

# **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame Biographies**

## **2012 - 2020**

### **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2012**

#### **Dr. Ron Brooks - 1997 Graduate**

Ron graduated from Bellarmine University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He then attended Indiana University School of Medicine followed by a move to New York City where he completed a residency and surgical research program through New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College. Ron has been a shining academic example to his fellow classmates through high school, college and post-graduate level. His determination, hard work and relentless pursuit of academic, personal and professional goals have inspired many. During his surgical research, Brooks studied various aspects of breast cancer and these studies, in conjunction with his professional memberships are continuing to search for a breast cancer cure. Dr. Ron Brooks is currently working as a plastic surgery fellow at the University of Louisville.

#### **Rosemary Edens - 1970 Graduate**

After overcoming some seemingly insurmountable health problems and seeing her own daughters into their school years, Rosemary Edens attended Indiana University as an adult student and earned a Bachelor degree in English with a minor in sociology. She went on to earn a Master's degree in counseling. In 1988, she came back to Jennings County Schools and proceeded to serve our school district for nearly 22 years. She became well-known for her enthusiasm, her ability to make learning fun, and her ability to reach all of her students. After "retiring" in June 2010, she and husband, Dennis had been enjoying grandkids and John Deere tractors until this past fall when she was recruited to return to JCHS for this school year and is currently teaching sophomore English.

#### **Bill Harmon - 1973 Graduate**

Bill was known during his high school days for his athleticism. He continued to add to that reputation as a four year letterman on the University of Louisville Basketball Team and a member of the 1975 Final Four Team. Today, he is better known as co-owner of Harmon Construction, Harmon Steel and Taylor Brothers Construction. Bill continually uses his leadership skills to help serve his community. Through their charity, "The Joy of Giving" various fundraising events are held, collecting money to help those in need. It has grown over the course of the last few years into a major asset for our community. Bill Harmon is a positive role model for and supporter of all students and people of our community. Jennings County is a better place because of his efforts.

#### **Jon Webster - 1975 Graduate**

Judge Webster diligently pursued his education upon graduation from JCHS. He attended the University of Louisville where he received his B.A. in political

science, and then went on to earn his Juris Doctorate from the University of Louisville. Upon graduation from law school in 1982, he returned to North Vernon to practice law with his father. Judge Webster practiced law for fourteen years before he was elected Jennings County Circuit Court Judge in 1996 where he continues to serve. Judge Webster is known to be approachable and down to earth, friendly and willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who may need it. He has volunteered in our community in numerous capacities. He understands that so much of his success has come from the time and effort that others were willing to sacrifice for him and that it is important to provide a role model for younger generations and to equip young people with tools necessary to build a successful career and life.

### **Kendall Wildey - 1980 Graduate**

Kendall Wildey earned his Bachelor's degree from Georgetown College and his Master's degree from Indiana University. He served Jennings County Schools for 22 years. Eight of those years were spent as the Principal of JCHS and 4 as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the district. Prior to becoming an administrator, Mr. Wildey taught English. In addition, he served as JCHS varsity boys' basketball coach and varsity softball coach. In boys' basketball, his teams claimed 5 Sectional titles, 1 Regional title and 1 Elite Eight appearance. . As girls' softball coach he has led his teams to 4 Sectional titles, 1 Regional title, and 1 Final Four Appearance. He is the school's all-time leader in coaching victories of both sports. Kendall is currently an administrator for Columbus Christian School. Mr. Wildey has influenced countless lives through his efforts as both an educator and a coach.

The Hall of Fame Committee has the option of inducting an Honorary member to each class. In its inaugural year, the committee thought is only fitting to select 2 Honorary Inductees whose names are synonymous with Jennings County High School.

### **Our first Honorary Inductee is Mr. Don Pelkey**

Mr. Pelkey began his career as a teacher of health and physical education in 1950 at North Vernon High School. In 1951, he was called into military service. He returned to his teaching position in 1952. From 1953 until 1971, Don served in a variety of capacities to North Vernon High School by coaching a variety of sports and serving as Athletic Director and Guidance Counselor. During the 1970-71 school year, he served as the Principal of North Vernon Junior High School. From 1972 to 1989, Mr. Pelkey served as the Assistant Principal of Jennings County High School. He returned from retirement in 1989 to 1994 to serve as the At-Risk Coordinator for what was to become the Jennings County Education Center.

