



# March 23, 2009 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



## James Walworth Class of 1956

James Walworth distinguished himself as a nationally renowned executive in the health care industry. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1956 and immediately enrolled in Wayne State University where he earned his B.A. and M.A. in Economics by 1961.

James began his professional career as a staff consultant for the UAW International Union on employee benefit programs and social welfare policies. After eight years with the UAW, James was appointed Assistant Director of a Kellogg Foundation Study in the WSU School of Medicine.

In 1973, James Walworth began his long and honorable career in the health care industry. He served as the President and CEO of Health Alliance Plan (HAP). Under his leadership he guided the growth of the not-for-profit HMO to more than 500,000 enrollees and an annual budget of \$750 million. He created and served as CEO of Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company which operated in conjunction with HAP. In 1993, James led HAP into a merger with the Henry Ford Health System (HFHS).

While continuing as CEO of HAP, James was named Senior Vice President of HFHS. In that role he was a key player in the HFHS' Office of the President assisting in the acquisition of several area hospitals and bond issues with operating responsibilities for the systems senior program and nursing homes.

James Walworth has served on numerous Boards of Directors throughout our country, though much of his work has been in Michigan. He was Chairman of the Michigan Association of Health Plans (1990-1991), Board of Directors Guidance Clinic in Southgate (1991-1999), Board of Directors Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital (1990-1998), and the Board of Directors Greater Detroit Area Health Council (1997-1998).

Over the years, James has been recognized as an expert by the health care community. After his retirement in 1998, he continued as a consultant to the health care industry, with special strengths in physician/hospital relations, corporate structures, health care delivery and financing and management/trustee effectiveness training. He is currently serving as a board member of the Grand

Valley Health Corporation (Grand Rapids), and as a corporate member of the Munson Health Care System (Traverse City), and as a member of the Torch Lake Township Planning Commission.

James Walworth has been recognized for service to his community. He was Chairman of the Detroit Festival of Arts and was presented the Detroit Urban League Leadership Award in 1995. In 1998, the Detroit City Council honored James with the Spirit of Detroit Award.

James resides with his wife Sylvia in Torch Lake, Michigan. They have three grown children and six grandchildren.