

Vol. 9, Circleville H.S. Alumni Association Achievement Hall of Fame 2018

Circleville High School Alumni Association

Annual Dinner

Featuring

The Ninth Annual

Achievement Hall of Fame

6:00 Social

6:30 Dinner

Welcome, Invocation

Historical Highlights & Events

Scholarship Presentation

Presentation of Inductees

Singing of the Alma Mater "The Red and Black"

~~~2018 Honorees~~~

JOSEPH W. ADKINS JR. Class of '27

WILLIAM AMMER Class of '37

RICHARD GERHARDT Class of '59

KARA GERHARDT ROSS Class of '88

JEFFREY DEAN Class of '89

Scholarships

The Circleville Alumni Association is dedicated to supporting the academic, athletic, arts and social service activities of students attending Circleville City Schools. Since 2006, this organization has awarded forty-five \$1,000 scholarships. Criteria include a parent or guardian who is a CHS graduate.

2018 Circleville High School Senior Scholarship Recipients

Emily Dengler will attend Bowling Green State University and study communications. She is the daughter of Andrew and April Dengler. Andrew graduated from Circleville High School in 1982.

Olivia Fausnaugh will attend Miami University and study dentistry and biological science. Olivia is the daughter of Rob and Kim River Fausnaugh. They are 1986 CHS graduates.

Jacob Rhymer plans to study communications and sports management at Ohio University. He is the son of Todd and Amy Kazmierczak Rhymer. Amy is a 1989 graduate of CHS.

Alumni Scholarship Winners and Honoree Escorts

JENNY SCHERER GRIFFIN '06	LEAH HIVELY HOOKS '10	DENISE CLINE '13
BEN WINNER '06	ZACHARY LANMAN '10	ANDREW CRIST '13
JUSTIN STYERS '07	EDWARD STRAWSER '10	TORY LANMAN '13
KARA VALENTINE DAVIS '07	MICHAEL THEIS '10	ASPEN DOWDEN '14
KORY HARTINGER '08	NICHOLAS FOSTER '11	SARAH RUFF '14
ELIZABETH SCUDDER RAYMOND '08	JENNA GRUNDEN COBB '11	ETHAN WARNER '14
RACHAEL SPANGLER '08	REILY KISER '11	DARBI BREWER '15
JILL TRUJEX LIST '08	CASEY LOCKARD '11	HANNAH JOHNSON '15
BEN ANKROM '09	EMILY MARCUM	ALYSON LEIB '15
ALEX GREENLEE '09	DOUGHTY '11	TANNER BIGAM '16
JENNIFER KELLER HEDGES '09	KAYLA THEIS '11	ANYA BINGMAN '16
LYNDSEY YOUNG '09	JOSEPH HUGUS '12	JARRED UTT '16
ASHLEY BIVENS COX '10	SARAH KELLER	MORGAN BIRCHER '17
KASSANDRA COOPER HOLBROOK '10	SOWERS '12	ASHLEY SARK '17
	JULIE RICHARDS '12	GREG BREWER '17



**JOSEPH W. ADKINS JR.
ESQ. 27**

Joseph W. Adkins Jr. was one of the most prominent lawyers in Circleville from the mid-1930s through the early 1970s. During those years, he touched as many lives as any man in Pickaway County.

Adkins skipped two grades during elementary school and graduated at age 15 with the CHS Class of 1927. The following year he entered Kenyon College where, barely 16 years old, he was chosen president of the freshman class. An Honors List student majoring in classics, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and was named editor of the Kenyon yearbook.

In his junior year he was seriously injured in an automobile accident that took the life of one of his closest friends. The injuries he sustained combined with the worsening effects of the Great Depression resulted in his decision to transfer to The Ohio State University. He completed his bachelor's degree and attended one year at OSU law school before withdrawing to read law with his father, Common Pleas Judge Joseph W. Adkins Sr. He took the Ohio bar exam in 1933 and scored the highest grade that year without having a law degree. He began practicing at age 23.

He supported local charities and gave unselfishly of his time and energies to the Kiwanis and Elks clubs. He served as state director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. For years, Joe volunteered his support for the local Boy Scouts. He was also widely regarded for his *pro bono* legal support of Circleville's African-American community. One who knew him well was former Sheriff Dwight Radcliff, an inaugural member of the CHS Achievement Hall of Fame: "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award," Radcliff said. "He was a man of great integrity who loved helping people."



HON. WILLIAM AMMER '37

Most Pickaway County residents equate this honored person as the Pickaway County Common Pleas Judge. And, as a position he held for 37 1/2 years, his esteemed status as a judge was well-deserved. There are many other aspects of the Circleville graduate which he unobtrusively built up through his lifetime to leave a great legacy to his local community.

After high school, he received his bachelor's degree at Ohio State University. Follow-

ing 3 1/2 years of service in the Army during WWII, he returned to Ohio State for his Bachelor of Law degree and his Juris Doctor Degree was conferred upon him in 1967. He served at the Industrial Commission then as Assistant Attorney General of Ohio. He returned to Pickaway County in 1955 as Prosecuting Attorney as well as Assistant City Solicitor. He maintained a private law practice also.

