

2025
Induction
June 28

# → Wheeling Hall of Fame Board

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, twelve in 2019, ten in 2021, and eleven in 2023. The current group of eleven honorees brings the total number of people enshrined in the Wheeling Hall of Fame to 177.

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

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.

<sup>\*</sup> became Business, Industry and Professions in 1996.



## 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; Laura Carroll and Kim McCluskey Education and Religion – Alishah Hardway, chairperson; Darrell Cummings and Dianna Vargo Music and Fine Arts – Robert DeFrancis, chairperson; Chris Villamagna and Georgette Stock Philanthropy – C.J. Kaiser, chairperson; Peter Holloway and Roanne Burech Public Service – David Javersak, chairperson; Philip Stahl and Tom Rownd Sports and Athletics – George Frazier, chairperson; Richard L. Coury and Kelly Rine Wheeling City Council Representative – Jerry Sklavounakis



# 2025 Induction Ceremony June 28, 2025

Jesse A. Bloch – Public Service
Bill Cornforth – Education and Religion
Scott Davis – Sports and Athletics
Jeanie Caldwell Dougherty – Music and Fine Arts
Dr. Harriet B. Jones – Business, Industry and Professions
Brian E. Joseph – Business, Industry and Professions
Richard P. Mehen – Sports and Athletics
Martha Clark Parlin and Robinson S. Parlin – Philanthropy
Frances Mary Schoolcraft – Education and Religion
Cliff Sligar – Public Service
Charles L. Sonneborn, Sr. – Philanthropy

### → PROGRAM ←

Invocation – Suff. Bishop Darrell W. Cummings

Master of Ceremonies – Robert DeFrancis, Chairman, Wheeling Hall of Fame Board

Official Welcome from the City of Wheeling – Mayor Denny Magruder

Induction of Honorees into the Wheeling Hall of Fame – Hall of Fame Board Members

Closing Remarks – Robert DeFrancis



# **Wheeling City Council**

Mayor	Denny Magruder
First Ward Councilman	Tony Assaro
Second Ward Councilman	Ben Seidler
Third Ward Councilwoman	Connie Cain
Fourth Ward Councilman	Jerry Sklavounakis
Fifth Ward Councilman	Ty Thorngate
Sixth Ward Councilman	Dave Palmer



#### **Jesse A. Bloch** – Public Service

Jesse A. Bloch was the second-generation son of a German immigrant family who came to the United States in the mid-19th century. Born to Samuel and Bertha Bloch in 1879, he attended Wheeling public schools and Linsly and earned degrees from Phillips-Exeter and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He joined Bloch Brothers Tobacco Co., the business founded by his father and his Uncle Aaron, in 1900. He later became the company's vice president, and from 1937-47, held the office of president.

Bloch Brothers, a unionized company, enjoyed positive relationships with its workers, something exemplary for this period in American history. The fair labor practices of the Bloch company had a profound influence on Jesse after he entered the political world in West Virginia's House of Delegates and the state Senate.

During his first House term (1912-14) he advanced a bill, written by Wheeling's central labor body, the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly, dealing with workman's compensation. House Bill No. 9 became known as the Bloch Bill. Watered down by the state's insurance companies and its coal barons, it was "the foundation of which to build" and, according to labor historians, one of the greatest labor victories before World War I.

When Bloch moved to the state Senate, he found himself embroiled in one of the nation's social issues—women's suffrage. Female suffrage failed in a statewide vote in 1916 with 70% voting no. In 1920, there was a new push for suffrage in the form of an amendment to the United States Constitution. With 36 states needed for this amendment to pass, West Virginia's approval was crucial, but the Senate was deadlocked at 14 to 14. Bloch supported suffrage, but he was in California when the special session of the Senate convened. Alerted to this deadlock, Bloch returned to Charleston by train, taking three days to make the trip. His affirmative vote broke the tie, and West Virginia approved what became the 19th

Amendment. His role in this political drama was celebrated in the state on the 100th anniversary of its passage.

As a community leader, he played leadership roles with the Wheeling Housing Authority, the Ohio Valley General Hospital, the Boy Scouts, the Ohio County Anti-Tuberculosis League, and, during World War I, the Liberty Loan program.

In May 1940, he and his siblings donated their parents' home, Elmhurst, to the Home for Aged Women. Given in honor of their mother, the home, since enlarged, continues to serve retired area residents.

Jesse married Jessie Thornton Moffat. Along with their two children, they joined the Vance Memorial Church, close to their home in Pleasant Valley. Jesse is the third member of his family to be added to the Wheeling Hall of Fame, joining his father, Samuel, and a grandson, Stuart.

Bloch died in his home on January 17, 1951, and is buried in Wheeling's Greenwood Cemetery.



## **Bill Cornforth** – Education and Religion

Bill Cornforth was born May 1, 1950, the son of Edward and Rita Cornforth and the brother to two sisters, Jeri and Lyn. His beginnings as a teacher of various forms of communication started in 1970 as a junior at Wheeling College (later named Wheeling Jesuit University, now Wheeling University). While pursuing a degree in English, he became fascinated with the theater program. He then acted in all of their productions and directed his first play.

After college, Cornforth found more theater experience at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre. For much of the 1970s and '80s, Cornforth acted in more than 20 Towngate plays and directed seven more. The Towngate offered Cornforth a wealth of opportunities that would now guide him in his new role of theater educator.

He gained his first teaching position at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School. In his short but very enjoyable year and a half, Cornforth discovered the value of creativity in young students' learning, especially through creative dramatics.

