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Aging IS Everybody's Business!

Honoring Our Heritage

June 18, 2002

Statehouse Atrium

*Elder
Caregiving
&
Ohio
Senior
Citizens
Hall of Fame*

Honoring Our Heritage

Recognition Ceremony

Welcome:

*Bob Taft, Governor
State of Ohio*

*Joan W. Lawrence, Director
Ohio Department of Aging*

*Judi Saurers, President
Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

Recognition of Elder Caregivers

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

June 18, 2002

Statehouse Atrium

Elder Caregiving

More than seven million Americans give unpaid help to older persons who live in the community and have at least one limitation on their activities of daily living. A growing number of older adults also care for adult sons and daughters with disabilities.

More than a million Ohio caregivers contribute more than a million hours of unpaid help to others, worth more than 8 billion dollars annually. If the work of caregivers were done by paid home care staff, its cost to America is estimated at \$45 - 94 billion per year.

Family members and other informal caregivers truly are the backbone of our long-term care system.

We recognize the value of their commitment and honor them for the work they do to make Ohio a better place for families.

2002 Honorees

*Donna Anderson
of Wooster*

*Dennis Brown
of Marietta*

*Helen McIntosh
of Marietta*

*Roger Millikin
of West Alexandria*

*Ethel Muthert
of Cincinnati*

*Marilyn Termeer
of Worthington*

*Michael Towarnicky
of Lakewood*

*Jackie Turner
of Toledo*

Elder Caregiving



Donna Anderson

provided full-time care for her Aunt Lucille McAnaney for three years prior to her aunt's death. She enabled her to remain at home and even involved her in outside interests to stimulate her.



Helen McIntosh

cares for her 64-year old husband, Everett, who was injured 19 years ago by a drunken driver, in addition to working full-time. She also raised a 19-year old son and handles all family business.



Dennis Brown

has been caring for his mother, 90-year old Maude Treherne for 10 years, helping with every facet of her daily living. He has rearranged his life to ensure her daily care at home.



Roger Millikin

has supported his 76-year-old wife, Evelyn, in every way possible since 1984. He includes her in decisions, takes her to church and shopping - all in spite of his own deteriorating health.

Elder Caregiving



Ethel Muthert

cared for her 77-year old husband, Charles, and her 98-year old mother, Rose West, at home and visited them twice daily when they moved into Maple Knoll Village.



Michael Towarnicky

lovingly provided total care for his mother, Mary, prior to her death in 2001. He cared for her in all ways at home and also took her out to enable her to be with others.



Marilyn Termeer

converted her home to be able to take care of her bed-ridden 95-year old father. She provides total care in spite of major health problems of her own.



Jackie Turner

cared for her aunt, Mary Irby, from October 1998 until her death in May 2001. She did so while raising her own family. "She cared for me, now I have to take care of her," was her mantra.

**Ohio
Senior Citizens
Hall of Fame**

This recognition honors outstanding older Ohioans for their achievements and contributions to others; for the role played by older men and women in their communities, state and nation; and to promote productive and enjoyable retirement years.

This year, 13 individuals join the distinguished ranks of the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. They were selected for contributions they have made for the benefit of humankind after age 60, or for a continuation of efforts begun before that age.

In addition to the award, each inductee receives a plaque with his or her portrait and a brief biography.

Since 1977, more than 250 older individuals have been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

2002 Inductees

Mildred Wirt Benson
of Toldeo (posthumous)

Frances Carr
of Columbus

Mary E. Cherry
of Columbus

Ralph Cobey
of Galion

Bob & Jewell Evans
of Gallipolis

Jerry Francis
of Upper Arlington

Fred Hirsimaki
of Findlay

Everett Hosack
of Chagrin Falls

Peggy Irwin
of Athens

Phil Rutan
of Fremont

Marie Schill, RN
of Crestline

Edith Wissman
of New Bremen

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



Frances Carr

As a volunteer at Holy Family Church Soup Kitchen and Pantry in Columbus for nearly 15 years, Frances Carr serves up a warm smile and compassion to everyone who comes through the doors.

Frances has boundless energy, a strong work ethic and devotion to helping others. She worked as a full-time volunteer at the kitchen for 12 years. In 1999, Frances was hired to manage the kitchen, and continues to work several hours a day beyond those for which she is compensated. She organizes volunteers, loads supplies for the kitchen, cooks, distributes food and clothing, serves hot meals and cleans and maintains the kitchen, pantry and dining area - all with a smile. Even when caring for her own parents and husband, Frances found time to serve the patrons at Holy Family.

Friends say, "Frances is four feet and a few inches of energy, kindness and generosity, rolled into a woman of faith, who is determined to bring a bit of God's love into often bleak lives. She loves well and is well loved."

Frances also makes time to volunteer at her own parish, St. Mary Church in Groveport. She is an inspiration to all who know her and a fine addition to the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



1905

2002

Mildred Wirt Benson

A pioneer in the field of journalism, Mildred Wirt Benson profoundly and positively impacted generations of women around the world.

Mildred published her first story in 1919, at just 14 years old. She went on to earn a degree from the University of Iowa and returned as the first woman at the college to earn a master's degree in journalism. She wrote the first 23 books of the *Nancy Drew Mysteries* series for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, as well as novels for the Ruth Fielding Series, Dana Girls Mysteries, Kay Tracey Mysteries, Doris Force and Honey Bunch. She has more than 130 novels to her credit.

She later worked as a newspaper reporter, and for many decades, as a reporter for the Toledo Blade, where she continued to write a monthly column until her recent passing.

Mildred was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1993; the University of Iowa honored her with its Distinguished Alumni Award and she was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. Earning her pilot's license in the 1960s and becoming an enthusiastic aviator, Mildred was a testament to the power of the human spirit.

