

*Hall
OF
Fame*

*Ohio Commission on Aging
50 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215*

Richard F. Celeste, Governor

Joyce F. Chapple, Director

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

November 16, 1983



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 Correction. 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 officially established in November 1973. As the state agency for the 1.7 million Ohioans age 60 and over the OCoA 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;

Providing services at Ohio's two Golden Age Villages.

Joyce F. Chapple is the director of the Ohio Commission on 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 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 ten years. Any individual or organization may submit a nomination by completing an application and returning it to the Ohio Commission on Aging, Special Events Section, 50 West Broad Street/9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, by July 1 of each year.

Induction ceremonies are held annually in the fall.

Governor's Message

It is my sincere pleasure to be a part of this Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame program today. I am continually inspired by the ambition, the energy and the diverse experience of Ohio's senior citizens. Today's inductees into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame have continued to share their skills and knowledge with all generations of Ohioans. This is a proud occasion for this year's honorees as well as for all senior citizens in the Buckeye State.

During the 1983 Ohio State Fair, I had the opportunity to attend

a number of senior citizen recognition ceremonies held daily

on the fairgrounds. Older Ohioans

from every county, and human service organizations from all twelve agency districts of the Ohio Commission on Aging, were recognized for their contributions to community life and to the well being of the elderly.

All of the participants were ready to return to their hometowns to continue serving their families, friends and neighbors. The contributions made by this year's Hall of Fame inductees transcend the boundaries of age.

These individuals are uniquely different in character, yet they share a common commitment that has led them to new and higher achievements.

Program

WELCOME

Joseph Fichter, Chairman, Ohio Commission on Aging

INVOCATION

*Father Thomas Cadden, Vicar, Catholic Services / Social Concerns
Columbus*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Margaret Cheyney
Vora Spangler, Accompanist
Columbus*

