

Hall of Fame



Membership in the Greenup County School District Hall of Fame consists of graduates, teachers, advisors/coaches, and other individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Greenup County School District.





DON GULLETT

Don Gullett is a 1969 graduate of McKell High School, where he excelled in baseball, football and basketball. In high school, Don pitched a perfect game, striking out 20 of 21 hitters. On the football field, he once scored 72 points in a single game.

Mr. Gullett made his Major League Baseball debut for the Cincinnati Reds in 1970, where he played for six seasons. Don also spent a season with the New York Yankees. He returned to Major League Baseball in 1993 with a successful eleven year run as pitching coach for the Cincinnati Reds.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

JESSE STUART



Jesse Hilton Stuart is a 1926 graduate of Greenup High School. By the end of the 1930s, he had served as a teacher in Greenup County's one-room schools, and as a principal and superintendent.

Jesse Stuart is one of Appalachia's best known authors. The former KY Poet Laureate published 2,000 poems, 460 short stories and more than 60 books. He has received many honors, including Kentucky's Distinguished Service Medallion.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

NORA BLACK

Nora Black attended a one-room, segregated schoolhouse in Greenup before graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in 1941. She continued her education at Kentucky State College for Negroes (now Kentucky State University) in Frankfort.

Ms. Black returned to Greenup to teach in the segregated one room school. She was responsible for teaching and maintenance of the building, including keeping the coal stove burning through each winter.

Greenup High School opened its doors to black students in 1955, and Ms. Black played a vital role in transitioning her students. In 1963, all Greenup schools were integrated, and Ms. Black joined the district as a teacher at Greenup Elementary. She was known and respected throughout the area for her teaching abilities and her perseverance in overcoming obstacles.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



ERNEST WEST

Ernest E. West was a former United States Army soldier and a recipient of the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in the Korean War. Mr. West was awarded the honor by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In October, 1952, PFC West's unit was ambushed. He ran through heavy fire to rescue his wounded commander. As he was pulling the man to safety, hostile soldiers attacked. West shielded the commander with his body and killed the attackers with his rifle, suffering a wound which resulted in the loss of his eye. Despite the injury, he remained on the field and assisted in the evacuation of other wounded men.

Ernie West volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces prior to completing the high school course of study. He was awarded a diploma from GCHS in 2004.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



RICHARD WHITT

Richard Whitt is a 1962 graduate of McKell High School. A Vietnam veteran, Rich graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Journalism. He spent his career as an investigative reporter in Kentucky and Georgia.

Whitt received the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for local general news reporting for his Courier-Journal coverage of the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire that killed 165 people. He received several other honors, including the John Hancock Award, and was a finalist for the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for a series on coal mine safety in Kentucky. He was a 1988 Pulitzer Prize finalist for a series on public service and received the 1988 Southern Journalism Award from the Institute for Southern Studies.

Whitt was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 1995.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



ETHEL McBRAYER

Ms. McBrayer was a trailblazing teacher, principal and educational leader. She began teaching at Greenup Elementary in 1950, where she went on to serve as principal. She then served as principal at Greenup High School, where she continued to teach two classes each day. Ms. McBrayer mentored many students and staff over the years and was one of the most influential educators in Greenup County history. She continued her love of learning after retirement, remaining active on several boards and service groups.

Ms. McBrayer lived the latter part of her life in Lexington, where she received the 2012 Kentucky Lifetime Achievement Award for people in assisted living. Up to her passing at the age of 99, Ethel read three books a week, took harmonica lessons, and attended every UK home basketball game.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

VANCE HUSTON

Lt. Col. Vance Huston was born in Pasadena, California, but called Greenup his "home by choice". He was the Senior Marine ROTC Instructor at GCHS from 1979 - 1988 and was responsible for construction of the current JROTC facility that bears his name.

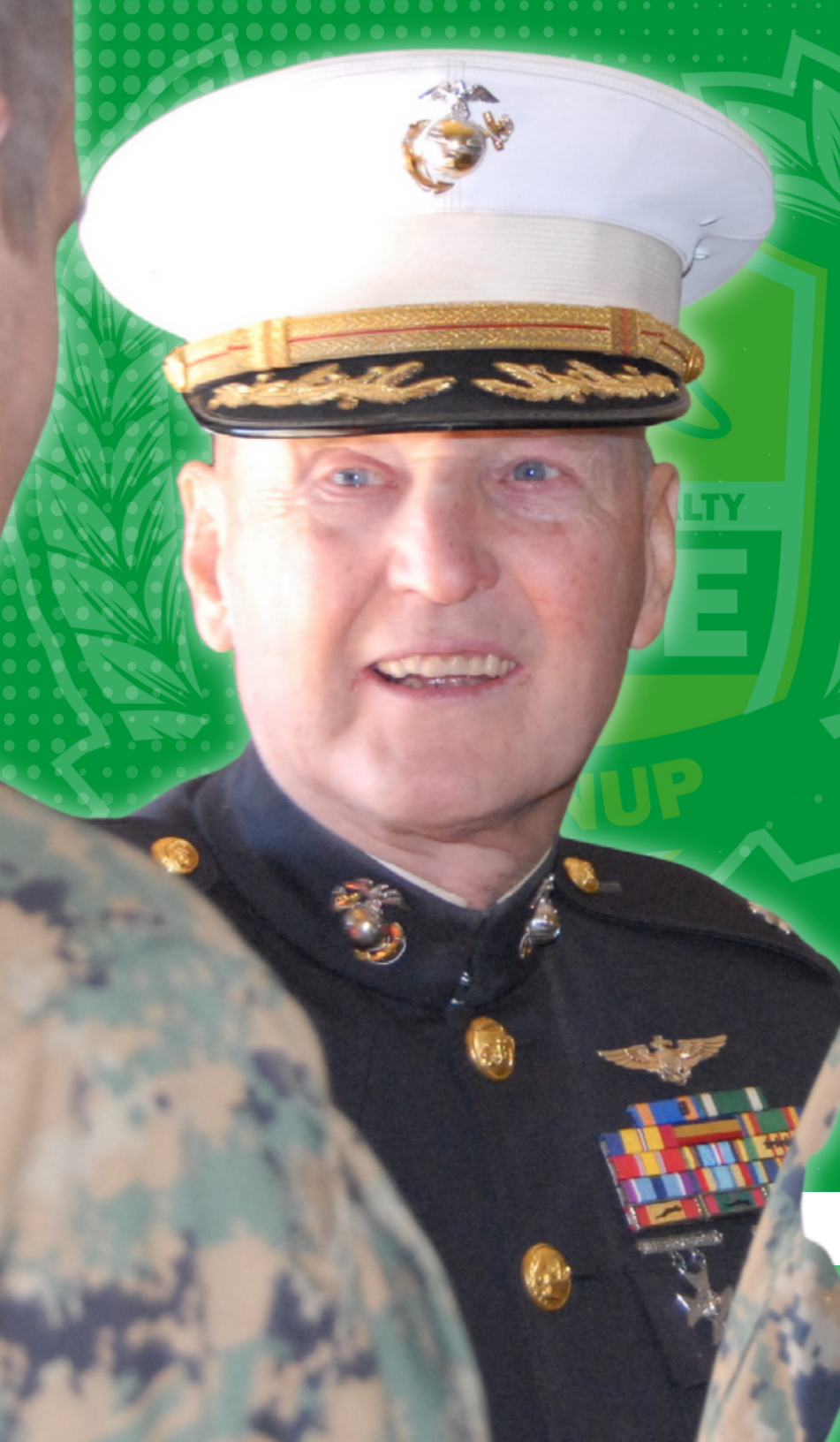
Lt. Col. Huston earned a master's degree from Cal Poly in 1955 and entered the US Marine Corps. His impressive military career includes piloting Helicopter Squadron One for three US presidents - Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He also flew helicopters in Korea, Okinawa, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. He retired from active duty in 1978 while serving in the Public Affairs Department at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, DC.

Lt. Col. Huston was involved in many Greenup County church and civic organizations, and ran a prison ministry until his passing in 2018.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



CANDY BERRY



Candy Berry is an international celebrity in the world of competitive cheerleading. For more than 40 years, Candy has led Greenup County High School to an unprecedented 16 UCA National Championships and one World Championship. She has coached close to 1,000 student-athletes.

