

Ohio...The Heart Of It All

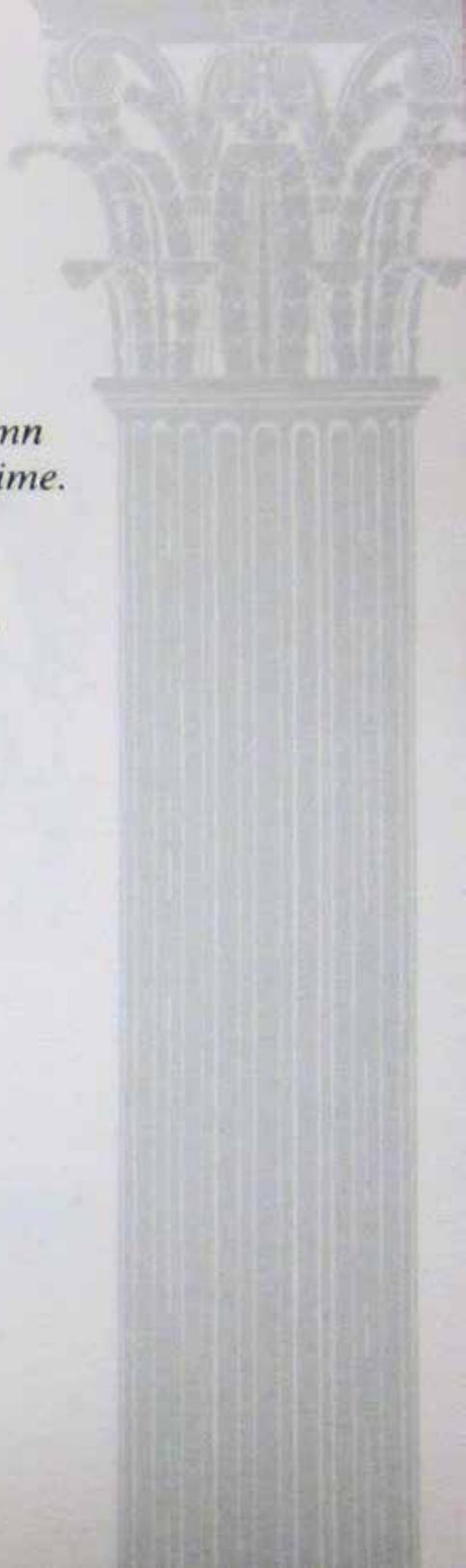
The Ohio Department of Aging
50 West Broad Street/9th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Richard F. Celeste
Governor

Joyce F. Chapple
Director



HALL
OF
FAME



*“Age, like the marble column
Withstands the tests of time.
Its lines not so deep,
And surface not so fair,
But its beauty is still there.
It will stand strong,
As it always has,
And endure the changes
Of the years.”*

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Ohio's first programs for senior citizens began in 1965 with the creation of the Administration on Aging as a division of the then Department of Mental Hygiene and Corrections. From these initial programs, the 110th General Assembly saw the need to establish a separate government unit to serve Ohio's older citizens, and the Ohio Commission on Aging was established in November 1973. The commission was elevated to Cabinet status in July 1984, when it officially became the Ohio Department of Aging. As the state agency for the 1.7 million Ohioans age 60 and over, the ODA is charged with: allocating grants under the federal Older Americans Act and state subsidies; providing technical assistance; serving as a clearinghouse for information on Ohio's older people; developing and coordinating statewide services, and activities such as the Golden Buckeye Card discount program, Governor's Conference on Aging, Senior Citizens Day, Hall of Fame and State Fair Programs; representing Ohio's older population as an advocate; coordinating with other federal and state agencies operating aging programs; and providing services at Ohio's two Golden Age Villages.

Joyce F. Chapple is the director of the Ohio Department of Aging.

