

2023
Induction
June 10

→ 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, and ten in 2021. The current group of eleven honorees brings the total number of people enshrined in the Wheeling Hall of Fame to 166.

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.

^{*} 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 – Bob Willits, chairperson; Darrell Cummings and Dianna Vargo Music and Fine Arts – Robert DeFrancis, chairperson; Chris Villamagna and Georgette Stock Philanthropy – F. Wayne Barte, chairperson; 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



2023 Induction Ceremony June 10, 2023

Edward Bates Franzheim – Business, Industry and Professions
Mary Ann Hess – Philanthropy
Dr. William C. Mercer – Public Service
Rev. James A. O'Brien, S.J. – Education and Religion
Robert J. Otten – Public Service
Alfred Paull – Business, Industry and Professions
Joan Corson Stamp – Philanthropy
Edwin M. "Ned" Steckel, Jr. – Sports and Athletics
Beatrice Ann Thomas – Education and Religion
Edith Lake Wilkinson – Music and Fine Arts
"Chickie" Williams – Music and Fine Arts

→ 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 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 F. Elliott, Jr.
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



Edward Bates Franzheim – Business, Industry and Professions

Edward Bates Franzheim was one of Wheeling's preeminent architects of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of seven children and the youngest son of a prominent Wheeling family, he was born on July 20, 1866. He was educated at Linsly Institute (now Linsly School), then attended classes at Chauncey Hall in Boston, a preparatory school for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was among the first Wheeling architects to procure a formal academic training in his profession. Then he benefited from a six-year apprenticeship with noted Boston architect John H. Sturgis and subsequently studied abroad, which greatly expanded his knowledge of the architectural trends of the time.

Edward Franzheim returned to Wheeling in 1890 to open his own office. He soon developed a thriving practice, as Wheeling's economy was booming. Among his most famous works in the city is Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, completed 1896, which demonstrates his love for and mastery of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of design. Patterned after the Trinity Church in Boston, Vance Church is an exuberant masonry building with a cylindrical bell tower, rows of columns connected by rounded arches, and roofed with red terra cotta tiles hinting of a Spanish influence. Another such example of the Richardsonian style is the City Bank of Wheeling, now the Professional Building located at 1300 Market Street, completed in 1891.

Franzheim also loved the neo-classical style, as exhibited in the homes he designed for various local wealthy patrons, such as the Joseph Schenk Mansion known as "Uplands" (now Altenheim at 1387 National Road); the Henry Stifel home known as "Shadow Knoll"; and the neoclassical portico of the Oglebay Mansion Museum (former home of Earl Oglebay). The striking "Blue Church" at the corner of 12th and Jacob Streets resembles a Doric temple. The public has long enjoyed the Wheeling Park White Palace and the ornate neoclassical stone gates gracing the entrance to Wheeling Park.

By 1902, Franzheim was one of the most successful architects in the state. In that year he designed the Board of Trade Building at the corner of 12th and Chapline Streets, which also contained the spacious Court Theatre. He incorporated Palladian and Neo-Renaissance elements in the YWCA building at the corner of 10th and Chapline Streets, the Hazel-Atlas Glass Building on 14th Street, and the former headquarters of Sterling Products in East Wheeling. Other similar notable designs included the headquarters of the Schmulbach Brewing Company (later the headquarters of Wheeling Steel Corporation, Wheeling's tallest building); the former Ohio Valley General Hospital (Ohio Valley Medical Center); as well as the Rex Theatre, the Rogers Hotel, and the Fort Henry Club, all in downtown Wheeling. He is remembered for several apartment buildings still used as such, including the Virginia Apartments on Main Street near the Fort Henry Bridge; and the beautiful Spanish Mission style design of the El Villa Apartments at 1153 National Road, Wheeling. Lastly, the mansions of several oil barons in Sistersville are a tribute to Franzheim's prodigious design skills.

He loved the theatre, managing the Court Theatre for five years. As a founder of the local Players Club, he enjoyed authoring plays and often starred in their productions. Known as a "bon vivant", Franzheim was very stylish. He carried a yellow cane and gloves, wore spats in season, and served on many civic boards around town. The onset of the 1929 Great Depression put a severe dent in his architectural practice, however, which never fully recovered.

Franzheim died on May 11, 1942, at age 75 after a period of declining health, but his many surviving works in the local area attest to his enduring legacy.



Mary Ann Hess – Philanthropy

Mary Ann Hess, the daughter of Andrew Christian Hess and Margaret Blackford Hess, was born in Wheeling on May 24, 1930. Mary Ann's family lived on Lenox Avenue and later at the Table Rock Farm on Table Rock Lane.

She was a graduate of the Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling and following graduation attended the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, OH.

Raising her family of six children kept Mary Ann quite busy, but she still found time to be an active volunteer at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Center Wheeling and be part of an active circle of tennis friends who played at Oglebay Park tennis courts.

