

Pottstown School District

**ALUMNI
HONOR ROLL**



Biographical Sketches

2009

Honored in 1986:

Mr. Robert P. Smith	Class of 1920
Mr. William Achatz	Class of 1927
Mr. Randall Nester	Class of 1943
Dr. Ismar Schorsch	Class of 1953
Judge William Yohn	Class of 1953

Honored in 1987:

Mr. Donald Rigg	Class of 1921
Mr. Sidney Pollock	Class of 1929
Mrs. Margaret Hallman	Class of 1930
Dr. Cheryl Opalack	Class of 1966

Honored in 1988:

Mr. J. Ellwood Ludwig	Class of 1929
Mr. Kenneth C. Jacob	Class of 1939
Mr. Linford F. Moyer	Class of 1944
Alvin Weiss, Esquire	Class of 1944
Dr. Jane (Gitschier) Johnson	Class of 1971

Honored in 1989:

Admiral Frank D. Wagner	Class of 1911
Mr. Raymond Elliott	Class of 1931
Mr. Joel Climenhaga	Class of 1939
Mr. Earl Strom	Class of 1945
Dr. Joel W. Eisner	Class of 1955

Honored in 1990:

Mr. Richard Ricketts, Sr.	Class of 1930
Mr. Michael Vasil Herasimchuk	Class of 1932
Mr. Edward Jameson	Class of 1934
Colonel Robert Russell	Class of 1947

Honored in 1991:

Mr. Albert P. Pollick	Class of 1937
Mr. Robert Y. Kurtz	Class of 1941
Mr. J. Harold Yocom	Class of 1942
Mr. Donald F. Specht	Class of 1950

Honored in 1992:

Mr. Gerald G. Richards	Class of 1939
Mr. Willard M. Bickel	Class of 1941
Mr. Robert E. Eppheimer	Class of 1941
Mrs. Kathleen Oliver Carpenter	Class of 1962

Honored in 1993:

Mr. C. Edmund Wells	Class of 1928
Mr. Robert H. Moses	Class of 1957
Dr. Margaret R. Yocom	Class of 1966

Honored in 1994:

Mr. Arlen R. Saylor	Class of 1946
Mrs. Charlene Johnson	Class of 1964
Mrs. Mary Gitschier McCarthy	Class of 1972

Honored in 1995:

Rev. Carl E. Koppenhaver	Class of 1932
Mr. Al Grey	Class of 1945
Dr. Linda McCurdy	Class of 1962
Dr. Sharon Jaeger Davidheiser	Class of 1971

Honored in 1996:

Mr. William Barber	Class of 1945
Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Lisko	Class of 1965
Dr. Richard F. Saylor	Class of 1965
Dr. Barbara J. Little	Class of 1976

Honored in 1997:

Mr. William H. McCabe	Class of 1932
Mr. Richard D. Linderman	Class of 1957
Ms. Mary Stewart Donovan	Class of 1970
Ms. Geraldine Allen June	Class of 1973

Honored in 1998:

Mr. Richard J. Ricketts, Jr.	Class of 1951
Mr. P. Richard Frantz	Class of 1955
Dr. Cynthia Xanthopoulos Beekley	Class of 1958
Mr. Lionel Roy Douglass	Class of 1973

Honored in 1999:

Mrs. Anne "Nancy" Jones	Class of 1950
Dr. Linda K. Houck Goldberg	Class of 1962
Mr. Dennis Edward Leh	Class of 1964
Mr. Scott Detar	Class of 1970

Honored in 2000:

Mr. Linwood Brown	Class of 1941
Mr. John Henry	Class of 1946
Mr. George H. Seidel, Jr.	Class of 1950
Ms. Vicky Fong	Class of 1977

Honored in 2001:

Mr. Herbert Phillips	Class of 1942
Mrs. Arsonia M. Leisure	Class of 1954
Mr. Howard E. Kalis, III	Class of 1958
Mr. Kenneth F. Davis	Class of 1962

Honored in 2002:

Mrs. Ruth R. Schonberger	Class of 1939
Mr. Howard W. Bedell	Class of 1955
Mr. Richard E. Ludwick, Jr.	Class of 1969

Honored in 2003:

Mr. Robert Shantz	Class of 1943
Mrs. Heather Davidheiser Frantz	Class of 1955
Mr. Reginald Nealy	Class of 1967
Rear Admiral David Venlet	Class of 1972

Honored in 2004:

Mr. Henry Alan Stofko	Class of 1945
Mr. George E. Wausnock	Class of 1958
Mrs. Dorothy M. Freeman	Class of 1967
Dr. John P. Boehmer	Class of 1978

Honored in 2005:

Mr. Gene Venzke	Class of 1932
Mr. Elmer Pollock	Class of 1938
Mr. Alray Johnson	Class of 1968
Ms. Patricia Henry	Class of 1981

Honored in 2006:

Dr. Warren J. Brown	Class of 1942
Mr. Douglas N. Yocum	Class of 1969
Mr. John Micklos, Jr.	Class of 1974
Dr. Kimberly Valentine	Class of 1986

Honored in 2007:

Mr. Gabriel Fieni	Class of 1940
Mr. Ronald E. Puhl	Class of 1957
Mr. John H. Semet	Class of 1966
Mrs. Vanessa Saylor	Class of 1988

Honored in 2008:

Mr. Aaron Beasley	Class of 1991
Mr. Aram Ecker	Class of 1975
Mr. Ron Downie	Class of 1953
Mr. Harvey C. Leroy Wilson, Jr.	Class of 1931

Honored in 2009:

Mr. William R. Kerr	Class of 1954
Mr. Lawrence R. Harvey	Class of 1956
Mr. Donald P. Watkins	Class of 1969

Mr. Robert P. Smith - Founder of Mrs. Smith's Pie Company in Pottstown.