HISTORY

The Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame was established to fulfill a two-fold purpose: to emphasize the vital role played by men and women, 60 years of age and older, 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 10 individuals join the distinguished ranks of the 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 of those enshrined receives a plaque with their portrait and a brief biography, and a lapel pin engraved with the Hall of Fame symbol. An identical plaque is on permanent display in the Hall of Fame Foyer in the Martin 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 West Broad Street/9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, by July 1 of each year. Induction ceremonies are held annually in the fall.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

I am once again honored to have the opportunity to recognize 10 of Ohio's finest citizens. These senior citizens, a part of the fastest growing element of our population, should take great pride in themselves not only for being inducted into this eighth Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, but also because of the everlasting impressions they have made on our society and its people.

Though their interests include a variety of subjects ranging from politics to sports, these extraordinary men and women have all personified dedication through their community service and continued caring for others, sometimes while enduring hardships themselves. As we recognize their outstanding accomplishments, we should be inspired to work a little harder to reach our full potentials by following their examples.

I believe that it is their altruistic contributions to our cultural and spiritual community that prove time and again that our senior citizens are indeed "our greatest natural resource."

These people are one more reason I am thankful and proud to be an Ohioan!

Richard F. Celeste

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this auspicious occasion honoring outstanding individuals. Today, 10 of Ohio's finest men and women will be inducted into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. These inductees join the distinguished ranks of Ohioans honored—for their contributions, vitality and accomplishments.

Each inductee brings with them a history of dedicated service to their community and to this great state. They possess unique qualities and come from diverse backgrounds, yet they are bound together by a common element—service to mankind.

These 1984 inductees are shining examples of the best to be found in each of us. As we share this special day with them and their families, let us each renew our own personal commitment to serving others in our own unique ways.

Joyce F. Chapple

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Joyce F. Chapple, Director
Ohio Department of Aging

INVOCATION

Stacy A. Evans, Pastor
Broad Street United Methodist Church, Columbus

REMARKS

Governor Richard F. Celeste

INDUCTIONS

Joyce F. Chapple

INDUCTEES





ORA M. BARRETT

For more than fifty years, Ora McCain Barrett has served her fellow citizens of Mahoning County.

Through her concern for the well-being of young people, her involvement in health care and family support groups, and her leadership in establishing neighborhood associations and community groups, she has brought light into the lives of people in every walk and stage of life.

Perhaps a key to this warm and gracious woman's generous lifestyle lies in her love of learning new things and her multitude of interests. Her talents are as varied as the people she has served. She has taught craft classes of every kind; led physical fitness courses; directed city sports tournaments; and volunteered her time for an endless list of service organizations. She has constantly sought to expand her knowledge and expertise by attending continuing education classes and training sessions of all kinds.

For her decades of service and myriad accomplishments, she has been recognized by countless organizations who recognized the special talents found in this caring person.

It would be difficult to find someone in Mahoning County who has not been touched in some way during Ora McCain Barrett's many years of selfless service to others. She is truly a great humanitarian.



CHARLES BLAKESLEE

Preserving the past, protecting today's resources and building for the future are goals that have guided the lifelong work of Charles Emmons Blakeslee.

