the Ziegenfelder Company, leading the firm through years of product development, growth, expansion, and profitability. Under Lisa’s leadership, the Ziegenfelder Company experienced exponential growth, expanding production capacity beyond headquarters in Wheeling and adding two additional manufacturing plants in Denver,

Colorado, and Chino, California. In line with manufacturing expansion, Lisa also led the tribe in “Budget Saver” brand expansion. The Ziegenfelder Company grew to be a top-ranking water ice brand in the United States, with Budget Saver Assorted Twin Pops becoming the #1 ice pop in retail outlets where sold. This brand awareness continues to strengthen the “Rainbow Array” Trade Dress Protection, which distinguishes Budget Saver products from all other water ice products.

Lisa not only nurtured the external Ziegenfelder Company but also took on an inspiring leadership role internally, instilling core values that represented her family and work ethic into the everyday happenings of the Ziegenfelder Company. The Ziegenfelder vision of “Growing Better Together,” accompanied by Lisa’s mantra of “inspiring others, creating smiles, and impacting lives,” is a winning combination for the Ziegenfelder Tribe. These traits have shaped the “Think Tribe First” value that is etched in the minds and hearts of the Ziegggy Tribe.

Lisa retired as president and CEO of the Ziegenfelder Company in December 2019. She maintained her seat as chair of the board of directors, along with her majority interest in the Ziegenfelder Company. Lisa also shares her inspiring leadership and knowledge as a mentor at Ziegenfelder and with various other organizations. She serves as trustee for the Oglebay Foundation, trustee for the J.B. Chambers Foundation, trustee for Wheeling Country Day School, and as a board member for Classrooms Without Borders. She also serves as a board member of Milo’s Tea Company based in Alabama.

Lisa’s passion for engaging others, her belief in the resiliency of the human spirit, and her ability to inspire people have left a lasting imprint upon her Tribe and community. Her leadership and values will serve as guideposts for the Ziegenfelder Company’s culture for years to come.



## **Karla Boos** – *Music and Fine Arts*

As an experimental artist who purposefully strives to live outside her comfort zone, Karla Boos, the founder in 1990 of Pittsburgh's Quantum Theatre, cites Wheeling's educational and theatrical communities as significant reasons for her ongoing success.

Her roots and early inspiration are in Wheeling where her family settled when she was 10. The daughter of Paul V. and Anna C. Boos, her siblings include sisters Mimi and Maria, sister-in-law Martha Wright, and a brother, the late Paul T. Boos, a former city solicitor. She is a graduate of Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy and attended Bethany College before matriculating at the University of Pittsburgh and the California Institute of the Arts near Los Angeles. She often mentions fond memories of the inspirational teaching nuns at Mount de Chantal, where her deep love of literature and music was nourished, and of joyful time spent at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre where the late Hal O'Leary, a member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame, served as an important mentor. "He was the real deal, so early in my life, of a man of the theater, and what the theater as a kind of frame for your life can offer. I'm sure I would not be the person I am today but for Hal," she said.

A theatrical innovator, Boos followed in the footsteps of international inspirations. She envisioned Quantum Theatre as a laboratory for the new and unique and makes theatre in an environment outside traditional theaters. She has staged productions with artists from Pittsburgh, throughout the country, and the world in spaces that fit intrinsically to that being offered, whether it's the Union Trust Building, the former North Side Carnegie Library, a Gothic church building, an empty swimming pool, horse stables, or the blast furnaces of a former steel mill.

She frequently directs, sometimes performs, and often adapts literature for Quantum's stages. She served as guest curator for the 2018 Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust,

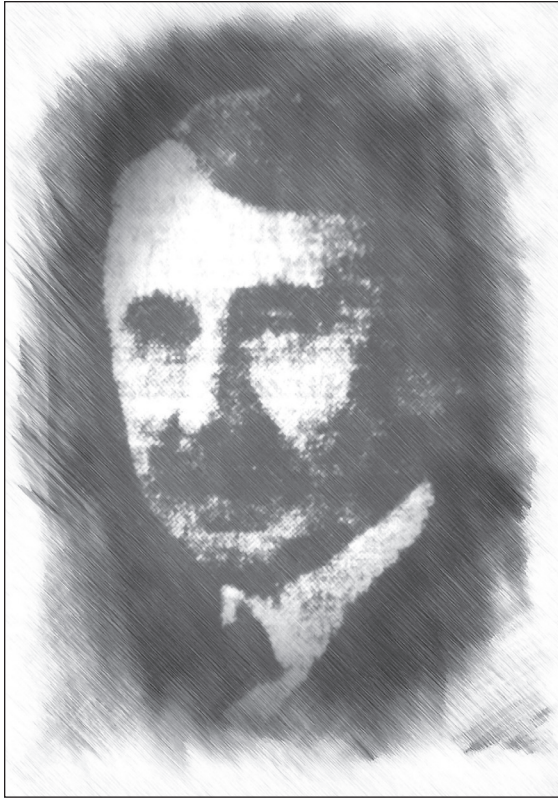
and Quantum Theatre's world premiere, "Chatterton," based on Peter Ackroyd's book, under her direction appeared at Trinity Cathedral Pittsburgh as part of the festival.

Boos is a member of the National Theatre Conference, the International Women's Forum, and the recipient of both the Carol R. Brown Award for Established Artist and its predecessor, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Creative Achievement Award for Emerging Artist.

"In a traditional theater experience," she said, "it's very easy to go to the velvet seat and the lights go up on the stage and you know where you're going to have dinner. ... I upend those circumstances to leave you hanging in a less comfortable, more uncertain position where more is required of you. People are more likely to come out a little changed on the other side of that kind of experience," she believes.

"When I was still a young woman, I had my years in Los Angeles, at Cal Arts and afterward, working with experimental artists. I came back to Pittsburgh because I thought I could do my thing here. And there was a person I wanted to talk to about my ideas, and it was August Wilson," she said. Upon finding the famed playwright in a crowded jazz club, she said Wilson "allowed me to explain what I wanted to do and gave me the kind of encouragement that I will never forget."

Boos said she enjoys a rich life in Pittsburgh with her longtime partner, Joel Le Gall, and near her daughter, Ana Hoffman, son-in-law, Josh, and two beloved granddaughters. She added, "I'm also a major multidisciplinary arts appreciator. I love dance. I love music. But most of all, I love a packed theatre."



## James Buchanan “J. B.” Chambers – *Philanthropy*

James Buchanan Chambers, the son of Samuel and Nancy Chambers, was born Dec. 19, 1854, on the Taylor Farm in rural Ohio County, West Virginia. He attended the Buchanan School, West Alexander Academy, and Iron City College in Pittsburgh where he received his academic training for a successful career in business and banking.

In 1872, the Chambers family moved to a farm along National Road in the area that now is known as Elm Grove. A portion of that family farm, once called the Chambers Memorial Farm, currently is the site of the J.B. Chambers Family YMCA.

In 1876, Chambers married Arabelle May Whitham. They had two children, Hazel Geneva Chambers (1892–1966) and Alvin Brunel Chambers (1895–1912). In 1881, the couple moved to West Alexander, in adjacent Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he would reside throughout the remainder of his life. His first wife died in 1915, and in 1920 Chambers married Maude Armstrong.

While residing in West Alexander and managing the family farm, Chambers was employed as a sales representative for Dearling Implement Company of Cleveland; however, he spent the majority of his professional career in banking.

In 1893, he founded the Elm Grove Mining Company and managed it until he sold it in 1915. Chambers then headed up the organization of the First National Bank of West Alexander, which later would become Citizen’s National Bank, and played a prominent role in the formation of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Elm Grove. Later Chambers formed the People’s National Bank of West Alexander.

J.B. Chambers died at his home in West Alexander on May 6, 1933, at the age of 78. At the time of his death, he was president of the First National Bank and Trust of Elm Grove and vice president of the People’s National Bank of West Alexander.

In 1924, Chambers created the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation to carry on his life’s work after his passing. Since its initial founding, the original purpose of the foundation was to be used for the benefit of the children of Ohio County, West Virginia, and West Alexander, Pennsylvania. Since then, the J.B. Chambers Foundation has expanded greatly upon its original mission and purpose so that it now serves the youth of the greater Wheeling area, often partnering with other public and private organizations to make projects possible.

Through the generosity and vision of Chambers and his foundation, some of the more notable projects funded by his foundation include the J.B. Chambers Baseball and Softball Complex at I-470, the J.B. Chambers Performing Arts Center on the campus of Wheeling Park High School, the J.B. Chambers Family YMCA on the site of the original family farm in Elm Grove, the J.B. Chambers Memorial Recreation Park on Sixteenth Street in East Wheeling, the recently renovated ice rink at Wheeling Park, the J.B. Chambers Soccer Fields at Wheeling Park, the Miracle League Field at the I-470 complex, the weekend backpack nutrition program at Madison Elementary School, summer camp at the NASA Challenger Learning Center, children’s needs program at the Youth Services System, Kings Daughters Child Care Center, numerous children’s programs administered through the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, and youth scholarships for creative programs at Oglebay Institute.