Candy has been widely recognized and awarded for her accomplishments at the local, state and national levels. Her teams have performed everywhere, from Tokyo, Japan, to the Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been offered prestigious positions across the country, but Candy remains fiercely loyal to Greenup County and the program she has built.

Candy Berry's name is synonymous with Greenup County cheerleading.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

DAVID STULTZ

David Stultz is a 1967 graduate of Greenup High School. He attended Morehead State University on a baseball scholarship, and graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in 1974. He was a member of the Kentucky National Guard for six years, earning the KY National Guardsman of the Year award.

Mr. Stultz returned to Greenup and opened Stultz Pharmacy in 1979. Since that time, David Stultz has made a name for himself as a respected community leader and a trusted professional. Over the years, Mr. Stultz has employed over 200 GCHS students, many of whom are still part of the Stultz Pharmacy family today. Since retirement, Mr. Stultz has been enjoying time with his family. He continues to set the bar for community and volunteer service.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



ELBERT NICKEL

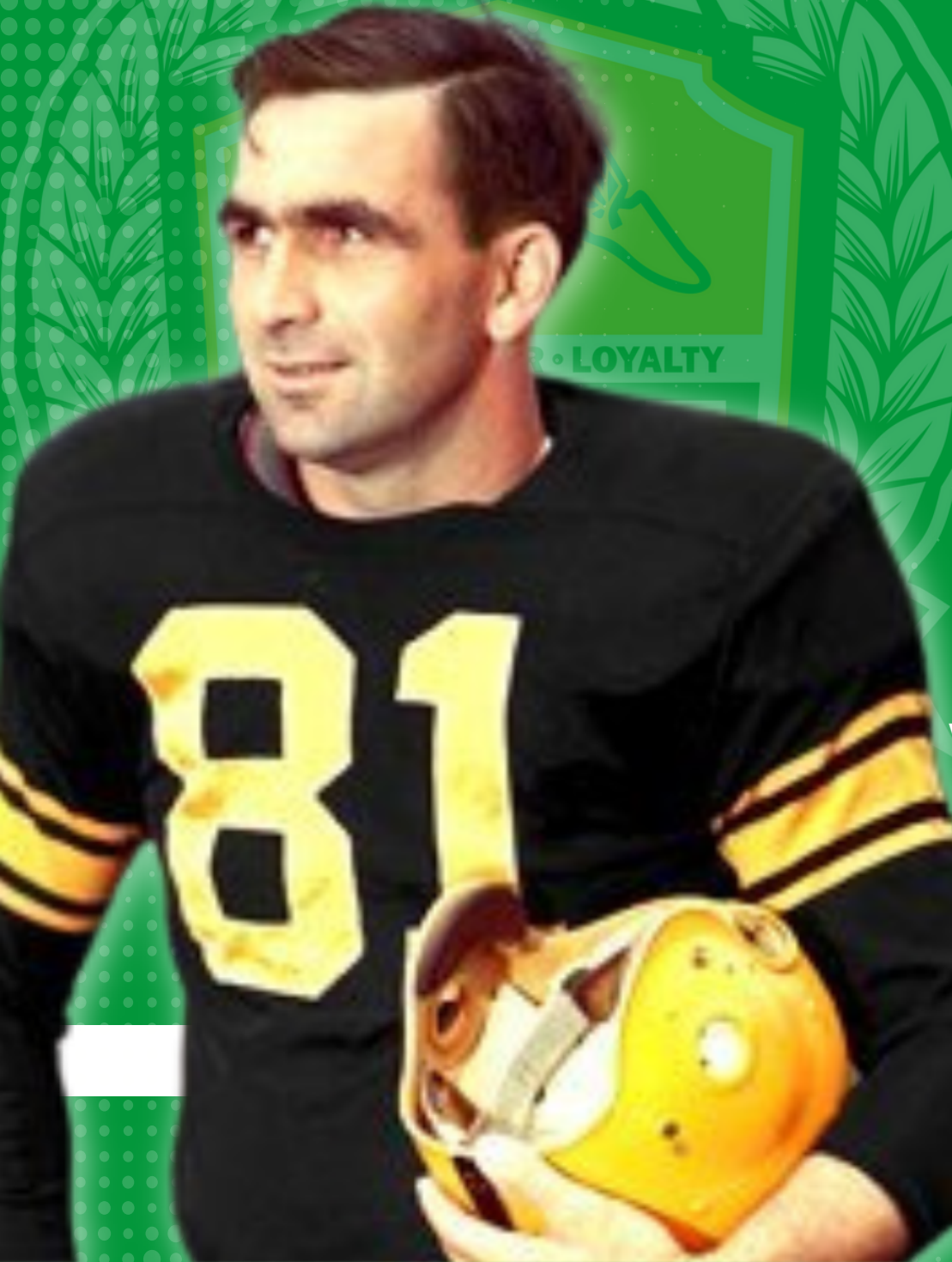
Elbie Nickel was a 1940 graduate of McKell High School, where he was chosen for the All-KY High School football team and the All-Eastern KY Conference basketball team. He attended the University of Cincinnati where he played football, basketball and baseball for the Bearcats. His college career was paused when he entered the US Army to serve in World War II. After the war, he returned to UC where he led the football team to a Sun Bowl championship and was named an All-American.

Elbie was offered contracts by the Cincinnati Reds and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He chose Pittsburgh, where he was a top pass receiver and considered one of the best ends in football. He was named captain and MVP for the Steelers, as well as an NFL All-Star, playing in three pro bowls. Mr. Nickel was inducted into the Pittsburgh Hall of Fame in 1982 and was named to the All-Time Pittsburgh Steelers team.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



TOM STULTZ

Tom Stultz is a 1969 graduate of Greenup High School. He attended Ohio University on a baseball scholarship, and earned an MBA from Georgia State University in 2002.

Tom worked in the newspaper business for years, including becoming President and CEO of the newspaper division of Gray Television, Inc. In 2004, he was named President and CEO of Host Communications in Lexington, KY. Host was eventually sold to IMG Worldwide, and Tom became Senior Vice President of IMG College where he managed the sponsorship and media rights for more than 75 universities, including the University of Kentucky. He then served as Managing Director of JMI Sports' College Media and Capital Division, where he was instrumental in the launch of the SEC Network.

Mr. Stultz is now President of JMI Sports, where he works with universities, athletic conferences and professional teams across the country.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

TANYA PULLIN

Tanya Pullin is a 1975 graduate of Greenup County High School. She earned a BS from the University of Kentucky, an MA from Duke, a JD from the UK College of Law and a certificate in international law from Faculty of Law at Uppsala University in Sweden.

She first practiced law at Morgan & Finnegan on Park Avenue in New York City. She retired from Deacons Law Firm in Hong Kong in 1997 to return home to South Shore.

Ms. Pullin served as State Representative for Kentucky's 98th District from 2001 to 2016, where she chaired the Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee. She resigned to accept a position as administrative law judge in the Department of Workers Claims.