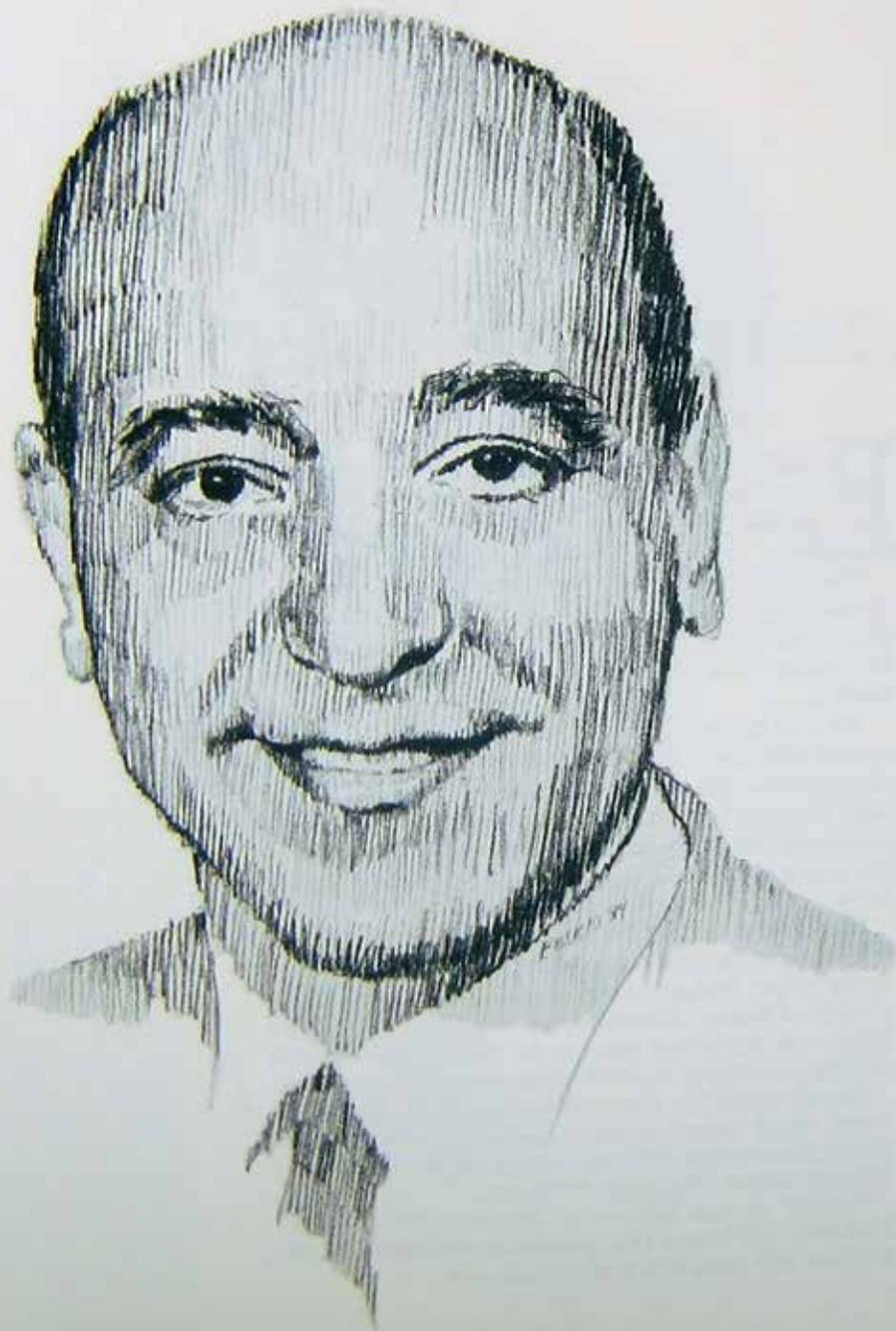
For 34 years, Charles Blakeslee offered guidance to countless Ohio farm families as an agricultural extension agent and a university specialist, sharing his knowledge and love of the land with tomorrow's leaders.

An avid historian, he revitalized the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums and united members in a renewed effort to safeguard and develop Ohio history. In his own community, his dedication to preserving the heritage of Meigs County is reflected in the pages of both a community and family history book.

His interest in the past has never diminished his enthusiasm for the future, however, and as executive director of the Meigs County Regional Planning Commission, Charles Blakeslee has worked tirelessly to bring new economic growth to the area, while also serving as a leader of many other community projects.

An advocate for older Ohioans as well, he has devoted many hours to state and local organizations which serve senior citizens and to the Meigs County Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Thanks to the efforts of Ohioans like Charles Blakeslee, the legacy this generation will leave for tomorrow will be a rich and lasting one.



