

## CLASS OF 2019 HALL OF FAME



### **Paulett (Owens) Eberhart -Class of 1971, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee**

Paulett (Owens) Eberhart is a 1971 graduate of Bath High School where she served as Senior Class Secretary and was a member of the first Bath Women's Basketball Team. After graduating, she attended Bowling Green State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She then went on to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She married Mike Eberhart, a fellow Bath 1971 alum, and they are the proud parents of three children, Jamin, Jessica and Matt. Paulett has two brothers who are also Bath alums, Doug (1969) and Frank (1974) Owens, and she has family that continues to live in the area.

Following her formal education, Paulett moved into a successful business career, becoming a Chief Executive Officer and Fortune 100 leader with a reputation for transforming global businesses. Her early years were spent at Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a global technology services company. After rising through the ranks of the financial area of the organization she took an unprecedented move into the business side where she had increasing responsibility for the operations of multiple ventures, during an era of rapid growth. During her tenure, EDS grew from a small, unknown company founded by Ross Perot, a later U.S. Presidential candidate, to a Fortune 100 global company operating in over 100 countries. She ended her 26-year career at EDS as President of its largest business unit and the youngest and first female Corporate Senior Officer in the company's history. She then served as President and Chief Executive Officer of two global companies, Invensys Process Systems and of CDI, a publicly listed engineering design firm, conducting major turnarounds of each company. Currently, she is Chairman and CEO of HMS Ventures, a consortium involved with the acquisition and management of real estate.

She is also a sought-after Corporate Director of Fortune 500 companies and is or has served on multiple public boards including those of Valero Energy Corporation, LPL Financial Corporation, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (Lead Director), Cameron International Corporation, Advanced Micro Devices and Fluor Corporation.

Throughout their life, Paulett and Mike supported numerous causes, including being on the board of the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation. This charitable organization, created by the former First Lady Barbara Bush and former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, was created to improve the quality of lives through the power of literacy. Paulett enjoyed her years at Bath High School and appreciated the dedicated teachers and staff that all contributed to her success.



### **Robert (Bob) Hempker – Class of 1966, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee**

I started the first grade at Bath Elementary School in September of 1954. I graduated from Bath High School in June of 1966. The years in between are mostly good memories. I made many friends with classmates, teachers, and other faculty members and employees at the school. I was probably one of the worst students to ever attend the school. I thought I was a comedian and tried to be funny and "cool." I was a class clown. I was always being told by teachers that I could do so much better if I would apply myself. Looking back, I really wish I had.

I started playing steel guitar at age 12. I had a great instructor. Ron Dearth had a teaching practice on E. Kibby St. in Lima. He really helped me immensely. I started getting calls from local musicians wanting to hire me to play in bars in and around the Lima area. My parents were so understanding in allowing me to do that as long as one of the band members watched out for me.

In 1969, I got a job offer to go to Nashville, TN to work for Loretta Lynn. She was an up and coming female vocalist. I joined her group, the "Coal Miners," in November of '69 and ended up playing for Loretta for 23 years. I have played at the Grand Ole Opry numerous times and still get requests to play there. I have also had performances on the *Johnny Carson Show*, *The Today Show*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The David Frost show*, *The Flip Wilson Show* as well as the tv show *Midnight Special*. Moreover, I have played at the Lincoln Center in Washington D.C. and for former presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush.

I will always remember my days at Bath. I just wish I had been a better student. It did teach me to follow my dreams and go with that deep feeling and voice we all have inside of ourselves. I would also recommend that a professional musician have another skill to rely on. The music business can be an extremely cruel thing to be on the inside of.

I am more than honored for this award. I discovered a sort of different way of going about making a living. I would like to thank Ron Risser for nominating me. He and his brother, Don were friends and classmates through 12 years of school and remain friends of mine to this very day. Thanks to the members of the committee for approving my induction. Thanks to all my classmates and faculty for tolerating me while I was at Bath.



