

1990
• OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS •

HALL
OF
FAME

• MAY 9, 1990 •

HISTORY OF THE HALL OF FAME

The Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame was established to fulfill a two-fold purpose: to honor and recognize the vital role played by older men and women in their communities, state and nation, and to promote the productivity and enjoyment that should be a part of every person's retirement years.

This year 8 individuals join the distinguished ranks of the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Their selection is based on contributions they have made for the benefit of mankind after age 60 or for a continuation of efforts begun before that age.

Each inductee receives a plaque with his or her portrait and a brief biography, and a lapel pin engraved with the Hall of Fame symbol. An identical plaque is permanently displayed in the Janis Senior Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus.

Nominees for the Hall of Fame must be native-born Ohioans or residents of Ohio for at least 10 years. Any individual or organization may submit a nomination by completing an application and returning it to The Ohio Department of Aging, Special Events Section, 50 W. Broad St./9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0501, by December 1 of each year. Induction ceremonies are held annually in the spring.

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Kenneth M. Mahan
Assistant Director
Ohio Department of Aging

INVOCATION

Pastor C. Thomas Turner
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Columbus

WELCOME

Carol D. Austin, Ph.D.
Director
Ohio Department of Aging

REMARKS

Mary Ellen Withrow
Treasurer of State

RECOGNITION OF PAST INDUCTEES

Kenneth M. Mahan

PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEE AWARDS

Carol D. Austin, Ph.D.

INDUCTEES

MERCEDES COTNER
Cleveland

RAYMOND C. DRAKE, JR.
Cambridge

MABLE HARDEMAN EDWARDS
Columbus

ELEANOR KAHLE
Toledo

JEROME KAPLAN, Ph.D.
Mansfield

ILSE KERSHNER
Columbus

ALBERT A. NEIDECK
Columbus

BERNICE CISCO WILLIAMS
Celina



MERCEDES COTNER

Always a forceful and dynamic leader, Mercedes Cotner has broken new ground for the involvement of women on the Cleveland political scene. For over 50 years, she has been actively involved in trying to make a difference in her community through public service, community and church activities.

Early in her career, Cotner served as a city councilwoman for 10 years. She is the first woman ever to be appointed clerk of the Cleveland City Council, a post she held longer than anyone else—over a quarter of a century. In 1973, she became the first woman Democrat to run for mayor of Cleveland.

Her efforts and commitment to public service have earned her a place in the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. A scholarship at Cleveland State University bears her name. But her accomplishments and abilities have earned her intangible rewards as well. Perhaps the most important measure of Cotner's success comes through in the respect she has earned from so many for her keen political insight and judgment. National, state and local leaders in business, labor, religious and civic organizations seek out her advice, and the wisdom and knowledge she has accumulated through the years.

Mercedes Cotner brings to her many leadership roles much more than the ability to achieve results; she also brings dignity, intelligence and a fierce dedication that is both rare and wonderful.



RAYMOND C. DRAKE, JR.

As a sales representative for the R.H. Kyle Furniture Company, Raymond C. Drake, Jr., received special recognition for traveling over one million miles. But his community and civic involvement in such a wide array of activities proves his heart never strayed far from home. Everything on sale at Drake's well-known former Country Store could be stamped "Made in Ohio." Many are thankful that Drake's contributions to his community continue to be "Made for Ohio."

Drake has worked to serve persons of all ages, but particularly young people. He has been active in Boy Scouts for over 35 years, and served as president of the Muskingum Valley Council.

Drake also helps youth as president of Dollars for Scholars, an effort which helped finance college expenses for 360 Guernsey County students last year. He is also the founder of Junior Achievement of Guernsey County, which today teaches students in every county high school about the real world of business.

At age 63, Drake heads the independent Guernsey County Cancer Society, which helps any cancer patient in the county through services such as home care and transportation. He is also president of the GNC Workshop, Inc., where almost 90 handicapped workers put their abilities to use. The workshop is about to open its own retail store in a 170-year-old log house donated by Drake.



MABLE HARDEMAN EDWARDS

As an advocate for the elderly, Mable Hardeman Edwards speaks out for those whose voices are often not heard. She has appeared at countless public hearings to testify on behalf of older Ohioans, particularly low-income and minority elderly. This Columbus resident has always gone above and beyond her responsibilities on the job and in her private life to assist others.

During her 12 years as an Ohio Department of Aging employee, Edwards began publishing the *Advocate* to educate service providers about public benefits for the elderly. She also organized a statewide task force to find ways to assist victims of Alzheimer's disease and their families. In 1984, she was named the state's outstanding employee.

Edwards spoke out for a 1985 law granting grandparents visitation rights. She has also served on several state commissions and advisory groups, including the Advocacy Steering Committee, whose efforts helped lead to the passage of the governor's Elder-care initiative. She currently serves on an advisory group for the Department of Insurance Ombudsman program, and on the Ohio Board of Dietetics.