The key word that describes Don Pelkey is the word "serve". His career has been one of service to the youth of this community and the people within it.

Whether it was teaching, coaching, or guiding young people, or making sure facilities were ready for the public, he gave of himself to assure that these needs were met and the facilities were ready.

Mr. Pelkey's service was never restricted to just the educational environment. His service can be seen through his involvement in community organizations, such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and the Jennings County United Way.

**The Second Honorary Inductee is a man who set the standard to which JCHS will always be held: Charles W. Hurley**

Mr. Hurley served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II. He went on to Indiana University where he earned honors athletically and academically.

Charles "Chuck" Hurley was a man whose physical stature often made him stand out among others, and whose stature was often dwarfed by his compassion for the youth and the people of this community.

During his forty-three year tenure of service to the Jennings County School Corporation, Mr. Hurley distinguished himself as a teacher, coach, and principal.

He taught and coached at both Hayden and North Vernon High School before becoming Principal at North Vernon. Mr. Hurley was named the first Principal of Jennings County High School in 1968, a position that he held until his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Hurley has been known in this community and throughout the State of Indiana for his service and leadership. He was instrumental in the formation of The Hoosier Hills Conference and served as its first President. He also was an active member of the IHSAA Board of Directors and served as Chairman of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

Accepting on behalf of Mr. Hurley are his children:  
Rita, Rock, Carmen, and Matt Hurley and Lorraine Vacketta

### **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2013**

#### **Lee Bridges - 1986 Graduate**

Retiring after 20 years of service to the United States Air Force, Lt. Col. Lee J. Bridges returned to his Jennings County roots in 2011. He is currently employed by Cummins Engine.

Bridges ranked fourth in his class when he graduated from JCHS in 1986. He went on to attend college at Rose-Hulman where he earned his mechanical engineering degree in 1990. In 1998 Bridges earned a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

In 1991 Bridges joined the Air Force where he received many awards including the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Award, Meritorious Service Medal with five oakleaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Service Medal, just to name a few.

Bridges retired from the deputy commander role for the 46th Maintenance Group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. Bridges has served in a variety of maintenance assignments supporting numerous aircraft. He has filled roles as a maintenance officer in fighter squadrons as well as being assigned to headquarters. He commanded two maintenance squadrons.

Bridges is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was active with the volunteer service organization as he moved throughout the world serving at different bases. Currently he is involved with the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus.

### **Steve Elsner - 1976 Graduate**

A 1976 graduate of JCHS, Steve Elsner currently serves as the deputy manager of Program Control and Integration (PC&I) at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for NASA's Commercial Crew Program (CCP). In this position, Elsner is helping NASA develop the next United States-led capability for crew transportation and rescue services to and from the International Space Station (ISS) and other low earth orbit destinations. As deputy manager of PC&I, he works closely with CCP's deputy program manager to provide leadership in business management, acquisition strategy, planning and execution of industry capabilities.

Elsner began his career with NASA in 1982 as an aerospace engineer, serving as a guidance and control systems flight controller.

During his 30-year tenure with NASA, Elsner has led teams within the agency's Mission Operations Directorate at Johnson, including the Mission Integration and Schedule Management Office, the ISS Flight Avionics Project, Communications and Data Systems Branch, Guidance and Propulsion Systems Branch, Communications and Instrumentation Systems Section and the Guidance and Control Systems Section.

A recipient of the NASA's Exceptional Achievement and Exceptional Service medals, Elsner has received many professional honors throughout his career, including numerous group achievement awards. He also took home Johnson's Small Business Advocate of the Year in 2009 and an Equal Opportunity Award in 1993.

Elsner is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering in 1980 and a Master of Science in the same field of study in 1982. He also earned a master's in physical

science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1987. In 1991, Elsner graduated from the International Space University Summer Session in France, which provides cutting-edge training for emerging leaders of the global space community. In 2004, Elsner completed a Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

While with NASA, Elsner has attended Johnson's Leadership Development Program and Program/Project Management Development Program. Elsner frequently returns to Jennings County where he addresses classes within the local school corporation regarding NASA and the space program.

### **Chris Ertel – 1970 Graduate**

While attending JCHS, Ertel served as president of his graduating class of 1970. He earned his bachelor of science degree, graduating Magna Cum Lade, from Indiana University in mathematics education. He returned to IU to earn his masters degree, also in mathematics education.