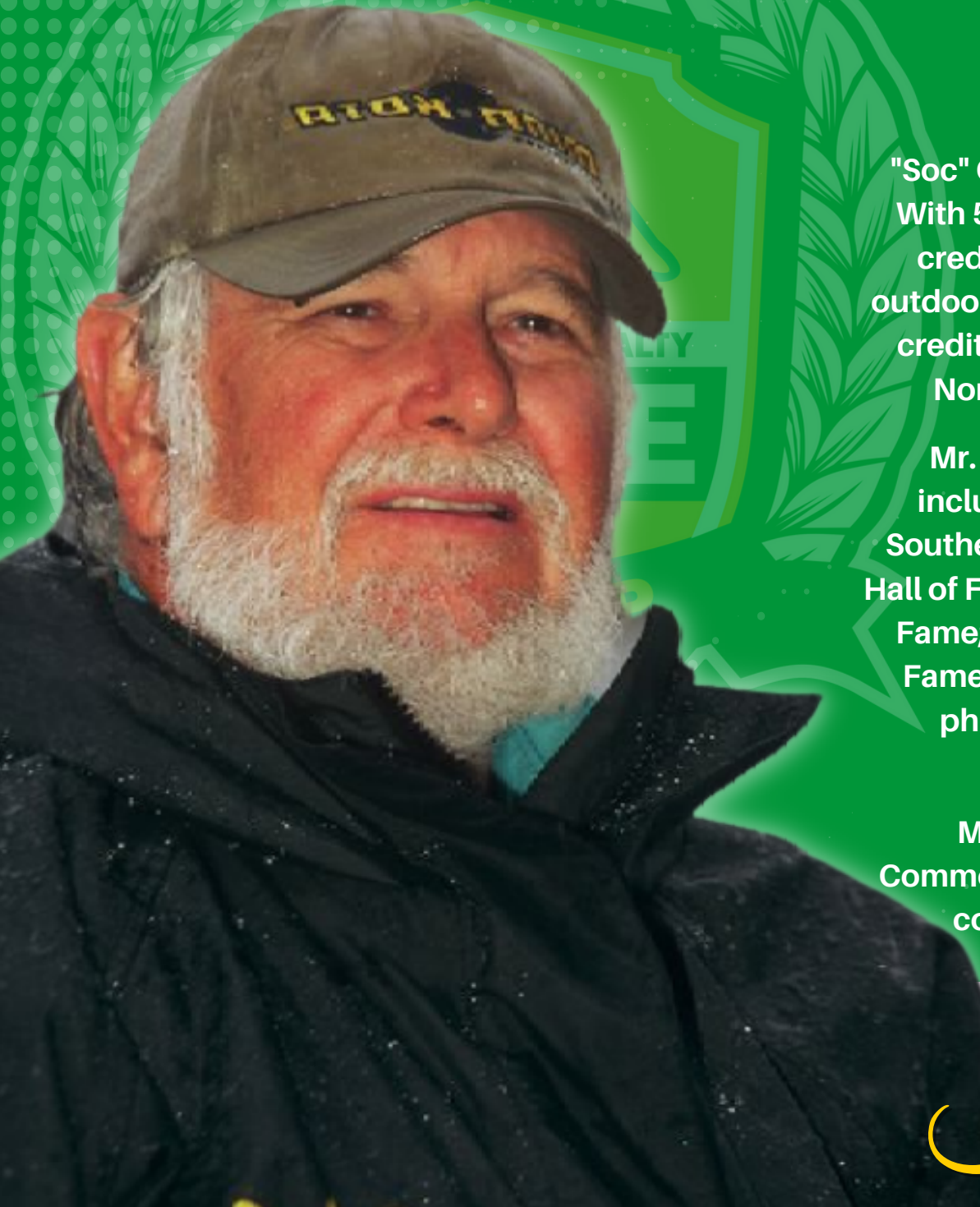
Ms. Pullin has been inducted into the UK School of Human Environmental Science's Hall of Fame and has received UK's College of Agriculture Outstanding Alumni Award. She is a member of UK's College of Law Alumni Board.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

CLARENCE CLAY



"Soc" Clay is a 1954 graduate of McKell High School. With 50 years of writing and still photography to his credit, Soc Clay is considered to be an icon in the outdoor communication industry. His byline and photo credits have appeared in every major publication in North America that covers outdoor recreation.

Mr. Clay has received many prestigious awards including: Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Press Association; National Freshwater Hall of Fame; Southern Trout "Legends of the Fly" Hall of Fame; and Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame as a Legendary Photojournalist, the first ever photojournalist to receive the award from this prestigious international organization.

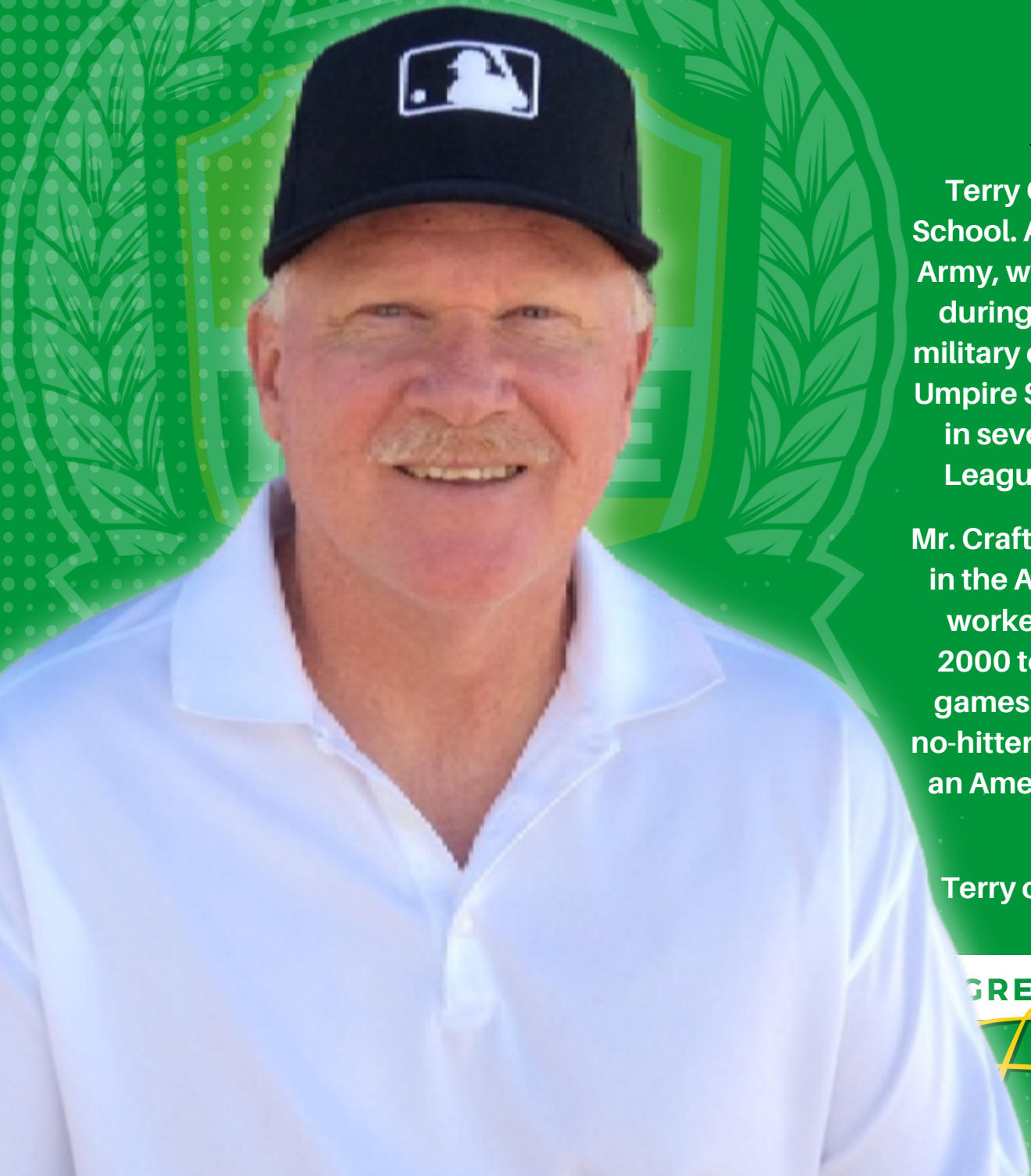
Mr. Clay served as the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1983, the first outdoor communicator to receive such a distinction.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

TERRY CRAFT



Terry Craft is a 1972 graduate of McKell High School. After graduation, Terry enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he began to umpire baseball games during his seven years of active duty. After his military discharge, he attended the Bill Kinnamon Umpire School. From 1979 to 1986, Terry worked in several minor leagues. He broke into Major League Baseball as a reserve umpire in 1987.

Mr. Craft served as a professional baseball umpire in the American League from 1987 to 1999 and worked throughout both major leagues from 2000 to 2006. He umpired 1,734 major league games in his twenty year career, including two no-hitters, a Major League Baseball All-Star Game, an American League Championship Series, and two Division Series.

Terry currently lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

PAUL J ARCHEY

Paul (PJ) Archey is a 1981 graduate of Greenup County High School. He was a member of the school's first 63rd District basketball and 16th Regional baseball championship teams. Paul graduated from Georgetown College, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and earned a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Paul served as senior vice president of international business for Major League Baseball from 1999 to 2014. The World Baseball Classic was executed under his leadership and is now the premier international baseball tournament. Paul is currently president of UK Sports and Campus Marketing, where he manages the athletics multimedia rights for the University of Kentucky.

Paul has been named as one of "10 to Watch" by Baseball America and has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UMass Amherst.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

LINNA CRAFT

Linna Craft was a pioneering teacher, principal and educational leader for over 43 years. She began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Greenup County at the age of 18, where she would fetch water from the well for her students. She traveled evenings and summers to Morehead State University to complete her teaching degrees.