That is not a complete list but is representative of the programs partnered and funded by the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation. Annually the J.B. Chambers Foundation makes charitable grants and contributions to achieve Chambers’ wishes for the youth of the greater Wheeling area.





## **Ron DiLorenzo** – *Education and Religion*

Ronald Jacob DiLorenzo, or Ron, Ronnie, DiLo, or Mr. D, as his students knew him, left a legacy of touching countless young people through his music and counseling skills. He was raised in Weirton, West Virginia, and graduated from Weir High School in 1965. He was an outstanding Weir High band member who performed numerous trumpet solos at many events. His love of music led him to West Virginia University as a music major and WVU marching band member. He received his undergraduate degree and later earned a master's plus 45 graduate hours in counseling from WVU.

He began playing in local bands with his dad at the age of 14. They both played the trumpet, and music was their passion. Ron continued his musical profession throughout his life playing in many Ohio Valley bands and events. As front man for the "Shop" band, his singing, dancing, and playing always got the audience moving and participating. He also played the National Anthem on his trumpet for many local events.

Ron began his career in Ohio County Schools in the 1969-70 school year as a traveling music teacher. He also served as Wheeling Park High School's assistant band director and later became Woodsdale Elementary's full time music teacher. He later decided to pursue his advanced degrees in counseling. His caring and compassionate nature, matched with his excellent communication skills, provided students, parents, and staff members with someone who actively listened, actively responded, and actively followed up with everyone. He exhibited the same exuberance when he led the pep rallies at Wheeling Park High School.

The West Virginia Board of Education named Ron the 2007 West Virginia Department of Education Paul J. Morris Character Educator of the Year, in recognition of his exemplary modeling and instilling character in his students. State Schools Superintendent Steve Paine said, "Mr. DiLorenzo

not only teaches the six pillars (of character), but lives them every day and instills their lessons in his students." The six pillars of character include trustworthiness, caring, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and fairness. "I am very proud and honored," DiLorenzo said. "During my 38 years in education, I have always believed that character education plays an important role. I always emphasize respect. That one little word accomplishes so much." Ron also was honored as the Wheeling Park High School 1999-2000 Educator of the Year.

He married his wife of 48 years, Roberta "Robbie," in 1971. They had four children and eight grandchildren. Ron and Robbie did nearly everything together, but each was his/her own person – always able to go and do whatever they chose because they knew they would always come home to each other.

Ron was an active member of St. Michael Church, Wheeling, and served as Eucharistic Minister, Engaged Couples Sponsor, and Confirmation Instructor for many years.

After 42 years of service, Ron retired as Wheeling Park High School Dean of Students/Chairperson of the Guidance Counseling Department in 2010. He loved everything about working with staff and students and was a fervent WPHS fan. At his retirement dinner he said, "We have the best jobs and should be thankful each and every day that we get to do what we do."

Ron died on August 3, 2019, at the age of 71. A scholarship has been created in his name for a Wheeling Park High School student furthering his/her education in music and for beginning band instruments for Woodsdale Elementary students.

Ron shared his time and talents with all whom he met. He was a model of integrity, respect, love, laughter, and famiglia first.



## **Beverly Fluty** – *Public Service*

Bev Fluty, a New Englander by birth, was a college trained medical technician and a historic preservationist and historian. She spent her early years in Farmington, Connecticut, earned a degree from Westbrook College, and worked in hospitals of her native state and in Boston.

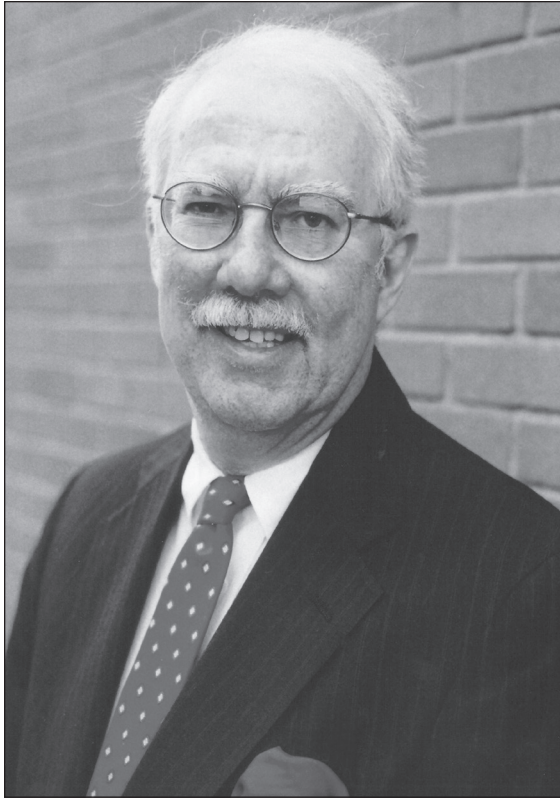
Her family (husband Bill and daughters Wendy and Holly) moved to Denver in the 1960s, and there she developed a deep interest in and passion for historic preservation. She joined the Colorado State Historic Society and contributed to the design and development of Denver's Larimer Square, a project begun in 1965 to transform Denver's oldest section into what now is the city's trendiest neighborhood. Before that project could be completed, however, the family moved to Wheeling in 1968, in time to experience its bicentennial in 1969.

She quickly became involved in all aspects of Wheeling's history. In 1970, she played a role in founding the Friends of Wheeling and participated in various projects at Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum. Hers was an important voice in the newly formed Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation's efforts to promote and protect the city's historic landmarks. Her greatest contributions were devoted to restoration of West Virginia Independence Hall and the Suspension Bridge, Wheeling's National Historic Landmarks; on both projects, she partnered with Emory Kemp, the state's premier industrial historian. Together they published "The Wheeling Suspension Bridge: A Pictorial History." For 17 years, she served as president of the West Virginia Independence Hall Foundation.

She wrote the historic preservation applications for the Suspension Bridge, West Virginia Independence Hall, and the Centre Market and served as an advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.

She conducted field trips for schoolchildren, teaching appreciation for their heritage by having them just "looking up." She lectured to civic groups and area historic societies, presented preservation panels, promoted preservation in print and on television, held memberships in the Wheeling Historical Society and Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum Committee, assisted with the development of Oglebay's Glass Museum, sat on the board of the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, contributed pictorial research for the Junior League's "The Best of Wheeling" and "Wheeling: An Illustrated History," provided research for "The Shepherds and Their Mansion," and compiled her famous "The Final But Incomplete List of Things Made in Wheeling."

Until her death in 2009, she was, in the words of Wheeling Hall of Fame Member Hydie Friend, "an unstoppable historic preservationist." She loved her adopted city and used her talents to save its heritage. When two plots became available in the oldest section of Greenwood Cemetery, she and Bill purchased them as their final resting places. She now is forever a part of Wheeling's history.



## Doug Huff – *Sports and Athletics*

A pioneer in national, state, and local high school sports media coverage, Doug Huff was a daily newspaper sports editor and columnist in Wheeling, a widely-read contributor to national publications, and an author and historian in a five-decade career.

When he became the second newspaper sports journalist inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, the award bio started, “When it comes to statistics and records on high school sports, Doug Huff is in a class by himself on a national basis.” When the National Federation of State High School Associations published the first National High School Sports Record Book in 1978, he was instrumental in the original research as contributing editor.

Huff also authored national high school reports, pre-season All-America teams, top college recruits, and national team rankings for football, boys basketball, and baseball for Street & Smith’s magazines from 1975-2008. Street & Smith’s, with an estimated circulation of 500,000 in every state and overseas, was originated in 1941 and considered the “Bible of National Sports Previews.” He was a contributor or columnist for The Sporting News, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, ESPN, Sport, Parade, Scholastic Coach, Student Sports, Football News, Pro Football Weekly, Basketball Times, Basketball Weekly, Letterman, Joe Namath’s National Prep Sports, SportsNow, NABC Courtside, The New York Times, Pittsburgh Weekly Sports, etc. He edited several national prep publications and published a statewide periodical, “W.Va. Sports Extra,” from 1971-78 and “Prep Athletes Report,” a recruiting guide used by 71 colleges. He originated national/regional high school team rankings for football and boys basketball in 1987 that were used on the Associated Press wires and distributed by Sports Features Syndicate to numerous major newspapers.