At age 66, Edwards also continues to speak out as a Gray Panther...as a member of the American Association of Retired Persons...as a benefactor of the homeless in Franklin County.

As an advocate, leader, and organizer for the benefit of those less fortunate, Mable Edwards proves that one individual can make a difference.



ELEANOR KAHLE

At age 73, Eleanor Kahle of Toledo is positive proof that life never stops providing plenty of opportunity to work toward positive changes. Kahle's commitment to changing her community for the better has grown along with her age. She now serves people of all ages as a Toledo City Council person, and bears the distinction of being the first person over age 70 elected to the council.

Her involvement in the community has centered on enhancing the quality of life for senior citizens. Since 1979, Kahle has been the executive director of the West Toledo Senior Center. She also started a chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, and serves on a steering committee for Elderhostel Programs at the University of Toledo.

Her desire to work toward positive changes can also be seen in her extensive participation and leadership in church and professional organizations—ranging from the Ohio Association of Senior Center Directors to Church Women United of Toledo.

In the early 1980s, Kahle twice travelled to Washington, D.C. to represent the interests of seniors. During the White House Conference on Aging in 1981, she helped provide input into federal plans and policies on aging issues. Two years later, she served as Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Senior Citizen Special Assistant.

With her dedication, concern and hard work, Eleanor Kahle can't help but meet whatever challenge she faces.



JEROME KAPLAN, Ph.D.

As teacher, author, social worker and nursing home administrator, **Jerome Kaplan, Ph.D.** has contributed his foresight and vision to help older people live their lives to the fullest.

Ohioans are fortunate to have benefitted from seeing many of Kaplan's ideas and concepts grow into real-world programs and institutions dedicated to serving the human needs of older adults. His participation in creating innovative approaches to serving the elderly has reached into and influenced many worlds: universities, nursing homes, all levels of government, and the entire field of social gerontology.

Many of Kaplan's ideas were brought to life through Mansfield Memorial Homes, where he served as executive director for 30 years. This institution began the first long-term care system for the elderly in the nation—a system which includes home care, community service and institutional care. It was here that the first nursing home rehabilitation program in the nation took root—one which emphasized returning nursing home residents to independent living.

In 1971, Kaplan helped keep federal dollars flowing for programs benefitting all older Americans. As president of the Gerontological Society of America, he testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Aging, helping to save Older Americans Act funding from severe cutbacks or elimination.

During his renowned career, Jerome Kaplan has taken on many roles, but perhaps they can be summed up in one: pioneer.



ILSE KERSHNER

A nurse at Children's Hospital in Columbus calls **Ilse Kershner** her "bridge over troubled waters." Kershner has experienced more than her own share of troubled waters, but has succeeded in bridging them with compassion and an enduring devotion to helping others.

Kershner managed to flee Nazi Germany just before the outbreak of World War II, but lost her entire family during the Holocaust. She has since adopted the people of Columbus, Ohio as her new "family."

Her caring touch has been felt by many in the city she now calls home. Patients in Children's Hospital have been treated to her special brand of friendship for over 30 years. Kershner was one of the hospital's first volunteers, and today still gives from her heart and her "goodie bag" at the cancer clinic there.

Kershner's volunteer work for the Multiple Sclerosis Society helped earn her the Mayor's Award for Voluntary Service in 1980. She helped an MS victim and his family with transportation and household chores for several years.

Kershner succeeds in living out her commitment to do good for others in many ways—through her involvement with community groups ranging from Cub Scouts, to the Ohio Mental Health Board to Suicide Prevention...through foster parenting or visits to the elderly. It is this commitment to care that makes Ilse Kershner's life one that continues to benefit and inspire countless other lives.



ALBERT A. NEIDECK

After working for 49 years as an engineer and superintendent in New York City, **Albert A. Neideck** "retired" to suburban Columbus. But those who know of Neideck's many efforts to serve his community also know he began a second career when he arrived in Upper Arlington.

At age 84, Neideck is actively involved in representing seniors in his community and across the state through countless volunteer activities.

Called "Ohio's answer to Claude Pepper," Neideck was part of a core group of seniors who succeeded in bringing organized programming to senior citizens in Upper Arlington. Ever since then, he has worked tirelessly to develop needed services for seniors at his senior center, his church, and the local mental health center. He has also lent his leadership talents to Ohio chapters of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Local and state leaders have sought Neideck's assistance and input by appointing him to several advisory groups and task forces. He is currently a member of the legislative committee of the Ohio Council for the Aging, an advisory group to the Ohio Department of Aging. In this role, Neideck will soon be serving as an advisor to multipurpose senior centers.

Neideck keeps his hand in engineering work as a private consultant for a hotel chain in New York. But Upper Arlington and Ohio can thank Al Neideck for giving up the big city life and giving of his time and talents in "the heart of it all."



BERNICE CISCO WILLIAMS

Coming from a family of contractors and road builders, 81-year-old **Bernice Cisco Williams** continues to carry on the family tradition—as a builder of futures for thousands of Ohioans. For 38 years, she helped build character and young lives as a teacher and elementary school principal. Then, at age 65, she began building a better life for senior citizens as an advocate and leader.

