Watertown City School District Distinguished Alumni Hall of Achievement

To recognize and celebrate the achievements of Watertown High School graduates who have attained a high level of distinction in their personal and/or professional lives and who represent positive role models for students of the district.



Robert S. Lansing

Class of 1882

U.S. Secretary of State to President Woodrow Wilson, he helped draft the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I. He later wrote three books on world affairs. Prior to his national service, he was a police commissioner in the city and a lay leader at First Presbyterian Church.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Justin Burns

Class of 1888

Chosen in 1900 as one of the engineers to oversee the construction of the railroad from Canton to Shanghai in China, he later oversaw the construction of the street railway in Memphis, Tennessee. As New York City's engineer of bridges, he oversaw the construction of the subway system.

Inducted November 2, 2001



W. Henry Case

Class of 1934

Devoting his life to education and community service, he was a teacher, vice principal and principal, and superintendent in the Watertown City School District. He was a leader in the YMCA, Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce, and supported the full-time status of Watertown Public Broadcasting System.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Richard D. Chapin *Class of 1935*

Founder of Chapin Watermatics and an inventor of drip irrigation, his charitable enterprises have helped feed millions in Third World countries. He has been honored by the American Society of Horticulture. He has also been recognized for his contributions to science and Christian missions.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Richard F. Schwerzmann Class of 1935

Prominent attorney who represented Car-Freshner, the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority, and other organizations. He also co-founded the Jefferson Concrete Corporation and served on the board of directors of the YMCA, Watertown Airport Commission, Seaway National Bank, and the Children's Home of Jefferson County.



Rita Fratalli Mackey

Class of 1936

As the first woman to be named president and chief executive officer of a Marine Midland Bank, she was selected as "Woman Banker of the Year" by Finance Magazine in 1974. She was a trustee of the Flower Memorial Library for 17 years and served on the board of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Anthony C. Malara

Class of 1954

After serving as manager of broadcasting at WWNY, he went on to become president of the CBS television network. He was active in the Thompson Park Advisory Committee, the Fort Drum Planning Committee, and was President of the New York State Broadcasters Association.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Francis E. Sweet Class of 1956

He has won the Award of Excellence from the Society of Animal Artists three times, and has served as the organization's president. He won the Maryland Duck Stamp and Black Bear Stamp competitions, and uses his art and lectures to support the conservation of wildlife.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Arthur E. Williams Class of 1956

During a 34-year military career, he was promoted to Lt. General and became the chief of engineers for the Army Corps of Engineers. He oversaw environmental restoration of military bases, and the operation and maintenance of the nation's flood control program.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Delos M. Cosgrove *Class of 1958*

Chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, he is a world-renowned expert in heart valve repair. His 17 patents include the Cosgrove Mitral Valve Retractor and other devices that have extended the lives of thousands.



Joseph L. Rich

Class of 1959

After a successful television news career, he started the Disabled Persons Action Organization in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. The agency assists almost 500 families with a variety of services. He also promotes a number of civic and medical programs in the community.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Georgia A. Root

Class of 1962

After a 24-year career in dental care, she became active in Virginia politics. She has served as Chief Deputy Commissioner for the Department of the Aging, Director of Gubernatorial Archives and Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, one of the state's highest appointed jobs.

Inducted November 2, 2001



JOHN L. WOODWARD, JR.

Class of 1964

A Lt. General who spent most of his career in the field of communication and information, he has been director of command control systems at the U.S. Space Command. As deputy chief of staff for communication, he is responsible for information systems throughout the United States Air Force.

Inducted November 2, 2001



GARY C. BEASLEY

Class of 1966

As executive director of Neighbors of Watertown, a non-profit organization, he has been a leader in community development and rehabilitation. His efforts have led to renovation of the Brighton Hotel, the Burdick, Buck and Marcy buildings, and other Watertown landmarks.

Inducted November 2, 2001



JOHN M. MCHUGH

Class of 1966

After serving as an assistant to the Watertown City Manager, he was elected to the New York State Senate and served eight years. In 1992 he was elected as U.S. Congressman of the state's 24th District, and has chaired subcommittees on military personnel and postal reform.



IAN S. LUSTICK

Class of 1967

A noted scholar and political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania, his expertise on the Middle East is routinely sought by the White House, Congress, the State Department, CIA and the Department of Defense. He has written a number of books on Arab-Israeli relations.

Inducted November 2, 2001



CAROL A. PFLUGHEBER Class of 1971

A high school and college All-American swimmer, she is a nationally ranked Masters swimmer. She has coached youth swimming for many years and has created youth programs for YMCAs in Arizona and New York. She is executive director of Mercy Cares For Kids, a child care center.

Inducted November 2, 2001



LINDA TERRELL MITCHELL Class of 1976

After serving in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps, she earned advanced degrees in management and law. She is vice president and general counsel of American West Airlines. She is a co-founder of Fairways to Hope, which has raised more than \$500,000 for charities in Arizona.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Viggo Mortensen

Class of 1976

Actor, poet, photographer and painter, he is best known for his movie roles in "Witness," "G.I. Jane," "Crimson Tide," "Perfect Murder," "A Walk On The Moon," and "28 Days." He has published three books of poetry and raises money through his artwork to support local charities.

Inducted November 2, 2001



Craig P. Sirianni Class of 1980

An operatic tenor who has performed throughout Europe and North America, he has been featured on PBS's "Live From Lincoln Center," and Placido Domingo's "Tales From The Opera." He returns frequently to the region to sing in benefits that raise funds for local charities.

A special thank you to all individuals and organizations who helped make this endeavor a success. Interest and enthusiasm continued to be demonstrated by the community with over 135 nominations received. It was a challenging task to narrow the field to eight nominees. We encourage the re-submittal of nominations for the next induction scheduled .