Huff was profiled in USA Today, on national wire services, and in several publications. He authored the first state all-sports reference book, “Doug Huff’s Sports in West Virginia, A Pictorial History” in 1978 and co-

authored “How to Watch Sports on TV...And Enjoy It” in 1972, and contributed to an estimated 30 other books. In his book, “Incredible Football Feats,” Jim Benagh labeled him “a one-man clearing house for high school records.”

Huff had a 47-year West Virginia daily newspaper career including a longest-ever 44-year tenure on The Intelligencer: associate sports editor (1967-78), sports editor (1979-99), and contract columnist (2000-12). He originated the All-Valley Boys Basketball and Baseball selections in 1968 and covered state championships in eight sports plus West Virginia University, including 13 football bowl games, West Virginia Conference sports, etc. He was the original curator and major contributor for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Sports Museum inside WesBanco Arena. He earlier was sports editor of The Fairmont Times and on the Morgantown Dominion-News sports staff. He ended his career as senior editor for ESPN Rise with ESPN/Student Sports from 2000-12.

Huff served on six Hall of Fame boards located throughout the Ohio Valley and the state. A life member of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and secretary-treasurer since 1982, he was on board of directors of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and Football Writers Association of America, a member of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association of America, and life member of the WVU Alumni and WVU School of Journalism Alumni, serving as president for two terms. He has been the recipient of numerous other awards honoring his sports and journalistic expertise.

He was born in New Martinsville on Sept. 25, 1943, to Ralph and Eva Huff. His wife, Jean Fox Huff, died in 2014. Huff’s son, Ryan, and daughter-in-law Megan have three children – Kellan, Logan and Griffin, and daughter Bethany Schunn and son-in-law Matt have three children – Jeremiah, Reed and Samantha.



## **Don Levenson** – *Business, Industry and Professions*

Donald W. Levenson was born on October 13, 1919, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a son of David and Eva (Wilkoff) Levenson. He attended Pittsburgh public schools and in 1942 graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering. That same year he married Ethyl Sapper and was hired by Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the test and measuring equipment design department. During World War II, Levenson worked on radar, notably inventing the “Echo Box,” which became standard for pre-mission testing of airborne radar, used during the war to test a system that warned of attacking planes. For this work, Levenson received a presidential citation.

After moving to Wheeling in 1947, Levenson became vice president of his family’s business, Reichart Furniture Company. Maintaining an interest in engineering, he began experimenting with community antenna television (CATV) in 1951, running a cable from the hill above Oakmont to supply feeds of Pittsburgh stations to his brother and other neighbors. Later, he broadened that service as the Wheeling Antenna Company. After developing a group of investors, on May 6, 1952, Levenson incorporated the Wheeling Antenna Company (WACO), where he served as president and chief engineer. Having negotiated a contract with electric and telephone companies for use of their poles, on November 4, 1952, WACO broadcast the first cable television signal to downtown Wheeling, showing the election of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and within one year was able to offer customers multiple channels. Levenson and WACO put Wheeling on the map as being among the first cities in the United States with cable television.

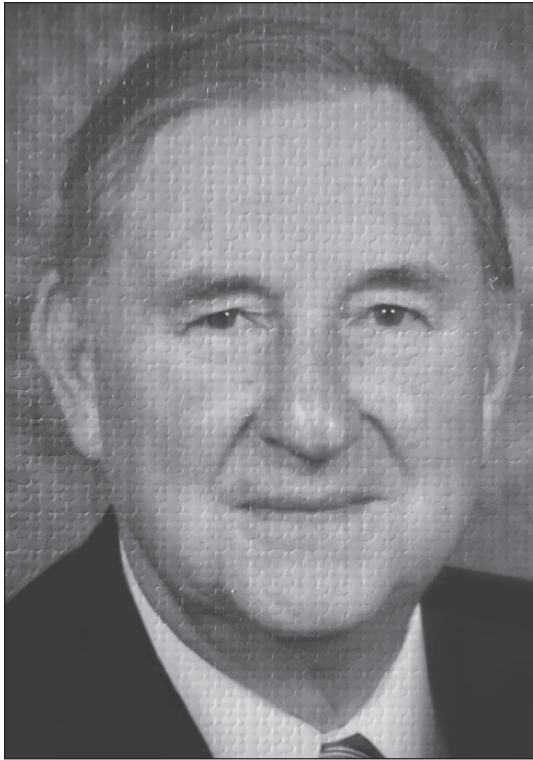
With WACO, Levenson developed a number of inventions, including a simultaneous summation sweep technique, which could accurately identify malfunctions within the cable system without interrupting customers’ services. For this invention, in 1973 he became the first person recognized by the National

Cable Television Association for outstanding engineering contributions to cable television. WACO expanded to St. Clairsville in 1970 and then to Wellsburg, eventually growing to more than 25,000 subscribers in Eastern Ohio and the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.

A dedicated member of the Wheeling community, Levenson and WACO worked with the City of Wheeling to donate cameras and audio equipment in council chambers, radios and breathalyzers to the Wheeling Police Department, and video and tape decks for the Wheeling Fire Department, which allowed the department to record and study fire calls around the city. WACO also worked in original programming for the local area. Levenson personally interviewed local dignitaries and candidates running for public office.

He also was active in the Wheeling Civitan Club, the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, Temple Shalom (where he sometimes taught ninth grade in the religious school) and was a member of B’nai B’rith, and a charter member of the Good Zoo at Oglebay Park. In addition to being a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) in both West Virginia and New Jersey, Levenson belonged to the National Society of Professional Engineers, the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and the Society of Cable Television Engineers.

Levenson died on June 4, 1978, and was buried at Beth Shalom Cemetery in Pittsburgh. After his death, WACO was sold to Telecommunications (TCI) on August 4, 1980. Levenson’s work with WACO helped to revolutionize the cable television industry not only in Wheeling but throughout the United States as well.



## Hugh Stobbs – *Sports and Athletics*

Hugh Nevin Stobbs, the only child of Hugh Nevin Stobbs and Adelaide Bachmann Stobbs, was born in 1935 in Montgomery, Alabama. At the age of three, his family moved back to their hometown of Wheeling.

Stobbs graduated from Linsly Military Institute in 1952. An outstanding athlete, he was offered an athletic scholarship to continue his football play at the collegiate level; however, an on-field injury ended his playing career.

Hugh received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University. In addition, he also served six years in the military with three years in the West Virginia National Guard and three years in the Army Medical Corps. Hugh's professional career primarily was spent managing his family's real estate holdings.

In his mid-30s, Hugh made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking and to lose weight. To achieve this goal, he started on a lifetime career of fitness running. This defining act would lead Hugh down a path of national prominence in a sport he never intended nor expected.

In 1976, Hugh, with the support of several friends and fellow runners, shared a vision for a road-racing event that involved replicating the experience of running a marathon, without running 26.2 miles. This is when the Elby's First National Bank 20-kilometer Distance Classic was born.

With Hugh as the founder and race director, on May 28, 1977, the inaugural Elby's First National Bank 20-kilometer Classic firmly established Wheeling on the international road-racing map for many years. The inaugural event included participation by the premier elite distance runners in the world, featuring Olympic gold medal winner Frank Shorter and Boston Marathon winners Bill Rogers, Tom Fleming, and

Jack Fultz. Future events would typically include the best world-class distance athletes, both men and women, from around the globe.

With Hugh continuing at the helm as race director for the next 25 years, more than 30,000 runners from 69 different countries have taken their place at the starting line on Fourteenth and Main streets in downtown Wheeling on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

This annual road-racing classic was selected to be a United States Olympic team-qualifying event on several occasions as well as being named the United States 20-kilometer national championship race eight years in a row. "Runner's World" magazine ranked it as one of the top 10 annual road-racing events in the country. That annual Memorial Day weekend event continues today as it has evolved into the Ogden Newspapers Half-Marathon Classic.

Not one to be a spectator, Hugh found the time to complete 56 marathons (26.2 miles) throughout North America and Europe as well as competing in numerous ultramarathons and ultra-endurance running events of 50 to 100 miles.

Since his retirement as race director Hugh still had the time and energy for another fitness evolution, an annual running and walking event to honor military veterans. That event evolved into the Lois Stobbs Memorial Veterans 10K and celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2019.

There was more to Hugh than just the business of running. He served on the Ohio County Board of Education for 22 years, with eight of those years as the board president; five years as head coach for cross country and track at West Liberty University; member, Wheeling Traffic Commission; classroom reading tutor; board of directors, YMCA; chair, Wheeling Heart Association; board member and president, RESA 6; track and sideline football official; team sponsor, Wheeling Outdoor Basketball Recreation League team(s) that included players Jerry West and Hot Rod Hundley; was named Distinguished West Virginian by the governor, and received the Dapper Dan Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Hugh had three children: Cathy DeFruscio, Susan Brossman, and Tracy Capuder. Hugh died on December 8, 2020.