Mary Ann's children are daughters Margaret Hogan, Christina Hess, Elizabeth Hess, and Brady Hogan and sons William Neil Hogan and Andrew P. Hogan. She also had a brother, Andrew Christian Hess.

Within the Wheeling community Mary Ann was an active member of the Junior League of Wheeling, League of Women Voters, Friends of Wheeling, the Herb Society of Wheeling, and the Meals on Wheels program.

Following her passing on August 5, 2002, as a tribute to her love for Wheeling and the people of the Ohio Valley, her children created the Hess Family Foundation with special emphasis on philanthropy, charity, and voluntarism.

In the years of philanthropic giving the number of organizations and individuals benefiting from the Hess Family Foundation are almost too numerous to mention; however, Oglebay Park has been a special beneficiary. This reflects Mary Ann's love for the park and how Oglebay benefits all Wheeling's residents as well as the park's many visitors. The Mary Ann Hess cottage, improvements to the Oglebay stables, hiking trail improvements, aerial challenger course, Camp Russel renovations, and improvements and expansion of racquet sports facilities are just a few of the improvements made possible at Oglebay Park through the Hess Family Foundation.

One of the most significant grants in health care is Liza's Place at Valley Hospice, which is named for Mary Ann's daughter, Elizabeth "Liza" Hess-Gebhard, and Project HOPE of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department which ensures access to medical care for unsheltered men, women, and children through direct street outreach.

In the area of education are grants to Hess Mentoring Program at Wheeling University, West Virginia Independent Colleges & Universities Circle of Vision, West Virginia Northern Community College for trade program development, tuition assistance at West Liberty University, and support for Wheeling Country Day School.

Concerning social services are grants to Youth Services Systems in support of the Wheeling Sleepout program to promote awareness of the homeless, the Lazarus House for addiction recovery and transition to recovery, House of Hagar offering hospitality and a temporary home for people living on society's fringes, and NAMI of Greater Wheeling Drop-In Center for people and families dealing with mental health conditions.

In support of quality of life are grants to Catholic Charities to promote their urban gardens program through Grow Ohio Valley and the East Wheeling Neighborhood Center, Friends of Wheeling Preservation Loan Guarantee Program for renovation and restoration of historically significant properties, the Oglebay Foundation, Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, Oglebay Institute Friends of the Towngate Theatre, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and the Children's Museum of the Upper Ohio Valley.

A reoccurring theme of the philanthropic spirit of the Hess Family Foundation has been providing people with opportunities to help themselves to improve their quality of life within the community of the Upper Ohio Valley.



Dr. William C. Mercer - Public Service

William C. Mercer, M.D., was born November 6, 1953, at Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, a son of Joseph Loran and Helen (Dauber) Mercer. He attended Warwood High School and graduated in 1975 from West Liberty State College. Dr. Mercer then pursued his medical degree at West Virginia University Medical School, where he graduated in 1979.

He completed a three-year family practice residency at Wheeling Hospital and was chief resident during his third year there. He then began private practice by taking over Dr. William J. Steger's practice. For 37 years, Dr. Mercer maintained a private practice until he joined Wheeling Hospital in 2018. He retired from private practice in 2021 but found he didn't enjoy retirement. He returned to practice and is seeing patients in the three local post-acute and long-term care facilities, where he has served as a certified medical director.

Dr. Mercer also sees patients through Project HOPE, a street medicine program he brought to Wheeling. He began working with the homeless in 2006, and this work eventually launched Project HOPE. A program of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, Project HOPE has been one of the outstanding street medicine programs in the nation. The group was invited to the International Street Medicine Institute's Annual Symposium in Rotterdam, Netherlands, because of its first-rate reputation and its success in small communities.

As the 25th health officer of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, Dr. Mercer was instrumental in achieving a new Clean Indoor Air Regulation in 2005, which was expanded to include bars and restaurants. It served as a model for other counties in West Virginia, and many adopted similar regulations. During his 22 years as health officer, he also developed a program called "Joe Too Cool to Smoke/Vape." With the blessing of the Charles M. Schulz family, he was able to take a larger-than-life-

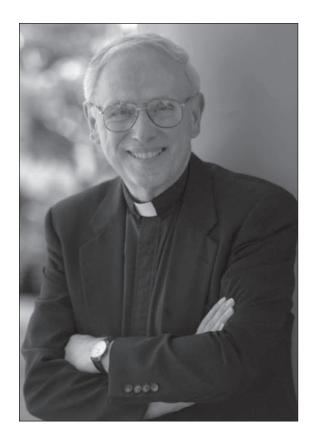
sized 500-pound statue of Snoopy to the schools in Ohio County, using it as a fun way to teach students the hazards of tobacco and vaping.

In 1996, Pittsburgh Magazine named Dr. Mercer as one of the best physicians in the northeastern region of the United States, and in 2008, he was honored as the state of West Virginia's Family Physician of the Year. Youth Services System, Inc. named him Good Samaritan of the Year in 2016, citing his "virtues of the biblical Good Samaritan." He also is a member of the West Liberty State College Wall of Honor.