Ms. Craft served as principal at South Portsmouth, Lynn and Wurtland Elementary Schools. After retirement, she was asked to return as interim principal on two separate occasions. She returned to the role with energy, passion and dedication each time she was called.

Ms. Craft has mentored many students and staff over the years and is considered one of the most influential educators in Greenup County history.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

CLINT THOMAS

Clint "Hawk" Thomas was born in Greenup in 1896. Mr. Thomas played professional baseball in the Negro Baseball League from 1920 to 1938. He is a member of the Kentucky State Sports Hall of Fame and is one of 25 players from the Negro League eligible for special recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Mr. Thomas had a lifetime batting average of .333, with more than 376 home runs. He earned the nickname "Hawk" for his exceptional ball hawking abilities at centerfield. Known as the "black Joe DiMaggio", Clint's lifetime batting average and career homeruns both outrank Joltin' Joe's.

After his baseball career ended, Mr. Thomas settled in Charleston, West Virginia. He returned to Greenup in 1979 for his 80th birthday party, which became the first reunion of Negro Baseball League players, and brought international recognition to Greenup County.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



DR. E VERNON SMITH

Dr. E. Vernon Smith is a 1933 graduate of Greenup High School. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1937, paying for his education with a newspaper route and part-time jobs. He completed medical school at the University of Cincinnati in 1941, and spent the next five years in the Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Smith, who spent most of his career as an internist in Cincinnati, designated \$11.5 million to the University of Kentucky in 2006 - the most broad-based gift in the history of the university.

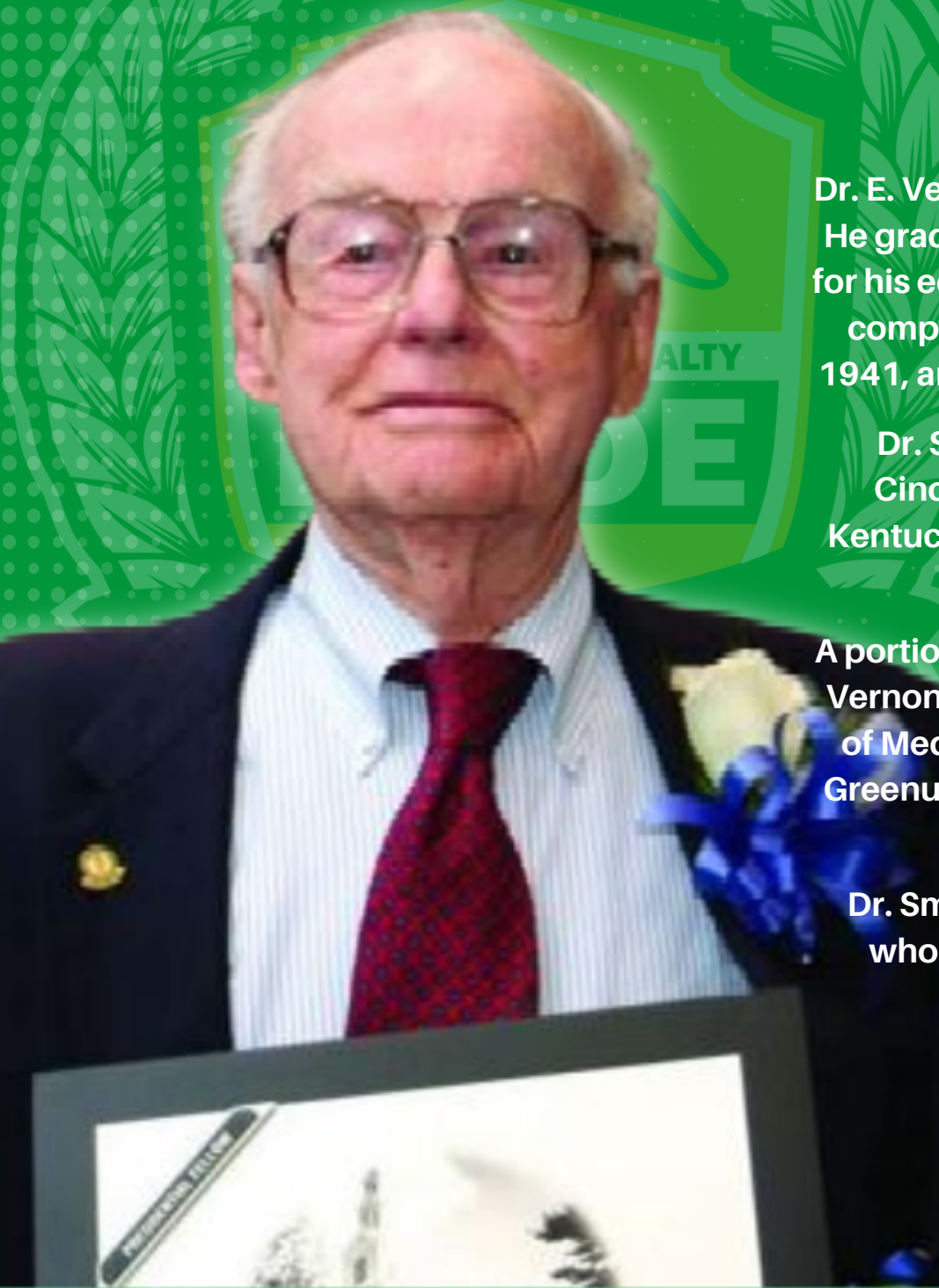
A portion of his contribution funds the Eloise C. Smith and Dr. E. Vernon Smith Medical Scholarship Endowment in the College of Medicine and is designated specifically for students from Greenup County. He encouraged those scholarship recipients to return home to practice medicine.

Dr. Smith named fellow Hall of Fame recipient Jesse Stuart, who was his current events teacher at GHS, as a mentor.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



EUNICE HARPER

Eunice Harper was a pioneering teacher, principal and superintendent during her 46 years in education.

A graduate of Duke University, she began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Greenup County. She walked to Buffalo School every day to teach with the promise of an eventual paycheck.

Ms. Harper served in many roles during her esteemed career, including principal at McKell High School and superintendent of the Raceland Independent School District.

After retirement, Ms. Harper was president of the Maloneton Homemakers Club, a member of the Fraternal Order of Eastern Star, Radiance Chapter OES #427, the White Shrine of Jerusalem #35, the Daughters of America and Rebekah Lodge #6, and the Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

JOHN F YOUNCE

John Younce was a 1966 graduate of McKell High School, where he played three sports and served as senior class president.

He continued his football career at both Eastern Kentucky and the University of Tennessee. After serving in the US Navy, John returned to Greenup County and became a volunteer football coach while completing his undergraduate degree at Morehead State University.

Mr. Younce started his teaching and coaching career at GCHS in 1977, where he helped the Musketeers earn a state football championship. His career in the Greenup County School District spanned over thirty years, including roles as teacher, coach, principal, district administrator, and finally, superintendent. During his time as superintendent, he was recognized as the Administrator of the Year by the KY School Counselor Association and the Superintendent of the Year by KEDC.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



LEWIS NICHOLLS

Lewis D. Nicholls is a 1968 graduate of Greenup High School. He attended Morehead State University and received a JD from the Northern Kentucky University College of Law. Mr. Nicholls also served as a captain in the US Army.

Judge Nicholls served the people of Greenup for many years, first as Assistant County Attorney in 1981. He then moved on to roles as District Judge, Circuit Judge, and Senior Status Judge. After retirement, Mr. Nicholls was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2016.

Mr. Nicholls is an avid history buff, and has published two historical books - "Masterful Retreat" and "Greenup County: An Historical Reflection". He is also a respected local leader and volunteer, especially in the Greenup County School District community, where he helped establish the GCSD Alumni Association.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

ROBERT W. CARPENTER

Robert W. "Bobby" Carpenter is a 1969 graduate of Wurtland High School. He has served Greenup County as County Judge Executive since 1994.

Bobby has served as president of the KY County Judge Association, and was the 2001 County Judge Executive of the Year. He has also received the President's Award for Leadership and the Presidential Award from FIVCO Area Development District as well as the Unity Award from Ashland Alliance.