At age 23, he made a turn to teach inmates at the West Virginia State Penitentiary in Moundsville. He taught reading, math, GED, and college prep. To offer a new creative experience, he created an inmate drama group and directed its first production, "Twelve Angry Men". The quality of the production grabbed praise from both inmate and public audiences, so the Penitentiary Players produced more plays. During that time, Cornforth received a letter of commendation from Gov. Jay Rockefeller and an award from Wheeling Jesuit University as Outstanding Alumnus in Education.

For a grand entrance into the 1980s and 1990s, Cornforth married Carol Galligan and together had four children--Jennifer, Kristin, John, and Ryan. In 1986, he earned his master's degree from West Virginia

University in Communication in Education. Cornforth then reconnected with Wheeling Jesuit University between 1988-2013 as an adjunct teacher. He taught interpersonal and group communication skills in WJU's adult evening program. Again, he engaged non-theater students with theater activities such as role playing to spark lively class communication about real world conflicts.

In the fall of 1979, Wheeling Park High School hired Cornforth to teach Speech, Debate, Theater and Language Arts, to direct the fall play, and to be assistant Speech and Theater coach to Fran Schoolcraft, who directed professional level musicals and would lead the Speech team to 25 consecutive West Virginia State championships. Cornforth succeeded Schoolcraft after her retirement in 2004, adding Technical Theater, Acting, and Speech Honors to his repertoire of courses. Extracurricular activities included Park Players Moderator, Co-Technical Director, Musical Director, and Head Speech and Debate Team Coach. During this time, the Speech and Debate team ventured to tournaments outside of West Virginia. They competed against 35 schools from the greater Pittsburgh area, continuously placing 3rd, 2nd, or 1st. They also traveled to national tournaments in major U.S. cities that hosted more than 2,000 participants each. Park consistently brought home semifinalist or finalist individual winners.

In 2022, he received Honorable Mention for the Broadway theater Tony Award's National Excellence in Education Award. Also in 2022, he received recognition from Mayor Glenn Elliot "for distinguished service, loyalty, and dedication to the city of Wheeling."

By the time he retired in 2023, the Speech team had won 43 consecutive state championships, he had directed more than 50 productions at WPHS, and was a teacher for a total of 51 years. Following his retirement, he received recognition and a state flag from Sen. Joe Manchin "in honor of his many contributions to the Wheeling community."

A dedicated educator from 1972 to 2023, he served students at several schools, including 43 years at Wheeling Park High School. His courses ranged from Acting, Speech, Interpersonal Communication, Debate and Language Arts. His mission was to inspire students to become excellent communicators. He directed more than 60 plays and musicals for Wheeling Park High School, Wheeling Jesuit University, Towngate Theatre, and the West Virginia State Penitentiary. For Wheeling Park High School's Speech and Debate team, he guided numerous state and national finalists. As head coach, his teams won 17 state championships. He regards his career as a teacher to be a privilege and a gift.



### **Scott Davis** – Sports and Athletics

Born May 6, 1956, in Wheeling, Scott Davis dedicated his entire career to growing the game of golf in West Virginia. He graduated from Triadelphia High School where he was a three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and golf. He was recruited by Marshall University golf coach Joe Feaganes to play golf, and his career took off.

At Marshall he met his mentor Harold Payne and played, as a sophomore, on the 1976 NCAA Tournament team while not a member of a Division1 conference. The Thundering Herd finished 17th in team standings, and Davis won the NCAA Long Drive title in Albuquerque, N.M. As a college junior, he helped the Herd win the Marshall Invitational. A year later, the senior was the individual medalist in the Marshall Invitational. He led Marshall in stroke average and received All-Southern Conference honors in 1978. Later that year, he won the West Virginia Amateur championship. In the process, he recorded a round of 64 to tie the all-time tournament record as he birdied six of the first 11 holes on the Old White course at the Greenbrier Resort.

After his graduation from Marshall, Davis worked as an assistant golf professional under Karen Murphy at Speidel Golf Club in Wheeling where he was given the responsibility of directing the Wheeling Junior Golf Association. His love of working with the junior golfers is what sparked Davis' career.

The Hurricane, W.Va., resident has been a four-decade Professional Golf Association of America and West Virginia PGA Golf Professional. The majority of his time was spent in the Tri-State PGA Section as Head Golf Professional at Scarlett Oaks Country Club and Edgewood Country Club in southern West Virginia. In 2004, he received the PGA of America Bill Strasbaugh Award in the Tri-State Section. This award represents Davis' career, his dedicated involvement in charitable and community activities as well as his mentoring of PGA Golf Professionals.

As a competitor, he excelled on the state level. He won four West Virginia Open championships in 1982, 1990, 1995, and 1998. He also was a four-time Low Senior at the Open, 10-time West Virginia PGA Player of the Year, four-time Senior West Virginia PGA Player of the Year, Tri-State PGA champion, Tri-State Tour Championship champion, and Tri-State Match Play champion, and has competed in 18 National Club Professional Championships and six Majors Championships.

Inducted into the Marshall University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, he also was enshrined in the West Virginia Golf Hall of Fame in 2017. The state honor cited him in this way, "Scott Davis is a trained instructor, a golf mentor, an accomplished player, a tournament director, event planner, club fitter, and merchandiser, but most importantly: A friend to the game."



## Jeanie Caldwell Dougherty - Music and Fine Arts

Born in 1844, Jeanie Caldwell left Wheeling at the age of 15 when her father was appointed as the U.S. consul in the Hawaiian Islands by President Abraham Lincoln. There she met her future husband and was married at 19. Thomas Templeton Dougherty's early death left her a widow at the age of 30. Thus began her life of independence, travel, and painting. A widow with means, she lived a very unusual life for a woman at that time. She never remarried and spent the remainder of her life traveling, studying art, and eventually writing. After studying painting in San Francisco and Paris in the 1870s, she spent decades traveling, visiting everywhere from England and Italy to China and the Philippines. Her travels were documented in hundreds of works of art.