FRANK P. CELESTE

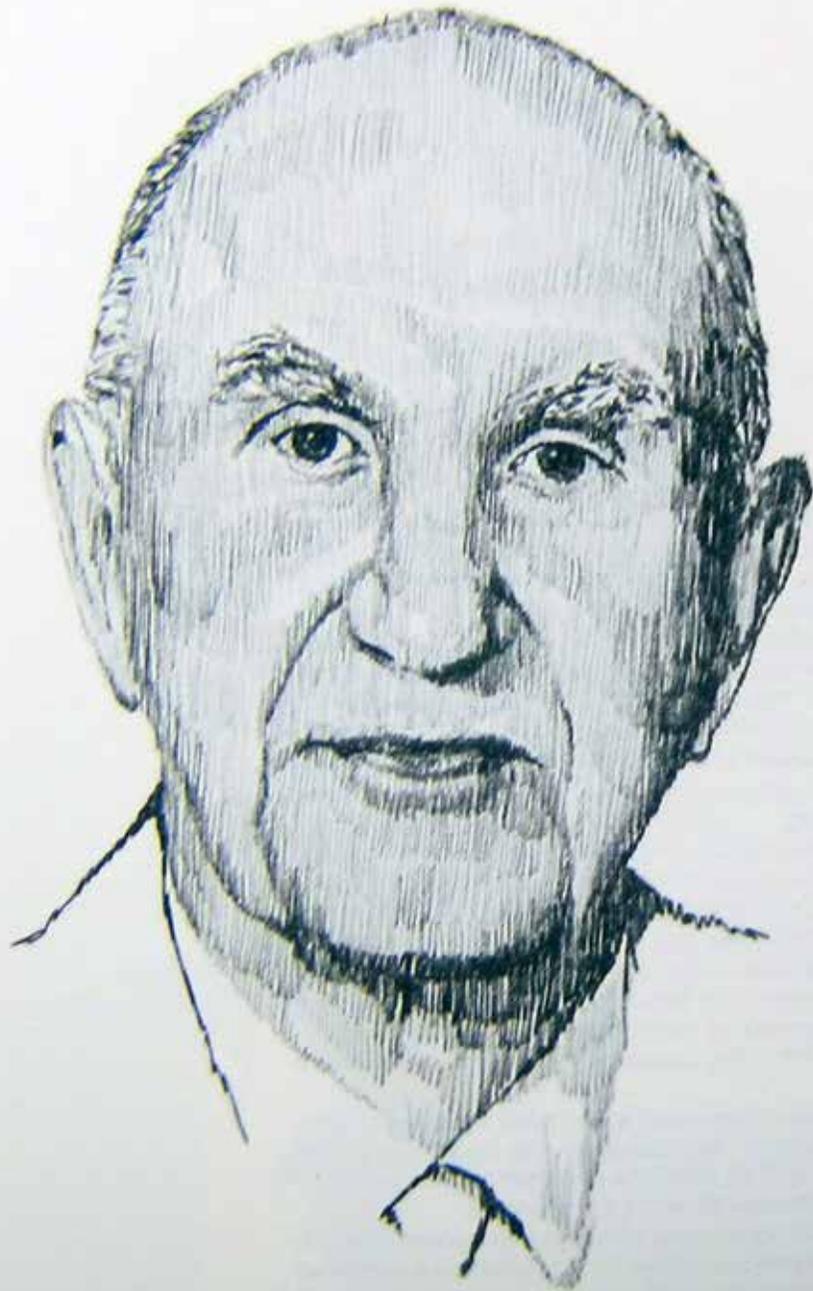
Frank Celeste exemplifies the true spirit of the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame—a man who has continued to build on the achievements of his earlier years, but with the wisdom, experience and insight only maturity can bring.

Throughout his lifetime, Frank Celeste has faced each new challenge with vigor and enthusiasm. As an attorney, mayor of his community of Lakewood, church and civic leader, businessman and family man, he has tackled each role with his unique blend of talents and personality and found in each a special fulfillment.