Ertel began his teaching career at Madison Junior High School where he taught math for three years before coming to JCHS to teach math in 1977. In 1981 he left the classroom to become branch manager of Home Federal Savings Bank, now Old National Bank, rising to the rank of vice president.

He has served as a member of the adjunct faculty of Purdue University in southeast Indiana from 1986 to 1992 and also as an instructor of personal finance at the National Guard Patriot Academy. He was named the Kiwanis Club Citizen of the year in 2006 and as a Patriot Academy Hero in 2012.

Ertel has also had an impact to help advance and improve this community. He spent 16 years on the local school board, has been a member of and continues to serve on the Jennings County Economic Development Commission for the past 18 years as well as the North Vernon Redevelopment Commission.

Ertel also spent six years as a member of the Jennings County Chamber of Commerce board. For the past three years he has served as a member of the North Vernon Stellar Committee.

Each year the Hall of Fame Committee has the option of inducting an Honorary member. In 2013 the committee has chosen...

### **Harry Purkhiser - Honorary Member**

Purkhiser retired from his position as assistant principal at JCHS in 1981 only to be asked to return to work as assistant superintendent of the school district. He held that position until his death in 1986.

Purkhiser graduated from Butler University where he played football. He was named to the Small College Football All-American Team.

Purkhiser was drafted to play professional football, but the U.S. Army decided they would draft him as well so his choice was made. After 26 years of service, Purkhiser retired from the Army after serving in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, ending his career in Army intelligence. He was awarded two purple hearts, the bronze star and many other military honors.

Purkhiser relocated to North Vernon when he accepted a position as a teacher and football coach at North Vernon High School. He moved to JCHS when it was completed to serve as assistant principal.

During the summer months, Purkhiser volunteered his time and coached the North Vernon City Swimming Team for 12 years. Purkhiser's devotion to competitive swimming was so instrumental in developing a swim program in the county that Jennings County Middle School pool was named the Harry R. Purkhiser Natatorium when it was constructed.

Purkhiser was also active as a United Way volunteer and volunteered as a Sunday school teacher and lay minister at the First Presbyterian Church in North Vernon.

Accepting on behalf of Mr. Purkhiser are his daughter, Eleanor Eaken and grandsons, Robert Young and Caleb Eder.

## **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame**

**December 6, 2014**

### **Corinne Finnerty – 1974 Graduate**

A graduate of JCHS in 1974 Ms. Finnerty was salutatorian of her class. Upon completion of her bachelor degree in 1978 and her judicial degree in 1981 from Indiana University, she returned to North Vernon where she and her husband, Don Lee, reside and she began her legal practice. She serves as a scholastic, professional and community service role model for all students, especially young women, who strive to pursue fields and professions traditionally occupied by men.

### **Kirk Hearne – 1986 Graduate**

A 1986 graduate of JCHS where he was valedictorian of the class. He is a 1990 graduate of the University of Indianapolis and a 1990 graduate of the IU School of Medicine. He attended the IU School of Optometry from 1991-1995 and now owns Hearne Vision Care here in North Vernon. His very active involvement in our community is not for recognition or political gain it is because he sincerely wants to help people and the community.

### **Dan Wright – 1979 Graduate**

A graduate of JCHS in 1979 Dan earned a degree in geological studies with a minor in business from Indiana University. He also studied environmental

engineering at Columbia University. He formerly worked in the insurance industry and for the Indiana Geological Survey. Currently, Wright is a partner and CEO of FPBH Engineering Inc. in North Vernon. From a decade as mayor of Vernon to his many community activities, he serves as an incredible example of how one should give back to his/her community.

### **James Harr - Honorary**

Jim Harr is a long-time coach and educator at JCHS. Jim has a long history of service. First serving his country as US Marine and then serving the young people of Jennings County as a teacher and coach. He has been inducted into the Indiana Wrestling Hall of Fame.

He was nominated for the Hall of Fame as an honorary member by the late Nicholas Todorovich who wrote....