Mr. William Achatz - Foreign correspondent and photographer for United Press.

Mr. Randall Nester - Graduate of Pottstown High School vocational program to owner and operator of his own tool and die making company, Reading Products Company.

Dr. Ismar Schorsch - Recognized Jewish historian and scholar. Chancellor of Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

Judge William H. Yohn, Jr. - Graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School. Currently Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of PA. Former judge, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, attorney, assistant district attorney in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania state legislator, and Chairman of Board of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center.

Mr. Donald Rigg - Graduate of Bucknell, first sports editor for local newspaper. Long-time announcer of Pottstown High School football games.

Mr. Sidney Pollock - Chairman of Board of Mayer Pollock Steel Corporation. Former Chairman of Board of Directors of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Provided for housing needs of the elderly in Pottstown - Sidney Pollock House.

Mrs. Margaret Hallman - Community advocate and former Secretary and Treasurer of Mrs. Smith's Pie Company. Corporate Secretary for R.C. Smith Industries, Delafoil, Inc. and Delafoil Tool and Die Corporation. Past Chairman of Pottstown YMCA, United Way, and Chamber of Commerce. Presently Chairman of YMCA Board of Trustees and Vice-Chairman of United Way Foundation.

Dr. Cheryl Opalack - Graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Corporate Medical Director, General Public Utilities Nuclear, Inc. Medical Director, U.S. Department of Labor. General practitioner, lecturer. Certified American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, American Board of Preventive Medicine.

Mr. J. Ellwood Ludwig - Graduate of University of Pennsylvania. Head football coach at Bucknell University and coached basketball and football at Pennsylvania Military College in Chester. Founder of Camp Bil-O-Wood, Blind River, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Kenneth C. Jacob - Owner of Jacob Pattern Works in Stowe, manufacturer of precision pattern equipment and high quality aluminum castings.

Mr. Linford F. Moyer - Former Pottstown School District Assistant to the Superintendent for Business. Former Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials and past Executive Director of the Association of School Business Officials (national).

Alvin Weiss, Esq. - Graduate of Columbia University Law School. Local attorney. Active in aiding refuseniks in leaving the Soviet Union.

Dr. Jane Gitschier - Graduate of Penn State, engineering. Received masters in applied physics from Harvard and a Ph.D. in biology from MIT (genetic prediction of hemophilia).

Admiral Frank D. Wagner - Graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, naval aviator. Received Distinguished Service Medal, served on the Langley (first aircraft carrier) and Lexington. Holder of the Distinguished Service Medal, a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Medal for Distinguished Service accomplishments. Inventor of dive bombing.

Mr. Raymond Elliott - Former President of Federal Savings and Loan. Past President, Chamber of Commerce, Minutemen, Building Industries Exchange, Visiting Nurses, Pottstown Kiwanis, trustee of YMCA and former councilman.

Mr. Joel Climenhaga - Doctor of philosophy, Stanford University. Head of Department of Speech and Theater, Kansas State University. Actor and playwright - has written three novels, five short story collections and numerous poetry selections.

Mr. Earl Strom - Referee for the National Basketball Association for 30 years. Inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Dr. Joel W. Eisner - Currently Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of PA School of Medicine; Associate Dean, University of PA School of Medicine; Trustee, University of Pennsylvania; Chief of Internal Medicine, Phoenixville Hospital. President and Founder of PMA Medical Specialists—a 32 physician group practicing in Chester and Montgomery Counties.

Mr. Richard Ricketts, Sr. - Outstanding Pottstown High School athlete. Former Director of the Bethany Center.

Mr. Michael Vasil Herasimchuk - Industrial Engineer. Graduate of MIT in 1940. Senior metallurgical engineer. Designed computer database for an environmental control study of Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Edward Jameson - Former mayor of Pottstown. Two terms. Very active in service organizations throughout his life.

Mr. Albert P. Pollick - Past president, board member and executive director of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Listed in Who's Who in the East, 1983. Served as president of the Ches-Mont Hospital Council, president of the Forum of Senior Centers of Montgomery County and president of the Pottstown Council of Social Agencies.

Mr. Robert Y. Kurtz - Former publisher of the Pottstown Mercury. Served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center and member of the Board of Directors of the Pottstown Symphony.

Mr. J. Harold Yocom - Former President of Board, Yocom Knitting Company. Served as Vice President of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center Board of Directors, Library Board, YMCA Board, Wyndcroft Board.

Mr. Donald F. Specht - Chairman of Specht Realty, Inc. Chairman of Boyertown American Legion Baseball.

Mr. Gerald G. Richards - Served as Executive Director of Building Industries Exchange. Attended Williamson Trade School, degree in carpentry.

Mr. Willard M. Bickel - Graduate of University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, Rutgers University School of Banking and American Institute of Banking. Served as Vice President of the Philadelphia National Bank and Controller of Montgomery County.