A pioneer in the field of housing, he was a member of the first President's Advisory Committee on Housing for the Elderly, a group which led the way in introducing legislation and early housing programs. Adequate and affordable health care has been another ongoing concern for Frank Celeste, and he has been an active member of many hospital boards and a chairman of the Ohio Governor's Task Force on Health Care.

At a time when many would think about retirement, Frank Celeste has continued his leadership in the housing field as president and chairman of the board of the National Housing Corporation.

A rare combination of energy, enthusiasm and personal magnetism, Frank Celeste is indeed a symbol of Ohio's finest older citizens and an inspiration to all who would follow in his footsteps.



ORLAND C. DUKE

A leading expert and the "grand old man of agriculture," Orland C. Duke has been friend, educator and advisor to the residents of Medina County for more than 50 years.

One of three agricultural instructors at Medina High School, he was the only vocational agricultural instructor in the county, teaching both students and adults. During his forty-plus years as an educator, he has been responsible for many improvements in agricultural methods.

His concern for both agricultural and non-agricultural matters involved him in many civic organizations, among them the Medina County Farm Bureau, the Isaac Walton League, the Cleveland Farmers Club, and the Medina County Kiwanis Club. The Medina Uptown Park Board and the county park system have recognized him for first building and then maintaining the city square and surrounding area.

The recipient of many 4-H and Future Farmers of America awards, Orland Duke was also presented the Robert Drake Award by the **Cleveland Plain Dealer**, Milk Producers Federation and Cleveland Farmers Club; the 1981 Ohio State University Alumni Citizenship Award; and the 1983 Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame Award.

Orland Duke was chiefly responsible for the building of the county's joint vocational center and the agricultural center at the school was named in his honor.

His wisdom, caring and leadership have inspired all who know him.



CATHERINE GILLIE

The ability to look on the bright side and an eagerness to help others have involved Catherine Gillie in a lifetime of serving her community.

As a registered nurse, her early career interests centered on health care. After raising her family, Catherine Gillie returned to work as an academic counselor at Ohio State University in Columbus.

Various volunteer interests often led her in new directions. First as a volunteer and later as a member of the Council of Social Agencies, she helped plan the McDowell Senior Citizens Center. Because of her assistance with other centers in the city, she was soon named director of McDowell Center.

In 1971, she became supervisor of six senior citizen centers under the direction of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, where she initiated many new programs for older persons, earning her the Muriel Bertsch Award in recognition of her contributions with this group.

In addition to working with many service clubs and organizations, Catherine Gillie was named the first woman president of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission.

Her willingness to go that extra mile has improved the lives of many older Ohioans.



DAVID N. MYERS

Deeply committed to helping mankind, David N. Myers has given years of personal service as well as philanthropic contributions to society.

Due to his efforts, the Menorah Park Jewish Home for the Aged is recognized as one of the finest facilities in the nation. This earned him the affectionate title of "Mr. Menorah" in the Cleveland area. He also spurred the community into financing and constructing an apartment building for frail, older persons who are able to remain independent with some assistance.

Whether serving as president of the Greater Cleveland Jewish Community Federation, treasurer of the Bureau of Jewish Education, as a founder of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University, or chairman of the Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging, David Myers has contributed much to each cause.

Among his many awards and commendations, he has been recognized both nationally and internationally for his humanitarian deeds. These honors include: the Charles Eisenman Award, the most distinguished award presented in the Jewish community; honorary lifetime membership on the board of directors of the American Red Cross; the Distinguished Service Award from United Appeal; and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award.

David Myers will long be remembered for his dedication and service to persons of all ages, races and creeds.