She desired to be more than a "Sunday Painter" and was classically trained in the areas of realism, pen and ink drawing, portraiture, and nudes. Her desire was to be a well-rounded artist. An interest in politics led her to become a citizen of the world, acknowledging what was happening around her. Equality was essential to her: she surrounded herself with people who valued her as an equal.

Upon her arrival in Paris, she approached the Academie Julian, the only academy to admit women and international artists. She submitted works to the Paris Salon, the largest exhibition in France. An accomplished portraitist, she focused on people and everyday life. Her subjects varied from an organ grinder, a gondolier, and a Vatican guard illustrating her belief that "people are the best way to capture the culture and setting of a place."

Dougherty's diary entries from 1886-91, shared by Margaret Dakin, Jeanie's great-niece, provide details of her world travels and the art she encountered along the way: learning and loving Turner, Sargent, and Whistler while questioning Monet and advocating the value of experiencing art firsthand. One diary entry details her Westminster Abbey painting, now in the collection of Bethany College. During

the execution of that painting, she met an elderly artist who wouldn't share where other painters stored their paint, a police detective who noted her absence one day, and many tourists who visited the building as she painted.

In 1903, Jeanie taught in the Philippines and traveled from there to India, Japan, and China. She was fluent in Italian, French, and German and equally felt at home in any foreign setting. In 1906 she visited Wheeling for the final time and then returned to Europe to settle in Florence, Italy. It was there she died in 1930. Two hundred paintings had been sent home to her family for safe keeping.

In the mid-1940s, Wheeling photographer and Hall of Fame inductee, George Kossuth, purchased the Caldwell family home in North Wheeling. He discovered some of Dougherty's paintings in the attic and spent four years restoring 45 of the 200 discovered paintings.

In 1957, Kossuth presented 13 restored paintings to Bethany College. Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum additionally was a recipient of two of her paintings. In 1995, Kossuth's daughter, Mary Kossuth Shumate, donated 25 pencil sketches, a palm book containing 42 pages of field notes and sketches, and 37 paintings and drawings to Bethany College.

In 2021, Bob and Amy Mead of Wheeling donated 31 of her paintings to the Mansion Museum. Bob Mead is related to Dougherty through her niece — the daughter of her brother, Alfred Caldwell, married into the Mead family.

Dougherty's art from these local collections culminated in an exhibition of her work in the fall of 2023 at Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum. "Jeanie's World" illustrated a body of work revealing the artist, traveler, and historian that Jeanie Caldwell Dougherty was and the legacy she left for the enrichment of others.



### **Dr. Harriet B. Jones** – Business, Industry and Professions

Dr. Harriet Jones was born in Ebensburg, PA, on June 5, 1856. Her family later moved to West Virginia, and she grew up in Terra Alta, Preston County. She graduated from Wheeling Female College in 1875 and then the Women's Medical College in Baltimore where she specialized in gynecology and abdominal surgery. After graduating in 1884, Dr. Jones pursued further training in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

In 1886, Dr. Jones opened a practice in Wheeling as the first woman in West Virginia licensed to practice medicine. She then was called to serve as the assistant superintendent at the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane, the first of many roles at leading medical institutions throughout West Virginia.

In 1892, she returned to Wheeling, identified a specific need in the community, and set up a clinic for women only. Two years later, she led the construction of a new building at the corner of 15th and Jacob Streets. This revolutionary women's hospital served the Wheeling community for more than 20 years.

Dr. Jones was regarded as one of Wheeling's leading doctors throughout this time. She was a member of the West Virginia State Medical Association, the Ohio County Medical Society, and the American Medical Association at a time where there were few to no other female physicians. The June 12, 1896, edition of "The Intelligencer" in Wheeling reported the proceedings of the West Virginia Medical Society in which Dr. Jones delivered a lecture on the roadblocks women physicians faced as they pursued their careers.

Dr. Jones was especially known for her work to combat tuberculosis. In 1909, Dr. Philip Jacobs, a leader in the top national anti-tuberculosis organization, came to speak in Wheeling. Jacobs praised the work of Dr. Jones, to "whom the local medical fraternity was indebted, and whom he called the most useful woman in West Virginia." Just a year later, in 1910, Dr. Jones and Rabbi Levi of the Eoff Street Temple led the charge to open the first tuberculosis clinic in Wheeling. She was the first president of the Ohio

County Anti-Tuberculosis League and also served 10 years as the executive secretary of the West Virginia Tuberculosis Association.

According to a story in the "Morgantown Post," the West Virginia Legislature approved a large sum of money for an education campaign addressing the prevention of tuberculosis in 1912, in large part because of Dr. Jones' lobbying efforts. She answered the call, traveling throughout the state by rail and automobile. During that single tour, Dr. Jones visited 164 towns, spoke 624 times in schools, gave 102 lectures before adult audiences, and addressed 16 county school teachers' institutes.

Dr. Jones' efforts in her public health career led to the founding of the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls in Salem, the West Virginia Children's Home in Elkins, the West Virginia Tuberculosis Sanitarium in her hometown of Terra Alta, and the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium for the Colored. As noted, she also was named assistant superintendent of the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane (later known as Weston State Hospital and as the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum.) Notably, as part of her public health work during this time, Dr. Jones also was one of the first supporters of the school playground movement in Wheeling. In addition, she was active in the administration of the Florence Crittenton Home in Wheeling, a residence that served the needs of unwed mothers.