Mr. Robert E. Eppheimer - General Manager of WPAZ (Great Scott Broadcasting). Past president of Ambucs, High Twelve, Pottstown Chapter of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame. Taught music and had dance band for 35 years. U.S. Navy, World War II.

Mrs. Kathleen Oliver Carpenter - B.S. in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics from University of California at Berkeley; M.S. in Nutrition Education from Teachers College, Columbia University; additional doctoral level courses at the School of Public Health, Columbia University. Past Director of WIC and Nutrition Services for Maternity Infant Care-Family Planning Projects/MHRA in New York City. Past Chairperson and Secretary for the Metropolitan New York City WIC Association, Inc. Adjunct instructor in nutrition at New York University. Served on a number of advisory groups and task forces related to nutrition and maternal child health in New York State. Currently Deputy Director of the New York City Neighborhood WIC Program/MHRA, New York's largest WIC program.

Mr. C. Edmund Wells - Graduate of Bucknell and Temple Law School. Local attorney. Founder of Pottstown Area Industrial Development, Inc.

Mr. Robert H. Moses - Senior vice-president of Continental Bank. Received associate degree from Ursinus and is a graduate of Stonier Graduate School of Banking. Board member of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Former member of Spring-Ford School Board and former chairman of the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Margaret R. Yocom - Graduate of Penn State University. Received Ph.D. in English from University of Massachusetts. Worked for Smithsonian Institution Festival of American Folklife held in Washington D.C. and is presently associate professor at George Mason University teaching English and folklore.

Mr. Arlen R. Saylor - Graduate of West Chester University. Pottstown Junior High School band director in 1951-1955 (National AAA Championship in Washington, D.C., 1951, 1955). Member of the United States Army Band. Became the director of bands at Boyertown High School. Founded the Arlen Saylor Orchestra which played at Sunnybrook. Director of Entertainment for the Philadelphia Eagles. Pilot for Basco Flying Service.

Mrs. Charlene Johnson - Received teaching degree from Penn State. Masters degree in guidance and counseling from Kutztown University. Presently senior high school guidance counselor. Member of PPMC Board of Directors.

Mrs. Mary Gitschier McCarthy - Graduate of Penn State with B.S. in nutrition. Public relations specialist with the Dairy Council of Wisconsin. Received masters of business administration from Marquette University.

Rev. Carl E. Koppenhaver - Graduate of Wagner College and Philadelphia Seminary where he received a Masters in Divinity degree. Ordained in 1945, he became the assistant editor of The Lutheran.

Mr. Al Grey - Served in the Navy and became a member of the Navy Band. Member of the Benny Carter Band, Lionel Hampton, Dizzie Gillespie Big Band and Count Bassie. World-renowned trombonist. Performed at Carnegie Centennial Celebration and President Clinton's Inauguration. He is a four-time Grammy nominee.

Dr. Linda McCurdy - Graduate of Penn State University. Earned Ph.D. Director of Research Services for the Special Collections Library of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Sharon Jaeger Davidheiser - Graduate of Chester County Hospital School of Nursing. Graduate of Kutztown with BSN and BS in biology. Received doctorate from Medical College of Pennsylvania. Local physician with PMA Medical Specialists.

Mr. William D. Barber - Graduate of Penn State University, with masters degree from Stanford University. Employed by the Federal Pollution Control Administration. Became Assistant to the Governor of the Virgin Islands, then consultant to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Lisko - Associate in Science Degree from University of the State of New York in Albany. Retired (Mustang) Lieutenant Commander, United States Coast Guard. Served over 30 years active duty. Earned over 30 medals/ribbons. Career highlights include: serving Coast Guard Patrol boat duty in Viet Nam, Chief Engineer on 2 Coast Guard Cutter buoy tenders, Port Engineer for all Coast Guard buoy tenders and Logistics Engineer for all standard Coast Guard small boats.

Dr. Richard F. Saylor - Graduate of Susquehanna University, Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and training at Lankenau Hospital. Returning to Pottstown as a surgeon, he has become the Vice President of Medical Affairs at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center.

Dr. Barbara J. Little - Graduate of Penn State University with a bachelors degree in anthropology. Received masters and Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Has done teaching at George Mason University and the University of Maryland. Works for the National Park Service Regional Office and is staff archaeologist for the United States National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. William H. McCabe - Graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a bachelors degree in education/pre-law. Also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a masters in history. Returned to Pottstown as a teacher and coach. Served as Pottstown Teachers Association president and has held a position on the Pottstown Borough Authority since 1951.

Mr. Richard D. Linderman - Graduate of West Chester University with a bachelors of arts degree in economics/history. Also a graduate of Duquesne University with a doctor of jurisprudence degree in law. Has served on many community organizations. Presently an attorney with O'Donnell, Weiss and Mattei, P.C.

Ms. Mary Stewart Donovan - Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia. Graduate of Emory Law School and Dartmouth College. Member of several professional and civic organizations.

Ms. Geraldine Allen June - Graduate of Howard University with a bachelors degree in microbiology. Also a graduate of George Washington University with a masters degree in microbiology. Member of several professional organizations. Currently serves as a Consumer Safety Officer for the Food and Drug and Administration in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Richard J. Ricketts, Jr. - Member of the Pottstown High "48 Straight" baseball team," which set a national record for continuous wins by a high school team. Graduate of Duquesne University with a bachelors degree in psychology. A collegiate All-American basketball player, a professional basketball and baseball player. Until his passing away, he was the Director of Personnel Relations for Eastman Kodak Company.