Dr. Mercer devoted his adult life to the health care and education of Wheeling's citizens of all ages and economic levels. As a shining beacon in both Wheeling and the state of West Virginia, it was fitting for him to serve as grand marshal of the 2018 Wheeling Christmas parade.

He was awarded the prestigious Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for leading these programs and overcoming the adversity he faced with the implementation of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation. He received the prize in Boston in November 2022. As Jean Schulz said in her letter supporting his nomination for this award, "It has been my pleasure to have our dear Snoopy associated with Dr. Mercer's program, and all of us at 'Snoopy Center' have appreciated being associated with Dr. Mercer."

Dr. Mercer resides in Wheeling with his wife Gigi, children Chris (Teal), Steve (Bre), Andrew and Taylon and grandson Finn. He joins his father, J. Loran Mercer, and his brother, Dr. Donald Mercer, in the Wheeling Hall of Fame.



Rev. James A. O'Brien, S.J. - Education and Religion

Teacher, priest, social justice advocate, mentor, friend, servant leader are just some of the words that people use to describe Fr. O'Brien. Born April 7, 1927, he is one of eight children born to James W. and Julia O'Brien. Ordained a priest in 1960, he stayed in Baltimore for two years, continuing his studies and volunteering on weekends. He received a bachelor of arts and master of arts from Loyola University, Chicago.

He is the longest serving Jesuit priest at Wheeling University. In 1962, the young Jesuit priest arrived at Wheeling College to teach philosophy. He remembers the long car ride from Baltimore to Wheeling along U.S. 40 – a time when I-70 was still being planned and two-lane roads were the norm.

The self-proclaimed "new kid on the block" wasn't assigned to a residence hall that first year, but found himself living with 12 senior men off-campus in Avalon House – a home owned by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on Frances Avenue. He taught ethics and was long concerned with questions of justice and peace as well as hands-on involvement with students in Appalachian settings and applications. His research interests included the Philosophy of the Human Person and the Philosophy of Jesuit education.

During the mid-1960s, Fr. O'Brien took an academic leave of absence to complete work on his doctorate at Duquesne University. Still assigned to Wheeling during this time, he spent the bulk of his finishing course work at the Pittsburgh university.

The 1970s Appalachian Bishops Pastoral Letter – This Land is Home to Me – served as a call to action for Fr. O'Brien. He organized the first Appalachian Experience Club in 1978 to help those in need in southern West Virginia. Father, along with students, would chop wood to heat the homes of the less fortunate and enjoy the rural setting each fall and spring break. While the club no longer exists, its

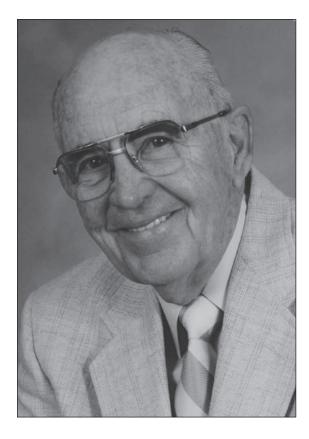
mission, to serve others, has blossomed into the university's Appalachian Institute. He believed service was a way for students to take a break from studies while experiencing cultures that they might not see in a metropolitan area. "You get better insight as to why people are poor. These experiences keep you grounded." Today, now in its 21st year, the institute continues to promote research, service and advocacy for/with the people of the region – keeping his dream to build healthier, stronger, and more sustainable communities alive today.

Fr. O'Brien served as an active member at Wheeling Jesuit University for more than 50 years. Today, while retired and a resident of the Colombiere Jesuit Community in Baltimore, he continues to serve the university community as an active member of the alumni association. Many people believe Fr. O'Brien is an example to countless men and women who have walked the campus. While he may think of himself only as a familiar face, alumni have a much different view. Many believe he has made a significant impact on their lives.

Each year during Alumni Weekend, the Alumni Council presents the James O'Brien, S.J. Award, to recent graduates who manifest a growing competence in their chosen field, and whose personal life reflects the university's mission of educating "men and women for life, leadership and service to others."

He last visited campus in October 2021 for Homecoming Weekend activities.

Fr. O'Brien hopes he will always be remembered as a person of faith. "There is a line in an old verse that says one should 'live by the side of the road and be a friend to those who pass by.' That's what I've tried to do – be a faithful person to God and others."



Robert J. Otten – Public Service

The only child of Frederick and Florence Kern Otten, Bob was born on January 26, 1920, in Newark, NJ, and was graduated from Arts High School and the Parsons School of Design in New York City in 1942 majoring in interior and theatrical stage design. He was a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Bob was a World War II veteran who served in the Army from 1943-46 as a member of the Air Corps Camouflage and Special Services Group stationed in Walterboro, SC.

