



*Towards a Society  
for All Ages*  
International Year of  
Older Persons 1999

Ohio Department of Aging  
50 W. Broad St., 9th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3363

Visit our website @  
[www.state.oh.us/age/](http://www.state.oh.us/age/)

"The department is committed  
to equal employment  
and nondiscrimination, regardless  
of race, color, religion, sex,  
national origin, disability, age  
or veteran status."



Bob Taft, Governor  
Joan W. Lawrence, Director

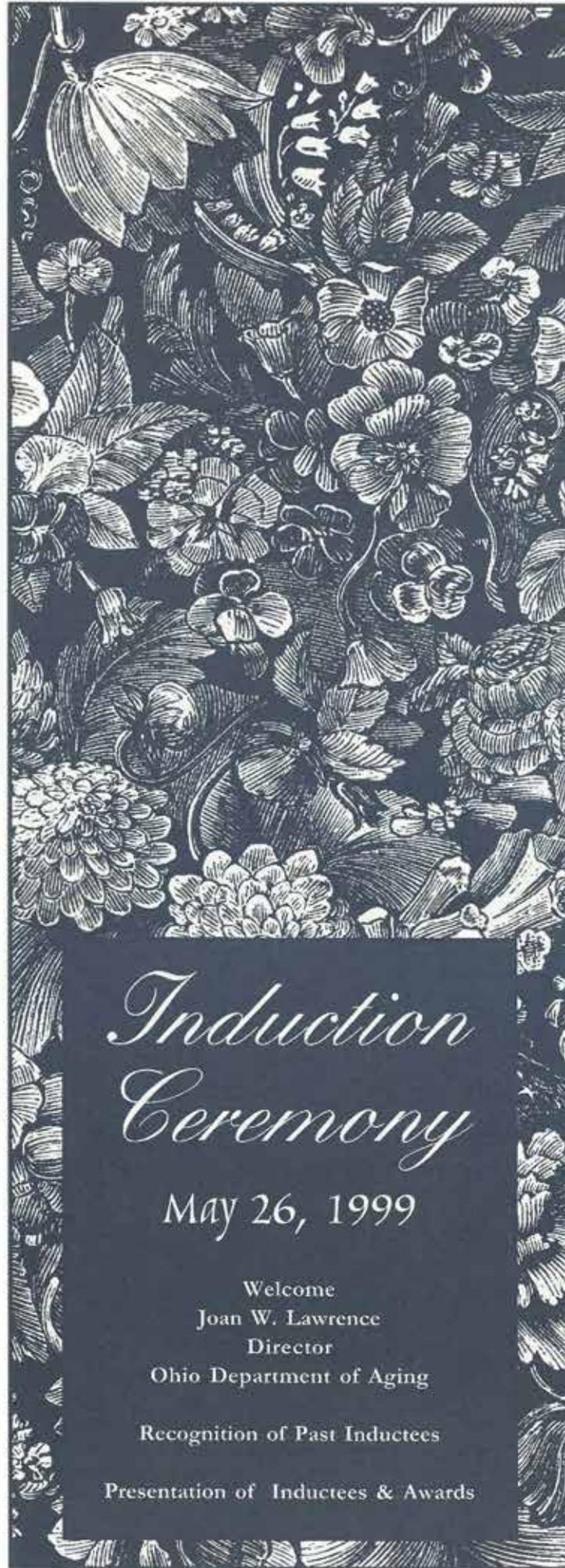
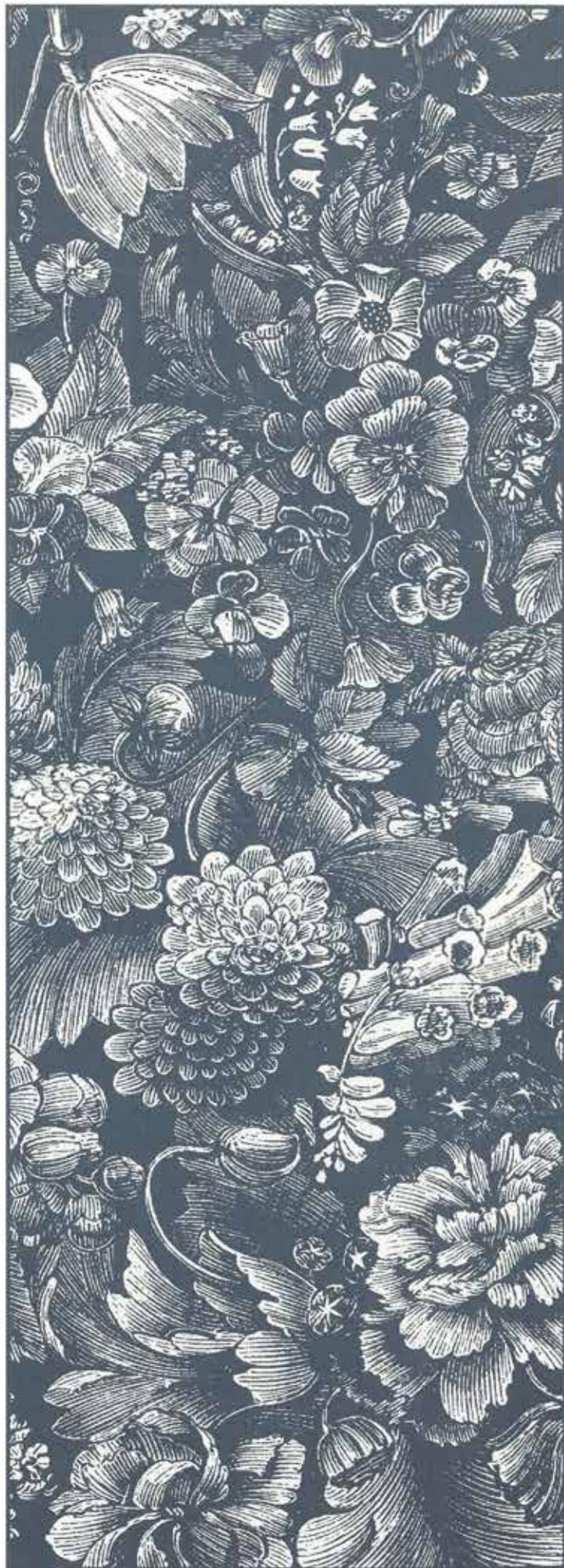
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*Ohio Senior Citizens*