Mr. P. Richard Frantz - Graduate of Penn State University with a bachelors degree in architecture. Had designed many buildings in Pottstown and southwestern Pennsylvania. Actively involved in the Rotary Student Exchange Program, served as district governor in Rotary, on board of directors of Council of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown Historic Architectural Review Board, and Pottstown Downtown Improvement District Authority.

Dr. Cynthia Xanthopoulos Beekley - A high school National Merit finalist, received a senatorial scholarship to Penn State. Received a masters degree in guidance and counseling from Kansas State University. Holds a doctorate degree in curriculum and teaching from the University of Michigan. Has been in education as a teacher, high school principal, university professor, assistant superintendent, and is currently superintendent for the Springfield Schools in Holland, Ohio.

Mr. Lionel Ray Douglass - As a member of the Lockers Dance Group he has appeared on many major television shows and given performances throughout Europe. As an actor he has been featured in many roles. His greatest contribution has been playing the role of "Big Bird" on "Sesame Street." He has been featured in many motion pictures, such as "Lethal Weapon," Brewster's Millions," "Heartbreak Ridge," "Angel's in the Outfield," and Oprah Winfrey's "Beloved."

Mrs. Anne "Nancy" Jones - A 28 year employee of Bell Atlantic, Nancy has distinguished herself for her outstanding community service. A founding member of Edgewood Elementary School parent-teacher organization, she became a 19 year member of the Pottstown School Board of Education serving as its president for two years. She was instrumental in the development of the school district's nationally recognized four year old kindergarten program. In 1993, she became the first woman elected as Mayor of the Borough of Pottstown and serves as the acknowledged goodwill ambassador of Pottstown.

Dr. Linda K. Houck Goldberg - A 1965 graduate of the Pottstown Hospital School of Nursing, Dr. Goldberg went on to continue her studies at Tufts University and returned to Pottstown to establish the first intensive care unit. After graduating from West Chester University, she accepted a position to teach nursing at Chestnut Hill Hospital School of Nursing. She then received a masters degree from Kutztown University in community counseling. Her masters degree in nursing administration was achieved at Villanova University. She entered and successfully completed the doctoral program at Columbia University. She presently serves as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Kutztown University. She has been honored for designing and implementing the first international nursing program with Buckinghamshire University in England and Kutztown University.

Mr. Dennis Edward Leh - He began his business career as an apprentice at Doehler-Jarvis Company. After a successful military tour of duty, he returned to the Pottstown area and later founded his own business, the Leh Tool Grinding Service, specializing in tool grinding operations for numerous industries. In 1986, he began his political career by winning the Republican nomination to the State General Assembly for the 130th District. He is presently serving his seventh term as state representative of Berks County. Outstanding legislative accomplishments included the introduction of a victim's rights bill and a fair housing bill, which were both signed into law.

Mr. Scott Detar - A 1974 magna cum laude graduate of Lehigh University with a degree in business accounting. He is a full partner in the accounting firm of Maillie, Falconiero and Company. He is a specialist in the practice of accounting for non-profit and governmental organizations. He has a distinguished career of community service, which includes membership on the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, treasurer and board member of the Pottstown YMCA, treasurer and board member of the Tri County Chamber of Commerce, board member of the North End Swim Club, Pottstown Memorial Medical Center board member, and New Hanover Township Planning Commission.

Mr. Linwood Brown - A 1941 graduate and a distinguished veteran of WWII having been honored with the Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with five bronze stars. He saw service in the battles of Normandy, The Rhineland, The Ardennes, northern France, and central Europe. A lifelong resident of Pottstown, he was a distinguished basketball coach at the Ricketts Community Center and past Boy Scout leader. His membership in the Second Baptist Church and employment as a home and school coordinator for the Pottstown School District has enabled him to provide tremendous service to our community.

Mr. John Henry - A 1946 graduate of Pottstown High School participated in football, basketball, and baseball. A graduate of Pennsylvania Military College (now Widener) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He served as a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers, and was judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County.

Mr. George H. Seidel, Jr. - A 1950 graduate, recently retired from the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania. Prior to this, he was Secretary for Legislative Affairs in the Administration of Governor Richard Thornburgh of Pennsylvania. Before serving in the Thornburgh Administration, Mr. Seidel was Associate Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Education Association where he was in charge of government relations and political education. He was employed by the State Education Association for 14 years after having spent ten years as a high school teacher in Montgomery County. After serving in the United States Army, he graduated from Kutztown University with a bachelor of science degree in education.

Ms. Vicky Fong - A 1977 graduate and is presently employed by Pennsylvania State University as the manager of science, engineering, and research communications. She also serves as manager of the university's news bureau. In both positions, she is responsible for developing and coordinating strategies for ongoing communications with national and state print and electronic media concerning key university research projects and prominent faculty. She supervises a staff of science researchers and writers. Additionally, she provides guidance and assistance to the director and other managers in institutional communications, employee communications, and electronic video production.