Following his military service, Bob moved to Wheeling in 1946 becoming Oglebay Park's first drama director of theatrical productions. In 1950, Bob joined Stone & Thomas Department Stores in Charleston, WV, as its sales promotion director. In 1962, he returned to Wheeling assuming the duties of director of interior design for Stone & Thomas. During the Johnson presidential administration, at the request of the Rebehak Harkness Foundation, Bob constructed a scale model duplicating the portable stage of the East Room of the White House that was presented to Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson that now resides in the Johnson Memorial Library in Austin, TX. When he retired in 1983, he held the position of corporate vice president of sales promotions.

In retirement, his design talents shifted to Oglebay Park, influencing the design of many of the facilities within the park, with the Glass Museum being among his favorites. In 1985, he created the first of five initial displays in the park's Festival of Lights. Throughout his years with Oglebay, he created 50 festival displays including the official festival ornaments for the event's first 20 years. The Festival of Lights has attracted millions of visitors to Wheeling and Oglebay Park during the holiday season.

Bob Otten, in the eyes of many sports fans in the Ohio Valley, is best known and remembered as the founder of the Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association, established in 1964 with only seven youngsters.

Bob saw the league grow to 450 Wheeling area youth. In 1970, the Amateur Hockey Association gave Otten a special award for his work in the advancement of American amateur hockey. Today, high school hockey teams statewide vie for the Bob Otten Cup. Bill Van Horne, Wheeling News-Register sports editor and Wheeling Hall of Fame inductee, wrote: "Truth is that Wheeling might never have been considered for a professional franchise but for the reservoir of keen interest in the sport that has been nurtured through WAHA."

Otten played hockey as a teen-ager and tried out with the New York Rangers. It is not surprising that he was recruited by Thunderbird (now the Nailers) officials to organize the off-ice officials for Wheeling's entry into the East Coast Hockey League. Being a former referee-in-chief for the Mid-American District III US Amateur Hockey Association, and his connections with the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins, were influential in Wheeling becoming an ECHL minor league hockey venue.

Bob was a Rotarian for more than half a century and served as president (1973-74), and in 1985, was named a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He was a recipient of numerous community service awards that included citizen of the month and distinguished service awards from the Wheeling Jaycees. He also served on advisory boards for the Wheeling Symphony, Belmont College, West Liberty State College, West Virginia Northern Community College, and Victorian Wheeling. Since 1946 he left a legacy of lifelong selfless dedication to the Wheeling community and of goodwill to all he met. It is said of Bob Otten that "he is a man who has contributed much to the betterment of his adopted city."

Bob Otten died on March 14, 2005, at the age of 85 in Wheeling.



Alfred Paull – Business, Industry and Professions

Alfred Paull, son of West Virginia Supreme Court Judge James Paull and Jane Ann (Fry) Paull, was born in Wheeling on October 14, 1854. After attending Wheeling schools and Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, he became actively associated with business interests in Wheeling.

He started his active career as secretary of the Nail City Glass company and, beginning in 1881, served as secretary of the Manufacturers Insurance Company, a West Virginia corporation with its general offices in Wheeling. In January 1885, Paull became secretary of the Underwriters Insurance Company. He wielded much influence in the building of the business of each of these corporations and gained an authoritative position with the insurance business in the state. His Alfred Paull & Son general insurance agency became state agents for West Virginia of several leading fire insurance companies and eventually included some 135 sub-agencies throughout the state. He also served as vice president of the Bank of the Ohio Valley and was associated with other well-known enterprises, being a director in the Nail City Lantern company, the American Insurance company, and the Dollar Savings bank. He was described as "one of the vital and progressive men who have done much to further the civic and material advancement of Wheeling."

Deeply interested in all things pertaining to the welfare and progress of his native city, Paull gave long and effective service as secretary of the Ohio Valley General Hospital, from which office he retired January 1, 1931. He also served four years as a member of Wheeling City Council and eight years as a member of the Board of Education and was a director of the YMCA. He also was prominent in the Masonic fraternity, in which his affiliations included Bates Lodge No. 33, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Union Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons; Cyrene Commandery No. 7, Knights Templars; and Osiris Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In addition, he was a grand commander of the West Virginia Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and a potentate of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

An active member and ruling elder of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, Paull organized the famous Men's Bible Class, growing the group's membership from an initial eight men around the turn of the century to 250 by the time of his death some 20 years later. He was an active teacher of the class, which, beginning in 1914, had an amazing average attendance of 115.

Alfred Paull married Lee Singleton, a daughter of Captain W.T. Singleton, in 1877. Four children blessed this union: Alfred Singleton Paull (1883-1931), who married Mary Virginia Sands and was a partner in the Alfred Paull & Son insurance business; Mary Irwin Paull (1878-1962), who married Arthur G. Hubbard; Lyde Elizabeth Paull (1880-1967), who married Lyman B. Kirkpatrick; and Lee Cunningham Paull (1889-1958), who married Mary Glessner.