In 1957, he was appointed as Common Pleas Court Judge, then was elected for six terms serving continuously until 1994 when he retired. He presided over 30,000 cases. During his tenure, he was also assigned to hear cases in 36 counties, two Court of Appeals and Ohio Court of Claims.

At the time of his passing in 2003, The Pickaway County Bar Association memorialized Judge Ammer: "His legacy to Pickaway County and to all of us is a crucial reminder that our laws aren't cold words carved in marble—they're the commonsense rules free people impose on themselves so we can live together as neighbors."

He was engaged in law-related memberships and received many Judicial Honors. His local public service included IOOF, Elks, American Legion, Knights of Pythias, Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and Community United Methodist Church. He was President of the Ted Lewis Museum, and Local President of the American Red Cross and Cancer Society.

Judge Ammer also has a very impressive Masonic and Shriner record. He held most positions during his fifty-year membership of the Pickaway Lodge Number 23 F. & A. M. In addition, he served the Scioto Commandery No. 37 KT, Valley of Columbus the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and the Ohio Priory No. 18 Knight of the York Cross of Honor.

Continued next page

Hon. William Ammer continued...

He was involved with the Aladdin Shrine, Pickaway Shrine Club and several others. Most notably in Ohio Priory, he was elected to Grand Line and installed as Grand Master General of the United States.

Bill was a life-long resident of Circleville. His parents Moses and Mary owned a produce store on South Court Street. His brothers also graduated from Circleville High School; John in 1933 and George in 1935. As the last member of the Ammer family, the judge arranged most of his estate to provide yearly scholarships for a senior at each of the four county high schools.

Pickaway County Auditor Melissa Betz, who nominated Judge Ammer, said these awards are "Perhaps the greatest demonstration of his love and connection to the Circleville Community and Pickaway County." The William Ammer Memorial Educational Trust Fund has awarded over \$850,000 in scholarships since its inception in 2005.

On the lighter side, Judge Ammer commissioned illustrated Christmas cards to showcase historic landmarks. The Interurban Trolley in front of the Masonic Temple with the City Hall and the county courthouse in the background is shown here. Judge Ammer spent a lot of his adult years at these three locations.

The bar association concludes "Judge William Ammer was a gentleman and a great legal presence in this community and throughout the world. Even though he was retired for eight years, his influence continued to be felt by the local community and will continue for a long time to come."





RICHARD L. GERHARDT, ESQ. '59

A life-long resident of Circleville, Richard Gerhardt has had a distinguished career as a lawyer and was always willing to fight for the little guy. He is also a committed humanitarian and trail blazing public servant.

He drew early inspiration and values from his mom, after losing his father when he was only 13. At CHS he was a serious student, involved in HiY, EMS, Key Club and was a three-sport athlete.

Richard followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, enrolling in Ohio Northern to pursue a BA degree with honors in Political Science. He was Editor of

the University yearbook and Vice President of the Inter-Fraternity Council. He graduated from Georgetown University's Law Center with a Juris Doctorate in 1966.

He returned to Circleville to open his own practice. At 25 he was elected Mayor of Circleville, becoming the youngest mayor in Ohio and one of the youngest in the nation.

His election in the early 1970s marked the third straight generation that a Gerhardt was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Pickaway County. Richard initiated pioneering programs for Victim Witness Protection and for a City/County Drug Task Force working with the Attorney General on sting operations to attack a growing drug problem. His 99% conviction rate included multiple murder cases.

Richard served as a Special Assistant to four Ohio Attorneys General and was an acting Circleville Municipal Court Judge for 20 years. The Pickaway County Bar Association has recognized him for five decades of Outstanding Service.

"Giving back and paying forward to make a difference" have always been his hallmark. Richard has served as President of United Way, PICCA, the Chamber and Civil Service Commission and as a Trustee for each for years as well as for the Historical Society. He is a founder/30 year Trustee of Helping Kids with Cancer, established the Gerhardt Family Scholarships awarded annually to CHS Seniors and recently initiated the Northwood Bridge/Trail creating safe passage to MVCH Park.

Richard and his wife Marie have two children, Kara and Richard and four grandchildren. He was nominated by Cal Ellis.

KARA GERHARDT ROSS '88