"Jim Harr has been friend, coach and teacher to many of Jennings County's residents over many decades as an educator. Whether it was leading a wrestler to a state championship, a team to a winning season or getting a history student interested in the past with a family heritage display project, he always brought out the best in those who were around him. He taught me many things about loyalty, hard work and how important strong character is in life. He made you realize that doing the right thing should always be the paramount contents of being a good person. Thank you, Coach. "

## **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame**

**December 4, 2015**

### **Joe Ammerman – 1978 Graduate**

Ammerman graduated from JCHS in 1978. For over 30 years he has been the voice of the Jennings County Panthers. He has received the Network Indiana Spectrum Award for commercial production and the IHSAA Distinguished Media Service Award for the 1999-2000 school year. A member of Bethel Baptist Church, Ammerman is a member of the Muscatatuck Board of Realtors and in the past was the group's president. Through the years Ammerman has also served on the Jennings County extension board, the Community Foundation Board and the Chamber of Commerce board.

Nominator, Kendall Wildey states, "I can think of no other person who has represented our community at as many events as Joe Ammerman and he represented well." "Whether it be a local banquet, a political election or an athletic event, Joe has always been there and people everywhere view him as an icon of Jennings County."

## **Esther Brooks-Asplund – 1989 Graduate**

***Esther Brooks-Asplund*** is a 1989 graduate of Jennings County High School. The salutatorian of her class, Brooks-Asplund was also an all-state athlete in track and field and cross country. She received the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award in track and field her senior year.

She graduated summa cum laude with a double major in mathematics and computer science from Indiana University all of this while running track and cross country as well.

At IU, Brooks-Asplund was awarded the Jack D. Tichenor Award which is given to the student athlete with the highest grade point average of all sports. She was also selected as the most outstanding student of the College of Arts and Sciences her senior year.

Upon graduation from IU, Brooks-Asplund then attended Penn State University graduate school where she received her PhD in physiology. She then accepted a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins University where she published numerous peer reviewed journal articles. Today, when she's not occupied with her four children, Brooks-Asplund continues her professional career in medical writing. She also uses what spare time she has to compete in marathons, recently qualifying for the Boston Marathon by finishing the Carmel Marathon in 3:43.

## **Anthony Burton – 1983 Graduate**

***Anthony Burton*** is being inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame. A 1983 graduate of JCHS, Burton was killed in the line of duty while on patrol with the North Vernon Police Dept. in 1993. He was nominated for induction by NVPD chief James Webster.

"Anthony was the first DARE officer for Jennings County School Corporation," Webster noted. "Anthony touched the lives of many students in a positive way."

Webster went on to note that Burton was a highly motivated individual with a personality that made it easy to follow his leadership. Anthony has continually ranked in the top of the department statistically each year of his career.

"Anthony gave the ultimate sacrifice for his community," Webster concluded. "Anthony was killed in the line of duty on March 24, 1993."

## **Joyce Salyers – Honorary**

**Joyce Salyers** is also being inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame as an



honorary member. She was nominated by Cheryl Todorovich-Wade.

"Mrs. Salyers was a role model par excellence," Todorovich-Wade pointed out. "She had the ability to establish a rapport with each of her students, always giving them a feeling of importance and self worth, a gift few possess."

Mrs. Salyers earned her bachelor of arts degree from Morehead State College, her masters and EdS degrees from Indiana University and she began her career at North Vernon High School in the home economics department. Her career then took her to the guidance office where she eventually became its director. Her leadership in that area is memorialized with the JCHS Guidance office named in her honor. She also moved in to an assistant principal position at JCHS until her retirement. Mrs. Salyers went on to work as interim director of guidance at Madison Consolidated High School.

After being elected to the Jennings County School Board, Mrs. Salyers would eventually serve as that group's president. She was active in a number of organizations including the Wednesday Research Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, Rolling Hills Shrine Club Ladies Auxiliary, Retired Teachers Association and the National Education Foundation.

"Mrs. Salyers' approach to teaching was on respect, knowledge of subject and love of her students," Todorovich-Wade continued. "Looking back on my very own experience at North Vernon High School, I credit Mrs. Salyers for giving a shy, backward country kid the encouragement to spread her wings and strive for bigger and better things for her life."