After being prominently involved in Wheeling's business community for nearly half a century, primarily centered in the fire insurance field, Paull died on February 28, 1923. His obituary stated that "his greatest value to the community lay in the unselfish public spirit which characterized his entire life. He was charitable, courteous and kindly, gave of his time and substance to welfare movements throughout his life and found time for a prodigious amount of church work during an active and busy career." He was survived by his wife, their four children, and nine grandchildren. Descendants of his son Lee Cunningham Paull are still active in the insurance and real estate business in Wheeling.



Joan Corson Stamp - Philanthropy

Joan Corson Stamp is the daughter of Dr. Louis D. Corson and Joan Stifel Corson, and the granddaughter of Arthur C. and Adelaide Flaccus Stifel. After graduating from West Virginia University with a bachelor of science degree in marketing in 1973, Joan returned to Wheeling where she immediately took an interest in serving the community, including as a member of the board of trustees of Oglebay Institute where she played an increasingly important role in turning a Stifel family home into a prominent community arts center. Joan married Judge Frederick P. Stamp Jr. (himself a member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame in the category of Public Service) in 1975. The Stamps are parents of two children, Andrew and Elizabeth.

From an early age, Stamp saw philanthropy modeled by her parents and grandparents who instilled in her a dedication to supporting education, culture, and the arts in Wheeling. She continued her family's legacy by assuming prominent roles with the George E. Stifel Prize Fund and the Stifel College Scholarship Fund, which have helped local students pursue higher education for 87 and 72 years, respectively.

Stamp has actively supported her alma mater, West Virginia University, serving on the WVU Foundation Board of Directors for more than 17 years and raising funds for the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center and for the Rosenbaum Family House, both of which have come to fruition because of her tireless work. Ms. Stamp also was instrumental in raising funds for the West Virginia University Art Museum and new WVU Marching Band uniforms. To honor her father, who wrote the Alma Mater, she donated the Dr. Louis D. Corson Alma Mater Room at the WVU Alumni Center. In 2013, she was inducted into the Order of Vandalia, West Virginia University's highest honor for outstanding service and loyalty.

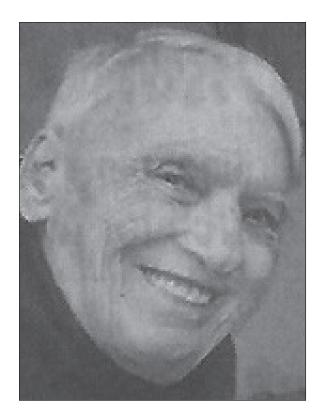
Stamp is a longtime patron of the arts and has served on the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and the League of American Orchestras and was a national trustee of the National Symphony Orchestra. She served on the West Virginia Arts Commission and the Wheeling Arts Commission. She became a life member of the Wheeling Symphony Society after serving on the board for 18 years, including a term as president, and chaired the search committee for the new conductor.

She is vice chair of the Wheeling Park Commission and a past chair of the Oglebay Foundation. She has been instrumental in updating and enhancing the city's parks, following the footsteps of her grandfather, Arthur C. Stifel, who was a founding Park Commissioner. Stamp funded the Joan Stifel Corson Butterfly Garden at the Schrader Nature Center at Oglebay Park in memory of her mother.

As a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, Stamp was a founder of the Women's Giving Circle (with Hall of Fame member Sue Seibert Farnsworth) which to date has raised an endowment of more than \$400,000 and has given away \$450,000 to nonprofit organizations and projects that help women and girls in the Ohio Valley reach their goals. During her tenure on the Community Foundation board, Joan also was instrumental in bringing a professional selection process to the many scholarship funds now managed by the Community Foundation.

In addition to her philanthropic work, Stamp is a talented jewelry designer who has sold her pieces in local shops, the Greenbrier, and trunk shows across the country. She frequently donates Beadjeweled designs to auctions and benefits to worthy causes.

What are recited above are only a few of the important charitable organizations supported by the philanthropic works and guidance of Joan Corson Stamp to date. She certainly is not finished. The Wheeling Hall of Fame is proud to recognize and include a worthy fourth member from the extended Stifel family in the area of philanthropy to join current members: George E. Stifel, Henry Stifel Schrader, and Elizabeth Stifel Kline.



Edwin M. "Ned" Steckel, Jr. - Sports and Athletics

Ned Steckel was a national Emmy-Award winning network television producer. He was born November 23, 1930, in Gastonia, NC, and later moved to Wheeling in June of 1936 from Peekskill, West Chester County, NY, when his father, Edwin M. Steckel, joined the Oglebay Institute as the organization's first full-time staff member and who later became its executive director. His mother, Nina Gooding Steckel, is remembered as a longtime Ohio Valley teacher at various public schools and institutions.

Ned attended Linsly Military Institute from 1941-48. As a student at Linsly, Ned held the Ohio Valley Conference swim records in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle events. Steckel graduated from Linsly Military Institute in 1948 and continued his education at the University of Michigan, at Bethany College, and graduated from Syracuse University in 1953 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. He received a master of science degree in communications in 1954 from the same institution. While at Syracuse University he was a varsity letterman on the undefeated 1952 swimming team, Eastern Conference Champions.