# Hall of Fame

*Induction  
Ceremony*

May 26, 1999



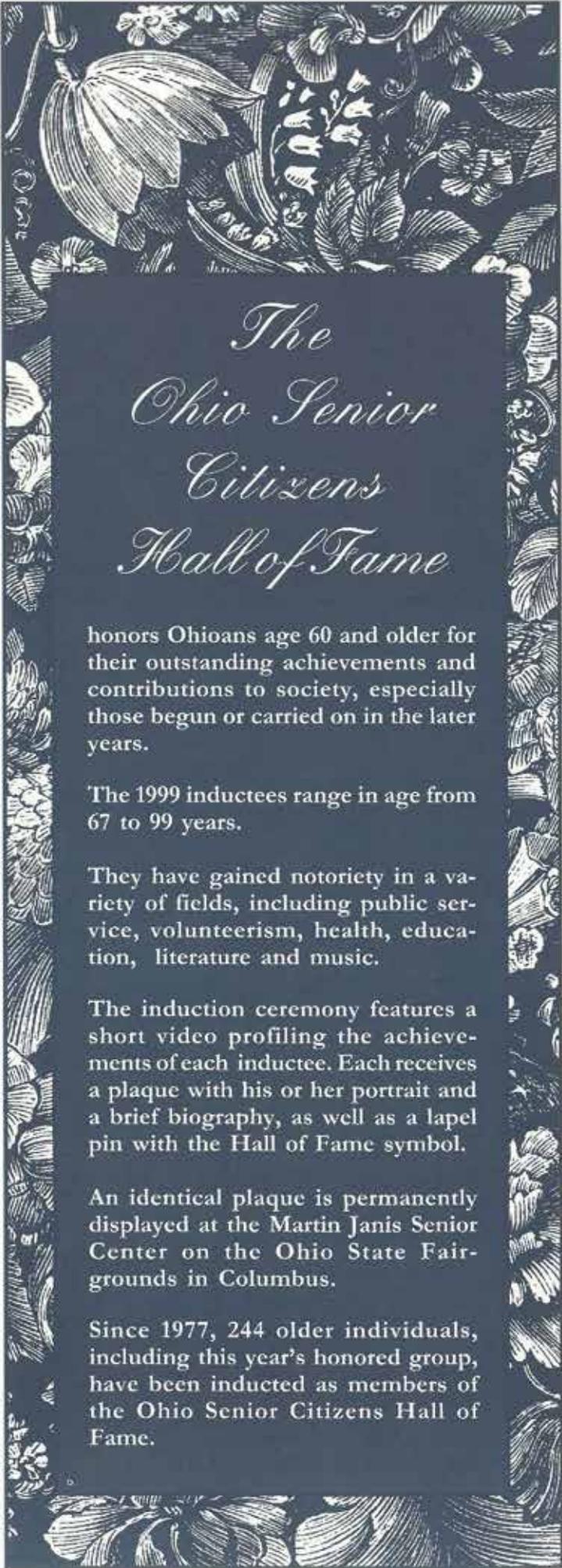
# *Induction Ceremony*

May 26, 1999

Welcome  
Joan W. Lawrence  
Director  
Ohio Department of Aging

Recognition of Past Inductees

Presentation of Inductees & Awards



*The  
Ohio Senior  
Citizens  
Hall of Fame*

honors Ohioans age 60 and older for their outstanding achievements and contributions to society, especially those begun or carried on in the later years.

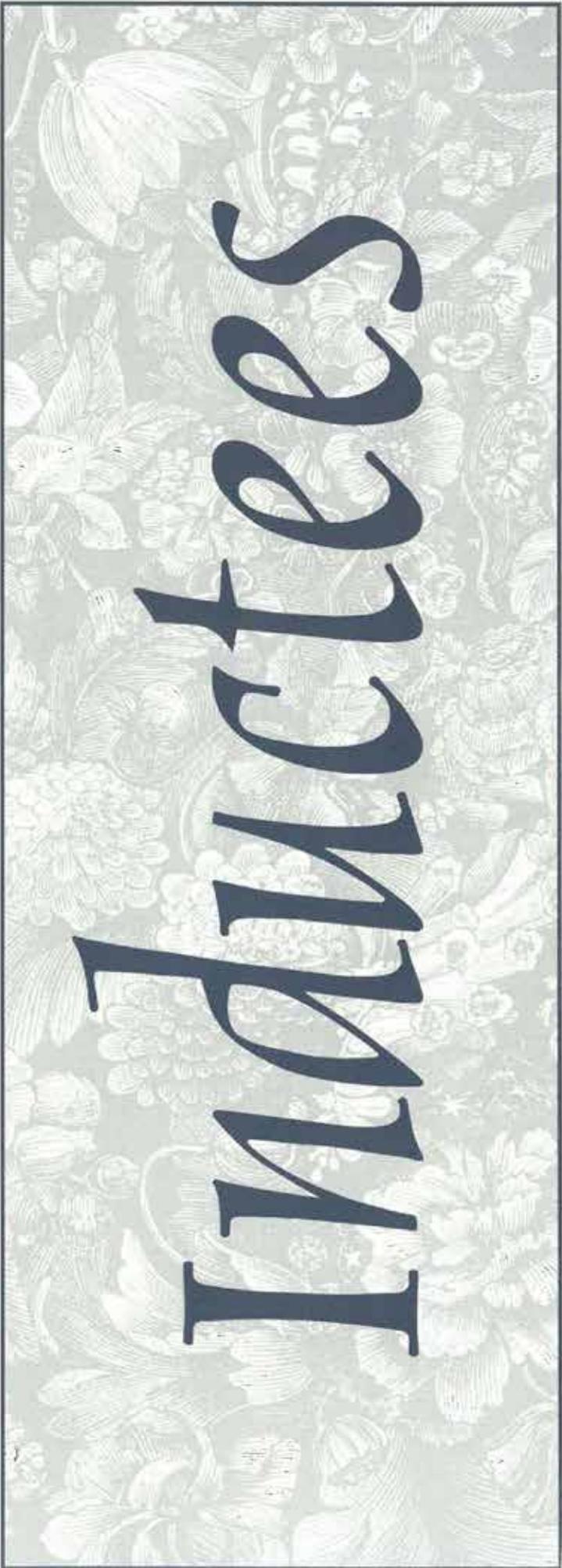
The 1999 inductees range in age from 67 to 99 years.

They have gained notoriety in a variety of fields, including public service, volunteerism, health, education, literature and music.

The induction ceremony features a short video profiling the achievements of each inductee. Each receives a plaque with his or her portrait and a brief biography, as well as a lapel pin with the Hall of Fame symbol.

An identical plaque is permanently displayed at the Martin Janis Senior Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus.

Since 1977, 244 older individuals, including this year's honored group, have been inducted as members of the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.