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



Mary E. Cherry

Mary Cherry devotes her time to improving the lives of older Ohioans and children in need. For ten years, she served as Director of the musical group *Gospel Praise Ensemble*. Funds raised by the group went to the Eastern Union Bible College. The ensemble also provided music and special fruit packages to area nursing homes. Their gift of music was made sweeter with the donation of a piano to the Margaret Clark Oakfield Nursing Home.

A determined advocate for young people, Mary helps them succeed. She has represented troubled children in school and in juvenile court. Many have returned to school and graduated. In 1995, her program, *Success is Mine*, became the first after school tutoring program for the local NAACP and for the Trinity Baptist Church. Other organizations benefitting from Mary's skillful direction include: the Boy Scouts of America, Boys Own Youth Shelter, the Franklin County Juvenile Delinquency Task Force, Columbus Public Schools and the Rosemont School for Girls. Mary enhances her Columbus community and our state by improving the futures of youths through education. She leads by example, returning to school as a grandmother to earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's in Education Counseling. She teaches the importance of reaching out to others and lifting them up. Thank you, Mary.

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



Ralph Cobey

To define *Industrialist, Patriot, Veteran, Civic Leader, and Humanitarian* in only two words, say: *Ralph Cobey*, whose life is a string of singular achievements.

He was called to serve by five presidents and four Ohio governors at works ranging from representing Ohio at the Seattle World Fair to setting up Army Tank Production and Facilities before World War II. He gave Malabar Farm to the people of Ohio; presented an Honorary Law Degree to President Harry Truman and a model of the "Kitty Hawk" to Orville Wright. Active as a Boy Scout, Cobey received his Eagle Scout Award from the founder of the scouting movement, Lord Baden-Powell in 1926, holds virtually every merit badge a scout can earn, and received Bronze, Silver, and Gold Palms.

Ralph Cobey's life infuses every word of the scout's oath with meaning. It truly speaks the story of his life: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

Industrialist. Patriot. Veteran. Civic Leader. Humanitarian.
He has been superbly each.



Fred Hirsimaki

Church trustee, and volunteer coach for little league baseball. His service to others and success as a track and field competitor make him a model, par excellence, of successful aging.

Retiring after 31 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, he became a serious Masters Track and Field competitor competing against the world's best athletes in his age class. He won his newest Gold Medal in 2002 at the National Masters Indoor Decathlon and Heptathlon Championships after a ten-year record of winning gold, silver and bronze medals at venues ranging from Turku, Finland and Sheffield, England to Tacoma, Washington.

His drive and determination helped him set a new American record, at age 75 in the 2000 National Masters Decathlon and Heptathlon Championships, a world record in the 300 meter hurdles for age 60-64 at the 1986 Florida Masters and earned him seven Ohio Senior Olympic Finals' gold and a bronze medals, along with other awards.

Where successful aging is concerned, Fred Hirsimaki definitely leads the way!



Everett Hosack

Centenarian and world-class athlete Everett Hosack has more than 50 national and international track and field records under his belt and shows no signs of slowing down.

Everett was a winning hurdler his freshman year of college and competed in inter-railroad track meets from 1929 - 1930, but took a hiatus from competing until age 79 when he joined the *Over the Hill Track Club*.

Everett is far from "over the hill." He recently set three world records and one U.S. record at the 2002 National Indoor Championships in Boston for the 100 - 104 age category and has nearly 100 gold medals and awards. In April, Everett even beat his own world record for the 100-meter dash by four seconds at the Penn Relays. The swift footed athlete competes in 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, shot-put, discus, long jump, javelin and the weight throw both nationally and internationally.

When not exercising, Everett often encourages other residents at his retirement community to stay active. When asked how much longer he plans to run, Everett replies, "As long as I can." A role model for positive aging, his competitive spirit and determination are inspirations to all.



Marie L. Schill, RN

In 1923, a teacher asked her first-grade pupil what she wanted to be when she grew up. Nearly 80 years later, we are witness to her answer. Nurse Marie Schill achieved her goal and remains an active community leader.

Nursing captured her interest because "there was always something new and different." It also inspired a keen interest in helping others that started early in her career. Frustrated by having to refer local children to other cities for physical therapy, she served on the advisory board that urged creation of the Rehab Center of North Central Ohio.

Her 40-year career as registered Nurse included 28 as Crawford County Health Nurse working with schools and other immunization programs. Schill served countless families and crosses paths with former students wherever she goes. While serving young neighbors, she also served 25 years on the Advisory Council for the Crawford County Council on Aging and on other boards.

Energetic and active. Knowledgeable and compassionate. Caring and sensitive. Skilled, alert and enthusiastic. Marie Schill has more than made good on the promise of that first grader.



Edith Wissman

Daughter, mother, wife, friend, caregiver, educator, and volunteer. Edith Wissman fills all of these roles with the utmost love and devotion. A music, physical education and English teacher for 34 years and a substitute teacher for the past 17, Edith has had a profound impact on three generations of students. Many still visit and seek her guidance. She also taught Bible school for more than 43 years and was Choir Director for more than 19 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Bremen, where she is an active life-long member.

Busy and benevolent, Edith always makes time to lend a helping hand to those in need. She has volunteered at Joint Township District Memorial Hospital and the American Heart Association for more than 40 years, and is on the State Board of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. She often plays piano and entertains at local nursing homes. Edith has garnered many honors including: Auglaize County's *Outstanding Senior of the Year*, the *Unprecedented Performance Award* from the Mayor of New Bremen and the *Business Professional Woman of the Year*. A friend says, "Edith is a warm, happy individual who uplifts the spirits of those with whom she comes in contact. I am proud to call her my friend." And we are proud to induct Edith Wissman into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.