He served as a rated journalist in the U.S. Naval Reserve for seven years, including two years of active duty from 1955-56. He was assigned to the Battleship New Jersey (BB-52) and later to the headquarters of the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic (NATO) in the public information office.

Steckel's broadcasting career included employment with WKWK and WTRF-TV in Wheeling, WOLF in Syracuse, NY, WTAE-TV and WIIC in Pittsburgh, and ABC Sports in New York. At ABC Sports (1965–84), Ned served as assistant to Executive Producer Roone Arledge and as producer/director. Assigned principally to ABC's Wide World of Sports, he also participated in producing television coverage of the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. He served there 19 years as the producer/director, during which

time he won eight national Emmy Awards for his production of "ABC's Wide World of Sports," NCAA Football and various Olympic Games coverage.

After his broadcasting career, Ned joined the faculty of Bethany College as an associate professor of communications and resident fellow. He also served on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh on the "Semester at Sea" program.

In retirement, Steckel actively pursued his sailing hobby on the Florida West Coast, Chesapeake Bay, and at his summer home at Chatauque Institution, Lake Chautauqua, New York.

His local memberships in Wheeling throughout the years included the Aviator Society of the Linsly School, the Short Circuit Club, Symposiarchs, Wheeling Historical Society, Fort Henry Club, Oglebay Institute, and the First Presbyterian Church.

Ned died on March 16, 2018. He has two sons, Edwin M. Steckel III and Stephen C. Steckel, and one grandson, Zachary Falk Steckel.



Beatrice Ann Thomas - Education and Religion

Born July 9, 1938, Beatrice Ann Thomas was just six months old when her mother moved to Wheeling from a North Carolina tobacco farm to help Ann's aunt and uncle run the New Dixie Restaurant on Chapline Street. Ann grew up in Wheeling during the turbulent years of Jim Crow and the transition from segregation to desegregation. From first grade on, she attended Black-students-only Lincoln School. But thanks to the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954), her mother's encouragement, and Ann's perseverance, intelligence and hard work, she graduated from integrated Wheeling High School in 1956 having completed all the necessary prerequisites to pursue a nursing career.

After graduation, Ann started working as a nursing aide at the old North Wheeling Hospital. When her attempt to further her education and enter nursing school was discouraged by hospital leadership, Ann, with the blessing of her mother, applied and was accepted at Ohio Valley General Hospital, later known as Ohio Valley Medical Center. In 1956 she became the first Black student ever enrolled in the School of Nursing at OVMC, and she became its first Black graduate in 1959. She passed her state licensing exams with flying colors, was certified as an RN, and against all obstacles to the contrary, began to fulfill her calling as a nurse. Ann worked at Ohio Valley General Hospital for 12 years, and then became an Ohio County school nurse in 1971, serving on all the school campuses at one time or another during her 30 years in health care. After her retirement in 2001, she continued to serve as a substitute nurse for both Ohio County Schools and Marshall County Schools for many more years.

During Ann's long and distinguished career as a nurse she also served on numerous boards and commissions, including those of the Wheeling YWCA, Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling Health Right, BB&T Bank, Laughlin Memorial Chapel, Housing Connection, the Regional Economic Development Authority, the West Virginia Regional Health Science and Technology Academy, the West

Virginia Women's Commission, and the governing board of West Liberty University. Ann also was a dedicated patron, friend and supporter of the Wheeling-Ohio County Public Library and its programs, so much so that an annual memorial lecture series has been established at the library in her honor.

Ann was married to Clyde Thomas in 1960, and they had two sons, Shawn (1961) and Scott (1965). Clyde was an all-American halfback at Ohio University, and a standout player for the Wheeling Ironmen semi-pro football team. Clyde was elected to the Wheeling City Council and served four terms, including a stint as vice-mayor.

Ann was a role model and inspiration for young Black youngsters in the community, but also for everyone. She was a beautiful soul who modeled caring, compassion, generosity, professionalism, and the pure joy of living. Ann was a pioneer and witness to history who throughout her lifetime overcame countless obstacles of racism and discrimination with strength, determination, optimism, humor, grit, and grace. She served her patients, colleagues, students, teachers, schools, and community, both professionally and as a volunteer, making Wheeling a better place to live in for people of all colors, abilities, faiths, and world-views.

Ann passed away February 22, 2019, having bravely battled cancer for many years while still maintaining her post-retirement service to her community.



Edith Lake Wilkinson - Music and Fine Arts

Edith was welcomed into the world on August 23, 1868, by her loving parents James P. and Lucy Lake Atkinson Wilkinson. Her father had ties during the Civil War to the Union and West Virginia Loyal Volunteers while her mother was an art teacher and artist.