Kara Gerhardt Ross was in the fifth grade when she was assigned a report on astronaut and Senator John Glenn. After that interview, she knew she wanted to work in communications and politics. Kara's quest to do so landed her next to the ultimate seat of power in the free world as a Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton.

In high school, Kara managed a diversity of activities — student council, volleyball, cheerleading, Key Club, 4-H Ambassador, and being named the first winner of the National Youth Leadership Council.

This drive would guide her through her professional life.

After graduating from Ohio University, Kara spent eight years as a political appointee in the Clinton Administration. As a media manager at the General Services Administration, Kara was the primary spokesperson in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, skillfully balancing the responsibility to guide more than 180 national and foreign press, the security of the site and compassion for the victims. She then moved to the Department of Transportation, overseeing air and rail disasters. Recruited to be a White House Press Secretary, Kara then served as a presidential spokesperson, in a 24/7 environment traveling worldwide.

In the private sector, Kara led communications teams at ACS, Inc, and Qorvis Communications. She is currently Vice President of Global Strategic Communications for UPS developing all public policy messaging.

She is a graduate of Columbia and Emory University's Executive Leadership Programs. She has been a panelist for *PR Week Magazine* and is a founding co-chair of the Discovery Food Bus charity program.

Kara has traveled the globe with Presidents and CEO's, but she says she remains firmly grounded in her roots. She cites her Mom, Dad, her brother Rich, as well as her husband as major sources of encouragement. Teachers, mentors and friends in both the Circleville and Arlington communities have also been inspirational in helping her achieve her goals.

Kara and her husband Jim live in Arlington, VA and have two children: Alexa, 12 and Aedan, 10.



JEFFREY A. DEAN, MD '89

Probably the most important lesson Jeffrey Dean learned as a student was perseverance. Early in high school he entertained the notion of attending one of the service academies following high school graduation. But he also realized he was not in good physical condition and his grades were starting to slip.

He joined cross-country and track where received help from coaches Jim Diltz and Dick Walters. Kelly Boyer tutored him after school in math. English

teacher Meg Lares Kadunc also encouraged him to look at things in a positive framework, and guidance counselor Doris Gillespie helped him stay on course in the tedious application process.

He persevered through the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1993, and through medical school at Wright State University, graduating in 1997. He was accepted for orthopaedic surgery residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Following his residency he was transferred to Heidelberg, Germany and was assigned as the orthopaedic surgeon to the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). During this three year tour he deployed to Kosovo, Angola, and also Pakistan in the wake of the 2005 earthquake that killed 80,000 and injured nearly a quarter of a million. "We worked through the backlog of injuries by operating 18 hours a day for 36 days straight," commented Dean.

Dean left the Army in 2011 and resides in the San Antonio area with his wife Jasmin and their three sons: Jonah, 10; Jordan, 8; and Joshua, 5. Dean is Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital and the family are members of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio, where Dean serves as a Deacon.

"I have persevered in my life to better serve Our Lord, my family, and my profession," said Dean. "They are all part of what drives me."

Alumni Projects Benefit Schools

- The Tenth Annual Roundtown Classic on July 21 will celebrate the 10 years of leadership by Ace Elsea. "Race Ace" laid the groundwork for a successful event held annually at Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park. In the future, we expect to see Ace running IN the race instead of running IT!
- This family event also includes the Don Leist Kids' Fun Run in memory of Don, class of '59, who was instrumental in the original race fundraising efforts.
- We also provide team meals for the high school sports and other CHS school organizations.
- Alumni funds continue to provide financial support for the Mock Trial program, Yearbook, After Prom, Buckeye Boys and Girls State and the new Club Future program.
- We continue to contribute to the Circleville Schools building campaign based on our \$50,000 pledge.
- We are thrilled that the School Board and many other groups meet in the Alumni Room at Circleville High School

THE NEXT TEN

A bronze tiger in the roundabout.
Intriguing? Email
CirclevileAlumni@gmail.com
For more information.



Achievement Hall of Fame Committee