Mr. Herbert Phillips - Class of 1942 - A graduate of Purdue University, he is Vice President of Engineering for the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute. He has served as director of the American National Standards Institute and was the first recipient of the Underwriters Laboratories Presidential Award for his leadership role in the development of the first United States Canada Binational Safety Standards.

Mrs. Arsonia M. Leisure - Class of 1954 - She was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Welfare for 28 years and received commendations for her dedicated and meritorious service to the people of Pennsylvania. She is a recipient of the Black Heritage Joyce Reddick Award. She is the author of the book entitled London's Test of Love, which documents her son's battle with cancer. She is a poet who is listed in the American Poetry Anthology and is an active advocate for environmental concerns.

Mr. Howard E. Kalis, III - Class of 1958 - An honors graduate of Dickinson School of Law. He is a member of the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations and Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. He has served as assistant district attorney of Montgomery County and is presently a senior partner in the law firm of Binder, Kalis, and Proctor. During the Vietnam War, he saw combat duty as a captain in the United States Army. He is a former director and past president of the Tri County Chamber of Commerce and the Pottstown Area Mental Health Clinic. He has served as a director for the Pottstown JC's, Brookside Country Club, and Security National Bank.

Mr. Kenneth F. Davis - Class of 1962 - A graduate of East Stroudsburg State College, he was a teacher in the Pottstown School District from 1970 to 1999. As the boys' varsity basketball coach, his overall record was 374 wins and 101 losses. He led his teams to the district finals ten times and his teams earned the Pennsylvania Eastern Championships in 1991, 1993, and 1995. In 1993, he coached the first state championship boys' basketball team in the history of Pottstown School District. He has been named coach of the year on eight occasions.

Mrs. Ruth R. Schonberger - Class of 1939 - After overcoming being stricken with Polio, she went on to a 42 year successful career in the banking industry. Starting as a secretary, she continually advanced her position to include serving as loan servicing officer and eventually becoming manager of the IVB north end office. Her duties also included senior officer in charge of handling mortgage loans. Her community service includes serving on the Board of the Pottstown Mental Health, Visiting Nurses Association of Pottstown, Pottstown YWCA, and Jewish Women's League.

Mr. Howard W. Bedell - Class of 1955 - He is a graduate of West Chester State College and distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete both in high school and college. He went on to play semi-professional baseball for a variety of teams and has served as assistant director of the Philadelphia Minor Leagues before becoming coordinator of field and instruction for the Kansas City Royals and the Seattle Mariners.

Mr. Richard E. Ludwick, Jr. - Class of 1969 - A graduate of Gettysburg College, he holds a Ph.D. in economics from John Hopkins University. He specializes in economic analysis of anti-trust issues including evaluations of the competitive effects of mergers and acquisitions. He has extensive litigation experience in the area of corporate mergers. He is an accomplished author of a number of articles for the Journal of Health Economics.

Mr. Robert Shantz - Class of 1943 - As a pitcher, Bobby was named the most valuable player in the American League. After breaking a bone in his wrist, he came back to help the New York Yankees win three American League Penants and one World Series Championship. He received the Associated Press "Comeback of the Year" Award. For eight consecutive years, Bobby received the Golden Glove Award, which is presented to the best fielding pitcher in major league baseball.

Mrs. Heather Davidheiser Frantz - Class of 1955 - Mrs. Frantz is remembered for the active role she took in community service. As President of the Junior Service League, she helped to found the Meals on Wheels program that delivers meals to homebound people who are unable to provide for themselves. She was also one of the founders of the Pottsgrove Soccer Association and was named the Outstanding Young Woman of the Year by the Pottstown Jaycee. As a member of the Pottstown Rotary Club, she was responsible for many students having the opportunity to take part in the Foreign Exchange Program. She played an active role as a member of the Advisory Board of the Meals on Wheels and served as Treasurer of the Pottstown Historical Society.

Mr. Reginald Nealy - Class of 1967 - After serving a tour in Vietnam as a member of the Marine Corps., he returned to Pottstown and became a police officer. In 1976, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and became Pottstown's first community relations officer. He received a masters degree from Lincoln University and joined the teaching staff at West Chester University as Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. He was awarded the Public Citizen of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He is an active member of the Advisory Boards of the YWCA, the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center Foundation, and the Community Services for Human Growth.

Rear Admiral David Venlet - Class of 1972 - He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1976. While on tour in the Mediterranean serving as one of the crew members a VF-41 Tomcat Jet, he was fired upon by Libyan aircraft. He and his crew made national news by shooting down two Libyan fighters. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as a result of that action. He has served as the Navy's Program Manager for Air-to-Air Missile Development. He is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and has flown over 28 different types of aircraft and accumulated 3,100 flight hours and 560 carrier landings. In 1991, he performed the first carrier landing of the T45 Jet on the USS John F. Kennedy. He is currently responsible for research and testing of weapons and sensors for naval aviation.

Mr. Henry Alan Stofko - Class of 1945 - Coach Stofko is recognized as one of the outstanding basketball coaches in the state of Pennsylvania. During his 35 years of high school coaching, his varsity teams recorded over 600 wins and at the time of his retirement he held the State and District I record for wins. While coaching at Plymouth Whitemarsh, his teams earned district and state championships. He has been inducted into numerous sports and coaches hall of fame organizations.