REMARKS

Governor Richard F. Celeste

BIOGRAPHIES

Kenneth Mahan, Assistant Director, Ohio Commission on Aging

INDUCTIONS

Joyce F. Chapple, Director, Ohio Commission on Aging

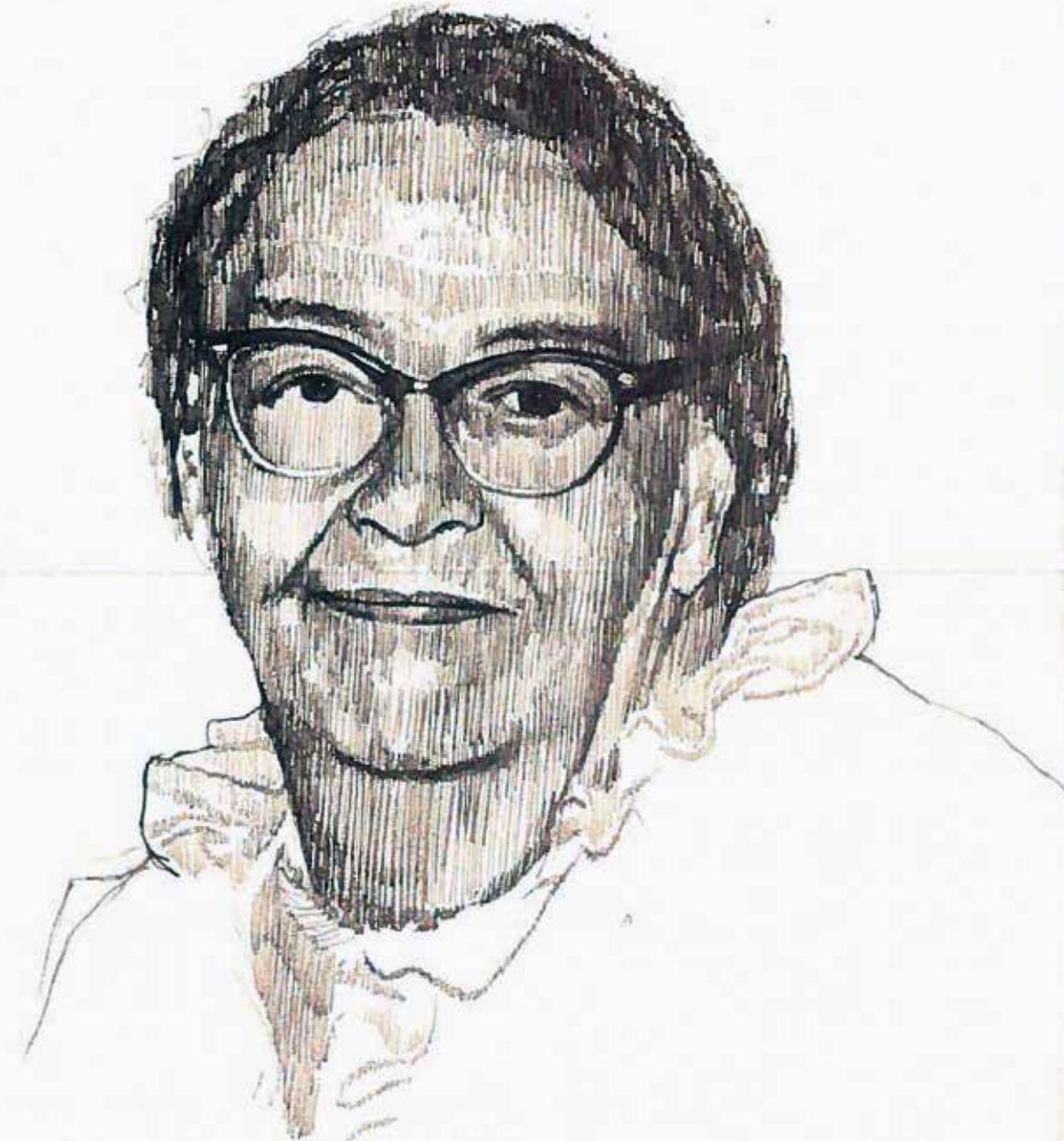
CLOSING REMARKS

Myrl Shoemaker, Lieutenant Governor

BENEDICTION

Father Cadden

Inductees



Lucille Chenault



A firm yet quiet determination, coupled with a sincere desire to bring some joy into the lives of others, is the motivation behind Lucille G. Chenault's lifelong dedication to serving her fellow man.

At an early age, Mrs. Chenault learned life was not always fair, but the adverse circumstances she overcame did little to diminish her courage or her concern for the less fortunate people of the world. Without regard to race, creed or sex, she has continuously made

meaningful contributions to society. Mrs. Chenault was named an Outstanding Black Woman of America in 1974, and was given an Outstanding Ohio Senior Citizen Award in 1976 and 1982. Concerned with the plight of the elderly, she became active in senior citizen activities in her community, serving as president for the Progressive Senior Citizens Club and working on the Senior Citizens Task Force of the Residential Neighborhood Community Association. Mrs. Chenault also found time to join the Ohio Coalition of Senior Citizens.

A serious illness resulted in temporary confinement in a nursing home, where Mrs. Chenault observed first-hand the extreme loneliness experienced by residents of the home. She vowed, "If I ever get out of here, I will try to do something for all the lonely and forgotten elderly, handicapped individuals" confined to institutions. Thus was

born the event that bears her name, the Lucille Chenault Senior Citizens and Handicapped Ball,

held annually in Cincinnati and attended eagerly by thousands of nursing home residents. Because of

Mrs. Chenault, it has become a totally successful community effort.



Avis W. Cullen



*For the last five decades, Avis W. Cullen has been Oxford's leading advocate for civic beautification, worthwhile area projects and service to the community. Mrs. Cullen's dedication to civic causes developed with her position as publisher and editor of **The Oxford Press**, a weekly newspaper she headed from 1934 until 1960. Under the leadership of Mrs. Cullen, one of the few women publishers in the state at that time, **The Oxford Press** earned a number of state and national honors, including the Ohio Newspaper Association's Community Service plaque and the top award of the national Fire Underwriters Association. During her time as publisher, Mrs. Cullen established the annual citizenship awards for local high school students; promoted beautification efforts by giving trees on Arbor Day; and began a program of anti-rabies inoculations. Mrs. Cullen was named Oxford's Citizen of the Year in 1955 for founding the Golden Years Club (now Senior Citizens, Inc.); beginning the Newtowner Club; and helping to establish the Pioneer Museum at Hueston Woods State Park. The sale of the newspaper in 1960 did nothing to curtail her community involvement. Many awards and honors have been bestowed upon her since her "retirement." In 1976, **The Cincinnati Enquirer** named her as one of the 10 Outstanding Area Women of the Year. She has also been named Business Woman of the Year, and Outstanding Library Trustee of 1982. Even with all these commitments, Mrs. Cullen finds time to take flowers to those in need of cheer and arrange for Friends of the Library Travelogues.*



