

## **East Stroudsburg Area School District 2024 Meritorious Hall of Fame Inductees**



### **Sonya Kressler Cole**

Sonya is a 1959 graduate of Bangor High School where she received the Outstanding Home Economics Student Award. Working a full-time job and a part-time job to pay her way through East Stroudsburg State College (now ESU), she majored in Elementary Education with concentrations in Special Education and Speech, and represented ESU at the Intercollegiate Government Association as a Senator. She later earned a Master of Science degree and Principal Certification from ESU and a Superintendent Letter of Eligibility from Penn State.

After graduating from ESU, Sonya took teaching jobs in Easton, Belvidere, Tannersville, and finally East Stroudsburg where she taught at the Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, JM Hill, and North Courtland Elementary Schools. After 47 years in education, Sonya finished her career as the Principal of the Delaware Valley Elementary School in Milford and was named the Pennsylvania Elementary Principal of the Year. She also received the National Distinguished Principal Award.

After retiring, Sonya joined the group working to save the Dansbury Depot, eventually becoming the president of the Friends of Dansbury Depot and clerk of the works for its restoration. She also helped with fundraisers and festivals, including the Annual Fourth of July Celebration at Dansbury Park and Music on Mondays at the Historic Dansbury Depot.

Sonya has been a tireless community servant, starting as the Assistant Director for the YMCA Day Camp and presently serves on Boards for The Salvation Army, EastBurg Community Alliance, East Stroudsburg Railroad Tower Society, and Friends of Terra Greens Golf Course. She also manages the Ocean Beach Club Home Owners Association. For her service, Sonya has been the Elk of the Month and received the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award and the East Stroudsburg Little League Golden Service Award.

As a result of being successful rental property owners and living frugally, Sonya and her late husband Horace laid out a plan to support their community and passions. Together, they decided to focus their support on Religion, Community, Education, Food and Shelter, Health, Historic Preservation, and Youth Sports. They set up a five-year scholarship for a football player or any athlete from East Stroudsburg High School South who competes in a recognized sport at ESU, supported ESYA major fundraising efforts, and donated to the restoration of the Terra Greens Golf Course. Their contributions to churches, The Salvation Army, the Elks Club, hospitals, community groups, and many other organizations also continue to benefit the community.

To quote Sonya: "My mother taught me to give back. Her slogan was, 'When God gives you enough, you share what is left with others.' I know I am making her proud!"



### **David Cortright**

David Cortright is a 1964 graduate of ESHS and participated in band, chorus, the Choraliers, drama, Qualitative Analysis Chemistry Club, and math competitions. He won the Bausch & Lomb Science Award and was named a Boy of the Month by the Exchange Club. He was selected for the State Chorus and for District and Regional Bands for three years. Later, he played in the US Army Band. He is a 1968 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. In 1970, he received his M.A. from New York University. His doctoral studies were completed in 1975 at the Union Institute in residence at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.

Cortright is a scholar and activist for peace, currently serving as a visiting scholar of the Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Cornell University. He was a Professor of Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame (1989-2021) and is Professor Emeritus of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. He was the Director of the Kroc Institute's Peace Accords Matrix, managing the collection and analysis of data on the implementation of the Colombia Peace Agreement (2016-20). He received Notre Dame's "Media Legend Award" (2016). He is the author or editor of 22 books, including most recently *A Peaceful Superpower: Lessons from the World's Largest Antiwar Movement* (New Village Press, 2023). Other books include *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and *Peace Works: The Citizen's Role in Ending the Cold War* (Westview Press, 1993). He has received the Publisher's Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award twice (2001, 2019) and has written hundreds of articles and reports on peace policy issues.

As an enlisted soldier from 1968 to 1971, Cortright spoke out against the Vietnam War and organized petitions and protests as part of the GI peace movement. In 1970, he filed a federal lawsuit, *Cortright v. Resor*, against the Army to defend the right of dissent against unjust war.