In 1888, at the age of 20, Edith moved from her home in Wheeling to New York City and enrolled in The Arts Student League. Her formal training as an artist begins here, where she studied with a number of important American painters, including William Merritt Chase and Kenyon Cox. In 1900, Edith enrolled in Teacher's College at Columbia University where she studied with Arthur Wesley Dow, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts revival.

In 1902, Edith and her partner, Fannie, traveled to Europe where Edith sketched and painted.

In 1905, after earning a degree in fine arts, Edith joined Dow's summer art classes in Ipswich, MA, where she created a series of charcoals influenced by Dow's interest in applying the design principles of Japanese art.

Starting in 1913, Edith became part of the growing art colony in Provincetown, MA.

For the next 10 years, she spent every summer and fall there, her style switching from the somber palette of her European and New York work to a sundrenched Impressionistic palette inspired by the Provincetown light. During her time there she worked and exchanged ideas with another West Virginian artist, Blanche Lazzell. They both were at the forefront of a group of Provincetown artists who developed what's known as the White Line method of block printing.

In 1922, Edith's parents died of gas asphyxiation in their home in Wheeling. Edith inherits stocks and bonds, providing income to support herself. However, a Wheeling attorney who managed the Wilkinson family estate had complete control of the monies released to Edith and only allowed her a modest monthly stipend. Unbeknownst to Edith, he was slowly siphoning off her funds into his own pocket.

At this time, Edith is known to be productive and fully engaged in the world. However, in March 1924, Edith was admitted to the Sheppard Pratt Institution, an asylum for the mentally ill in Baltimore, MD. Her admittance card describes her as in a "paranoid state." The Wheeling attorney is listed as Correspondent. Released on October 2 that same year, her condition is said to have sufficiently improved.

In February 1925, Edith was readmitted to the Sheppard Pratt Institution, where she would spend the next 10 years. Her possessions, including her artwork, were packed in trunks and sent back to Wheeling to her only surviving relative, her nephew Edward Vossler. Her last known work is dated July 8, 1925. It's a small unmounted canvas titled "Canoe Place" created from memory of the tidal marshes in Provincetown.

In March 1935, Edith was transferred to Huntington State Hospital in West Virginia by her nephew, still described as paranoid and now, at age 66, showing early signs of dementia. The institution is said to be filthy and overcrowded with Edith being seen by a physician only once a month. She was considered a model patient. There she remained until her death on July 19, 1957. She is buried next to her parents in Greenwood Cemetery in Wheeling.

In the 1960s, Edith's trunks are at long last discovered and unpacked by Edward's sister-in-law, Polly Anderson, on a visit to Wheeling from California. Her work was displayed in the Anderson home and inspired her daughter, Jane, to become an artist. Jane brought Edith's work to light in the documentary "Packed in Trunks: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson." Edith's work may be viewed in the collections of The Huntington Museum of Art and the Provincetown Art Association and Museum.

The opportunity to know more about Edith and her work has been lost to history. However, the legacy of the art she created enables the celebration of her spirit and the sharing of her story with future generations.



Chickie Williams - Music and Fine Arts

Jessie Wanda Crupe (Smik), known by the stage name Chickie Williams, was born February 13, 1919, in Bethany, WV, to Harriet Ann and John Lester Crupe. In a fan letter she addressed as a teenager to "Buck Williams and the Border Riders" she asked to hire the group to play for a square dance in Hickory, PA. When Doc Williams met Jessie Wanda, he nicknamed her "Chickie" because he thought she was a "cute chick." Crupe and Williams soon began a romance.

She married Doc Williams (Wheeling Hall of Fame class of 1984) on October 9, 1939. In 1940, Chickie and Doc moved to Memphis and then moved to Wheeling where they raised their three daughters, Barbara, Madeline, and Karen. The daughters were known on the air as "Peeper," "Pooch," and "Punkin." In 1946, after the birth of their three daughters, Chickie joined her husband's Jamboree radio group, contributing harmony vocals and later upright bass. Chickie greatly valued her family and the girls did travel with their parents in the summer during their tours and sometimes performed with them.

Chickie was an American female country music pioneer best known for performing on the Wheeling Jamboree radio program on Wheeling's WWVA with Doc and their band the Border Riders. In 1947, Chickie's original arrangement of the hymn, "Beyond the Sunset," was charted No. 3 in Billboard trade magazine's Top 100 Country Music Songs. The song was later recorded by Hank Williams and Red Foley. Recording of "Beyond the Sunset" initiated when Chickie, who was fond of blind twin singers from North Wheeling, Maxine and Eileen Newcomer, would visit them. The twins had their own disc cutter which Chickie used to record a poem called "Should You Go First and I Remain" by "Rosey" Rowswell as a gift to Doc on their anniversary. Jean Miller, Doc and Chickie's secretary, heard the poem and suggested Chickie record the classic hymn.