### **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame**

**December 3, 2016**

#### **Ed Biehle... 1976 Graduate**

Ed is a 1976 graduate of Jennings County High School. He was nominated by his daughter, Susanne Biehle, who pointed to his being co-owner of Biehle Electric and Biehle Systems, two private companies based in Jennings County that together employ around 100 people. He started the business with his cousin and partner (Mike Biehle) in 1982, building the entire company from the ground up. "Ed is a wonderful role model," noted Susanne. "He is a great example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish. "While at JCHS, Ed was very involved in FFA and received training at Southeast Indiana Vocational School (a facility located in Versailles now known as the Southeastern Indiana Career Center), which was pivotal in his career path," she added. **ED BIEHLE**

#### **Mike Biehle – 1974 Graduate**

**Mike, a 1974 Graduate of JCHS, was nominated by Joni, Michael and Allison Biehle, his children. In their nomination letter they note that in 1974 upon graduation from high school, "Mike was sure of one thing. Someday he would run his own successful business." Mike partnered with his cousin Ed Biehle and is now owner of Biehle Electric Inc., Biehle Systems and several other associated businesses. "Along the way there were several struggles, long hours and unwanted obstacles. However with dedication to his dream and hard work he has been able to achieve his goals." As a leader, Mike uses his career and business to help others with similar goals and career choices to achieve theirs as well. Mike and his company work closely with local high schools and vocational programs to provide hands on education and work experience in their field of interest. MIKE BIEHLE**

#### **Karen Chilman – 1984 Graduate**

**Karen is a 1984 graduate of JCHS and a 1988 graduate of Hanover College. She received her Masters of Science in Education from Indiana University in 2002. She has been a member of JCHS faculty since 2008 teaching art and is also the high ability coordinator for the middle and high schools. Karen has served our community through many service organizations including JCSC Public Relations Task Force, JCCF REACH committee, Vernon Artists Group, Pinwheels for Peace, JC Domestic Violence Prevention Campaigns, Southern Indiana Center for the Arts summer camp and was recently selected as *North Vernon Kiwanis Club's 2016 Citizen of the Year*. She was nominated by Cole Byram, one of her former students. He also took note of Chilman's caring nature and how she was a shining example in not only life, but in the way she leads her classroom. KAREN CHILMAN**

**Each year the Hall of Fame Committee has the option of inducting an Honorary member. In 2016 the committee has chosen... Albert Jackson.**

**Albert Jackson, a retired banking executive and a 1954 graduate of North Vernon High School, has been selected as the honorary inductee this year. He was nominated by Dr. Terry Sargent who said Jackson "has served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps and at one time served as a police officer for the North Vernon Police Department." Sargent also noted that the example Jackson has set for "every citizen is primarily through his outstanding efforts in community service. Whenever asked to serve he has served. This includes 50 years of leadership in the Chamber of Commerce, St. Vincent Jennings Hospital Board and the Jennings County Economic Development Commission." ALBERT JACKSON**

**JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame  
December 1, 2017**

Each year the Hall of Fame Committee has the option of inducting an Honorary member. In 2017 the committee has chosen... Ruth Tech.

Ruth "Betty" Tech, graduated in 1917 from North Vernon High School. She was nominated by Mike and Linda Jordan and Mike and Jane Graham. Betty passed away Nov. 11, 1959 in Washington, D.C. She had retired March 31 that year after completing 40 years of service with the government.

In 1918 she decided to become an attorney after serving as a typist and stenographer in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. After living in London from 1922-24 where she served as secretary to Admiral C.L. Hussey, Tech returned to the United States and studied law at George Washington University Law School. She attended law school at night and during the day worked in the office of the Judge Advocate General where she advanced from stenographer to assistant attorney general.

After graduating from law school, Ruth returned to North Vernon. She took and passed the Indiana Bar Exam. During her career as an attorney and judge, Tech served as secretary of the Women's Bar Association in Washington D.C. Tech also did clerk work with Supreme Court Judge Oliver Wendell Homes.

"Aunt Betty dedicated her life to public service," noted the nomination letter. "She was a role model for young ladies and what they could achieve."

...Ruth Tech

**Our first Alumni inductee is: Royce Campbell**

Royce Campbell is a 1970 graduate of JCHS. He was nominated by Tom Taylor. Royce has spent his adult life playing with national and international jazz musicians.

After graduating from high school, Campbell decided that he wanted a career in music. His uncle, pianist Carroll DeCamp, invited him to Indianapolis to live and study music theory and composition. At 21, he toured with rhythm and blues singer Marvin Gaye before spending 20 years as a member of the Henry Mancini orchestra. He held that job until Mancini's death in 1994. In November 2010, Royce Campbell was inducted into the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation **Hall of Fame**

"Jazz is America's true art form," noted Taylor in his nomination letter. "JCHS

graduated a student in 1970 who has been to the top of his profession and to international acclaim. Students from Jennings County can enter their school every day and be inspired in knowing that you can come from Jennings County and become one of the best in the world."