## **B. E. Taylor** - *Music and Fine Arts*

The late B.E. Taylor already was a hugely successful singer, recording artist, and front man for the enormously popular B.E. Taylor Group when, in 1982, he married Veronica DeBlasis and chose to make Wheeling his home. He raised a family, sang in area churches, and lent his voice to many charity causes including the House of the Carpenter, Soup Kitchen of Wheeling, Special Olympics, and Children's Hospital, among others.

William Edward Taylor was born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, in 1951. The eldest of three sons of Bill and Betty Taylor, he was called "Billy Eddie" by his mother, which eventually was shortened to B.E. At the age of 11 he was diagnosed with a serious kidney disease, and while housebound for a year he learned to play guitar and developed a lasting passion for music. He fronted his first band, "The Red Coats," while in high school. He formed "B.E. Taylor and the Establishment," a progressive rock band, before joining three ex-members of "Crack The Sky" to form "The B.E. Taylor Group." They quickly filled clubs and in 1981 scored a Billboard hit with "Vitamin L," accompanied by a music video that aired nationally on MTV. The group had three major label releases before B.E. embarked on a solo career.

Taylor co-hosted the nationally recognized Christian music show "LightMusic," which won the Billboard award for "Best Contemporary Christian Video Show" from 1993-1995. He sang on many national commercials and shared the stage with national acts including Bruce Springsteen, Chicago, Hall and Oates, and The Beach Boys.

His association with Christmas happened almost by accident when he contributed a song in 1991 to a radio station's seasonal compilation that became widely popular. He recorded and released his first Christmas CD, "B.E. Taylor Christmas," on his own label, Chrishae Records, in 1994. He ultimately would release two additional Christmas CDs.

In December 1996, a one-time performance of the Christmas album occurred at Oglebay Park. That set in motion the B.E. Taylor Christmas Tour that eventually would play annually to audiences across the Midwest. The tour routinely sold out two nights at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh and the Capitol Theater in Wheeling. He would headline the Capitol more than 40 times.

Taylor appeared as guest soloist with the Wheeling and Pittsburgh symphonies and was featured on the national home shopping network QVC performing music from his Christmas CDs. In 2008, the Pittsburgh Ballet commissioned "Forever Love," with a special guest appearance by Taylor.

B.E. always recognized military personnel at his concerts. In the wake of 9/11, he produced a charity concert held at the Capitol Theatre that raised thousands of dollars. This inspired him to release "One Nation Under God" in 2004. In 2010, he appeared with composer Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Pops in "A Salute to America" built specifically around music from "One Nation Under God." In 2010, WQED-TV and other PBS stations across the country began airing video of the B.E. Taylor Christmas Concert as an annual fundraiser, a tradition that continues today.

In March 2007 Taylor was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. During this period, he continued to tour, headline concerts, and release CDs and a concert DVD. Taylor was awarded the Duquesne University Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, is a member of the Beaver Valley Hall of Fame, and was given the Distinguished West Virginian Award by former Governor Bob Wise. Sadly, he died in 2016. Though he is gone, his spirit and message of love lives on through his music and all of the lives he touched.



## **The Rev. Bonnie Thurston, Ph. D. - *Education and Religion***

Teacher, pastor, preacher, scholar, author, ecumenical partner, interfaith advocate, and poet – these are just a few of the titles that apply to Bonnie Thurston. Blessed with a myriad of gifts and talents, she enjoys sharing them with the world and with her neighbors. She was born in Bluefield, West Virginia; her family moved to Beckley in Raleigh County where she attended public school. She received her bachelor of arts summa cum laude from Bethany College in 1974, graduating as class valedictorian. She earned her master of arts and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and has completed post-doctoral work at Harvard Divinity School; Eberhard Karls University in Tubingen, Germany; and Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem. She currently resides in the greater Wheeling area.

Ordained to the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1984, Bonnie also is affiliated with and is a licensed lay preacher in the Episcopal Church U.S.A. She has served as a pastor, co-pastor, or interim pastor of five churches including the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wheeling and has served twice in overseas ministries. She is an experienced spiritual director and retreat leader and a world-renowned scholar, writer, and lecturer. She has written or edited 23 theological books and hundreds of articles, has contributed to multiple reference works in New Testament studies, and has taught at the university level for more than 30 years, including service with Wheeling Jesuit College (now Wheeling University), Bethany College, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her scholarly interests include the gospels of Mark and John, the writings of the Apostle Paul, and more generally the history of Christian spirituality and prayer.

Her published book titles include “The Spiritual Landscape of Mark,” “For God Alone: A Primer on Prayer,” and most recently, “Shaped by the End You Live For: Thomas Merton’s Monastic Spirituality.” Bonnie wrote her doctoral dissertation on the Catholic spiritual pioneer Thomas Merton. She was a

founding member of the International Thomas Merton Society; has served as president of the society; and has studied, written, and taught extensively about Merton.

Bonnie’s poetry frequently appears in religious periodicals, and she has composed and published six volumes of verse, including these intriguing titles: “A Place to Pay Attention,” “Practicing Silence,” and “From Darkness to Eastering.” She has given poetry readings at Cathedral College of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Society of the Sacred Cross at Tymawr Convent (Wales), and the Arts Centre at the University of Aberystwyth (Wales), and locally at Bethany College, at Lunch with Books at the Ohio County Public Library, and at other public libraries in West Virginia and Ohio.

Honors and recognitions Bonnie has received include Who’s Who in Biblical Studies and Archeology; Bethany College Alumni Achievement Award in Religion; West Virginia Council of Churches Ecumenical Service Award; Thomas Merton Award of the International Thomas Merton Society; Wheeling YWCA Tribute to Women Award; and Distinguished West Virginians Archives, West Virginia University.

Bonnie is a widow, an avid walker, reader, gardener, and cook, enjoys classical music (especially the opera and liturgical music), and loves the West Virginia hills. When told of her election to the Wheeling Hall of Fame, she said, “I am stunned. It seems so odd to be honored for doing what one is supposed to do – what God has given one to do. I accept with profound humility and gratitude.”

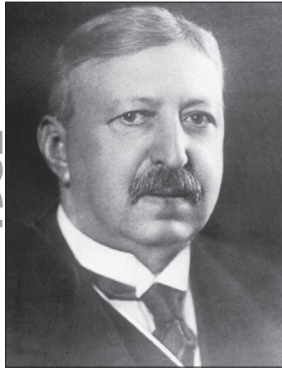
❖ BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ❖

1998



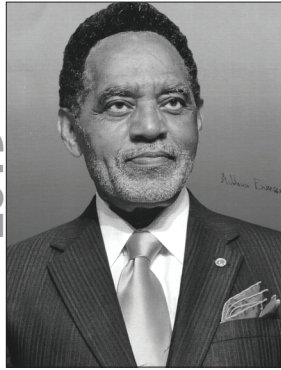
**Dominic V. Agostino**  
1931 - 2010

1982



**Samuel S. Bloch**  
1850 - 1937

2019



**William Burrus**  
1936 - 2018

2006



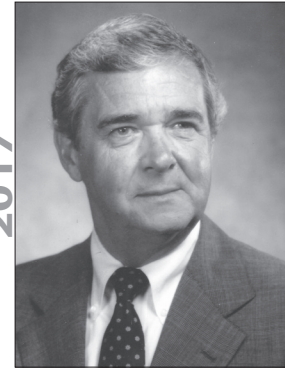
**Mary Louise Snider Efron**  
1926 - 1967