# INDUCTEES

1999

*"Honoring  
Our Heritage"*

Donald Becker of Centerville

Naomi Brown of Toldeo

Betty Collins\* of Hillsboro

Gloria Giannestras of Lebanon

Glenn E. Maddy of Helena

Ken Mahan of Columbus

Thomas E. McFadden\*  
of Columbus

William Rosell Rogers

of Columbus

William L. Simmons of Utica

Don A. Simpson of Medina

Dr. Richard & Helen Spitzer  
of Canton

\* Posthumous



Donald Becker

At a time in life when many start winding down, **Donald Becker** began winding up. Shortly after retiring as a manager from General Motors, Don became extremely active with Seniors Inc. of Centerville/Washington Township.

Recognizing that the group's existing senior center was not nearly big enough for the older population in the area, he worked with local government officials and led the way in procuring the much larger Hithergreen Senior Center in 1994.

Don has been a board member of Seniors Inc. since 1990, serving as president from 1991-'93 and then again from 1994-'98.

He is the only member in the 16-year history of the group to be asked to remain in the role of president more than two years.

His impact in that position can be seen not just in the new building that has vastly increased the center's space, but in the doubling of the group's membership, programs and participation over the past five years.

A great deal of what Don accomplished was in spite of his own serious health problems and the cancer that claimed his beloved wife of 43 years, Jennie. He had coronary bypass surgery in 1993 and again in 1997 after a heart attack.

After remarrying in 1997 to another senior center member, LaVerne, Don and his new wife alternately took care of each other as they each convalesced through serious illnesses.

The 71-year-old Centerville Samaritan has remained positive and steadfast through it all; and still very much on the go. He enjoys golfing, bowling and fishing and special events at the senior center, but he stays busiest with his favorite activity of all - looking out for others.



*Naomi Brown*

It's a long way from a plantation in the deep south to a Broadway stage, but **Naomi Brown** was raised to go the distance - and then some. The north Toledo resident started the journey as a sharecropper's child in Grenada, Miss., yearning to leave the land behind through the doors opened by education. As a child, however, those doors opened only just so wide, as she was needed to help with the crops several months during the school year. She earned her high school diploma through sheer persistence.

Moving to Ohio, Naomi put down the books but picked up more than a few life lessons in raising 11 children, including two sets of twins. In her spare time, she continued the writing she began as a youth, dreaming of someday returning to the classroom to refine her craft.

That dream came true almost 20 years ago, when the last of her children had grown. Naomi entered the University of Toledo part-time to study drama. The death of her husband in 1984 set her studies back, as did the death of a daughter in 1994 and her mother in 1993. Slowly but surely, though, she persevered. While currently an outreach worker for the Toledo Branch of the National Caucus on Aging, she's on schedule to receive her bachelor's degree in theater this year.

In the meantime, Naomi, age 70, has already achieved a remarkable degree of success. A play she wrote about her childhood days in Mississippi, "Ella Weed's Plantation," was performed by actors from the New York Dramatist's Guild on Broadway in 1997.

That play, and two others that she's written, "Black Angel" and "Soldier Man," have been produced at Toledo and Bowling Green State universities, the Toledo Art Museum and other northwestern Ohio venues. Thanks, Naomi, for showing us that dreams deferred are not dreams denied; and that, like people, they often grow finer with age.



*Betty Collins\**

Those doubting the deep and lasting difference an individual can make in the world around them need look no further than **Betty Collins** - and the thousands of people she touched over the years in her native Highland County.

After raising four children, she put just as much time and heart into her work as executive secretary for the Highland County Society for Children and Adults the past 20 years. In that position, Betty helped provide for the health needs of hundreds of Highland County residents who had nowhere else to turn. She threw herself into action with other civic concerns as well, including service on the board of the Greenfield Rehabilitation Center and as a community representative with the National Organization on Disability in Washington, D.C..

But the gifts the longtime Hillsboro resident is best known for are those that came most directly from her heart: the meals she cooked and delivered for the homebound; the kindness and conversation she brought to nursing home residents and hospital patients; the countless cards and encouraging words she sent to those down on their luck; the columns of personal reminiscences and homespun humor she wrote for a local magazine.

All this while her own ailments, including strokes, lupus and arthritis, left her using a walker or wheelchair to get around. She let neither begin to get in the way of her helping others. It was a habit cultivated early in life for the University of Cincinnati education graduate. Betty taught grade school and led her children's 4-H, Brownie and Girl Scout groups, excelling in crafts and cooking - and just making people feel good about themselves. Until her passing at age 73, Betty kept on getting better at it, making an art form out of kindness and caring, individualizing each piece with her everlasting smile.