Chair, Julie Kazmierczak Scherer '78

Pete Hartinger '59

Amy Kazmierczak Rhymer '89

Nancy Ankrom Dye '56

Andi Porter Humphries '72

Carol Ann Johnson Bowling '57

Rick Bumgarner '74

Kellie Willis Schwalbach '09

Tom Strawser '76

Jenny Scherer Griffin '06

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*Program information was gathered from the original applications, then embellished by the inductees, nominees and local writers David Crawford, Craig Allison and Andi Humphries. Kudos to CHS students in Fred Styers' Class for assembling tonight's program.*

## *HALL OF FAME HONOREES*

### **2010**

|                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>REX HAECKER '30</b>             | <b>DWIGHT RADCLIFF '50</b>  |
| <b>TED LEWIS '05-'07</b>           | <b>W. W. HIGGINS, Inst.</b> |
| <b>RICHARD BOYD, Inst. Coach</b>   | <b>GEORGE KERR '56</b>      |
| <b>WILLIAM "BILL" RICHARDS '49</b> | <b>JOHN MAXWELL '65</b>     |
| <b>RALPH STARKEY '49</b>           | <b>WARREN SNEED '91</b>     |

### **2011**

|                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>JAMES G. DUNTON '17</b>       | <b>ANNE ADKINS WEISSENBORN '57</b> |
| <b>CLIFFORD KERNS '42</b>        | <b>RICHARD A. BANKS '57</b>        |
| <b>WILLIAM J. BARTHELMAS '54</b> |                                    |

### **2012**

|                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>DR. HARRY D. JACKSON '01</b>    | <b>THE REV. GEORGE FRY '54</b> |
| <b>ANNETTE GROCE WILL Inst</b>     | <b>ROBERT D. SHADLEY '60</b>   |
| <b>M.E. JACK SENSENBRENNER '19</b> |                                |

### **2013**

|                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>DR. ERNEST WALKER IRVING 1889</b> | <b>JO A. MYERS THOMPSON '74</b> |
| <b>DANIEL M. DICK '66</b>            | <b>SCOTT E. WUNSCH PhD '88</b>  |
| <b>MARY ANNE YATES '67</b>           |                                 |

### **2014**

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>CLARENCE A. REID '13</b>   | <b>NED BARTHELMAS '45</b>        |
| <b>CHARLES L. JACKSON '35</b> | <b>CHARLES L. ZAENGLEIN Inst</b> |

#### *In Memoriam*

As some of Circleville's finest were deceased at time of their induction, others passed after the celebration. Ralph Starkey was alive at the time he was chosen for the award, however passed before he was notified of the honor. Rex Haecker was aware of the award, but couldn't come over from Pickaway Manor to receive it in 2010. He passed in 2011. Clifford Kerns was honored in 2011 and both he and his wife passed in 2014. Joseph Leahy was recognized in 2016 and passed in 2017.

***HALL OF FAME HONOREES***  
**2015**

**CALVIN L. ELLIS '59**  
**LARRY SCHIEBER '76**

**BRAD FOX '81**

**2016**

**JOHN T. DAVIS PhD '60**  
**JOSEPH G. LEAHY PhD '78**

**ROBERT I. ELSEA '48**  
**W. DOUGLAS McCORD '59**

***2017 Hall of Fame Recipients***

**JOHN STEVENSON '51**  
**Service to Nation**  
**State and Local Agriculture**  
**Founding CHS**  
**Alumni Board Member**

**RONALD BENNINGTON '54**  
**Attorney, Community Leader**  
**Canton, Stark County**  
**Big Ten Football Official**

**TRACEY BECK SIEMS '84**  
**First Female from CHS**  
**To achieve rank of**  
**Brigadier General,**  
**US Air Force**

**MATTHEW CURTIS '93**  
**Runs life, Occupation,**  
**Community Service as**  
**One Big Race**

**DR. SAMANTHA JACKSON**  
**JAGLOWSKI '98**  
**Physician, Scientist**  
**Mother**  
**Life-long learner**

**Circleville High School Alumni Association  
2017-18 Executive Board**

President Kellie Willis Schwalbach '09  
First Vice President Vacant Position  
Treasurer Jeff Harr '72  
Recording Secretary Terri Strawser Carter '78  
Corresponding Secretary Andi Porter Humphries '72  
Past President Don Bradley '94

**Board of Directors**

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nancy Ankrom Dye '56          | Rick Bumgarner '74            |
| Carol Ann Johnson Bowling '57 | Tom Strawser '76              |
| Ace Elsea '59                 | Julie Kazmierczak Scherer '78 |
| Pete Hartinger '59            | Casey Lockard '11             |
| Don Wolford '60               | Jenny Scherer Griffin '06     |
| Patty Ankrom Truex '73        |                               |

*Circleville High School Alumni Association*

*380 Clark Drive Circleville, Ohio 43113*

*Visit our website for news or to order alumni apparel*

*[www.CirclevilleAlumni.org](http://www.CirclevilleAlumni.org)*

*Visit [www.RoundtownClassic.com](http://www.RoundtownClassic.com) for information on  
alumni's biggest fundraiser,  
the 5 K, 5 Mile Roundtown Classic Run/Walk. Always set for the  
third Saturday of July at Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park*

Special thanks and appreciation to the Circleville City School Board of Education and Administration for allowing us to use the high school for this celebration.

Jonathan Davis Superintendent      Chris Thornsley, H.S. Principal

~Board of Education~

Todd Stevens, Amy DeLong, Patty Rothe, Tony Reeser, Andrea Tipping