Mr. Carpenter is active in many community agencies and boards, including the GC Health Department Board, FIVCO, Ashland Alliance, Appalachian Foothills Housing, and the GC Fair Board.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



ERNEST GOUGE

Master Sergeant Ernest Gouge, Jr was an exceptional ROTC instructor at GCHS for thirteen years, from 1979 until his retirement in 1991. He was known as a quiet man who taught the traits he lived - honor, integrity, loyalty, self-discipline and respect.

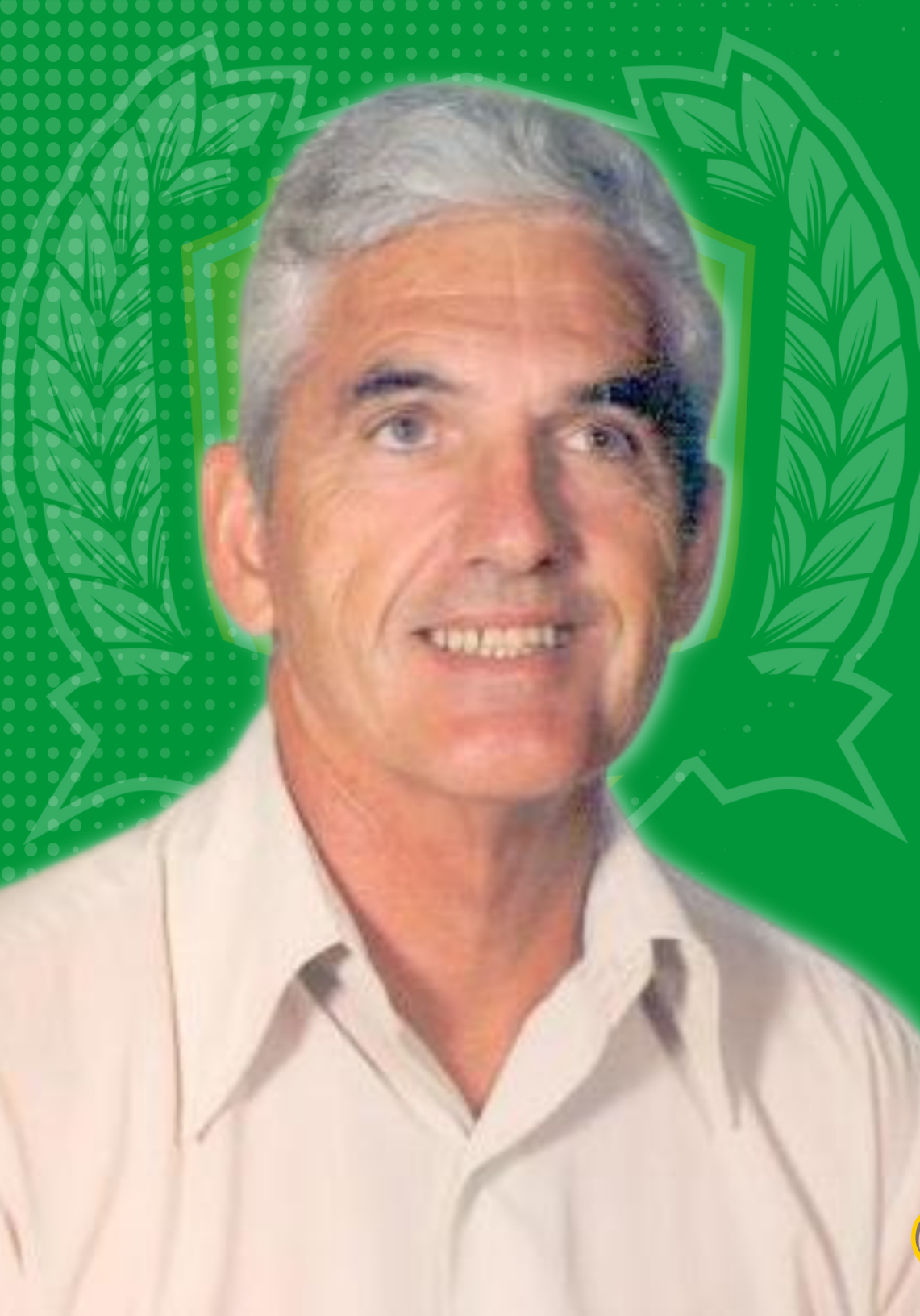
MSgt Gouge was a combat veteran of the Korean Conflict and completed two tours in Vietnam. Upon return, he was stationed in Indiana, Puerto Rico and South Carolina before retiring from active duty.

The impact of MSgt. Gouge's career lives on - his Hall of Fame nomination contained over 20 personal accounts from former cadets whose lives he has touched. Ernie Gouge passed away in January 2009, but his spirit lives on in the cadets he trained.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



RAMEY FLETCHER

Ramey Fletcher was a 1948 graduate of McKell High School. Mr. Fletcher coached at Greenup High School before becoming the first boys basketball coach at the newly consolidated Greenup County High School. Coach Fletcher took players from three rival teams and led the newly-minted Musketeers to the 1974 state semifinals. He finished the year by being selected to coach the KY High School East-West game.

Mr. Fletcher taught his players discipline, respect and the importance of work ethic. As a history teacher, Mr. Fletcher held his students in the classroom to the same standards as his players on the court. He challenged students to excel in all academic classes, and graduation was an expectation, not an option.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

JOE

GREENSLATE, JR.



Joe Greenslate, Jr. was a 1979 graduate of Greenup County High School. As the starting center for the football team, Joe helped lead his team to the 1977 Kentucky State-At-Large 4A Football Championship.

Mr. Greenslate joined the family business, Jim & Joe's Garage, in 1988. At the helm, Joe was responsible for expanding the business from auto body repair to auto parts, rebuildables, auto sales mechanics and body shop.

Joe and his business were major supporters of Greenup County academics and athletics for years. Joe served as an assistant football coach, volunteer and was often asked to speak with teams to provide motivational messages before games and competitions. Joe could often be seen on the sidelines at GCHS sporting events to cheer on his beloved Musketeers.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

DOROTHY GRIFFITH

Dorothy Kendall Griffith graduated as valedictorian from Greenup High School in 1944.

Ms. Griffith was the matriarch of the Greenup County Library System. In 1969, she was hired to begin a demonstration program for a countywide library system. The first libraries opened in Greenup and Flatwoods, with the McKell library soon following. In 2013, the newly built Greenup Library facility was opened in downtown Greenup.

The “Dorothy Kendall Griffith Genealogy and Local History Department” that she initiated is one of the finest in the state. Ms. Griffith was named Kentucky’s Outstanding Librarian in 1981 by the Kentucky Library Association.

Today, as a result of Dorothy’s commitment to generations of Greenup County families, the library continues to expand and impact the community in immeasurable ways.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



W. TERRY McBRAYER

Terry McBrayer was a 1955 graduate of Greenup High School. He graduated from the Louis D Bandies School of Law at the University of Louisville in 1962.

The McBrayer Firm was established in Greenup in February, 1963. It has since grown to be the sixth largest firm in the Commonwealth. Mr. McBrayer was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America and as an Outstanding Alumnus by the Morehead Alumni Association.

Mr. McBrayer served in several political offices and cabinet level positions including the KY House of Representatives, House Majority Leader, and chairman of the KY Democratic Party. He was also a founding member of the State Capitol Group. Terry finished his career as a founding member and lead lobbyist for MML&K Government Solutions.

Terry and his mother, Ethel McBrayer, have both been inducted into the GCSD Hall of Fame.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

G. SAM PIATT

G. Sam Piatt is a 1953 graduate of South Portsmouth High School. He attended Cedarville University and graduated from Marshall University with a Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree in journalism in 1992.

G. Sam Piatt (as his byline appears) spent more than 30 years as a news reporter, sports editor, and senior news writer at the Portsmouth Daily Times and the Ashland Daily Independent.

He has written two books, "Men of Valor", featuring WW2 combat stories of local veterans, and "That Summer of '45", a boy's adventure novel.

Mr. Piatt continues to work as a freelance newspaper and magazine writer/photographer. He currently writes a weekly column on outdoor sports for The Times and The Independent. His column has run in The Independent's Sunday sports section for 43 years.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

TOM CLAY

Tom Clay is a 1979 graduate of Greenup County High School, where he served as class president for three years and was a member of the 1977 KY State At-Large football championship team.