## Gloria Giannestras

**Gloria Giannestras**, an adventurous traveler, leader and relentless volunteer for older Ohioans, has devoted much of her energy and talents to her community for nearly 50 years. Volunteering for the University of Cincinnati Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) for the past ten years, she has been instrumental in keeping the center thriving by preparing, coordinating and publicizing classes. Thanks to Gloria's dedication and perseverance, the ILR has seen tremendous growth in seminars and senior participants. Her art as an altruist is complemented by her enterprising spirit and willingness to go the extra mile. In between making a 70 mile round-trip to the ILR four days each week, the former travel agent also shares her "free time" and talents with others by organizing and leading tours to France, Greece and the Caribbean.

For over 37 years, Gloria, age 73, has lent herself to the Center for Hope, serving troubled youth in a specialized residential treatment program, and currently serves as vice president of the center. The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Hospice of Cincinnati, Office of Geriatric Medicine, the Vestry of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Lebanon, Lebanon Area Habitat for Humanity and the Cincinnati Medical School have all been touched by Gloria's capable hands and valuable insight. Her vast and varied civic contributions have not gone unnoticed. She was honored as the *Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year* for 1995; the ILR awarded her its First Leadership Service Award in 1990; and the College Conservatory awarded her its Alumni Service Award in 1990.

Friends and colleagues say: "Gloria Giannestras is one terrific lady - dedicated, selfless and fun. As a leader and volunteer, she has made a significant difference in so many aspects of life in Cincinnati, and we are truly grateful for her innumerable acts of kindness and generosity."



## Glenn E. Maddy

A natural leader and teacher, **Glenn Maddy** has used his expertise in agriculture and rural development to improve the lives of people across the world. Throughout his career and while donating his time to Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance and Citizens Network in Foreign Affairs, he has worked in ten countries and traveled in 48.

Glenn's heroic participation during World War II earned him the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. As an infantryman at the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured and held prisoner for over three months. This trying experience guided him to choose a vocation in service to others - and he has done it well.

While working in Nepal, he assisted a missionary in developing scholarships for the impoverished. Since 1976, Glenn and his wife, Evelyn, have raised over \$300,000 to pay for students to attend a boarding school. Closer to home, he has given statewide leadership in the production and marketing of vegetables. He has provided guidance to Hispanic migrant workers in improving their housing and income situation in Sandusky County.

Glenn, age 73, shares his vast knowledge with schools, senior citizens groups, service clubs and churches in his community. He has taught classes at Elder College at Terra Community College, Lourdes College, and is Associate Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University. Glenn has participated in many organizations including: Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, American Legion, Ex-Prisoners of War, Lions Club, Gibsonburg School Board, as well as serving as a Sunday school teacher at his church for thirty years.

Among many other honors, Glenn has received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Glenn is a faithful friend to his community, his country and the world.



## Kenneth M. Mahan

Nobody has put in more time overseeing statewide aging services in Ohio than **Ken Mahan**. And nobody has enjoyed it more.



The U.S. Marine Corps veteran got his formal start in the field of aging at the same time Ohio did, in 1966, when the Ohio Administration on Aging was created subsequent to passage of the Older Americans Act the previous year.



A business graduate of The Ohio State University, Ken served the administration as its first assistant director. He blossomed along with the administration as it grew into a commission in 1973 and became the Ohio Department of Aging in 1983.



"I can honestly say that I enjoyed every minute of my work," Ken says of his 29-years of service to older Ohioans. "I was working *with* great people *for* great people." Those feelings are quite mutual. Ken, who served as ODA's acting director at six different intervals, was everybody's friend at the department, the 12 area agencies on aging and at senior centers throughout the state.



And when it came to getting the job done, the 69-year-old Columbus native was as much business as he was pleasure. Early in his career, Ken helped expand multipurpose senior centers into virtually every county of the state, personally supervising the construction of the Martin Janis Senior Center in Columbus. In 1976, he helped launch the Golden Buckeye Card, the first and largest senior discount program of its kind in this country. Through the '80s and mid-90's, Ken was instrumental in expanding home-services for seniors across the state.



A 32nd-degree Mason, he has complemented his work on behalf of the elderly with his volunteer efforts for children through the Aladdin Temple Shrine. Truly a man for all ages, Ken is a most welcome and deserving addition to the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.