Williams worked to establish Mercer County's first Senior Citizens Center, which later became the Mercer County Council on Aging. Under her leadership, the center grew into a full-service organization, helping to meet the needs of the elderly in rural Mercer County. She helped bring the first nutrition program to the area, and persistently worked to add needed transportation services to the council's offerings.

Since 1981, Williams has also worked for seniors throughout a seven-county area in northwestern Ohio, as a member and leading player of the Board of Trustees for Planning and Service Area 3.

Williams' creativity and resourcefulness has come through in her many successful efforts to obtain funding for needed programs. From organizing the first fund raiser for the center—a pancake and sausage day—to working toward a tax levy passed in 1989, Williams has skillfully engineered practical solutions to difficult problems. Recently, she helped create an endowment fund for the Mercer County Council on Aging and personally contributed one of the first donations.

It is little wonder that Bernice Cisco Williams was named Mercer County's first Outstanding Senior Citizen.

MEMBERS

CHARTER

Muriel M. Allen Bertsch • *Ernest J. Bohn • Anna V. Brown • Milton Caniff • W. Fred Cottrell • Nelson H. Cruikshank • Arthur S. Flemming • Zelma Watson George • *Richard Gosser • Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope • Martin Janis • James C. (Jesse) Owens • Sidney L. Pressey • Albert B. Sabin, M.D. • Louis B. Seltzer • Dr. Julius & Mrs. Helen Weil • Aaron M. Weisen

1978

I.W. Abel • John W. Bricker • B. Bernard Caplan, M.D. • John W. Galbreath • Wayne W. (Woody) Hayes • Frank J. Lausche • Rose L. Papier • Theodosia Sochasky • Ella P. Stewart • Lowell Thomas

1979

Paul E. Brown • Phyllis Diller • Gertrude W. Donahey • Joseph W. Fichter • Lillian Gish • Edwin C. Heinke • Sister M. Henrietta, C.S.A. • William O. Walker • Stella Walsh • Floyd E. Wenger

1980

James T. Flood • Sherman L. (Jack) Frost • Edward D. Kuekes • Edward C. Haaf • Dominick Labino • Helen G. McClelland • The Mills Brothers (Herbert, Harry, Donald) • Elijah Pierce • William Presser • Donald B. Robinson • David Rubinoff • Murtis H. Taylor-Mills

1981

Alfred A. Antenucci • Jessie Z. Bartlett • Anthony J. Celebrezze • Beulah Fawcett • Carl F. Graf • Walter E. Havighurst • Charles D. Hill • Charles Y. Lazarus • Larry W. Pelton • *(Russell) Games Slayter

1982

Walter E. Alston • *Clarence H. Borgelt • *John B. Conard • Helen W. Evans • Dorothy Fuldheim • Ruth Lyons • C. Stanley Mechem • Capt. H. Mowrey • Norman Vincent Peale • William A. Pepper • James A. Rhodes

MEMBERS

1983

Lucille Chenault • Avis W. Cullen • Ethel Straw Guthrie • David Leahy • *Irvin H. Ryan • James E. Saunders • Myrl H. Shoemaker • Sidney Spector • C. Umhau Wolf • Johann J. Zabka

1984

Ora McCain Barrett • Charles Blakeslee • Frank P. Celeste • Orland C. Duke • Catherine Gillie • David N. Myers • *Wesley (Branch) Rickey • Vernal G. Riffe, Sr. • Dorothy V. Ryan • Carl E. Smith

1985

Ronald Brown • Lucille & Fred Grumley • Howard L. Hofacre • Helen E. Landry • Charles W. Peckham • John G. Pfund • Ralph H. Romig • Helen H. Santmyer • Loretta Yoder

1986

Anna Bishop • Lois Filipic • Jack Halbeisen • Helen Hawley • Ruth Kane • David Lusk • Kenneth Miller • Durwood Neff • Erie Sauder

1987

Alma Cahill • Phil Chelnick • Ocie Hill • Alice Hoffman • *Edward Huber • Thaddeus Hurd • Melvin Miller • Edwardina Riggans • Robert Secrest • Georgina Silliman • Alice Weston

1988

Al Boffo • Frank Brockmeyer • Sister Ann Jeanne Chisholm • Lucile S. Costello • Lucille Dryden • G. Fred Graf • Kay Reidel • Mary Jo Stafford • Robert Thomas • Mamie L. Williams

1990

Mercedes Cotner • Raymond C. Drake, Jr. • Mable Hardeman Edwards • Eleanor Kahle • Jerome Kaplan, Ph.D. • Ilse Kershner • Albert A. Neideck • Bernice Cisco Williams

*Posthumous

design by Peter G. Tamburro

*The Ohio
Department of
Aging*

Richard F. Celeste, Governor
Carol D. Austin, Ph.D., Director
Ohio...the heart of it all!

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