Tom is a familiar face on local television where he serves as an outdoor host on WOWK and WSAZ, and hosted "The Outdoor Way" television show. He also spent 22 years as the statewide radio host of "This Week's Outdoor Adventures", which aired on 23 stations.

Tom served as president of the Kentucky Outdoor Press Association for 17 years. He has twice been named KY Water Conservationist of the Year, and has been recognized as a KY State Ambassador, KY State Admiral, and a Kentucky Colonel. Tom was inducted into the Morehead State University Hall of Fame in 2021. Tom also serves on the board of the GCSD Alumni Association.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



LIZ

EVERMAN

Liz Everman is a 1973 graduate of McKell High School. After graduating from Morehead with a degree in Radio and Television, she spent 40 years in the television news business as an anchor and reporter before retiring in 2017.

Liz worked at WLEX and WTVQ in Lexington and WLKY-TV in Louisville. In addition to anchoring, Liz hosted a weekly news feature called Wednesday's Child for 37 years, which helped an estimated 4,000 foster children find their forever families. She is also founder and chairman emeritus of the Wednesday's Child non-profit. Currently, Liz is President of JumpStartKY, Inc., a public charity that works to help homeless young adults secure stable housing and support services.

Liz is a member of the KY Journalism Hall of Fame and was honored by the US Congress as an Adoption Angel for her work advocating for foster children.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



BOB KOUNS

Robert "Bob" Kouns graduated from South Portsmouth High School in 1958, where he played baseball and basketball, scoring over 2000 points in his basketball career.

Bob attended William Carey College, where he continued to play both sports for four years. Bob was hired as a teacher and coach at McKell High School in the 1960s. After consolidation, he moved to GCHS in 1973. During his coaching tenure, his teams won two regional championships and combined for over 400 wins.

Bob has officiated athletic events for over 45 years, including 7 state baseball tournament finals, 5 state basketball tournaments and 5 state football tournaments. He was inducted into the KY Baseball Hall of Fame in 2004, and has been named KY Outstanding Baseball Umpire of the Year and a KHSAA Legend in KY sports.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

JOHN STEPHENSON

John Stephenson is a 1959 graduate of South Portsmouth High School, where he earned All-State in basketball and baseball. He graduated from William Carey College, where he was named MVP in both basketball and baseball.

Upon graduation, John signed with the NY Mets. He played 10 years of professional baseball with the Mets, Cubs, Giants and Angels. He was primarily a catcher, but played every position except pitcher and shortstop.

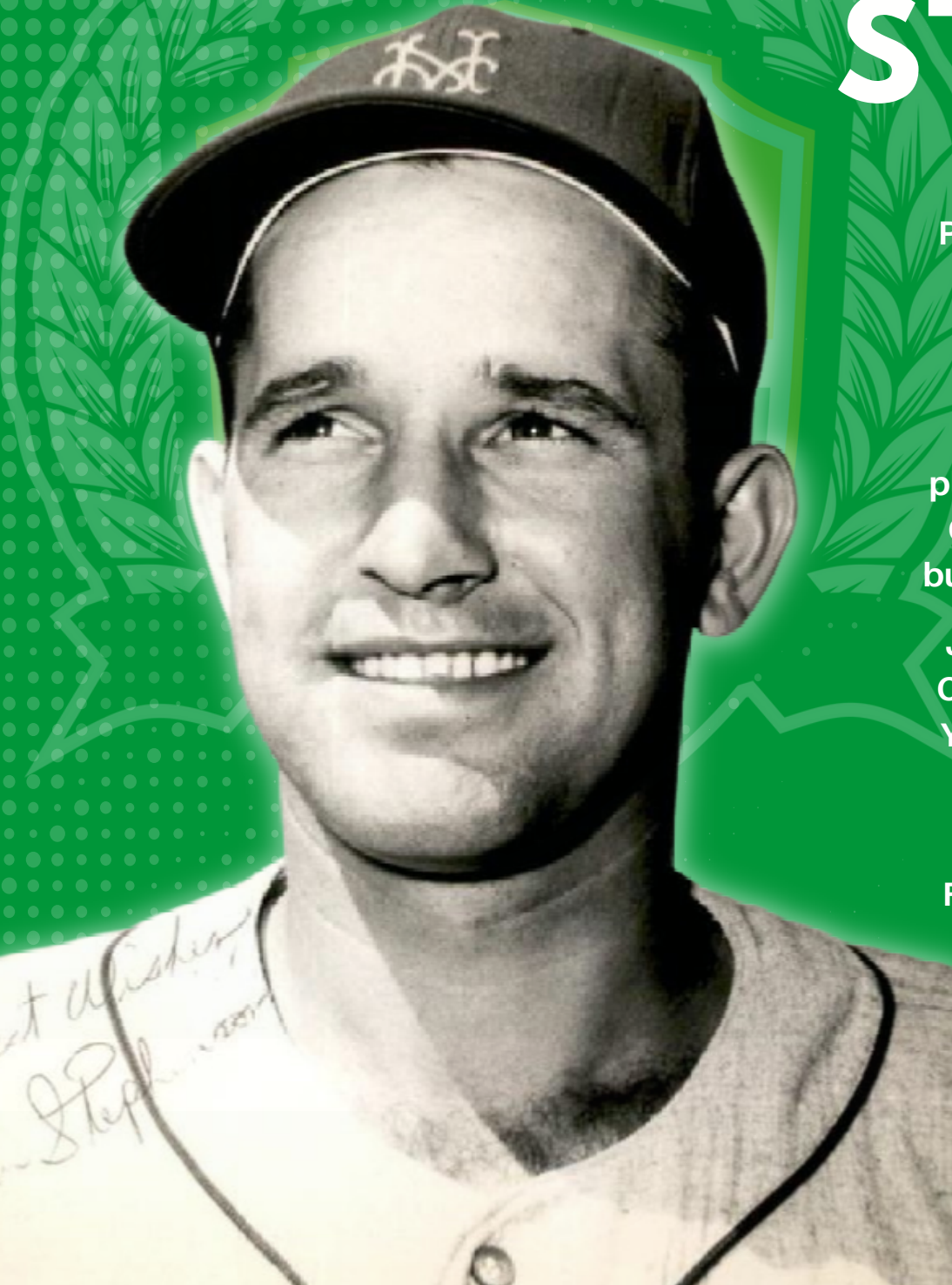
John earned his MS and returned to coach at William Carey, where he won several conference Coach of the Year awards. While serving as head baseball coach at Southeastern Louisiana University, John attained a record of 535 wins and 291 losses.

From 1991-2002, John served as an instructor, coach and manager with the Mets Minor League Baseball Operations.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



THOMAS W. WRIGHT

Tom Wright is a 1969 graduate of McKell High School, where he played three sports while also working in the family-owned restaurant, Wright's Drive Inn, in South Shore.

Tom started his first business at 19, when he turned an old bread truck equipped with a power washer into "Mobile Pressure Cleaning". In 1981, he opened a mobile truck cleaning unit in Cincinnati. The business became a full-scale environmental cleaning service with 13 branches in the eastern US and over 600 workers.

After selling the business, Tom focused on local economic development. He has owned several small businesses and currently owns 10 restaurants, employing over 200 people in the Tri-State area.

Tom has served on the Board of Directors for Rose Hill Christian School, the Ramey Estep Home, Ashland YMCA and the KY Chamber of Commerce. He has been named Pikeville Business Person of the Year and Kentucky Entrepreneur of the Year.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

RONALD K. CARTEE

Ron Cartee is a 1961 graduate of McKell High School. He attended Morehead State University while working at Armco, Inc., where he was recommended for employment by GC author and Poet Laureate, Jesse Stuart.

After college, Ron focused on business and land development. He built and managed over 20 Arby's locations in the tri-state area. Mr. Cartee was inducted in the MSU Hall of Fame in 2018. An MSU scholarship was endowed in the Cartee name, with preference awarded to GC students.

Ron is active in the Jesse Stuart Foundation. He donated an extensive collection of first edition Stuart books and memorabilia to the GC Public Library. He has also donated over 2,000 Jesse Stuart books to GCSD students, and often speaks to students about Stuart's legacy and the importance of reading.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



JOHN H. Darnell

John H. Darnell, Jr, M.D., is a 1972 graduate of Greenup High School, where he was co-valedictorian and played two sports.

John continued his basketball career while earning his undergraduate degree at Centre College. He went on to earn a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Louisville.

