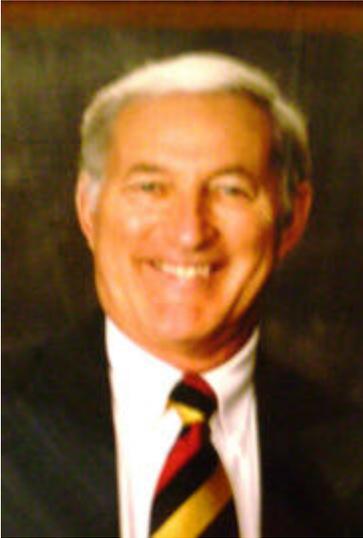




# March 26, 2001 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



## William A. Powell Class of 1955

William A. Powell distinguished himself as a nationally renowned National Collegiate Athletic Association, Division I, Swimming Coach, a community volunteer, and a gifted public speaker.

Bill Powell was an outstanding student and athlete during his years at Roosevelt High School. He excelled in both track and swimming, where he was a state meet qualifier, a school record holder, and voted most valuable as captain of the track team. Bill also served as an officer and treasurer of his class, was a member of the Roosevelt Student Union, and was the lead actor in his class play. As sports editor of the Wy-News, he earned a journalism award for his reporting.

After graduation, Bill Powell earned a B.S. at Western Michigan University in 1959, and his M.A. in 1963 with a major in Physical Education. Bill began his teaching career in 1959 at St. Joseph High School (St. Joseph, Michigan). He began a swimming program at the school, and in 1968 was named "Michigan High School Coach of the Year."

In 1969, he accepted the head coaching position at Western Kentucky University, where he again began a swimming program that would soon bring him and the University national recognition. In 1977, he served as Ecuador's National Coach for the Bolivarian Games. In 1982, he received the Master Coach Award from the N.C.C.A. Since then, Bill Powell has compiled 31 straight winning records. His 293-63 (82%) win-loss record ranks him as the third winningest national coach in the N.C.C.A., Division I, men's swimming history.

William A. Powell has also been recognized as a community leader and volunteer. He has unselfishly served in the American Red Cross, the D.A.R.E. program, presented public safety programs for children, was a Life Guard Instructor Trainer, participated in the Community Theatre, and is a much sought after public speaker at numerous civic and professional organizations. Bill is

proud that among his alumni swimmers are a military general, movie stars, a world news analyst, Olympian, and a world record holder.

Bill credits that he received his inspiration for coaching and teaching from his dad and mother who were teachers at Roosevelt and McKinley Schools in Wyandotte. William and wife Joanne reside in Bowling Green, Kentucky and enjoy their four children and their families.