....Royce Campbell

**Our next inductee is: Ted Knoy**

Teddy "Ted" Knoy is being inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame. Mr. Knoy was a 1983 graduate of JCHS. He passed away on Jan. 12, 2016 leaving behind his wife of over 20 years, Lisa. He was nominated for induction by Larry Perkinson.

Following graduation from JCHS, Knoy graduated from Franklin College then studied in Pennsylvania followed by theological studies in Oklahoma. He received his master's degree in public administration at the American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts before seeking doctoral studies in Taiwan. Knoy taught himself formal Chinese and learned from their various Asian dialects inclusive of Chinese, Taiwanese and Vietnamese.

Knoy held many positions in his lifetime including teaching English as a second language and technical writing in the graduate school programs of several universities in Taiwan. Knoy was highly regarded in Taiwan and Vietnam and he was often referred to as Master Professor Ted.

"Teddy loved a good debate and loved to laugh," said Perkinson in his nomination letter. "He was also mindful in his writings of global social injustices and was verbal in support of the elderly, orphans and refugees."

... Ted Knoy

**JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame  
December 21, 2018**

**Our first inductee is: Major Amos Fox**

Major Fox is a 1999 JCHS graduate. He was nominated by Mrs. Ronita Knarr and Mr. Ed Ertel.

"Amos is living proof that hard work and dedication pay off," the two wrote in the nomination letter. "He has proven it is possible to overcome obstacles with perseverance and self-discipline, leading to the attainment of personal and professional goals."

Major Fox is the current operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored

Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division based in Ft. Bliss, Texas. He previously served as a planner for the 1st Armored Division and the Combined Joint Force Land Command-Operation Inherent Resolve in the campaign to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq for two tours. His previous assignments include troop commands and staff positions in the 4th Infantry Division, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the U.S. Armor Schools 16th Cavalry Regiment.

He is married to the former Heather Foist, also a JCHS graduate. They have four children, Elizabeth, Caroline, Phoenix and the late Abrams.

....Major Amos Fox

**Each year the Hall of Fame Committee has the option of inducting an Honorary member. In 2018 the committee has chosen... Eric Jarboe.**

Mr. Jarboe, of North Vernon, is the reason Jennings County school students have the opportunity to play string instruments after he created the orchestra program at JCHS in 1984. He held that position until his retirement in 2016. He was nominated by one of his former students, Mrs. Lisa Wilson.

"Although he was not raised in Jennings County, Mr. Jarboe has adopted the community as his own," Wilson wrote. "He has earned the respect of his students and coworkers over his past 40 years of teaching."

Jarboe remains an active volunteer in the North Vernon-Jennings County community. He is a member of the North Vernon Kiwanis Club and does volunteer work with them. He is also the driving force behind the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program in Jennings County. In addition, he has lent his musical skills to numerous Jennings County Players productions at the Park Theatre.

"Eric deserves this award because of the kind and caring man he is," Wilson added. "He always went above and beyond to make the JCHS orchestra something the students and school could be proud of."

...Eric Jarboe

**JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame  
2019 Inductees  
on January 10, 2020**

**Our first inductee is 1999 JCHS Graduate: Emily (Wahlman) Greenwald**

A resident of Chicago where she has been employed with the Federal Reserve Bank since 2005 and is now director of the Wholesale Credit Risk Center, the former Emily Wahlman supervises the financial health of the nation's largest banks, noted LeAna Matern, who nominated her.

"Emily takes time from her busy work schedule to work with Jennings County elementary schools in setting up tours of the Chicago Federal Reserve," Matern wrote. "She also takes time to talk with our local students about her experiences as a JCHS graduate."

Todd Hearne, Graham Creek Elementary School where Greenwald is also an alumna, recommended Greenwald for the JCHS Hall of Fame, too.

"I was blessed to know Emily when she was a student at JCHS and I am blessed to see her each year when we take our sixth graders to Chicago," Hearne said. "She goes above and beyond to make sure our students are given a special tour and she encourages our students to dream big, work hard and take advantage of their educational experiences."

Greenwald, who volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Depository and with the Soul City Church where she is a member, is married to Mark Greenwald and they have two young children. She is the daughter of Larry and Judy Short Wahlman of San Jacinto.