## Thomas E. McFadden\*

**Thomas E. "Mickey" McFadden** was known for his large heart and generous spirit. The humanitarian and former Columbus Firefighter not only put his life on the line each day in his duties to protect his fellow citizens, but gave even more of himself to benefit needy school children within his community through the Charity Newsies organization.



For more than 45 years, Mickey served the Charity Newsies in a number of different capacities, including holding the positions of president in 1966 and headquarters manager from 1983 to 1998. In these roles, Mickey's dedication and strong work ethic had a positive impact on everyone he met. He was known for his youthful outlook, resilient spirit and a quick wit that brought smiles to the faces of those around him.



Some of the many boards and organizations benefiting from Mickey's years of service include: the Fire Fighters VFW, the Agonis Club, Aladdin Shrine Temple, the Number 11 Moose Lodge, the Columbus Maennerchor, Optimist Club and the Home Plate Club.



He was honored with the Exemplary Fire Fighter Award in 1965, "Mr. Charity Newsies" in 1995, the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in 1983, and received a Citation of Recognition from the Mayor of Columbus in 1997.



Mickey left behind a legacy of love and "fatherly" compassion to his family, friends, neighbors and the Columbus community through his lifetime of dedicated service to others. He is a shining example of positive aging, and we are most pleased and honored to induct him into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.



## William Rosell Rogers

After 99 years, **William Rosell Rogers** has some tales to tell - bluesy ballads of hard times, hard travelin' and hard luck.

His story goes back to the year 1900, when he was orphaned at birth and spent the first six years of his life at the Franklin County Children's Home. It continues across America on board the Illinois Central, Union Pacific, Lackawana and the Great Northern, where he rode the rails, hobnobbed and hoboed through his younger years and the Depression.

Involuntarily - and, by most accounts, unnecessarily - Willie was institutionalized in a mental-health facility from the late 1930s to the early-1980s. At that time, Willie's talk of his travels, funneled through his baritone, caught the ear of activities therapist Jerry Felty. Soon Jerry's guitar was accompanying Willie's words in performances around central Ohio, and the praises of his voice spread quickly.

Since then, Willie's a cappella version of the national anthem has been the opening hit of several developmental disabilities' conferences and community celebrations. His heartfelt delivery frequently moves listeners to tears.

Active through most of this decade with the Goodwill Rehabilitation Center's *Senior Additional Growth Experience* (SAGE) program, Willie and his songs of the rails and the road have been a highlight of the organization's promotional films. In 1991, Willie released "Music and Musings - Inside Out With Willie Rogers."

The recording features songs and stories sung and told by Willie, a man approaching the next century looking back over his life and times in this one. There may be sorrow in his voice, but the smile has always hung tough in the eyes that fortune took so long to favor. Thanks, Willie.



## William L. Simmons

A friend for all ages, sixty-seven-year-old **Bill Simmons** has dedicated his life to improving the lives of the people around him. A retired teacher and principal, Bill has spent 30 years guiding youth and instilling in them the determination to succeed. He now utilizes that same determination and work ethic on behalf of his community's older population.

Under Bill's tenure on the Licking County Aging Program's Board of Directors, the program has built three new senior housing projects, added four dining sites and more than doubled its homecare staff. Bill has been instrumental in gaining support for levies to increase funding for programs and services for seniors in his community. He has personally delivered meals to seniors each week for the past 12 years. Bill is known by his colleagues as a worker who will take on any challenge and is not afraid to give of himself. He keeps his goals in focus and uses his talents to mastermind plans that will improve the community and its citizens.

Over the years, Bill has volunteered for over 12 different organizations, including: serving as director of the Utica Library, as a member of the North Fork Board of Education, the Utica American Legion, Utica United Methodist Church, Utica Sertoma, The Ohio State University Alumni Association, the Utica Historical Association (where he now serves as treasurer), Masonic Lodge, and the Licking County Retired Teachers Association.

Bill has received the Lynn Rodeniser Memorial Award for Community Service, the Sertoma International Centurion Award and the Licking County Shrine Outstanding Service Award.

There is no stronger voice for seniors in Utica than Bill. His persistence and dedication are an inspiration to all.



## Don A. Simpson

**Don Simpson** is a friend and advocate for some of Medina's most vulnerable citizens. Don recognized a need to identify and secure support for older adult programs and services. Through determination and a desire to improve the lives of Medina County's older citizens, he created a nonprofit organization, the *Hands Across Medina County Foundation*, and published *Helping Hands*, a newspaper for seniors.