After successfully completing residency, Dr. Darnell returned to Greenup County to start a medical practice. He faithfully served patients for more than 27 years, and retired as Chief Medical Officer of Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital. As a physician, he mentored dozens of students from Greenup County as they completed their medical school rotations.

Dr. Darnell was named Citizen Doctor of the Year in 2004, and received a Distinguished Service Award in 2015 from the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians. He served as KAFP President from 1997 to 1998.

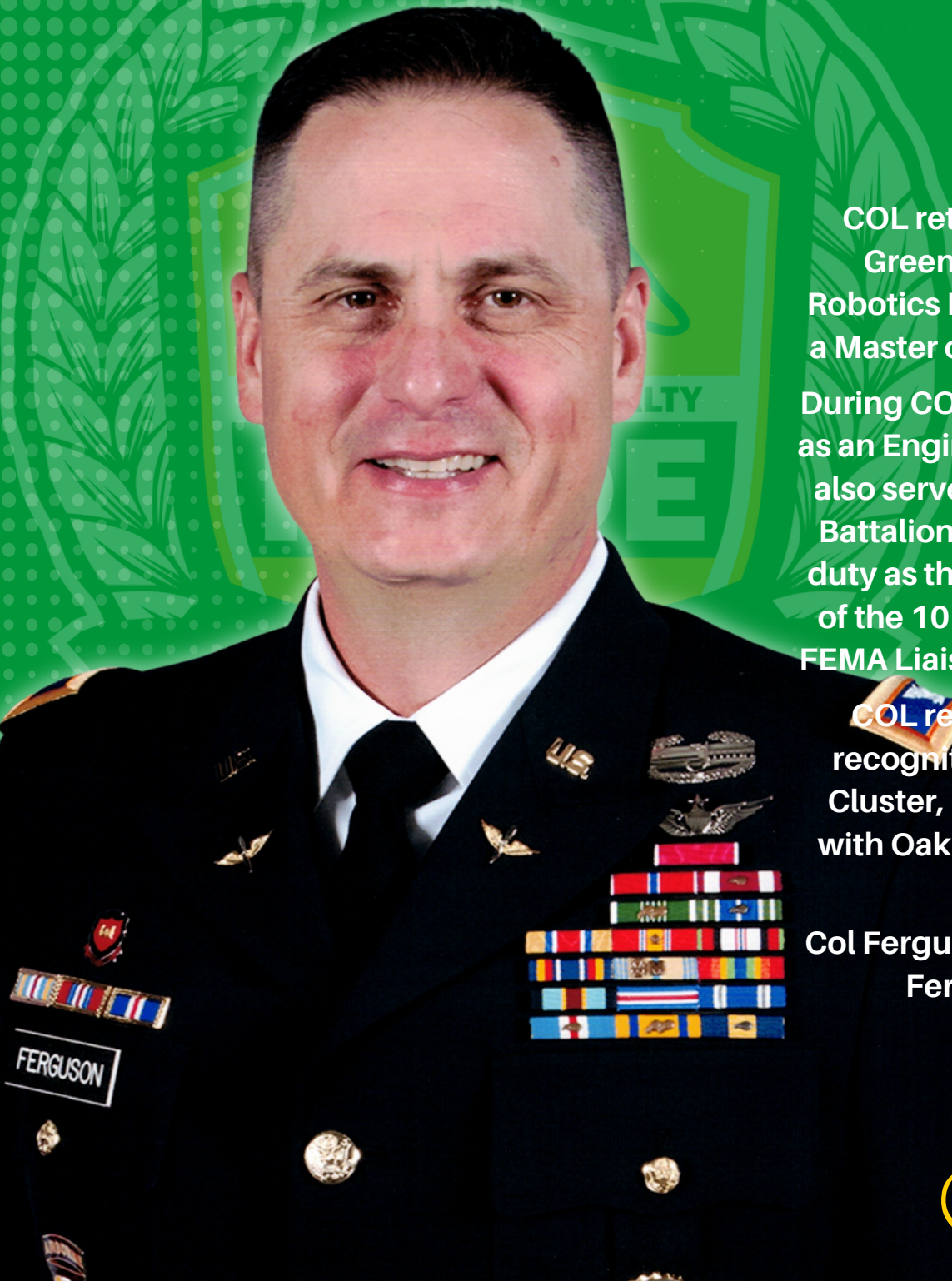
Dr. Darnell also served as the District Administrator for Little League Baseball and Softball in our area for 18 years.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

MICHAEL FERGUSON



COL ret. Michael "Tater" Ferguson is a 1987 graduate of Greenup County High School. He earned a degree in Robotics Engineering Technology from Morehead State and a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. During COL ret. Ferguson's 30 year military career, he served as an Engineer Branch Officer and Aviation Branch Officer. He also served in command and staff positions from Company, Battalion, Brigade, and State Headquarters level, including duty as the 201st Engineer Battalion Commander in support of the 101st ABN in Afghanistan. He continues to serve as a FEMA Liaison to Kentucky Emergency Management Agency.

COL ret. Ferguson has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Col Ferguson lives in Versailles with his wife, Mari Jo Kendall Ferguson, 'GCHS 88. They have two daughters.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

DOROTHY TOWNSEND LEDGER



Dorothy Townsend Ledger graduated from Greenup High School in 1967. She received a bachelors degree in business administration and a masters in public administration, government and politics from National University in San Diego.

Dorothy began her career at the KY National Guard and the KY Crime Commission, before entering service with the US Department of State. She served at the American Embassies in the Republic of Panama, and in Moscow, USSR. The remainder of her career became classified, and she traveled with a top-secret passport.

Dorothy traveled the world , serving the US in Germany, Gabon, Lagos, Nigeria, Prague, Somalia, and Paris. During her 4 years in Paris, Dorothy provided support and security for President and Mrs. Clinton during their visits. She retired from her post in Washington, DC to return home to Greenup in 1999. Dorothy served as the regional director of AYUSA and hosted Foreign Service Students.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



PERRY MADDEN

Perry Madden is a 1969 graduate of Greenup High School. He started his career at the entry level and ended up not only owning the business, but expanding his enterprise to own a real estate investment company. Mr. Madden formed Newtech Systems in 2006, which employs 65 people in four cities.

Mr. Madden purchased, renovated, and preserved several downtown Ashland landmarks, including the Sears building, Henry Clay Hotel, Camayo Arcade, and the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center. The museum building was donated to ACTC and then sold to the Highlands Museum, freeing funds for scholarships and creation of the ACTC Child Development Center.

Perry's entrepreneurial spirit has provided more than 100 jobs in the area.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



RHONDA NICKEL NUNLEY

Rhonda Nickel Nunley was a 1991 graduate of Greenup County High School. After finishing her post-secondary education, she returned to her roots in GC.

Rhonda coached cross country and track and served as case manager for the Alternative Learning Center at GCHS, working with at-risk youth at the middle and high school levels. She impacted many students during her tenure in the GCSD.

Rhonda was passionate about community service and served as President of GC Habitat for Humanity. She also volunteered for the Drug Free Coalition and the Homelessness & Hunger Task Force. She considered her two boys, Byron and Carter, her greatest achievement.