Greenwald earned MBA and bachelor degrees at Southeast Missouri State University where she attended on a volleyball scholarship.

....Emily Greenwald

**Our second inductee is 1987 JCHS Graduate: Ed Ertel**

This school year Mr. Ertel was named director of the Jennings County High School Guidance Department at his alma mater where he has been employed as a teacher and then a guidance counselor since 1991.

"Everything he does in his job is for the good of the JCHS students to ensure they have bright futures," said his daughter, Emily, who nominated Ertel for the Hall of Fame. "His position as guidance director requires great leadership."

"He has shown leadership qualities through his work with the middle school football team and the high school's boys and girls basketball team," wrote his daughter. "His encouragement pushed players to work hard and believe that their goals could be met. I experienced this first hand as I played for my dad in basketball. I was amazed by not only his passion for the game but for Jennings County in general. Although he is my dad, I have never met anyone that lives and breathes Jennings County as much as he does."

"He has positively molded the lives of many young people through his encouragement and advice. His positive attitude has left a mark on many JCHS students past and present. He has volunteered with events at St. Mary's Church and at youth basketball camps for many years, a further testament to his love and pride for Jennings County," she added.

Ed Ertel received his undergraduate degree at Marian University, where he attended on a basketball scholarship. He is married to the former Paula Schindel. They live in North Vernon and have three children.

....**Ed Ertel**

### **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2020 Inductees**

#### **Our first inductee is 1990 JCHS Graduate: Laura (Dowell) Garza**

Laura (Dowell) Garza grew up in Scipio and graduated as salutatorian from JCHS in 1990. Thirty years later, she has achieved great success in her chosen career as a pharmacist, a profession she chose because of her "passion for helping people by sharing her knowledge about medications and disease conditions," wrote Shirley Dowell in the nomination letter.

Currently, Laura is manager of CVS.com Pharmacy Operations where she oversees the nationwide operation of CVS.com. She holds active licensure in 48 states which allows her to provide pharmacy services across the nation. She has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her career and been active in professional organizations as well as helping to mentor new pharmacy students at her alma mater, Butler University, as well as Purdue and Sanford Brown College.

... **Laura Garza**

## **Our second inductee is 1973 JCHS Graduate: Donna (Bennett) Eaton**

Donna Eaton graduated from JCHS in 1973 and has devoted her life to education.

Her nominee, son Rex Eaton, noted that over the course of her 40-year career, she has taught, been a Title I Director and served as a principal, most recently at Scipio Elementary.

"Her leadership and mentorship positively impacted decades worth of new teachers and inspired them to always put the kids first as she did."

"Throughout her career, she selfless(ly) served in numerous roles for Jennings County School Corporation and mentored dozens of individuals, amplifying her impact across tens of thousands of students."

Mr. Eaton notes that his mother was "instrumental in bringing technology into the JCS classroom" and led such initiatives as iPads, Google Classroom and eLearning in the district.

**....Donna Eaton**

**For 2020, The Hall of Fame Committee has named two Honorary members to the JCHS Hall of Fame.**

**The first Honorary inductee is... Richard "Rick" McLeod.**

Rick McLeod, a 1963 graduate of North Vernon High School, began teaching in 1967 at the Indiana School for the Deaf. He continued his career teaching at JCHS, then to Madison State Hospital DTC as administrator. Between Jennings County Schools, the JCAL program and Madison Special Services Unit, Mr. McLeod served our students for a total of 43 years. From 1990 through 2009 he was the Director of Special Education for our school corporation.

Mr. McLeod was nominated by John Howard, Tim Taylor, Donna Eaton and Mike Green for his "Selflessness of volunteerism" through a number of activities including the ARC for 25 years; Special Olympics for 25 years; Chairing the K of C fund drive for the ARC Christmas party; and his activities in several other disability support organizations.



"No one person has done more to improve the lives of the disabled and challenged students and citizens of Jennings County and JCSC. Mr. McLeod will stand out as the best example of what exemplifies and represents what a Hall of Fame member should be," wrote the nominators.

... **Rick McLeod.**

### **The secondary Honorary inductee is... Patrick "Pat" Sullivan**

Pat Sullivan graduated from North Vernon High School in 1968. He was nominated by JCSC Superintendent Teresa Brown, who noted "Pat has served as a role model his entire life. Not only did he dedicate his life to JC students, as demonstrated by his being named as a "most influential teacher" 14 times, but his expertise in the classroom was also recognized by the Chamber of Commerce naming him the Teacher of the Year in 1995. He also was singled out as the Conservation Educator of the Year in 1997.