BRANCH RICKEY

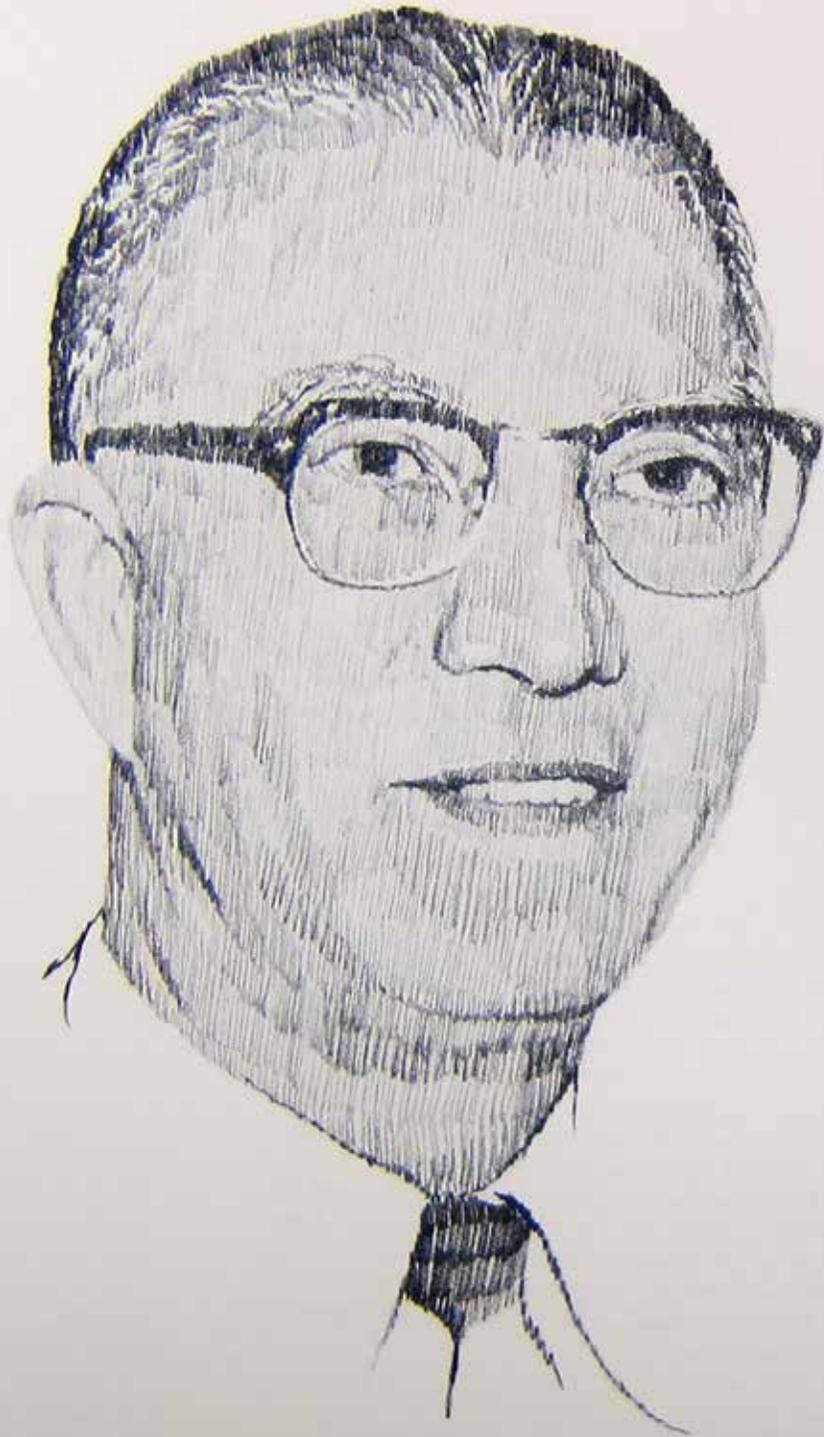
The stories of Wesley Branch Rickey and his colorful career in American baseball are those from which legends are woven.

Raised on a farm in Stockdale, Ohio, Branch Rickey learned early the value of hard work and spiritual fortitude. Though his parents had little formal education, they instilled in their son a lifelong love of learning and a desire to follow his dreams, but always with Christ's teachings to guide his path.

Branch Rickey's great faith became a part of his legend. His refusal to participate in professional sports on Sundays, even sacrificing a chance to play in the Major Leagues because of his beliefs, was just one example of his unwavering convictions.