Ethel Straw Guthrie



Ethel Straw Guthrie embodies those qualities attributed to persons revered and respected as true humanitarians. What sets her apart from the rest is her selfless dedication to helping others and a never-ending sense of humor. As a teacher of English and Spanish, Mrs. Guthrie shared her knowledge and experience with many high school students during her 40-year career. Even now, former students speak of her with admiration and affection.

Deeply committed to educational advancement, Mrs. Guthrie established the Marietta College Ethel Straw Guthrie Scholarship in 1946. Each year, \$1,000 is awarded a high school junior excelling in scholarship, social responsibility and leadership, and in need of financial assistance. As Ohio Chairperson for the American Association of University Women, Mrs. Guthrie spearheaded a program proving women over 35 could successfully obtain a Ph. D. and use it. Her varied interests have involved Mrs. Guthrie in numerous Marietta clubs and associations, usually as president or committee chairperson. Whether it be the County Retired Teachers Association Board, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association or the National Retired Teachers Association, Mrs. Guthrie spends much time and effort on different projects for these organizations. In 1975, she was honored with the Zonta Woman of the Year award and has twice received a citation for "Significant and Valued Contributions to the Enrichment of Retirement Living." With her vast wealth of love and kindness, Mrs. Guthrie has enhanced the lives of many.



David Leahy



When he started as a stock boy in Detroit with Sears, Roebuck and Company, not even David Francis Leahy realized the far-reaching effect his career would have on his personal and civic achievements.

In 1962, the company transferred Leahy, by then a district manager, to Cleveland, where he remained after his retirement from Sears. He was once heard to remark, "It's second nature for Sears' men to be interested in their fellow citizens," words he lived by. During

his years in merchandising and retailing, Leahy became involved in many charitable and community activities. Throughout the past 20 years, he has distinguished himself as an outstanding business and community leader, with service on dozens of boards and committees, including the Ohio Lottery Commission, American Heart Association, Junior Achievement, and Boy Scouts of America. As president of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Cleveland, Leahy was the driving force behind the organization of

hundreds of retired citizens as resource persons in their neighborhoods.

In doing so, he gave those persons a reason for living, and demonstrated their worth to the community. As vice president of Mid-Town Corridor, an economic re-vitalization organization, Leahy has done much to promote, preserve and attract new investment to this area of Cleveland. All who know him would agree with these descriptive

words of an associate: "David Leahy embodies the spirit of life. He brings the best of the past, lives totally in the present, and looks hopefully to the future."



Irvin H. Ryan



Irvin Ryan will long be remembered as a true friend of all senior citizens because of his work with the elderly throughout Ohio. A long-time champion of senior citizen causes, Ryan initially became involved while labor liaison representative for the Youngstown Area Community Corporation. During that time, he organized the union counseling services, started the first Senior Citizens Day in the area and headed the Mahoning County Valley Citizens Committee on Aging.

In 1960, Ryan joined the United Steel Workers District 26, and began organizing thousands of retired workers into senior citizen groups. Although he served on many boards of community service organizations in Youngstown, Ryan's main concern centered on the elderly. He founded the Northeastern Ohio Senior Citizens Council and the Ohio State Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.

He was also instrumental in securing free bus fares for the older residents of his area. Ryan, a strong advocate of the Medicare Bill, worked diligently for its passage, and was honored by an invitation to witness the signing of the bill into law. Among his many awards and commendations, he was recognized locally and nationally for his outstanding work in the field of aging by President Lyndon Johnson, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Sen. Frank Church, Cong. Charles Carey and former Gov. John J. Gilligan.

Whether serving as a member of the Ohio Commission on Aging or representing older Ohioans at the White House Conference on Aging, he gave freely of himself. Irvin Ryan enriched the lives of all those he met.



James E. Saunders



James Edward "Eddie" Saunders has lived his life according to his own motto: "Do right as long as you can, when you can, and by whom you can wherever you can." His admirable record of responsible actions to his God and his people was compiled through nearly four decades of ministering through the medium of radio in his own, unique way. "Eddie" Saunders, who became the first black disc jockey in 1948 in Columbus, and who touched countless numbers of people with his gospel music, has been described as a Christian ambassador whose "acts speak louder than peals of thunder in a raging storm."