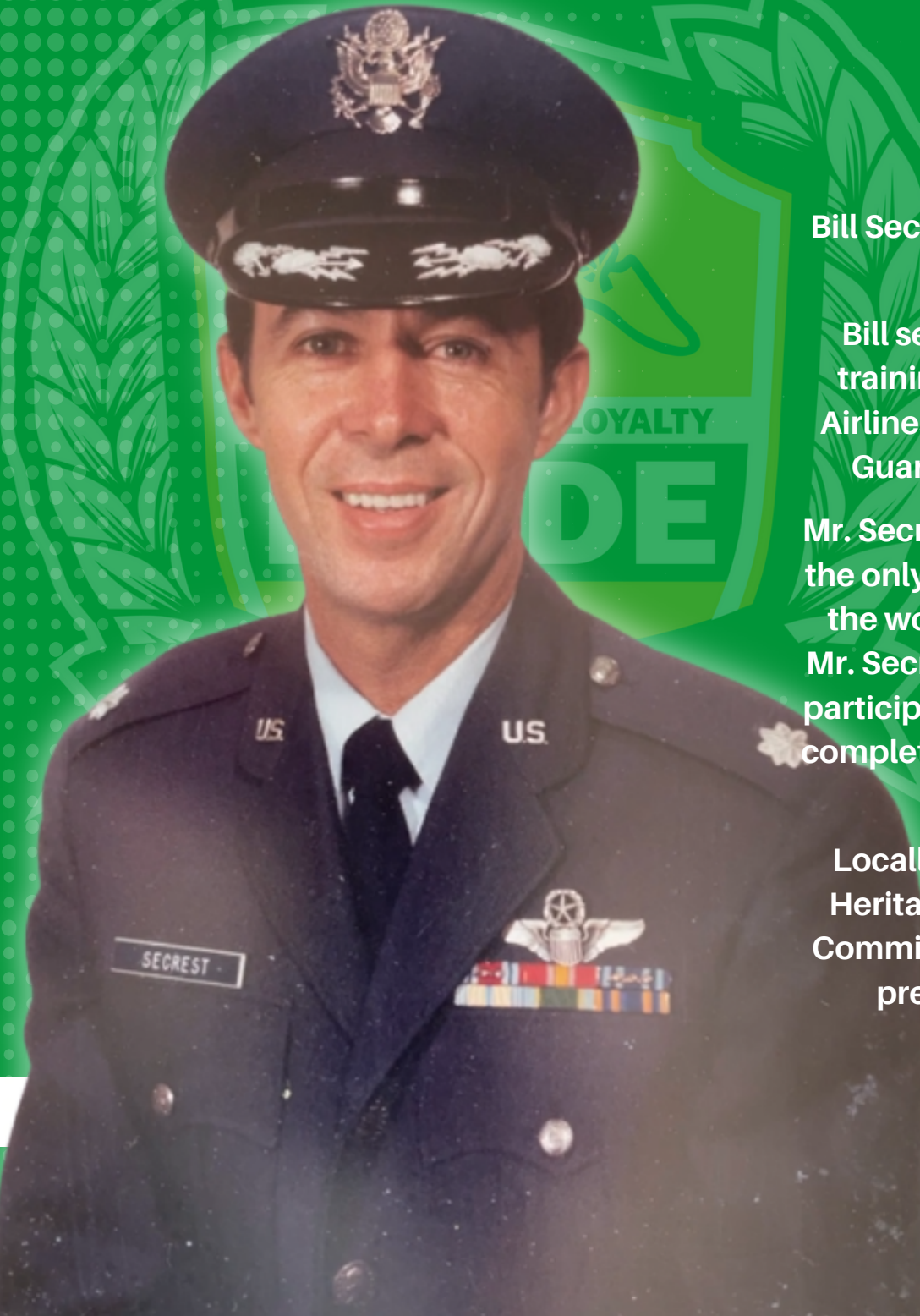
Shortly after her cancer diagnosis in 2010, "Rhonda's Raisins" was established to "raise" support, "raise" hope, and "raise" awareness. Rhonda passed in 2013, but her work continues through benefits in her name to support the American Cancer Society. Her legacy lives on and continues to positively impact others - just as Rhonda would have wanted it.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

WILLIAM B. SECRET



Bill Secret is a 1958 graduate of Wurtland High School and a 1962 graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Bill served in the US Air Force, graduating from USAF pilot training in 1964. After active duty, he piloted for American Airlines while continuing to fly for the Pennsylvania National Guard. He retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel in 1985.

Mr. Secret started a new airline, Golden Sun Air Cargo. He was the only person from KY certified to operate a cargo jet around the world. He also flew with the Navy's Blue Angels in 1993. Mr. Secret is active in the Sports Car Club of America, and has participated in rallies on every continent except Antarctica. He completed the "Around the World in 80 Days Motor Challenge" (20,000 miles), driving a 1935 Chrysler Airflow.

Locally, Bill is active in several organizations, including the Heritage Arts, Science and Tourism Center, the GC Tourism Commission, and Greenup County Covered Bridges. He often presents his "Cash to Class" program at area schools, displaying currency from over 55 countries.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

DIANA Q. KOUNS

Diana Kouns is a 1964 graduate of McKell High School and a 1969 graduate of Morehead State University.

Diana's service to Greenup County Schools began in 1970 when she started teaching at South Portsmouth Elementary. She held this position for 14 years. Later, she moved to McKell Elementary School, teaching in that building for 15 years. While teaching, Diana participated in tutoring programs, served on numerous interview committees, and mentored many student teachers. In 1998, Diana retired from Greenup County Schools, but she continued to tutor students through the Little Red Schoolhouse for an additional 13 years.

Even today, Diana continues to work to serve the students of Greenup County, annually securing donations for those in need. She, along with her husband, Bob, will always be proud Musketeers!

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

SHEILA RATLIFF REEDER

Sheila Ratliff Reeder is a 1970 graduate of McKell High School. She then attended Morehead State University, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

After short-term employment in Lewis County, Sheila returned home to Greenup County. Sheila began teaching at McKell Elementary School, and, in 1981, she became the building's first female principal. Sheila proudly held this post until 1995. Those who know Sheila have described her as "a master in the classroom," "an excellent principal," and as someone who "leads by example." After a short stint in Ashland Independent Schools, Reeder once again returned home, assuming the role of superintendent in 1999. As the first female superintendent, the district thrived under her leadership.

Reeder retired and moved to Florida with her husband, Tom, to be close to her twin sons, but she will always call Greenup County home.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



GREG LOGAN

Greg Logan is a 1981 graduate of Greenup County High School and attended William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to play baseball.

In 1984, Greg married his wife, Angie, and, together, they have three children: Tiffany, Billy, and Angel. Greg also has four grandchildren. In 1996, Greg became the President and owner of River Cities Builders. His company has made many contributions to Greenup County Schools and the local community. Greg stands on a simple premise of surrounding himself with quality people.

In 2006, Greg became the head coach of Greenup County's baseball team. During his tenure, he led the team to five state quarterfinals, earning a record of 384 wins and 192 losses. Even after stepping away from the team in 2022, Greg remains a champion in the eyes of each young man he has coached.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



TAMMY JO EDGE

Tammy Jo Edge, known locally as “Tammy Jo,” is a 1977 graduate of Greenup County High School. Earning a twirling scholarship, Tammy Jo graduated from Morehead State University in 1981 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

After graduating, Tammy Jo opened her own dance studio, Tammy Jo’s, in 1981. During her time as a studio owner, Tammy Jo was happy to always feel part of the community. She worked to help her students gain confidence in their abilities and to accept themselves. During her years at the studio, her teams competed on many national stages. Tammy Jo has been married to her husband, David, for 40 years. They have two daughters, Whitley and Shelby.

Tammy Jo also now has three grandsons: Asher, Gabriel, and Jasper.

After stepping away from the studio in 2015, Tammy Jo moved to Lexington, and she is now employed by the University of Kentucky. In 2018, she was a proud recipient of the Greenup Arts Heritage Award.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame

KENNETH RAY IMEL



Kenny Imel is a 1980 graduate of Greenup County High School. After high school, Kenny attended Morehead State University, studying horticulture and earning an Associate's Degree.

Kenny is married to his wife, Pam. They have three grown children and one granddaughter. In addition, Kenny is the owner and primary operator of Imel's Greenhouse, a beloved local establishment, that serves thousands each year. Kenny started this business at only the age of fifteen under the structure of a project for the Future Farmers of America. Kenny has served many terms as both the President and Vice-President of Greenup County Farm Bureau. Currently, he holds the position of President. Kenny also currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Agritourism Advisory Council for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Kenny is also an Eagle Scout, a Future Farmers of America American Farmer, and a Kentucky Colonel. His service to Greenup County continues without ceasing.

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame



BOB

MEENACH

Bob Meenach is a 1966 graduate of McKell High School. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1970 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He went on to attend Morehead State University, earning a Master's Degree in that same field.

Bob is happy to describe himself as the "workingman's insurance agent and financial services man," earning vast recognition for his work for State Farm Insurance. Today, Bob stands as the largest-reaching State Farm agent in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and, for a period of ten years, Bob was amongst the 50 top-achieving agents nationwide. This achievement earned Bob a rightful place in the State Farm President's Club.

Raised by his grandparents and working his way through college on the railroad, Bob describes himself as "real ordinary". In his life, he strives to be fair to everyone. His motto is a reflection of his personality: "You don't have to have a lot of money. You don't have to have a special name. You can be an old boy from Schulz."

GREENUP COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hall of Fame