Now, in its fifth year of operation, the foundation has served 75 families through the Hope Respite Program, which provides low cost monthly respite to caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease. The civic stalwart also developed the *Senior Wishes Program* to provide monetary support for older adults who have a special need or wish. Before monies were donated to the foundation, Don took it upon himself to find financial support for these programs and wrote his own checks to keep the foundation going. Although he didn't have any experience with nonprofit organizations or newspaper publishing, Don's work has "paid off." His newspaper reaches over 15,000 older adults, service providers and community members in Medina County, and in just six months the *Senior Wishes Program* has approved several grants including two grant requests to build handicap ramps at private residences.



Don has also delivered meals to seniors for Meals on Wheels for the past 15 years, has been a volunteer math and GED exam tutor at Medina County Adult Basic Learning & Education, and has worked on fund-raising campaigns for the American Cancer Society. Don was recognized as the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging's 1998 Senior Volunteer of the Year. At 69, Don's activities and enthusiasm seem endless. Friends say his energy, genuine concern and commitment are contagious. His work has made a real difference in his community and state.



## Dr. Richard & Helen Spitzer

**Richard and Helen Spitzer** have a lifelong history of helping others. Richard worked as a physician with a focus on gerontology for over 40 years and currently works in the field of industrial medicine at Montgomery Safety Products. The World War II veteran is a faithful friend to those in need and always lifts their spirits with his kind heart and sympathetic ear. He is a past president of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the American Heart Association, and he has taught classes in German at the local Junior High School while also tutoring students privately. Richard has been a senior Olympics participant as well as the chairperson for the Medical Committee for the 1992 Senior Olympics.



Like Richard, Helen has an aptitude for service. The retired nurse is a past president of the Stark County Council on Aging and the Stark County Medical Auxiliary. Helen initiated and now co-chairs the Tender Loving Care Center of Urban Ark, a food and clothing distribution center for the needy. She also serves on the board of trustees for Area Agency on Aging 10B. Helen has been active in the Symphony League, and the United Way and United Arts Fund Drives. Always striving to help seniors, Helen plays a vital role in Stark County Senior Day, honoring 1500 seniors each May. She assisted in the inception of the annual Golden Wedding Anniversary dinner to honor couples married for 50 years or more.



The tireless two have both worked on senior Olympics activities and numerous church organizations and committees. They have hosted an annual Senior Citizens Picnic at their home for the past 20 years.



Among other honors, Helen and Richard received the Distinguished Ministry Award from Trinity Lutheran Church and were inducted into the Area Agency on Aging 10B Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1990. Richard and Helen are inspiring role models for all ages.

# MEMBERS

## Charter

Muriel M. Allen Bertsch  
Erbest J. Bohn\*  
Anna V. Brown  
Milton Caniff  
W. Fred Cottrell  
Nelson H. Cruishank  
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. Barlett  
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. Conrad\*  
Helen W. Evans  
Dorothy Fuldheim  
Ruth Lyons  
C. Stanley Mechem  
Capt. H. Mowrey  
Norman Vincent Peale  
William A. Pepper  
James A. Rhodes

## 1983

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

\*Posthumous

## 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 Hoffiman  
Edward Huber\*  
Thaddeus Hurd  
Melvin Miller  
Edwardina Riggans  
Robert Secrest  
Georgia 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

## 1991

James T. Foley  
Rev. Kay M. Glaesner  
Marie Haug, Ph.D.  
Ruby Long  
Vance B. O'Donnell  
Mildred M. Seltzer, Ph.D.  
Vernon Rodney  
Young, Sr.

## 1992

Thomas E. Hairston  
Clem Hamilton  
Harold W. Kohn  
Martha McCrary  
Vera Saunders  
Morrie Sayre  
Rev. Wray C. Smith  
Josephine B. Voinovich  
Furl P. Williams  
Judge Warren C. Young  
Helen W. Zelkowitz

## 1993

Tilmon Adamson  
Don Barrett  
Evelyn Darnovsky  
Bonder  
Joseph E. Cattarin  
Jimmy Crum  
Dorothy F. Davis  
Bob Feller  
Roberta M. Graham\*  
Philip C. Johnson  
Zenobia Perry  
George R. Smith

## 1994

George Adcox  
Morris Becker  
Byron Winfield Brown  
Mary Callow  
Paul M. (P.M.) Gillmor  
Dr. Helen I. Glueck  
Kathryn Hagler  
Deseree Mitchell Liddell  
Grace E. Maratta  
Lois Nelson  
Eldon H. Phillips  
Audrey A. Rowan  
Frances Saunders  
James S. Savage  
John J. Schiff