In 1944, he produced "Swanee Hour" on radio for the sick and shut-ins, and then continued to serve the community with his "Sermons and Songs" radio program. A religious program he produced, "The Eddie Saunders Hour," was on television 15 years.

While touching the lives of people in all age groups, dear to his heart are youngsters, for whom he initiated the first record hop, and reviewed books

and records on his shows; and for whom he started the Eddie Saunders Burial Fund in 1962 to provide a Christian burial for children of the less fortunate. Not confining his good works to radio, Saunders received numerous local, state and national awards for many years of volunteer work and humanitarian service. Highly treasured are his

international recognition, "Accessitation of Pilgrimage," being chosen as one of the "Outstanding

Negroes in the U.S." in 1949, and honors from high-ranking public officials.

Sidney Spector



In an illustrious career spanning three decades of work in advocacy, research and service in aging, Sidney Spector is truly a pioneer in programs commonplace today. Spector's entry into the aging field came with his appointment as Director of Research for the Governors Conference of the Fifty States, which led to commissions or councils in all states. His influential service milestones include becoming the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging's first director in 1960; his role on the White House team, as assistant to the Secretary of HUD, when 1965 saw the historic passage of Medicare; his help in funding in 1960 the National Council of Senior Citizens; his work toward Congressional passage of the now-famous Section 202 on housing for the elderly; and his eight years in HUD in charge of this housing. With these solid foundations, in which Spector played such a vital role, we have now, as a nation, invested about \$60 billion in the last 20 years in federally assisted housing for older Americans.

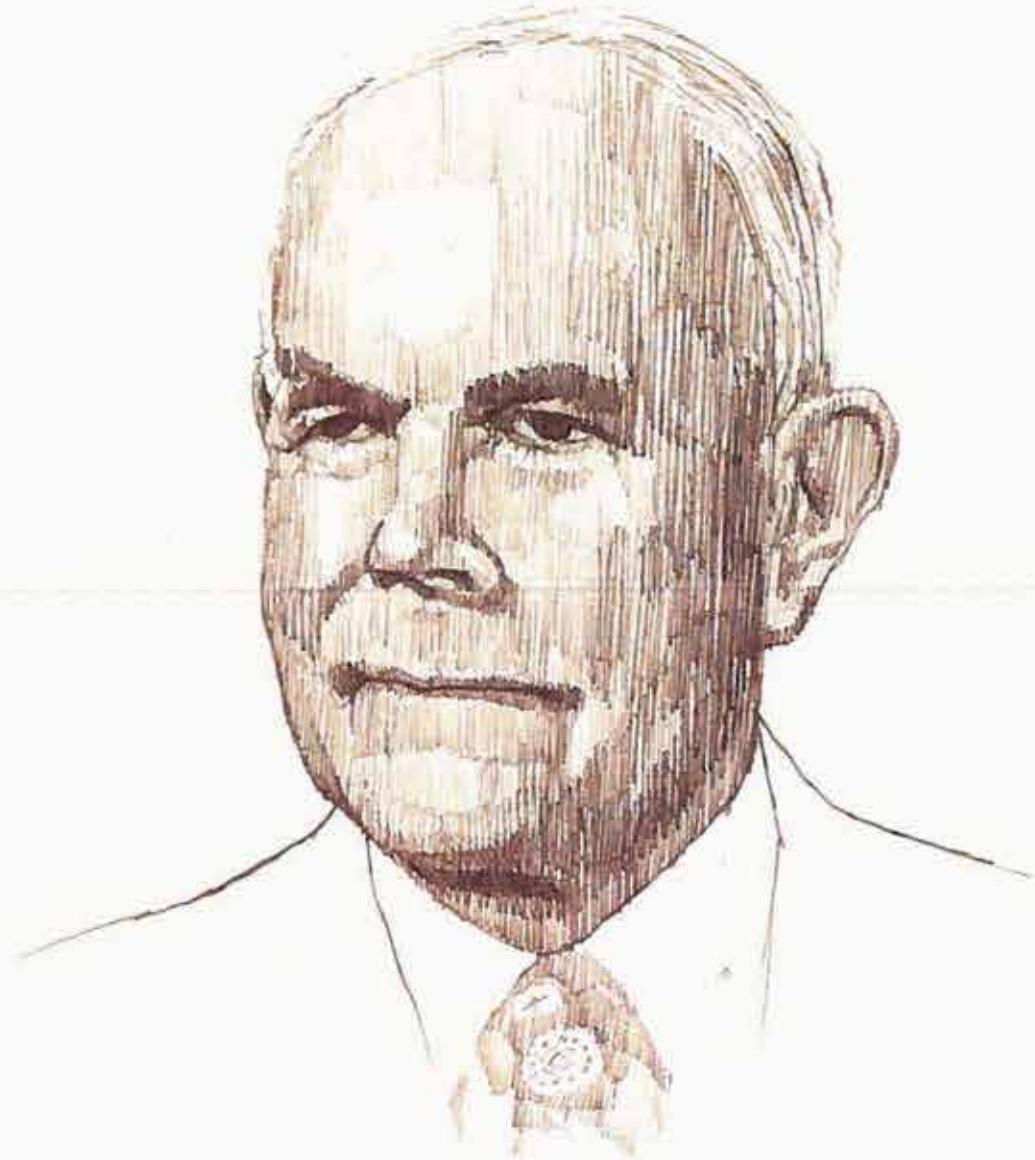
After his return to Cleveland, Spector helped establish the first Mayor's Commission on Aging; and, after leaving city government as executive assistant to Cleveland's mayor, he helped form the Cuyahoga County Advisory Committee on Nutrition and Aging. The program grew into the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. Spector, as first chairman of the Ohio Commission on Aging, was instrumental in its most effective growth. His work in aging is legend.