From 1978 to 1988, Cortright was the executive director of SANE, the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, and then co-director of SANE/Freeze. In 1991, he received the Annual Peace and Justice Award, SANE/Freeze National Congress. He was a supporter of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and helped to organize national campaigns against the MX missile, for a nuclear test ban, and for peace in Central America. In 2002, Cortright was a co-founder of Win Without War, which opposed the US invasion of Iraq, and he continues to be an active voice today in promoting progressive foreign policy issues while remaining a member of the board of directors of the organization.

Cortright has written widely on nonviolent social change, nuclear disarmament, and the use of multilateral sanctions and incentives as tools of international peacemaking. He has provided research services to the foreign ministries of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, and The Netherlands and has served as consultant or adviser to agencies of the United Nations, Catholic Relief Services, the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, the International Peace Academy, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He was honored in 1990 by the MacArthur Foundation with the Award from the Program in Research and Writing for Peace and International Cooperation.

David Cortright is the recipient of the 2004 Gandhi Peace Award.



### **Laura and Malcolm Law III**

Laura and Malcolm Law married in 1989 and had two children who attended ES North Schools, a son Malcolm IV and a daughter Madyson Brendyl. After the passing of Madyson at the age of 13, Laura and Malcolm started a non-profit organization called Mady's Angels to "Pay it forward" to the community that was there for them during their time of need.

Laura was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, graduated with honors from Walden Preparatory School in 1986, and attended Tyler Jr. College where she studied business and met her future husband, Malcolm Law III. She transferred to ESU in 1988 and studied Exercise Physiology. Remaining in the area, she worked for her in-laws at the Pocono Indian Museum and Starting Gate Action Sports as a buyer and, for over 31 years, has been the bookkeeper and co-owner of Law Sound and Lighting. She became an active member of the Lehman PTA, coached soccer for ESFC, and was the coordinator for the East Stroudsburg Soccer Club. In 2015, Laura was named Person of the Year by Middle Smithfield Township for the work she's done with Mady's Angels.

Malcolm III was born in Athens, Georgia and moved with his family to Bushkill at the age of three, graduating from ESHS in 1985 and from ESU in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Immersing himself in music, Malcolm played in the marching, concert, jazz, and pep bands at ESHS and ESU. He later played with different bands when the Poconos still had an abundance of resorts. He also had his own band, Solution A.D., which signed with Atlantic Records, toured nationally for two years, and had a song chart at #33 on the modern rock charts and an MTV video.

Malcolm and Laura's production company, Law Sound and Lighting, has provided sound and lighting to local bands and Malcolm has also worked in broadcast television as an audio engineer. As a broadcast audio engineer he has worked such events as the World Cup, X games, World Series, Stanley Cup, 2006 Winter Olympics, and the Great Outdoor Games for ESPN, for which he won an Emmy in the early 2000s. Since 2000, he has been touring the world as the RF vendor and comms engineer for UFC events. During this time, Law Sound and Lighting also became a national vendor providing broadcast rentals for MLB, NBA, and NHL teams and events, as well as UFC, World Cup Skiing, tennis, NFL conference championships, and more.

After the passing of daughter Madyson in 2010, family and friends helped Malcolm and Laura form Mady's Angels, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that raises funds and gives back to the community. Since Mady was very active in charitable causes, her parents decided to follow in her footsteps and keep her spirit alive through Mady's Angels. Since its inception, Mady's Angels has given back more than \$389,000.00 to the community by helping 531 families and hundreds more by supporting 82 organizations and causes. Contributions have also provided \$38,700 in scholarships to HS North (HSN) students, help for families with medical assistance, bereavement support, community outreach, and in support of animal welfare. Mady's Angels also supports the HSS Purple Pantry and the HSN Timberwolf Pantry and hosts a free monthly community dinner called Mady's Kitchen at St John's Catholic Church. Malcolm and Laura are truly the most proud of their family and the work they do through Mady's Angels.

Malcolm IV currently works with Malcolm on UFC events and has made Malcolm and Laura grandparents.