He currently serves as president of the school board and is the board member "you can count on to show up" at extracurricular functions.

Brown notes that as superintendent, she has "utilized Pat's experience and wisdom to guide my decision making" which "has proved invaluable" in helping move the district ahead.

Pat is also well known for his love of his "hometown" of Hayden and its history. He is referred to as "the face of Hayden."

... **Pat Sullivan**

## **JCHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2021 Inductees**

### **Our first inductee is 1983 JCHS Graduate: David Kipper**

Following graduation from JCHS, David joined the United States Air Force where he served 7 years as a Security Police Supervisor stationed in Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, South Korea and Belgium.

After his service, David returned home to serve his community in 8 years with the Jennings County Sheriff's Department and 4 years with the North Vernon Police Department. In March of 2003, he began his career at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield. He currently serves as

the Academy's Director of Firearms Training, teaching most incoming police officers in the state of Indiana.

Volunteerism is a large part of David's life, showing time after time that you can never give back too much to your community. He has volunteered with the Tea Creek Baptist Church, Jennings County Players, and for many years with the Boy Scouts of America. Through Pack 536, based out of the First United Methodist Church, he has served as adult leader, committee member and most recently served as Scoutmaster. At the district level he is a member of the Order of the Arrow, is Vigil Honor member, a Lodge Advisor, serves as an Executive Board member for the Hoosier Trails Council and has earned the District Award of Merit.

**...David Kipper**

### **Our second inductee is 1995 JCHS Graduate: Kristi (Green) Sigler**

Upon graduation from JCHS, Kristi attended Indiana University and was a 4 year starter on the Women's Basketball team. She attended the Kelley School of Business Majoring in Computer Information Systems and was an academic and athletic all Big Ten Conference selection multiple years.

Kristi began her professional career with ExxonMobil in Houston, TX in 1999. While working in Texas she completed her MBA at the University of Houston. She is now employed by Brown Forman Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky where she serves in an IT Management role.

She is currently the head Girls Basketball coach at JCHS and has served in that capacity since 2016. Prior to leading the Lady Panther program, she served as an assistant coach for 8 years. She was selected as District 3 Coach of the Year for 2020-2021.

Having attended JCHS and growing up in this community, Kristi is very passionate about helping kids, both on and off the court. She has an incredible leadership skill set and is truly a huge asset to Jennings County and JCHS.

**...Kristi Sigler**

**For 2021, The Hall of Fame Committee has named two Honorary members to the JCHS Hall of Fame.**

**The first Honorary inductee is... Robert “Bob” Howe**

Bob Howe, a 1966 graduate of North Vernon High School, earned his bachelors of education from Indiana Central in Indianapolis where he also earned 3 letters in basketball and 2 in baseball. After beginning teaching and coaching at Jeffersonville and Floyd Central; in 1975 he came to JCHS as mathematics teacher and coach. From 1980 to 2002 Mr. Howe was the varsity baseball coach with his teams winning 7 sectionals, 1 regional and played in the Semi State in 1985. In 2005 he was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame. He also was the girls' varsity basketball coach for 11 years winning 7 sectionals and 3 regionals and the boys basketball coach for 2 years. Retiring in 2012 that is 37 years with JCHS and 41.5 years total teaching.

**...Robert Howe**

**The second Honorary inductee is ....T.Howard Jones**

In August 1974, Howard Jones came to teach Physical Education and Science at Jennings County High School. Retiring last year that was 42 years teaching; all at JCHS.

As he came to be known, Coach Jones, took a successful wrestling program and enhanced and expanded it into the notable sport for JCHS it is. For 34 years, he did this by surrounding himself with quality people who have found themselves motivated by his example of hard work and attention to detail. Under Coach Jones's leadership, the wrestling teams won 11 Hoosier Hills Conference championships, 13 Sectionals and 2 Regionals with multiple individuals advancing to Semi-State and State Finals. He was inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2006.

Mr. Jones believes that all of us should be giving back to our community. He does more than just volunteer himself, he taught his wrestlers to be volunteers by finding opportunities for them and helping them fulfill those commitments. He is a great example of giving of his time, talent and treasures to the community and makes everyone want to be a better neighbor. **...Howard Jones**