Along with her medical work, Dr. Jones was an active suffragist in West Virginia, and a member of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs and the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association. She advocated for women to gain admission to West Virginia University and other state colleges, which finally came to fruition in 1889. After the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, she became active in the League of Women Voters.

Dr. Jones moved to Glen Dale in the early 1920s and was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1924, serving two terms. She continued her political and public health activism until the end of her life. She died on June 28, 1943, in Glen Dale, WV.



### **Brian E. Joseph** – Business, Industry and Professions

A scientist, inventor, and entrepreneur, Brian Joseph is the founder, President, and CEO of Touchstone Research Laboratory, Ltd. in Triadelphia, WV. He grew up in Wheeling, attended Linsly Military Institute, graduated from West Liberty State College, and studied biophysics at the Ohio State University.

With a passion for science, the imaginative young entrepreneur purchased an electron microscope for \$100 in Columbus, Ohio, and rebuilt it in the basement of the Carmelite Monastery in Wheeling. This was the catalyst for what would become Touchstone Research Laboratory.

Joseph and his team have won more than \$200,000,000 worth of research and development programs, leading to inventions in next-generation aircraft-parts fabrication, algae to biofuels, new aluminum alloys, coal gasification technologies, coal-based materials, energy-absorbing blast structures, heat exchangers, microelectromechanical systems, radar absorbing materials, and more efficient solid rocket motors, among others.

His intensity and leadership led to many successful spin-out companies that emerged from Touchstone, including: Touchstone Testing Laboratory, a world class aerospace materials testing company that has performed testing for nearly all U.S. aircraft and rocket launches; CFOAM, a high strength, fireproof foam made from coal with applications from aerospace to consumer goods (it even had a place in the Olympics); and Touchstone Advanced Composites that invented a revolutionary way to build carbon fiber aircraft and spacecraft parts.

Touchstone continues developing technologies that soon will be manufacturing in the Wheeling area. These include MetPreg, the world's strongest aluminum; Bonded MetPreg Repair, a technology to repair structural problems in Naval vessels; and Faraday Thermal Protection Systems, a system to protect rockets from lightning strikes. And even more technologies are in the development pipeline.

Because of Touchstone's commercialization successes, Veloxint, an MIT spin-out, was moved from Boston to Touchstone's campus. With Joseph as Veloxint's President/CEO, this company is developing and making nanocrystalline metal alloys that are among the strongest copper, chrome, and tungsten alloys in existence.

Joseph was awarded the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's top award, Small Business Person of the Year, from the West Virginia Small Business Administration; West Virginia Entrepreneur of the Year, presented by Ernst & Young; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chi Beta Phi Science Honorary; and an Honorary Doctorate from West Liberty University, where Joseph also has been recognized on its Wall of Fame.

He has also been the keynote speaker for technical conferences across the country.

Touchstone has been awarded five R&D 100 awards, three Tibbetts awards, the National Blue Chip Enterprise award, the Sandia National Laboratories Plantino Service award, the Governor's Cup from the Southern Growth Policies Board, and supplier awards from SpaceX and Northrop Grumman.

Joseph's impact on the Wheeling area goes beyond the successes of Touchstone. He has been an inspiration for thousands of students in the areas of local innovation history, entrepreneurship, science, and next-generation technology.

In addition, Joseph serves in other roles in the community such as board member and president of JB Chambers Memorial Foundation, Wheeling Country Day School board member, advisory board member for Keystone Space Collaborative, Grow Ohio Valley board member, Board of Governors member and chair at West Liberty University, and Wheeling Vintage Raceboat Regatta committee member.

Joseph resides in Triadelphia with his wife Julie, daughter Tesla, and their dogs Edison and Foxy.



## **Richard P. Mehen** – Sports and Athletics

Richard (Dick) Mehen and his older brother Bernie Mehen, who was inducted into the Wheeling Hall of Fame in 1992, are probably the most acclaimed brother athletes from Wheeling. Dick was born in Wheeling on May 20, 1922, and both brothers earned basketball fame at Wheeling High School, the University of Tennessee, and in the early era of professional basketball.

Dick and Bernie became the first two West Virginia high school basketball players to earn all-class, 1st Team All-State honors three times – Dick graduated from Wheeling High in 1940, two years after Bernie. Dick was a 6-foot-5, 195-pound Wildcat center who was honored as All-State captain as a senior when the Wildcats posted a 23-1 record and won the school's second state title in three years. Earlier, in 1938, with both Dick and Bernie in the starting lineup, the Wildcats went 24-0 and won a state title for coach Everett Brinkman, a Hall of Fame honoree for the city, Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, West Virginia, and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dans.

The Wildcats were 64-3 in the three years Dick was a standout. As a senior, he scored 556 points to lead the Ohio Valley and probably the state in that low-scoring era. He ended his prep career with more than 1,300 points, a rare total for that period. He also competed as a high jumper for the Wildcat track and field team.

Dick joined his older brother Bernie at the University of Tennessee and earned two 1st Team All-Southeastern Conference honors in 1942-43 and was a second team All-America selection in 1942. His career was interrupted by U.S. Air Force service, in 1944-45 during World War II, but he managed to finish school in 1947.

He then played five seasons of pro basketball as a power forward/center starting with the Toledo Jeeps of the National Basketball League (coached by Wheeling Hall of Famer Jule Rivlin) in 1948. Mehen

played with the Waterloo Hawks two years (one in NBL, one in NBA) before playing with three NBA teams in 1950-51: Baltimore Bullets, Boston Celtics and Fort Wayne Pistons. He ended his pro career in 1952 with the Milwaukee Hawks. He earned All-NBL 1st Team honors in 1949. His pro career totals for 193 games were 2,067 points, 505 rebounds, and 480 assists.