Perhaps a key to his success as a baseball coach, manager and executive was his ability to instill in his players the three qualities he believed essential to success: a belief that one is doing something worthwhile; a consuming desire to be great; and the ability to master the little skills that go with excellence.

Many of his innovations in baseball, such as the farm club system, are now standard practice. Most significant among his contributions, however, was his paving the way for Jackie Robinson to become the first black player in the Major Leagues. Later Robinson would describe Branch Rickey as "a friend, a deep well of strength, a take-charge man who would be with me all the way"...a simple yet fitting tribute to an exceptional man.



VERNAL G. RIFFE, SR.

Fondly referred to as the dean of Ohio mayors, Vernal G. Riffe, Sr. dedicated much time and effort to the community he served for 34 years.

With an inborn desire to help others, Vernal Riffe embarked upon his public service career as a police officer in New Boston. Three years later, he became the city's safety and service director, a position he held for the next eight years.

Mr. Riffe was first elected mayor of New Boston in 1947, and was reelected to 11 consecutive terms. Only his retirement at age 70 prevented him from serving another term.

As mayor, he was responsible for the development of the Cliffside Apartments for senior citizens and the New Boston Community Center, used primarily by senior citizen clubs and organizations. In addition to his other duties, he found time to serve as honorary chairman of the 1962 Freedom Bond Drive and he remains an honorary member of the Order of Kentucky Colonels.

After stepping down from the mayor's post, Vernal Riffe continued to serve as the city's leading advocate for improved and increased city services, especially for the older population. He was also the chief coordinator for the over-60 absentee voting program in the city.

Both as mayor and as a private citizen, Vernal Riffe has worked long and hard for the good of the public.



DOROTHY V. RYAN

A strong and dedicated advocate for older Ohioans, Dorothy Ryan has earned the respect and admiration of all those with whom she has worked throughout the years—from elected officials at every level to the senior citizens for whom she speaks so eloquently.

Her outstanding leadership ability, her understanding of complex issues and their affect on older persons, her energy and compassion have earned her, time after time, the presidency of the Northeast Ohio Senior Citizens Council and the Ohio State Council of Senior Citizens, and board membership on the National Council of Senior Citizens.

For Dorothy Ryan, serving others is a 24-hour a day job.

She is committed to making older citizens aware of their political clout and encouraging them to speak out on vital issues. The results of her "Senior Power" campaigns have gained the attention of government leaders from the President of the United States to the local leaders of Youngstown.

Dorothy Ryan pursues each challenge presented to her not only from her personal convictions, but as a living memorial to the work begun by her late husband Irvin Ryan.

To know her is to know she has fulfilled that sacred promise and gone far beyond to achieve her own special place as an outstanding advocate for Ohio's older citizens.



CARL E. SMITH

For his outstanding literary achievements, Carl Smith was named "Poet Laureate of Ohio for 1983," just one of many awards he has received, including a variety of civic and service honors.

For more than a century, Carl Smith was a teacher of English, public speaking, social science and language at Cedarville College and other Greene County schools. While principal of Spring Valley High School, he helped pioneer the game of basketball there.

A prolific writer, more than 300 of his articles have been published in 16 journals and magazines. **Dad was a Country Doctor in the Horse and Buggy Days** is the latest of five books he has written.

An avid lover of dogs, particularly the basset hound, Carl Smith headed a group of breeders who developed what is now known as the American Basset Hound. For four decades he was the world's prominent basset hound breeder, and he wrote the first basset training manual ever published in America.

Widely recognized as an authority on Greene County history, he was responsible for reestablishing the historical society there. He is also well-known as a public speaker in the area, and was presented the Beacon Toastmaster Club's Silver Gavel Award for Communications.

As a teacher, historian, author, poet, philosopher, musician, public speaker and dog breeder, this Spring Valley resident has spent a lifetime serving his community, state and nation.

MEMBERS

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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

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