Mr. George E. Wausnock - Class of 1958 - George is a highly successful local businessman who is a community activist who has spent a great deal of his time in helping to preserve the historical integrity of our community while at the same time developing its economic growth. He is President and Co-founder of Preservation Pottstown and has served as past President and is now on the Board of Directors of the Pottstown Historical Society. He is Co-founder and member of the Board of Directors of the Carousel at Pottstown. This group is responsible for a project that will help promote the revitalization of downtown Pottstown.

Mrs. Dorothy M Freeman - Class of 1967 - Dorothy has distinguished herself as an outstanding nurse. She is a member of the Pottstown Hospital Oncology Unit and has received the PMMC Nurse Excellence Award. She has been a featured speaker at the Oncology Nursing Society Congress and is one of the original founders and organizers of the Pottstown Relay for Life. This event has been responsible for raising over 2.7 million dollars for career research, education, advocacy, and services for cancer patients and their families.

Dr. John P. Boehmer - Class of 1978 - Dr. Boehmer has become a nationally recognized cardiologist, a physician selected as one of the "Best Doctors in America" three times, and a co-leader of a research team that developed the technology capable of saving the lives of people facing death.

Mr. Gene Venzke - Class of 1932 - While at Pottstown High School, Gene set the world record in the mile run at Madison Square Garden in New York City on two occasions in 1932 and also set the world record in the 1500 meter run in 1932. He entered the University of Pennsylvania and graduated in 1936 with a B.S. degree in education. He won the national AAU championships in the 1500 meter run in 1932 and 1936. He set the world record in the 1500 meter run in 1936 and was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team that competed in Berlin, Germany. His track career lasted 18 years during which time he ran 353 races worldwide placing first 107 times, second 97 times, and third 105 times.

Mr. Elmer Pollock - Class of 1938 - Elmer is one of the founders of the Pottstown Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame for which he is the Eastern Region Vice President. He was awarded the Distinguished Citizen's Award by the local Elks Lodge and was inducted into the Pottstown Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1990. Mr. Pollock has served on numerous civic and borough government committees. He has been the Pottstown High School football announcer for 60 years. He has also served as the Pottstown High School public address announcer for over 40 years.

Mr. Alray Johnson - Class of 1968 - Alray was an outstanding high school athlete in football and wrestling. While at West Chester State College, he was a four time Middle Atlantic Conference Champion and a three time NCAA Qualifier. He was inducted into the West Chester University Wrestling Hall of Fame. In 1976, Mr. Johnson was an Olympic trials finalist and competed at the international wrestling level from 1977 to 1984. He has been a teacher in the Downingtown School District for 34 years and for many years was an outstanding wrestling coach with his teams winning league, district, and regional championships.

Ms. Patricia Henry - Class of 1981- Patricia is a graduate of William and Mary College with a degree in government. She attended Villanova University School of Law and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree. In 2002, she was appointed Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs for ACEINA. She is responsible for maintaining relationships with local, state, U.S. federal, and international government officials. She also oversees the management of the ACEINA Foundation. She is a member of the Federation of Insurance and Corporate Council and serves as Vice Chair of its Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Section. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Coalition for Asbestos Justice which is an organization formed by property and casualty companies to address environmental claims situations. She is recognized for her leadership in environmental affairs issues.

Dr. Warren J. Brown - Class of 1942 - After attending Pottstown High School, Warren enrolled at Ursinus College. The following year, he joined the United States Navy. He received his medical training and eventually earned his medical degree and graduated from Ohio State College of Medicine. During the course of his military service, Dr. Brown was responsible for surgical duties at several naval bases and was the ship's physician on several United States naval troop ships. He joined the staff of the Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater Florida and became the chief of family practice. He was later appointed flight surgeon for the FAA and in 1966 broke the transcontinental speed record for small aircraft in IFR flight from St. Petersburg, Florida to Santa Anna, California. He is a distinguished writer and has published a number of books including "Patients' Guide to Medicine from the Drug Store through the Hospital." He was awarded a fellowship degree by the American Academy of Family Practices. He is a founding member of the Florida Aviation History Society and has continued to pursue his love of writing by publishing a number of books concerning the history of aviation.

Mr. Douglas N. Yocum – Class of 1969 – Mr. Yocum graduated in 1973 from Bloomsburg University with a degree in business. He is presently the President and CEO of Precision Medical Products, Inc., a specialized medical device manufacturing company, which he co-founded. Mr. Yocum is a member of the Executive Board of Hawk Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America, and serves as the Vice-President of Camping. Mr. Yocum is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow. His involvement in scouting has helped many young people develop skills which have led them to leadership roles. Mr. Yocum also serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the College of Business at Bloomsburg University.

Mr. John Micklos, Jr. – Class of 1974 – John is a 1978 graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. While in high school, he was a national merit scholarship semi-finalist. He graduated magna cum laude and was the recipient of a number of school journalism awards. He is the editor and chief of *Reading Today* and serves as a board member of the Association of Educational Publications. He is an active member in his community and has helped to co-author several books concerning local history. He is also the author of a children's biography and has been recognized nationally as a speaker at various national and state educational conferences.

Dr. Kimberly Valentine – Class of 1986 – Kimberly is a 1990 graduate of Villanova University. From 1998 to 2001, she completed her psychiatric residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Medical Honor Society. While attending college, she received numerous awards including the Student Leadership Award. She presently has a private psychiatric practice and is a resident representative to the American Psychiatric Association.