Mehen was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame, Legends category, and the University of Tennessee sports Hall of Fame. He passed away on December 14, 1986, in North Olmsted, Ohio.



### Martha Clark Parlin and Robinson S. Parlin – Philanthropy

Martha Clark Parlin was born in Wheeling on December 11, 1887, the daughter of Scottish immigrants, and became a high school teacher after attending the Thomas Normal School, Chicago University, and Columbia University. She rose to become the supervisor of Home Economics at Wheeling High School, retiring in 1942 after 30 years of service. After her retirement, she remained active in the Wheeling community serving on the board of Children and Family Services, the Women's Club of Wheeling and its Book Review Circle, the Wheeling Pan-Hellenic organization, and the Wheeling Garden Club.

Robinson S. Parlin was born in Watertown, MA, on March 25, 1887, of Scottish highlander ancestry and, after service in the Army during World War I, became an agent for the Internal Revenue Service assigned to the Wheeling, WV, office. He was an amateur photographer and after arriving in Wheeling created a photographic album of various sites in the city and throughout the State of West Virginia, showing coal communities, lumber camps, railroads, city views, and nature scenes during the 1920s.

Martha and Robinson apparently met through their common membership in Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church and were married August 18, 1937. He was 50 years of age; she was 49. They had no children, and they lived quietly in Meadow Estates in a home they built. They also saved their money.

When she died in 1968, she left an estate of nearly \$900,000; when he died 14 years later, his separate estate was valued at nearly \$800,000. Their wills were nearly identical and provided for the creation of charitable trusts, the income of which was to be used for the promotion of the health and welfare of crippled or mentally challenged children or the blind in Ohio County, West Virginia. Throughout the years since, the charitable trusts have grown to the point that combined they are just under \$10 million and annually provide nearly \$500,000 in financial support to a variety of Wheeling-based charitable organizations that promote the physical and mental well-being and education of challenged and underprivileged children in Ohio County, West Virginia.

In no small part because of the Parlin Trusts, the Wheeling area is the smallest community in the country supporting an Easter Seals Center (the only such organization in West Virginia), supporting the Augusta Levy Learning Center for autistic children using Applied Behavioral Analysis (the first such organization in West Virginia), and supporting Wheeling Country Day School's Center for Multisensory Learning to identify dyslexia at a young age and stimulate different pathways for learning and overcoming dyslexia. But these are just a few of the charitable organizations receiving funding. Others during the years include the Laughlin Chapel, Oglebay Foundation, the J.B. Chambers YMCA, the Miracle League of the Ohio Valley Baseball Field, Oglebay Institute, and both Ohio County Schools and West Virginia Northern Community College for the purchases of devices to assist visually impaired children to attend classes. Scores of charitable organizations have also received annual financial support from the Parlin charitable trusts.

The Parlins came from humble backgrounds and lived modest lives, but what they have accomplished through their generosity and foresight has changed the lives of countless Wheeling children whom they never expected to know and whose gratitude they never expected to receive. This is indeed the true measure of a philanthropist, at least in Wheeling.



## Frances Mary Schoolcraft - Education and Religion

Frances M. Schoolcraft was born in Wheeling in 1948 at the Ohio Valley Medical Center. She attended Warwood High School, graduating in 1965, and continued to West Virginia University where she graduated in 1969 in Speech and Theater Education and continued to get a master's degree plus 45 hours. She also attended the University of North Carolina and the University of Southern Colorado for summer workshops.

She began her teaching career (which lasted almost four decades) at Triadelphia High School until the newly-constructed Wheeling Park High School opened. At Triadelphia she taught English and theater and was the coach of speech and theater activities. At that time there were five students in speech class and 12 students in theater. The team competed in one tournament.

At the consolidated Wheeling Park High, she created the Speech and Theater Curriculum, offering opportunities to all four schools that were joining as one. She also served as the head speech and theater coach and the department chair of Performing and Visual Arts from 1976 to her retirement in 2004. When the program first began at Wheeling Park High, there were about 10 speech students and 15 theater students in the extracurricular program. As time passed, these numbers grew to some 100 speech students and 500 theater students in the Speech and Theater Curriculum program. Many of these students went on to careers in professional speech or theater.

With her speech and theater background, this educator had many opportunities outside the traditional school setting. She taught speech at West Virginia Northern Community College and held classes at the penitentiary with the guards and inmates as students. The firemen of Wheeling offered two classes which she taught. In the West Virginia Forensic League, she served as treasurer or president. In the National Forensic League, she earned a Double Diamond, which is awarded for the number of speech

students coached. In addition, she created programs for middle school students, such as the Annual Middle School Speech and Theater Event where young students are coached by the high school students and then compete as they would in a high school speech tournament.

In theater she was a guest lecturer at the Lakeview Theater and Youth Camp. She was an adjunct musical theater director of "Grease" at West Liberty University and was the co-creator and presenter at an in-service in theater for West Virginia teachers. At times she also served as a judge for the West Virginia One Act Play Competition. During her tenure, she directed more than 100 performances, including "Charlie Brown", "Seussical", "Fiddler on the Roof", and "West Side Story." Examples of out-of-school learning include a program taking one act plays for presentation to elementary schools and taking students to New York City each year to see Broadway shows.