2015



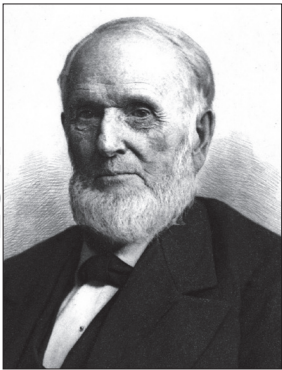
**Frederick Faris**  
1870 - 1927

2017



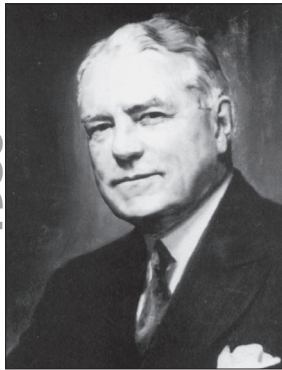
**J. Ross Felton**  
1926 - 2017

2017



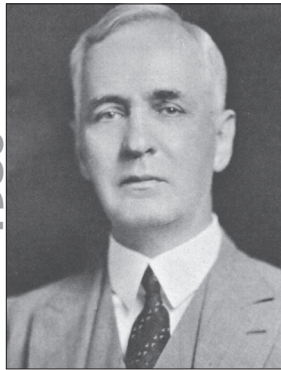
**Dr. John Frissell**  
1810 - 1893

1986



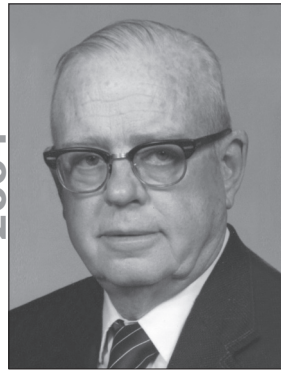
**Dr. William S. Fulton**  
1873 - 1938

1980



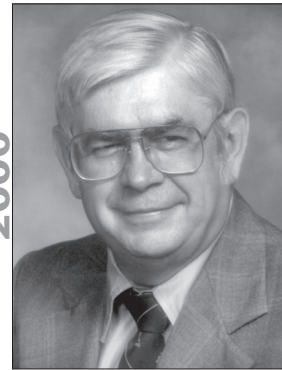
**Alexander Glass**  
1858 - 1941

2004



**Robert C. Hazlett**  
1910 - 1996

2000



**Carl Richard Huss**  
1925 - 1996

1980



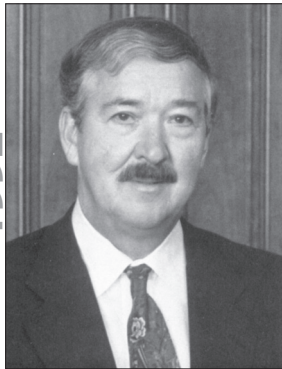
**James Howard Kindelberger**  
1895 - 1962

2011



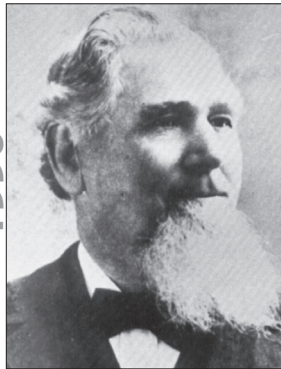
**Ralph R. Kitchen**  
1881 - 1930

1992



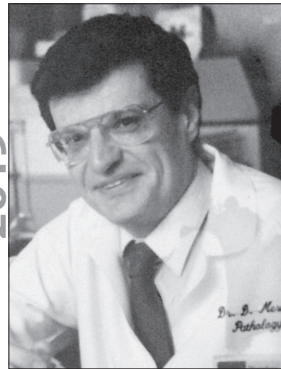
**Howard Long**  
1934 -

1990



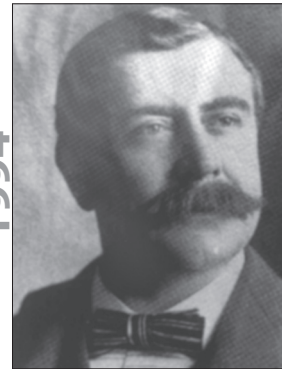
**Miffin M. Marsh**  
1818 - 1901

2019



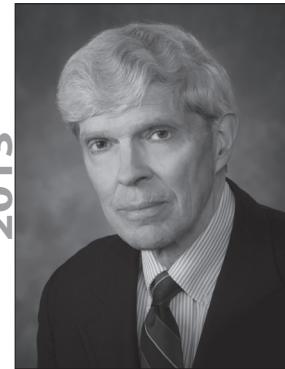
**Dr. Donald Mercer**  
1938 -

1994



**Harry C. Northwood**  
1860 - 1919

2013



**G. Ogden Nutting**  
1935 -



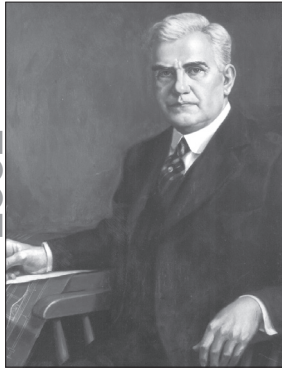
➤ BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ➤

1982



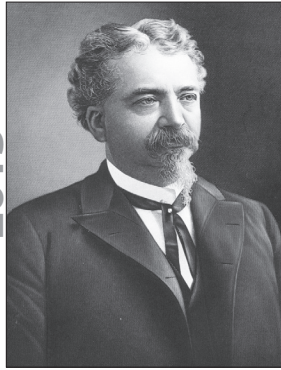
Herschel C. Ogden  
1869 - 1943

2002



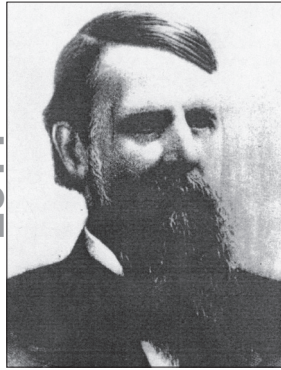
Michael Joseph  
Owens  
1859 - 1923

2013



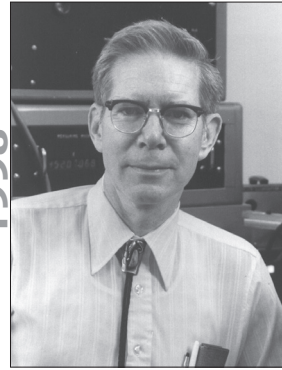
Augustus Pollack  
1830 - 1906

2011



Dr. James Edmund  
Reeves  
1829 - 1896

1998



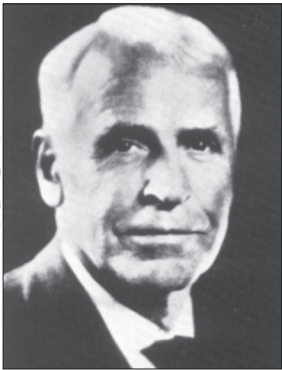
Dr. Harlan J. Smith  
1924 - 1991

2000



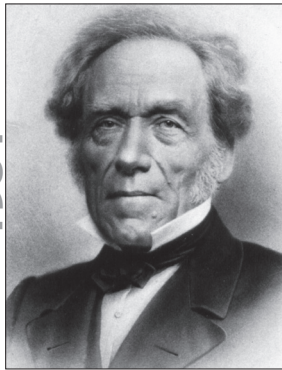
Ralph Reed Spears  
1859 - 1943

1984



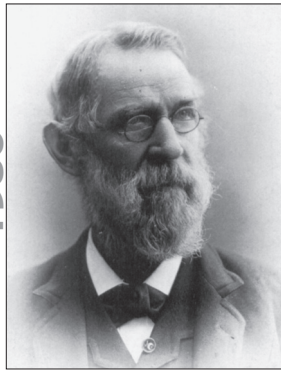
Ellsworth Milton  
Statler  
1863 - 1928

1984



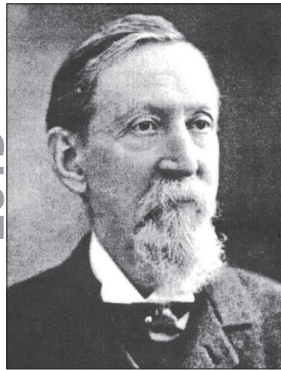
Johann Ludwig  
Stifel  
1807 - 1881

1986



Andrew J. Sweeney  
1829 - 1893

2015



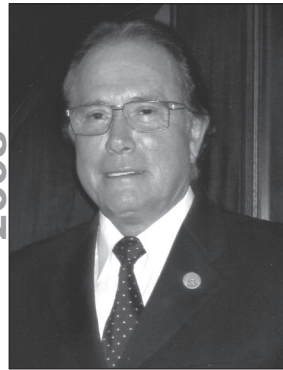
James Nelson Vance  
1829 - 1913

1980



William E. Weiss  
1879 - 1942

2008



Gary E. West  
1937 -



WHEELING  
HALL OF FAME

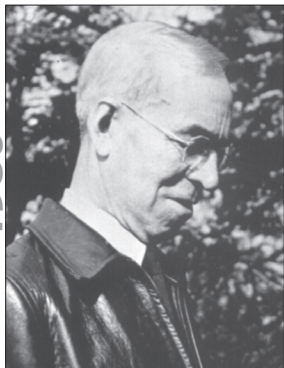
➤ EDUCATION AND RELIGION ➤

1980



Levering C. Bonar  
1896 - 1978

1980



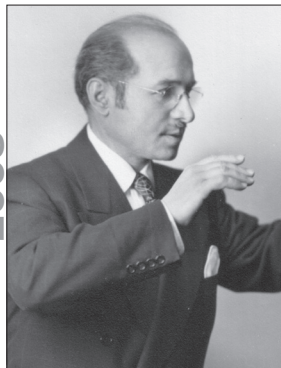
Alonzo B. Brooks  
1873 - 1944

2017



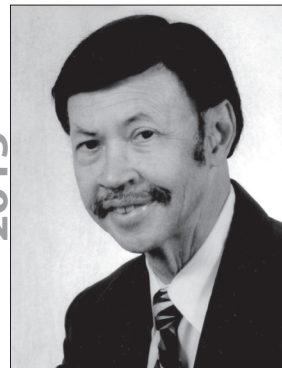
Margaret Ann  
"Peg" Brennan  
1943 -

2008



Stefano R. Ceo  
1899 - 1964

2015



Allan Connolly  
1944 -

2004



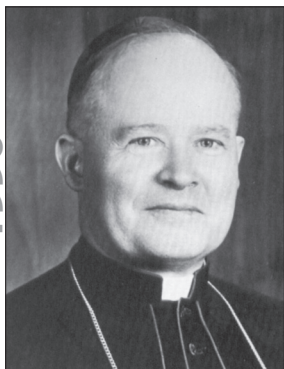
Annie Sinclair  
Cunningham  
1832 - 1897