Mr. Gabriel Fieni – Class of 1940 – Mr. Fieni was an outstanding baseball player for the Pottstown Trojans who has a promising professional baseball career cut short twice; first by interruption of World War II, where he has a distinguished military career, and secondly by an automobile accident, which ended his dreams of playing professional contractor. He is recognized as an outstanding inventor and entrepreneur. One of his most noteworthy inventions is a construction tool used to remove roofing materials. Gabe was instrumental in the renaming and renovations to the Bobby Shantz Baseball Field. He is presently organizing a permanent memorial to Pottstown area World War II veterans.

Mr. Ronald E. Puhl – Class of 1957 – Mr. Puhl had an outstanding high school and college athletic career, distinguishing himself in both football and track. In college, he was named to the football Little All-America squad. His coaching career included outstanding accomplishments at both the high school and collegiate level. While at Phoenixville High School, he coached football and track. He was also responsible for initiating and coaching the school's first gymnastics and wrestling teams. At Bloomsburg State College, he led the track team to an NCAA regional championship. Some of Mr. Puhl's most significant accomplishments have occurred as he met his responsibilities as chairperson for the Department of Health and Physical Education at Bloomsburg University. He played a significant role in the department's emergence as one of the premier professional programs in the university. He has directed curricular change that highlights advanced preparation in exercise physiology and fitness.

Mr. John H. Semet – Class of 1966 – Mr. Semet graduated from West Chester State College in 1971 with a bachelor of science degree in health and physical education. He pursued an advanced degree at both Lehigh and Temple University. He has attained a master's degree in school administration and curriculum development. While attending West Chester State College, he earned numerous awards as a swimmer. Since 1993, he has been the principal at Upper Perkiomen High School and played a significant role in the school being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon award-winning school. He has served as president of the Pioneer Athletic Conference and has helped lead the conference and the Upper Perkiomen School District to a number of significant achievements.

Mrs. Vanessa Saylor – Class of 1988 – While at Pottstown High School, Mrs. Saylor distinguished herself as an outstanding student-athlete. She attended Temple University where she received a bachelor's degree in social work in 1997 and a master's of social work in 2001. Her great desire to assist people attain their highest level of success has led her to an outstanding and distinguished career in social work. As director of the Pottstown Family Center, she was responsible for the development and implementation of many programs that benefited our community. She has distinguished herself as an outstanding grant writer and fundraiser. Through her efforts, a number of significant after school programs have been developed in the Pottstown School District. Mrs. Saylor is recognized throughout the area for her caring, compassionate service to area families. She has been responsible for coordination and chairing many committees that have had a significant impact on the well-being of our community.

Mr. Aaron Beasley – Class of 1991 - Recognized as one of Pottstown High School's outstanding all-around athletes, he graduated from the University of West Virginia where he was a two time All-American football player. Beasley had an outstanding ten year professional football career in the NFL playing for the Jacksonville Jaguars, New York Jets, and Atlanta Falcons.

Mr. Aram Ecker - Class of 1975 - In high school, Mr. Ecker exemplified the concept of student/athlete as a championship wrestler. He earned academic honors which resulted in being in the top ten of his graduating class. He is presently the owner/operator of A. Jackson Ecker, Inc. Heating, Plumbing, and Cooling. Upon graduation from high school, he became one of the youngest people in the Pottstown area to achieve the status of "Master Plumber." A well-known community activist, he has served in leadership positions at the First United Methodist Church and is one of the founders of the Pottstown Police Athletic Youth Wrestling Program. As a member of the AMBUCS (American Businessmen's Club), he is a two time past president who has been honored three times as the AMBUC of the year and received national honors as "Superior Club President." He is currently serving as a member of the Pottstown Borough Water and Sewer Authority.

Mr. Ron Downie - Class of 1953 - Upon graduation, Mr. Downie attended Penn State University and Ursinus College. He has been recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the Elks Club and has served as past president of the AMBUCS club. His community and school service includes being elected to the Pottstown School District School Board and also serving as a councilman for the Borough of Pottstown. His community activities include President of the Carousel Committee, member of the 250th Anniversary Committee, Pottstown Parks and Recreation Board member, Pottstown Cable Commission, and incoming President of the Schuylkill River Greenway Association. Locally, he has been a frequent contributor to the editorial pages of The Mercury and is recognized as an accomplished poet.

Mr. Harvey C. Leroy Wilson, Jr. - Class of 1931 - Mr. Wilson was considered a musical prodigy at the age of 16. He started the Pottstown High School band and became its first director. After graduation, he attended the Curtis Institute of Music. He then went on to earn national recognition as a big band director. He returned to West Chester State Teacher's College to earn an education degree which allowed him to come back to Pottstown High School as a music teacher and band director. After serving our country as a member of the military in World War II, he went on to continue his musical career which included Director of Music at the University of Richmond and Supervisor of Music of the Cincinnati Public Schools. Upon passing away, Mr. Wilson's estate established an endowment to support Pottstown School District music programs which have resulted in yearly full college scholarships to outstanding Pottstown students.