She was selected as Wheeling Park High School's Teacher of the Year in 1993, and the Visual and Performing Arts Department won the Governor's Award for an Exemplary School of the Arts. Also, she was selected as a Legend of Warwood, an award given to individuals from Warwood who have had an exemplary career. In her last year of teaching, she earned the U.S. Attorney Award for the Tradition of Excellence for Academic Achievement and Dedication to the Personal and Professional Development of Local Students. Despite these personal accolades, she would say that highlight of her career was her Wheeling Park High School speech team winning first place in the State of West Virginia speech and debate tournament for 25 consecutive years.

After retirement, she was employed by the Loews' hotels, which has 17 hotels that are dedicated as recreational and/or business hotels. She developed a curriculum to work with individuals in the marketing departments in public speaking, communication, and creativity. While working there with the marketing departments she won the Loew's Excellence in Sales Award.

In her retirement, she hears from many former students who have succeeded in their careers because of the knowledge they gained in her speech and theater classes. This is the joy of teaching: knowing you made a difference.



## **Cliff Sligar** - Public Service

Born in Wheeling on January 27, 1933, Cliff Sligar was best known for his committed service to the City of Wheeling as its fire chief, where he spent 24 years in that role. His 52-year public service career started with the U.S. Army in Germany during the Korean War (1953-55). On June 24, 1955, he achieved his lifelong dream and joined the Wheeling Fire Department.

In May 1971, while still a Captain at WFD, Sligar was invited to join some of the top commanding officers in the country at NASA's Manned Space Center in Houston, Texas, where they worked to develop an advanced support breathing apparatus for firefighters. This was a significant advancement in firefighting while improving the personal safety of the individual firefighter.

Cliff was appointed Fire Chief on October 1, 1971. During his tenure, in the mid-1970s, he worked closely with local hospitals, physicians, and nurses to train and certify firefighters as Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics and West Virginia state-certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

He played a key role in developing the department's EMT/paramedic program while also updating tactics and strategies for approaching various fire and emergency situations.

His attention to continuing education and further funding of the Wheeling Fire Department EMS program continues the department's tradition of service decades after his retirement.

In 1988, he pushed the City of Wheeling to develop a county-wide 911 center. Since then, 911 has saved thousands of lives thanks to the initial push and implementation during his tenure.

Chief Sligar was a visionary, a problem solver, an early adopter, an agent of change, a disruptor, and an excellent manager of human and physical resources. Sligar was met with several challenging emergencies, and his leadership was commended many times for being "the person in charge" of many notable safety events in Wheeling.

In January 1988, an oil spill in the Ohio River contaminated the city's water supply. During that event, Cliff came up with the idea and was clever enough to use the former North Wheeling Railroad bridge to construct a water supply line from Martins Ferry, Ohio, to supply fresh well water to Wheeling – all having the public's safety in mind. A letter to Sligar from then City Manager Mike Nau said in part, "I want to take a moment to tell you how impressed I was with your handling of the recent water crisis. I was dependent upon you throughout this crisis, and you certainly maintained my confidence level in dealing with this situation. I have heard many times how fortunate the City of Wheeling is to have such a compatible and qualified individual protecting the public safety of our citizens. I certainly owe you a debt of gratitude."

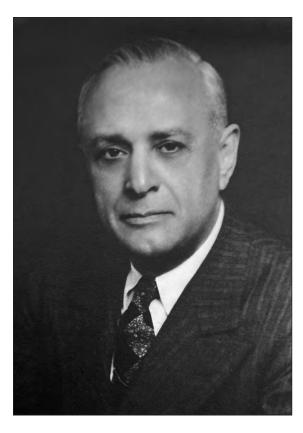
Sligar's life of public service continued after retiring from the Wheeling Fire Department in 1995 – where he had spent a total of 40 years. He went on to develop and launch the Belmont County, Ohio, 911 Center in 1997 and served as its first director until his retirement in June 2007.

He also served Wheeling City Council's fourth ward for two elected terms from 1996-2004.

Honored at the 2019 Wheeling State of the City Address, Sligar was praised by Mayor Glenn Elliott, who said, "For 40 years, including 24 as chief, Cliff came to work at the Wheeling Fire Department to keep us safe. As chief, he was instrumental in adding Emergency Medical Services to the fire department. Under his leadership, the department's investigation division was launched in 1986, and the police and fire departments combined their communication systems in 1988."

Cliff Sligar died on March 17, 2021, at age 88, and is survived by his wife Sherry, adult sons Bill (Shelley) Sligar and Cliff Sligar, and nephew Stephen Himrod.

Cliff will be remembered first and foremost as a firefighter who cared deeply for his department and city. "The Intelligencer" newspaper of Wheeling noted after his passing, "If there was one thing everyone knew about Cliff Sligar, he wanted to make his home city of Wheeling a better place."



## Charles L. Sonneborn, Sr. - Philanthropy

Charles L. Sonneborn, Sr., son of Moses and Lottie Sonneborn, was born October 5, 1883, in Bellaire, Ohio, and came to Wheeling as a child. After graduating from Linsly Military Institute (now Linsly School), he began his professional career at The Hub, the Sonneborn family owned and operated department store at 14th and Market Streets in Wheeling. He was associated with this family business until his retirement in 1939.

In 1924, Sonneborn and his partner, L.F. Haller, obtained an option to purchase the former Thomas Hornbrook Estate. Hornbrook had been the surveyor of customs at the Port of Wheeling at the beginning of the Civil War. Hornbrook had developed his country home along National Road as a private park where he and his friends could stroll on graveled paths among valuable trees, rare exotic plants, and flower beds and pots of various sizes planted and nurtured by Hornbrook. After Hornbrook's death, the park had become variously a beer garden for Reymann Brewery, an amusement park, a casino, and a destination stop for the streetcar railroad. Sonneborn and Haller had plans to develop the property for residences. Before doing so, however, they offered their option to the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and City of Wheeling with certain conditions. The conditions included the requirement that the public raise sufficient funds to purchase and to equip the property as a public park, that the park would be devoted to recreational use for the public, and that its operation would be placed under nonpolitical management. After an intense two-week period of fundraising, on December 24, 1924, Wheeling businesses and individuals had raised \$350,000 to purchase and equip the park. According to Wheeling's "The Intelligencer," on December 25, 1924, "Wheeling Park is a Christmas gift to the Wheeling Public."