2019



Sister Joanne Gonter,  
VHM  
1934 -

1990



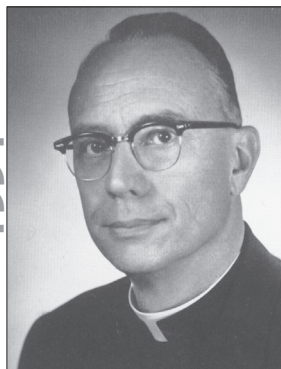
Bishop Joseph H.  
Hodges  
1911 - 1985

1992



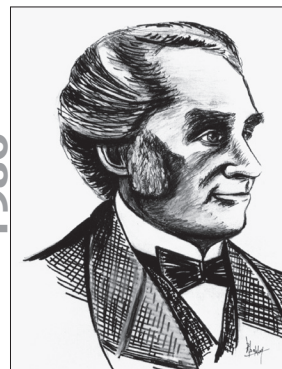
Dr. Forrest H.  
Kirkpatrick  
1905 - 1998

1994



Rev. Clifford M.  
Lewis, S.J.  
1911 - 1983

1986



Noah Linsly  
1774 - 1814

2002



J. Loran Mercer  
1913 - 1983

2000



Sister Anne Regina  
O'Leary, S.S.J.  
1912 - 2009

2006



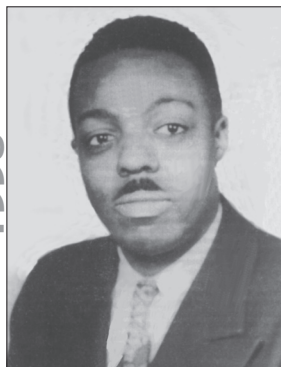
The Rev. Margaret Bird  
Caldwell Phillimore  
1915 - 2004

1986



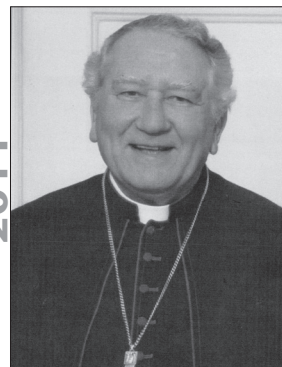
Mary L. Butler Reed  
1861 - 1939

1998



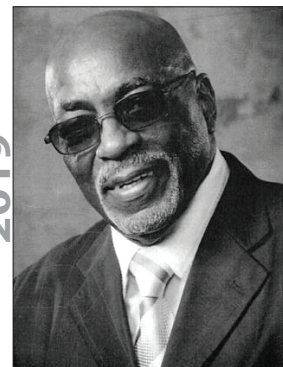
Phillip Nathaniel  
Reed  
1914 - 1975

2011



Bishop Bernard  
W. Schmitt  
1928 - 2011

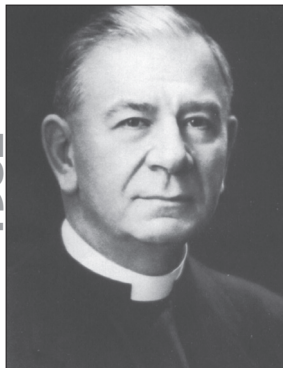
2019



Rev. Willie F.  
Stinson  
1936 - 2018

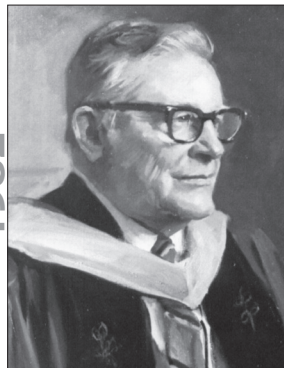
➤ EDUCATION AND RELIGION ➤

1982



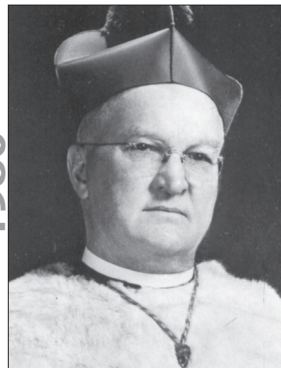
Rt. Rev. Robert  
E. L. Strider, D.D.  
1887 - 1969

1982



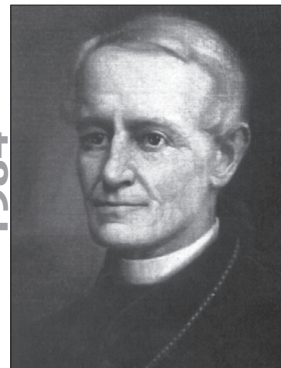
Dr. Robert  
E.L. Strider II  
1917 - 2010

1980



Archbishop John J.  
Swint, D.D.  
1879 - 1962

1984



Bishop Richard V.  
Whelan  
1809 - 1874



➤ MUSIC AND FINE ARTS ➤

1998



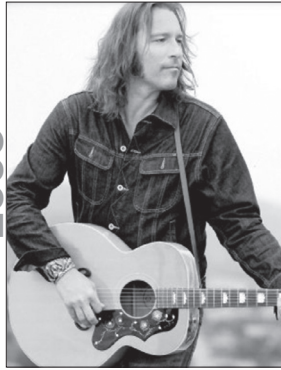
**Leon "Chu" Berry**  
1908 - 1941

1982



**Eleanor Glass Caldwell**  
1887 - 1979

2006



**John Corbett**  
1961 -

2015



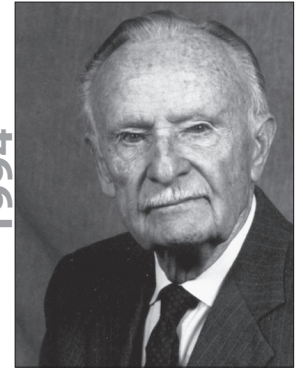
**Billy Cox**  
1941 -

1984



**Rebecca Harding Davis**  
1831 - 1910

1994



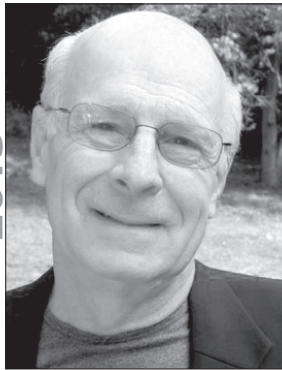
**Ellis R. Dungan**  
1909 - 2001

2015



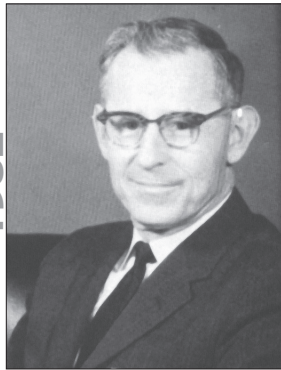
**Mary Elizabeth Fassig (Keyser)**  
1905 - 1986