C. Umhau Wolf



A third generation clergy, C. Umhau Wolf, Ph.D., most recently was pastor from 1974-79 for Hope Lutheran Church, Toledo. Drawing on his lifelong career which included pastorships, and teaching, directing, counseling and lecturing in the United States and Canada, Dr. Wolf now directs the Lifelong Learning Center in Toledo. A prolific writer on an impressive array of subjects such as theology, archaeology, death and dying, retirement, aging and widowhood, and as contributor to the Interpreter's Dictionary to the Bible and lecturer in the Old Testament, Dr. Wolf also was chaplain for the army's First Infantry Division from 1941-44. This energetic, retired Lutheran pastor and educator exemplifies "practicing what you preach." His interest in gerontology has led to the development of concepts and materials about pre-retirement planning as Christian ministry that are in wide use in the country today. Dr. Wolf's own retirement includes many teaching and consultant activities that help persons of all ages successfully think through many issues and challenges related to aging. In Lucas County, Dr. Wolf is instrumental, through his leadership of the Interfaith Committee on Aging, in much local congregational learning activity that challenges continuing contributions of older persons, and mobilizes support for those in need. Doing what he has told others to do, Dr. Wolf continues his impressive array of work in the field of aging during his own retirement years.



Johann J. Zabka



After his escape from a Russian prisoner-of-war camp, and leading his family from their bombed out home in Poland to Germany, Johann J. Zabka began his journey to America — the land of his childhood dreams. He so loves his corner in this land of the free he sang its praises in a 500-verse "Epic Poem of Tuscarawas County" for the Bicentennial celebration in the land. His work has been accepted into the American Poets Hall of Fame.

Proclaimed by others as Unofficial Good Will Ambassador of Tuscarawas County, this retired machinist, artist, poet, historian and designer of 22 commemorative medals is a vitally active civic and community leader. To pay tribute to "great men and heroes," Zabka founded the Zeisberger-Heckewelder Society, named after Moravian missionaries and teachers of the Delaware Indians in Tuscarawas County, to pay tribute to the past, recognize and praise the present, and proclaim faith in the future. Zabka's specifically designed medals are minted for these presentations

to selected persons, under the auspices of the Tuscarawas County Historical Society. Another illustration of his craftsmanship, a Board of Mechanical Art, is displayed in the Dover Historical Society. Other exhibits of his talents are in the Columbus Technical Institute's Mechanical Engineering Department. Because of Zabka's work in recognizing the accomplishments of others through use of his mechanical, poetic and artistic skills, many plaudits have come his way from throughout the world.

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. Wiesen

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

Members

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

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

*Posthumous