Soon after the purchase of Wheeling Park, a bill was drafted and sent to the West Virginia Legislature to establish the Wheeling Park Commission, and the bill was enacted into law on January 26, 1925.

The park commission quickly started to transform the former amusement park into a public park, and Wheeling Park opened to the public on May 30, 1925. More than 10,000 people turned out to celebrate the new "people's park." Sonneborn not only initiated the plan for Wheeling Park and the Wheeling Park Commission, but he and his family were also significant donors to the improvements to the park, including the entrance gates, Sonneborn Shelter, Frank Rock Garden, and the living plants spelling "Wheeling Park" on National Road.

The Wheeling Park Commission's success in transforming Wheeling Park through nonpolitical management likely contributed to Earl W. Oglebay's decision to give his country estate to the City of Wheeling in 1928. Through the Wheeling Park Commission's nonpolitical management, Wheeling Park and Oglebay Park have grown to become the city's most treasured destinations.

Charles Sonneborn, Sr. was described by his peers as a "life-long worker for the betterment of Wheeling." He served on the board of directors of Half Dollar Trust and Savings Bank, the Fokker Aircraft Corp., the Atlantic Aircraft Corp., and the Wheeling Chapter of the National Aeronautic Association. Sonneborn also was a devoted member of the Wheeling Jewish community, serving on the building committee of the Woodsdale Jewish Temple as well as in other important leadership roles. He gifted to the Woodsdale Jewish Temple the unique sculpture found on the exterior building's rotunda in 1959, in honor of his wife, Pauline.

Sonneborn died on October 22, 1961, in Wheeling, at the age of 78. He was survived by his wife, Pauline Frank Sonneborn; two sons, Charles L. Sonneborn, Jr. and Dr. Robert M. Sonneborn; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. There have been many tributes to his civic accomplishments, his generosity, and his philanthropy, but none were more important than his role in the creation of Wheeling Park and the Wheeling Park Commission. At the time of his death, the newspapers said: "Charles Sonneborn, Sr. was a constructive force in the Wheeling community; his hand was in every worthwhile civic movement."

## ⇒ BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS «



Dominic V. Agostino 1931 - 2010



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Lisa Allen 1957 -



Samuel S. Bloch 1850 - 1937



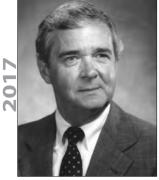
William Burrus 1936 - 2018



Mary Louise Snider Efron 1926 - 1967



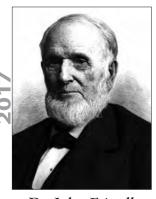
Frederick Faris 1870 - 1927



J. Ross Felton 1926 - 2017



Edward Bates Franzheim 1866 - 1942



Dr. John Frissell 1810 - 1893



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



Alexander Glass 1858 - 1941



Robert C. Hazlett 1910 - 1996



Carl Richard Huss 1925 - 1996



James Howard Kindelberger 1895 - 1962



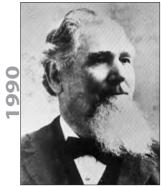
Ralph R. Kitchen 1881 - 1930



Donald W. Levenson 1919 - 1978



Howard Long

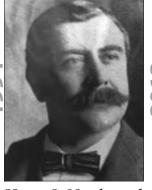


Mifflin M. Marsh 1818 - 1901

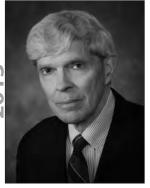
## → BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ←



Dr. Donald Mercer 1938 - 2022



Harry C. Northwood 1860 - 1919



G. Ogden Nutting



Herschel C. Ogden 1869 - 1943



Michael Joseph Owens 1859 - 1923



**Alfred Paull** 1854 - 1923



Augustus Pollack 1830 - 1906



Dr. James Edmund Reeves 1829 - 1896



**Dr. Harlan J. Smith** 1924 - 1991



Ralph Reed Spears 1859 - 1943



Ellsworth Milton Statler 1863 - 1928



Johann Ludwig Stifel 1807 - 1881



Andrew J. Sweeney 1829 - 1893



James Nelson Vance 1829 - 1913



William E. Weiss 1879 - 1942



**Gary E. West** 1937 - 2023

#### ⇒ EDUCATION AND RELIGION «



Levering C. Bonar 1896 - 1978



Alonzo B. Brooks 1873 - 1944



Margaret Ann "Peg" Brennan 1943 -



**Stefano R. Ceo** 1899 - 1964



Allan Connolly 1944 -



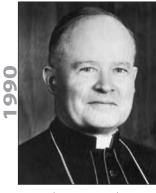
Annie Sinclair Cunningham 1832 - 1897



Ronald J. DiLorenzo 1947 - 2019



Sister Joanne Gonter, VHM 1934 -



Bishop Joseph H. Hodges 1911 - 1985



Dr. Forrest H. Kirkpatrick



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



Noah Linsly 1774 - 1814



**J. Loran Mercer** 1913 - 1983



Rev. James A. O'Brien, S.J. 1927 - 2023



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



The Rev. Margaret Bird Caldwell Phillimore 1915 - 2004



Mary L. Butler Reed 1861 - 1939



Phillip Nathaniel Reed 1914 - 1975

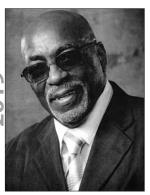
#### ⇒ EDUCATION AND RELIGION «



Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt 1928 - 2011



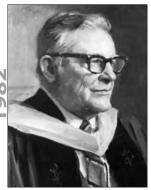
Beatrice Ann Thomas 1938 - 2019



Rev. Willie F. Stinson 1936 - 2018



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



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



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



Rev. Bonnie Thurston, Ph.D.