2013



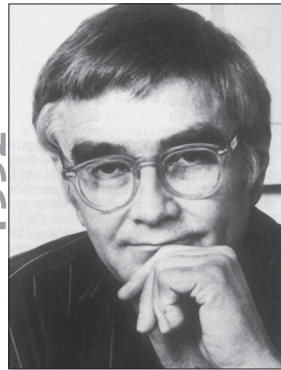
**Marc Harshman**  
1950 -

1982



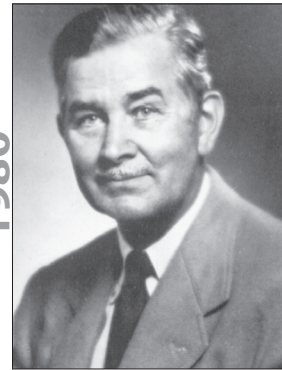
**Harry C. Holbert Sr.**  
1918 - 1982

1992



**Budd Hopkins**  
1931 - 2011

1980



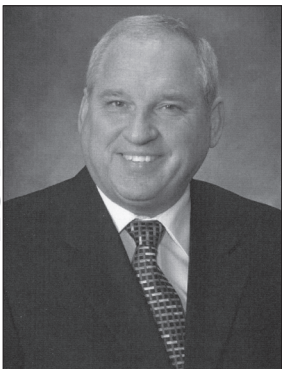
**George J. Kossuth**  
1886 - 1960

2019



**Everett Lee**  
1916 -

2011



**Dennis Magruder**  
1948 -

2004



**Keith Lee Maillard**  
1942 -

2017



**Mollie O'Brien**  
1952 -

2006



**Tim O'Brien**  
1954 -

2008



**Harold G. "Hal" O'Leary**  
1925 - 2018

2019



**John Joseph "J.J." Owens**  
1887 - 1931

➤ MUSIC AND FINE ARTS ➤

2000



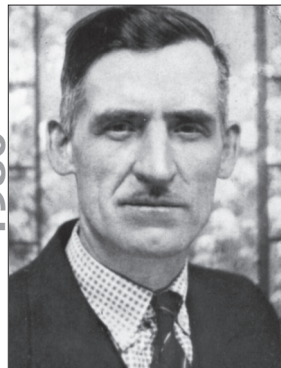
**Marilyn Hughey  
Phillis**  
1927 -

1980



**Eleanor Steber**  
1914 - 1990

1980



**Patrick J. Sullivan**  
1894 - 1967

2004



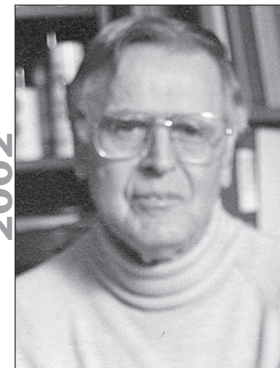
**Earl Summers, Jr.**  
1916 - 2004

2017



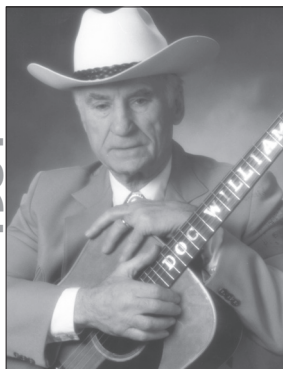
**Robert Villamagna**  
1948 -

2002



**Wesley J. Wagner**  
1917 - 2006

1984



**Doc Williams**  
1914 - 2011

  
**WHEELING**  
➤ HALL OF FAME ➤

✦ PHILANTHROPY ✦

1990



**Phyllis A. Beneke**  
1929 - 1988

2000



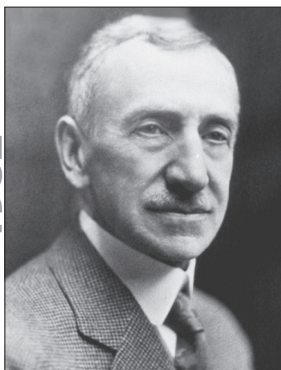
**Helen B. Gaither**  
1900 - 1996

2011



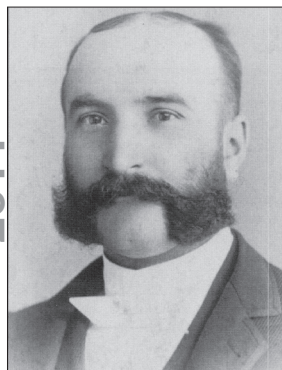
**Elizabeth Stifel  
Kline**  
1925 - 2000

1982



**George A. Laughlin**  
1862 - 1936

2011



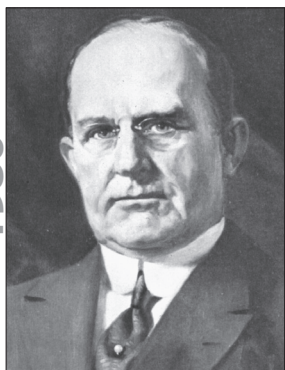
**George W. Lutz**  
1855 - 1940

2002



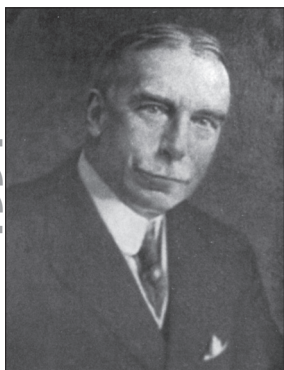
**Irene Doretta  
Meagel**  
1900 - 1999

1980



**Earl W. Oglebay**  
1849 - 1926

1994



**B. Walker Peterson**  
1851 - 1925

2008



**Anton Reymann**  
1837 - 1924

2015



**Dr. Arthur "Art"  
Rybeck**  
1923 - 2008

2017



**Harry S. Sands &  
Helen Turner Sands**  
1867 - 1952 and 1865 - 1952

2019



**Albert F. Schenk, III &  
Kathleen Hogan Schenk**  
1916 - 1995 and 1921 - 2009

1984



**Otto Schenk**  
1863 - 1933

1982



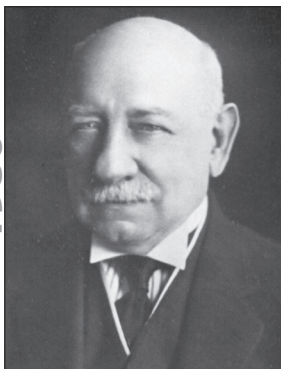
**Margaret  
McCluskey Schiffler**  
1895 - 1976

1998



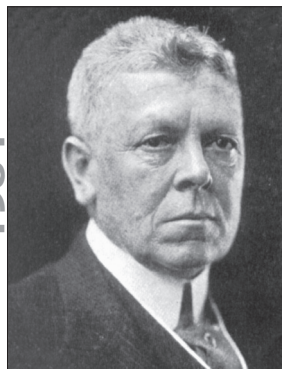
**Henry Stifel  
Schrader**  
1909 - 1996