## 1995

Josephine Bruns  
Thomas C. Eakin  
Helen Fero  
George James\*  
Austin Eldon Knowlton  
James Lee Middleton  
Corwin Nixon  
Ervin J. Nutter  
Mary Jane Cooper  
O'Brien  
Betty B. Pitzer  
Rachel Ann Trent Rayford

## 1996

Abraham Brickner  
Helen Spotts Brown  
Virgil E. Brown  
Michael J. Lacivita  
Katherine LeVeque  
Aaron Levine  
Martha Whelan Murphy

Jewel L. Rollen  
Harold E. Sawyer  
John P. Stozich

## 1997

Doris Blackston  
Elsie Calamese  
William S. Derry  
Orville R. Ferguson Sr.  
Dr. Willard B. Fernald  
Edward J. Groening  
Elsie Helsel, Ph.D.  
Margaret Hunt  
Cecil A. Maxwell  
Carl H. Swick  
John B. Williams

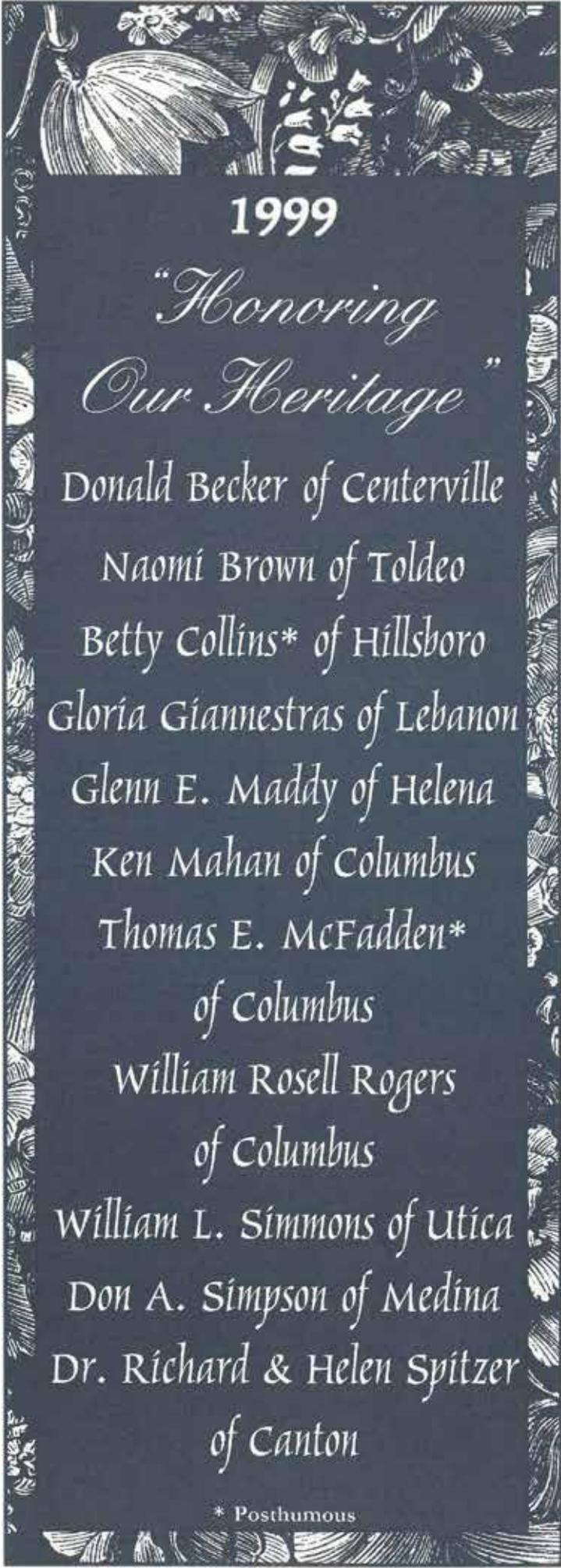
## 1998

Sister Mary Humbert  
Davis  
Lowell Dock  
William Henry Fouse\*  
Mary Carter Glascor  
Senator John Glenn  
Luella Glick  
Betty Hartley, Ed.D.  
Virginia Kress  
Nancy Fitori Kubina  
Belle Likover  
Dennis & Betty Morris  
Blanche Motts  
Frank Angelo Nappi\*  
Betty Nein  
Pauline Radebaugh  
Nelson Schwab Jr.

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