Mr. William R. Kerr - Class of 1954 - Mr. Kerr was an honor student and three sports athlete at Pottstown High School in the 1950's. He was an all-league defensive back on the football team, starting guard on the basketball team, and as the senior co-captain of the baseball team he helped lead the team to a national record 48 straight victories which earned them recognition in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1959 he graduated from Lock Haven University returning to Pottstown School District as a teacher at Central Junior High School. He began a 36 year career as an educator, guidance counselor, assistant athletic director, and longtime coach of Pottstown athletics. He was known as a tough but fair teacher who motivated students by teaching with enthusiasm, positive energy, and humor. He showed students that he cared about the subjects he taught and perhaps more importantly that he cared about them. He demanded a lot and pushed students to reach their full potential. He saw abilities in students that some didn't know they had and he helped bring out their best. As a coach he helped guide hundreds of athletes in football, baseball, and basketball and always emphasized dedication, honesty, and integrity both on and off the field. As an assistant football coach, he played a role in the 1971 undefeated football team and served as head baseball coach for over 20 years. The best leaders lead by example and Mr. Kerr certainly did that.

Mr. Lawrence R. Harvey - Class of 1956 - Mr. Harvey is recognized as one of the area's most active and influential individuals in developing and promoting the sport of running. He is recognized as having established cross country and track programs in the Springfield, Owen J. Roberts, and Pottstown School Districts. After graduating from West Chester State University in 1960, he began a career in education including teaching special education in both the Owen J. Roberts and Pottstown School Districts. In 1965, he became the founder and director of the highly successful PACERS A.C. Track and Field Club which sponsored numerous youth track events which to this day are still successful and highly competitive. As an athlete, he competed in track and field well into his adult life. He is recognized as having placed 9th in the world in the 800 meter sprint. He is a member of the Distance Medley Relay Team which holds the age group record both in the U.S. States and the world. In 1984, he placed 14th in the world in his age group in the 800 meter sprint. He is also a Mid-Atlantic record holder in that same event. He has been recognized for his achievements as an educator, coach, and humanitarian as evidenced by his induction in the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, his Pottstown High School yearbook dedication, being named the "Man of the Year" by the Philadelphia Masters Track and Field Club, honored by the Mid-Atlantic Track Club with its Presidential Award, named by the Pottstown Jaycees as an outstanding young man for his community leadership, recognized by the Owen J. Roberts High School with a yearbook dedication, and as a Pottstown Jaycees Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Educator Award.

Mr. Donald P. Watkins - Class of 1969 - He received a bachelor of science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1974. He entered the United States Navy and became a commissioned officer in 1976. Following his flight training, he was assigned to the attack squadron stationed in Virginia and received training as an A-6 intruder bombardier/navigator. Commander Watkins made two deployments to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea onboard the USS Forrestal. In 1980, he was deployed to China Lake, California where he was instrumental in the development and testing of the Navy's first air-launched cruise missile. He was selected for flight training as a naval aviator and reported to Pensacola, Florida. In September 1983, he was deployed to the Indian Ocean onboard the USS America. During that tour, he participated in March and April Libyan Combat Operations and was the first to fire an attack cruise missile. He has served as both an operations and maintenance officer during his Mediterranean deployment on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1991, he was deployed to the Persian Gulf on the USS Independence and participated in flights over Iraq in conjunction with Operation Southern Watch. He assumed command of the squadron in 1992. Commander Watkins has numerous decorations including the Air Medal with Combat "V," Navy Commendation Medals, and the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. He also has numerous unit and campaign awards. He has made over 1,000 carrier landings and flown over 3,600 hours in an A-6 intruder.

Q. What is the Alumni Honor Roll?

A. The purpose of establishing an Alumni Honor Roll is to celebrate graduates' distinguished achievements, thereby motivating current Pottstown students to strive for excellence.

Q. Who is eligible for membership in the Alumni Honor Roll Board?

A. Any graduate of Pottstown High School, or an active or retired Pottstown School District employee, or resident of the Pottstown School District may qualify to be appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pottstown Alumni Honor Roll.

The membership of the Board shall not exceed fifteen members.

The term for members shall be for three years.

At the yearly reorganization meeting, five new members will be nominated to be approved by the Board of School Directors and five members will conclude their terms.

Q. How does the group function?

A. The officers of the Board of Directors shall consist of a chairman and vice-chairman who shall serve for a term of one year and until their successors are duly installed.

The vice-chairman will take over as chairman the following year.

Each year a reorganization meeting will be held in November; officers will be nominated and elected and new candidates recommended to be contacted to serve on the Board from a tentative membership list generated by the previous year's committee.

There shall be no dues for membership.

Donations from nominees or Board members are acceptable but not required.

Q. How does this Alumni Honor Roll Board select members to be considered for the Alumni Honor Roll?

A. Each year from January to May the appropriate subcommittee will accept nominations for the Alumni Honor Roll. The nomination criteria are as follows:

1. A nominee may be living or deceased.
2. A nominee must have attended Pottstown Senior High School for two successive years and have been graduated from P.H.S.
3. A nominee must have attained a minimum age of 35 years. (Exception to the age requirement may be approved by the unanimous vote of the Board.)
4. A nominee must have distinguished service as an individual or as a member of a group making a substantial contribution in his/her chosen business, profession, or military career or has exerted a positive influence in the civic and/or religious life of a community. It is hoped that those exemplary achievements will motivate current Pottstown students to strive for excellence.

Q. When does the award ceremony take place?

A. The award ceremony takes place annually in October at a time and place recommended by the subcommittee and approved by the Board.