1980



**George E. Stifel**  
1849 - 1931

1984



**Wilbur E. Stone**  
1863 - 1938

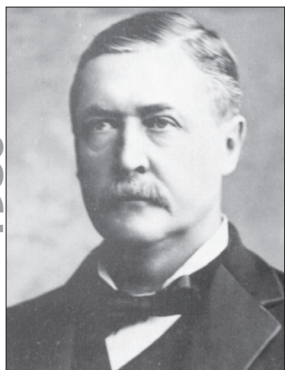
1980



**Clara M. Welty**  
1879 - 1960

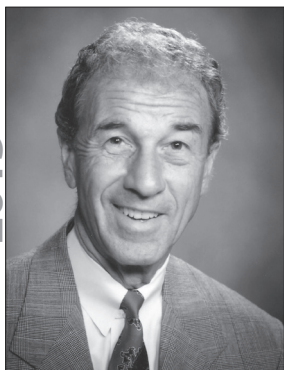
❖ PUBLIC SERVICE ❖

1980



**Archibald W. Campbell**  
1833 - 1899

2015



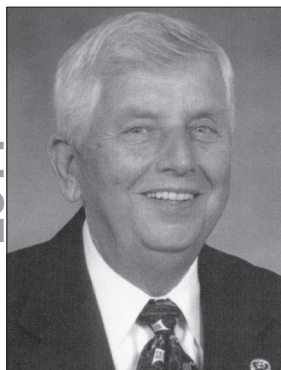
**Clyde D. Campbell**  
1930 -

1998



**Ethel Clare Elikan**  
1911 - 1998

2011



**John Edward "Jack" Fahey**  
1928 -

2019



**Sue Seibert Farnsworth**  
1940 -

2019



**Harriette Shull "Hydie" Friend**  
1945 -

2013



**Rosemary Front**  
1940 - 2009

2000



**Harry C. Hamm**  
1923 - 1991

1984



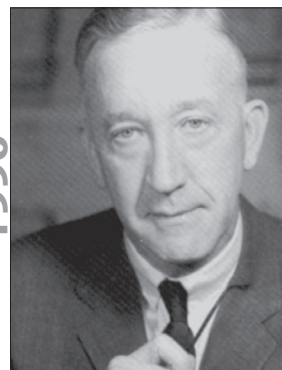
**Judith A. Herndon**  
1941 - 1980

2015



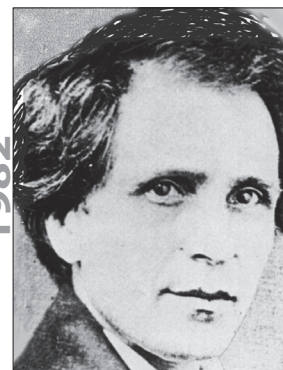
**Susan Cox Hogan**  
1949 -

1990



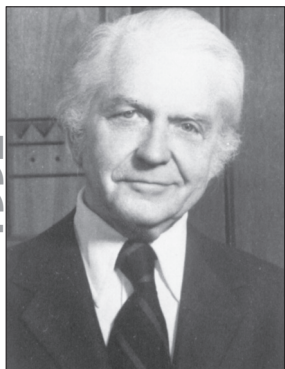
**Chester R. Hubbard**  
1905 - 1984

1982



**Dr. Simon P. Hulihan**  
1810 - 1857

1992



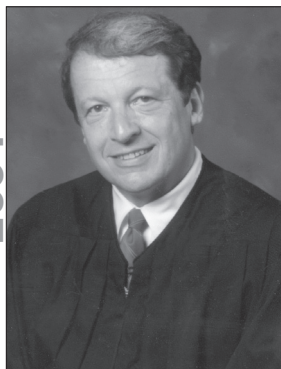
**Charles L. Ihlenfeld**  
1908 - 1989

1980



**Wilbur S. Jones**  
1909 - 1977

2004



**Thomas B. Miller**  
1929 - 2008

2017



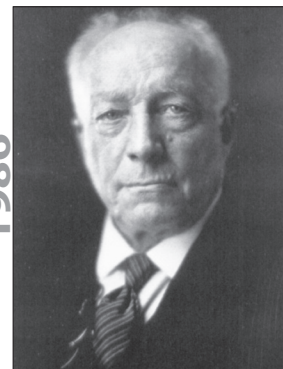
**Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting**  
1936 -

1980



**Walter P. Reuther**  
1907 - 1970

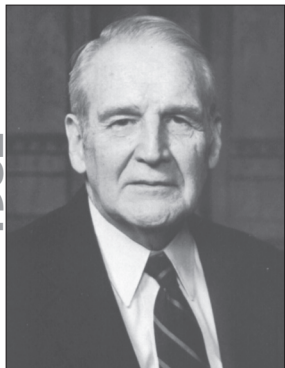
1986



**Dr. Jacob Schwinn**  
1854 - 1941

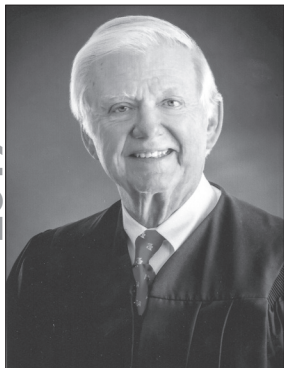
↔ PUBLIC SERVICE ↔

1982



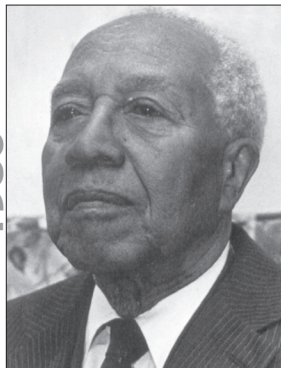
George H. Seibert Jr.  
1913 - 1986

2017



Judge Frederick P.  
Stamp, Jr.  
1934 -

1986



James S. White  
1901 - 1989

2000



G. Randolph  
"Randy" Worls  
1938 -





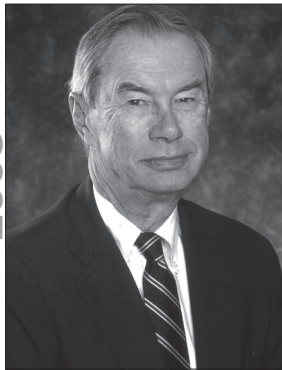
SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

1984



**Robert E. "Bob" Biery**  
1901 - 1991

2008



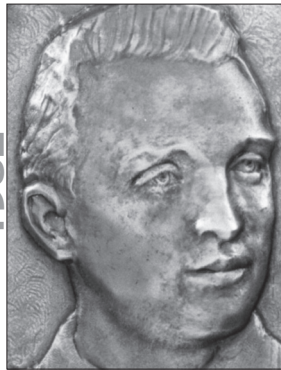
**Stuart F. Bloch**  
1933 - 2017

1982



**V. Everett Brinkman**  
1902 - 1972

1982



**Jesse Cail Burkett**  
1868 - 1953

1994



**Sally Carroll**  
1926 - 2012

1986



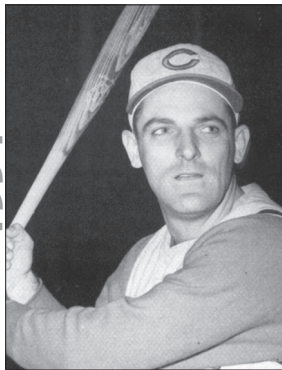
**Leland S. Devore**  
1889 - 1939

1990



**S. James Foti**  
1910 - 2004

1994



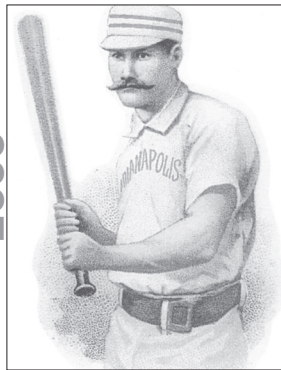
**Gene Freese**  
1934 - 2013

2004



**Rose M. Gacioch**  
1915 - 2004

2000



**John Wesley Glasscock**  
1857 - 1947

1990



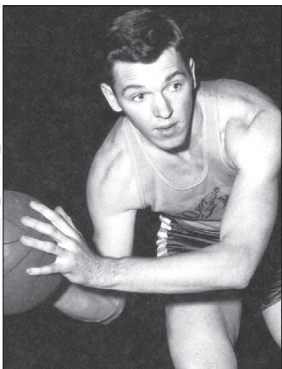
**Russell B. Goodwin**  
1893 - 1968

2008



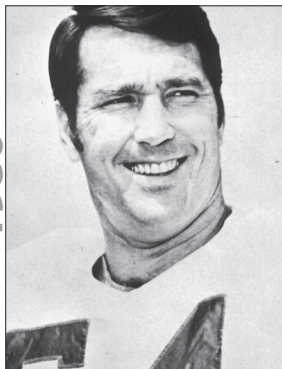
**J. William Grimes**  
1941 -

2015



**John B. "Jay" Handlan**  
1928 - 2013

1980



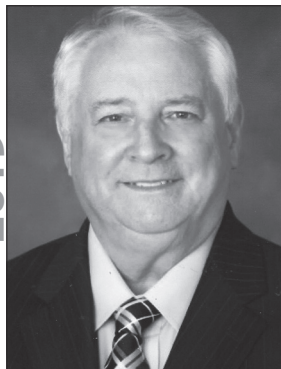
**Charles "Chuck" Howley**  
1936 -

1992



**Bernard Mehen**  
1918 - 2007

2019



**Ronald G. Peyton**  
1942 -

2006



**Warren Pugh**  
1902 - 1983

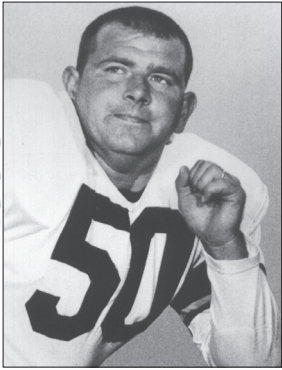
1980



**Mary E. "Fritzi" Stifel Quarrier**  
1904 - 1967

↔ SPORTS AND ATHLETICS ↔

1998



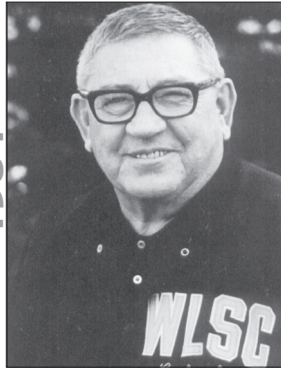
**John Reger**  
1931 - 2013

1980



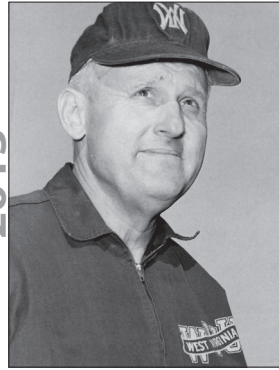
**Jule Rivlin**  
1917 - 2002

1984



**Robert "Bob" Roe**  
1908 - 1984

2013



**Stanley Romanoski**  
1918 - 2004

2017



**Charles P. Saad**  
1925 - 2014

2019



**Susan D. Vail**  
1941 -

1986



**Michael J. Valan**  
1910 - 1986

2002



**Bill Van Horne**  
1921 - 1995