Chickie tended to favor old ballads and hymns which made it difficult to attract existing record labels to take notice of her recordings. So the couple used their own money and her albums were released through Wheeling Records, founded by her husband. Extreme popularity of the recording of "Beyond the Sunset" resulted in selling out of the original record release and was followed by offers from other recording labels to release the song. One record label was later allowed to distribute that recording. This success led stars Jimmy Walker and Tex Ritter to encourage her to go to Hollywood for a screen test as they felt she could be a western film star. There were other opportunities and offers to tour and perform solo in nightclubs and on cruise boats. Chickie chose not to pursue these opportunities as she preferred staying close to home where family came first and she enjoyed performing with Doc.

Chickie was known to her fans as "The Girl with the Lullaby Voice." She remained a Jamboree cast member for 52 years, retiring alongside Doc in 1998.

Her contribution to country music included a discography of nine albums, 11 singles and EPs, and three compilations. She, with Doc, performed throughout the Eastern United States and Canada and were inducted into Jamboree USA's Walkway of Stars. They have been made honorary citizens in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In 2008, the state of West Virginia named a section of Interstate 70 in Wheeling the "Doc and Chickie Williams Highway; Country Music Royal Couple." Chickie and Doc were inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2009.

Chickie Williams died on November 18, 2007, at the age of 88 in Wheeling.

A collection of manuscripts, photographs, and audiovisual items from Chickie's and Doc's collection are maintained at the West Virginia State Archives. Chickie's influence on female country music is notable and is recognized even today in female performers who have followed in her talented path.

⇒ BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ≪



Dominic V. Agostino 1931 - 2010



Lisa Allen 1957 -



Samuel S. Bloch 1850 - 1937



William Burrus 1936 - 2018



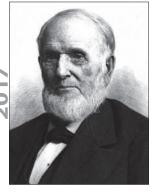
Mary Louise Snider Efron 1926 - 1967



Frederick Faris 1870 - 1927



J. Ross Felton 1926 - 2017



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



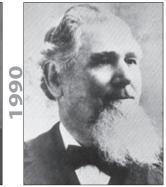
Ralph R. Kitchen 1881 - 1930



Donald W. Levenson 1919 - 1978



Howard Long

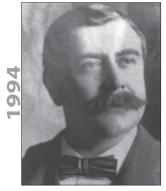


Mifflin M. Marsh 1818 - 1901

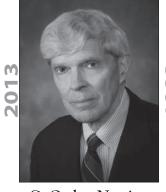


Dr. Donald Mercer 1938 - 2022

→ BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ←



Harry C. Northwood 1860 - 1919



G. Ogden Nutting



Herschel C. Ogden 1869 - 1943



Michael Joseph Owens 1859 - 1923



Augustus Pollack 1830 - 1906



Dr. James Edmund Reeves 1829 · 1896



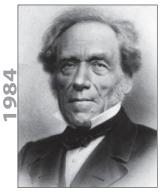
Dr. Harlan J. Smith 1924 - 1991



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

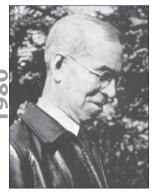


Gary E. West

→ 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 -



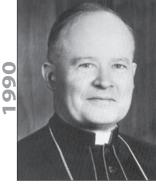
Annie Sinclair Cunningham 1832 - 1897



Ronald J. DiLorenzo 1947 - 2019



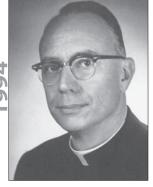
Sister Joanne Gonter, VHM 1934



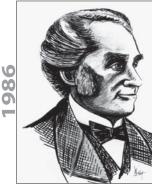
Bishop Joseph H. Hodges 1911- 1985



Dr. Forrest H. Kirkpatrick 1905 - 1998



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



Noah Linsly 1774 - 1814



J. Loran Mercer 1913 - 1983



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



Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt 1928 - 2011

⇒ EDUCATION AND RELIGION «



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. 1952 -



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



Doc Williams 1914 - 2011



→ PHILANTHROPY «



Phyllis A. Beneke 1929 - 1988



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



Helen B. Gaither 1900 - 1996



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



George E. Stifel 1849 - 1931



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 1940 -



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



Chester R. Hubbard 1905 - 1984



Dr. Simon P. Hullihen 1810 - 1857



Charles L. Ihlenfeld 1908 - 1989



Wilbur S. Jones 1909 - 1977



Thomas B. Miller 1929 - 2008



Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting 1936 -

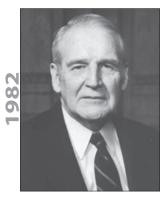


Walter P. Reuther 1907 - 1970

→ PUBLIC SERVICE «



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



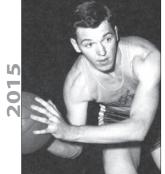
John Wesley Glasscock 1857 - 1947



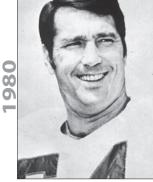
Russell B. Goodwin 1893 - 1968



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



Hugh Stobbs 1935 - 2020



Susan D. Vail



Michael J. Valan 1910 - 1986



Bill Van Horne 1921 - 1995