Bishop Richard V. Whelan 1809 - 1874



#### → MUSIC AND FINE ARTS ←



Leon "Chu" Berry 1908 - 1941



Karla Boos



Eleanor Glass Caldwell 1887 - 1979



John Corbett 1961 -



Billy Cox 1941 -



Rebecca Harding Davis 1831 - 1910



Ellis R. Dungan 1909 - 2001



Mary Elizabeth Fassig (Keyser) 1905 - 1986



Marc Harshman



Harry C. Holbert Sr. 1918 - 1982



**Budd Hopkins** 1931 - 2011



George J. Kossuth 1886 - 1960



**Everett Lee** 1916 - 2022



Dennis Magruder 1948 -



Keith Lee Maillard 1942 -



Mollie O'Brien



Tim O'Brien



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

#### → MUSIC AND FINE ARTS ←



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



Marilyn Hughey Phillis 1927 - 2022



Eleanor Steber 1914 - 1990



Patrick J. Sullivan 1894 - 1967



Earl Summers, Jr. 1916 - 2004



William Edward "B.E." Taylor 1951 - 2016



Robert Villamagna 1948 -



Wesley J. Wagner 1917 - 2006



Wilkinson 1868 - 1957



Chickie Williams 1919 - 2007



**Doc Williams** 1914 - 2011



#### → PHILANTHROPY «



Phyllis A. Beneke 1929 - 1988



James Buchanan "J.B." Chambers 1854 - 1933



Helen B. Gaither 1900 - 1996



**Mary Ann Hess** 1930 - 2002



Elizabeth Stifel Kline 1925 - 2000



George A. Laughlin 1862 - 1936



George W. Lutz 1855 - 1940



Irene Doretta Meagel 1900 - 1999



**Earl W. Oglebay** 1849 - 1926



B. Walker Peterson 1851 - 1925



Anton Reymann 1837 - 1924



Dr. Arthur "Art" Rybeck 1923 - 2008



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



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



Otto Schenk 1863 - 1933



Margaret McCluskey Schiffler 1895 - 1976

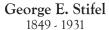


Henry Stifel Schrader 1909 - 1996



Joan Corson Stamp 1951 -







Wilbur E. Stone 1863 - 1938



Clara M. Welty 1879 - 1960



#### ⇒ PUBLIC SERVICE «



Archibald W. Campbell 1833 - 1899



Clyde D. Campbell



Ethel Clare Elikan 1911 - 1998



John Edward "Jack" Fahey 1928 -



Sue Seibert Farnsworth



**Beverly Fluty** 1931 - 2009



Harriette Shull "Hydie" Friend 1945 -



Rosemary Front 1940 - 2009



Harry C. Hamm 1923 - 1991



Judith A. Herndon 1941 - 1980



Susan Cox Hogan 1949 - 2024



Chester R. Hubbard 1905 - 1984



Dr. Simon P. Hullihen 1810 - 1857



Charles L. Ihlenfeld 1908 - 1989



**Wilbur S. Jones** 1909 - 1977



Dr. William C. Mercer



Thomas B. Miller 1929 - 2008



Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting 1936 -

#### → PUBLIC SERVICE «



Robert J. Otten 1920 - 2005



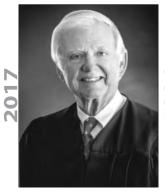
Walter P. Reuther 1907 - 1970



Dr. Jacob Schwinn 1854 - 1941



George H. Seibert Jr. 1913 - 1986



Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr. 1934 -



James S. White 1901 - 1989



G. Randolph "Randy" Worls



#### ⇒ SPORTS AND ATHLETICS «



Robert E. "Bob" Biery 1901 - 1991



**Stuart F. Bloch** 1933 - 2017



V. Everett Brinkman 1902 - 1972



Jesse Cail Burkett 1868 - 1953



**Sally Carroll** 1926 - 2012



**Leland S. Devore** 1889 - 1939



**S. James Foti** 1910 - 2004



**Gene Freese** 1934 - 2013



Rose M. Gacioch 1915 - 2004



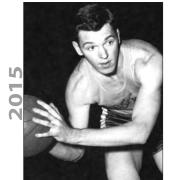
John Wesley Glasscock 1857 - 1947



Russell B. Goodwin 1893 - 1968



J. William Grimes



John B. "Jay" Handlan 1928 - 2013



Charles "Chuck" Howley



R. Douglas Huff



Bernard Mehen 1918 - 2007



Ronald G. Peyton



Warren Pugh 1902 - 1983

#### ⇒ SPORTS AND ATHLETICS



Mary E. "Fritzi" Stifel Quarrier 1904 - 1967



John Reger 1931 - 2013



**Jule Rivlin** 1917 - 2002



Robert "Bob" Roe 1908 - 1984



Stanley Romanoski 1918 - 2004



Charles P. Saad 1925 - 2014



Edwin M. "Ned" Steckel, Jr. 1930 - 2018



**Hugh Stobbs** 1935 - 2020



Susan D. Vail



Michael J. Valan 1910 - 1986



**Bill Van Horne** 1921 - 1995