### **Chief Joseph (Joe) Kitchen – Class of 1988, Community Service Hall of Fame Inductee**

Joseph L. Kitchen is Fire Chief of the Bath Township Fire Department. He joined the department in 1990, starting as a volunteer. He served six years a Lieutenant and was appointed Fire Chief in 2002. Chief Kitchen is a graduate of Bath High School, Apollo Career Center Public Safety Program, and Rhodes State College. He holds degrees in both Emergency Medical Services and Fire Science.

He is a Level II firefighter, paramedic, fire investigator, and a certified fire safety inspector. Additionally, he is a Hazmat/Weapons of Mass Destruction Technician, an assistant fire service instructor, and an EMS continuing education instructor.

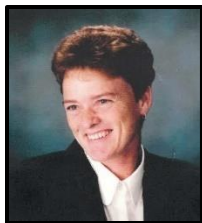
He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association where he chairs the Membership Committees and is a member of both the Health, Safety, and Wellness, and Marketing Committees. He previously served as a Trustee for the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation and became a Fellow of the Foundation in 2014. He obtained the credential of "Ohio Fire Chief" in 2015.

Chief Kitchen is the past chairman of the EMS Advisory Committee at Rhodes State College. Currently, he serves as a member of the Lima Allen County Safe Community Coalition, and he is the Allen County coordinator for the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Emergency Response Plan. He is the chairman of Allen County Regional Planning Safety Review Team and president of the Apollo Career Center Foundation. He also belongs to various other national, state, and local organizations.

Chief Kitchen is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Agency, Vice-President of the Northwest Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, and served as President of the Allen County Fire Chiefs Association.

He believes strongly in the Rotary Club motto of "Service Above Self" and is an active member of the Lima club. Chief Kitchen serves as an advisor of the BHS Interact Club. He has dedicated much of his career to educating Bath students in the areas of fire prevention, safe driving, citizenship, and leadership. He is proud to be a Bath Wildcat and a member of the Bath Township community.

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### **Vicki Mauk – Class of 1976, Athletic Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee**

Vicki Mauk was born March 30, 1958 in Lima to Gene and Sue Edwards Mauk and attended Bath Schools all her life. Her parents quickly realized that many of Vicki's talents and abilities rested within the arena of sports. During her time at Bath she kept herself very busy with volleyball, basketball, softball, and track, earning 11 varsity letters in total. When Vicki graduated from Bath in 1976, she decided she wanted to continue her athletic career just down the road at Ohio Northern University, and while she knew being involved in more than one college sport would be a challenge, she decided to give it a try. She chose her three favorite sports – volleyball, basketball, and softball and earned 12 varsity letters as an ONU Polar Bear. She was voted All-Ohio, All-Region and Most Valuable Player in the state of Ohio for Volleyball. At that time, no one at Ohio Northern had gained such honors. She was also voted All-Ohio in basketball and was given NAIA West Region All-Tournament honors.

While athletics was a major part and focus of Vicki's life, she was first and foremost a woman who loved people and gave her life to the betterment of others. She had used athletics to build discipline, hard work, determination, integrity, and teamwork into her own life and sought to use her education degree and coaching to build the same characteristics and strengths into the lives of other young people. She began her teaching career in 1981 as a physical education teacher at Gomer Elementary and began her coaching career at Delphos Jefferson where she coached basketball for the 1982-83 season. From there Vicki went on to coach at Kalida High School, coaching basketball from 1983-1986, and was named two-time Coach of the Year, earned two PCL titles and three sectional championships. Meanwhile, at Elida, she was named assistant volleyball coach in 1982, which began her coaching career with Elida, again, including her three favorite sports – volleyball, basketball, and softball. Two times the volleyball team was named WBL champs and six times the softball team was WBL champions. Her Elida Lady Dawgs basketball team was a two-time state runner-up and in 1997 won the state Division II championship. Additionally, they were five-time WBL champions, seven-time sectional champs, six-time district champs, three-time regional champs, and Vicki was named WBL Coach of the Year five-times and Division II Coach of the Year in 1995.

Vicki held a Master's degree in Sports Management, was a member of the Ohio High School Basketball and Volleyball Coaches Associations, The District 8 Coaches Association, The Ohio Education Association, the Elida Education Association, and was inducted into the YWCA, Ohio Northern University, and Elida Halls of Fame.



### **Gretchen Prichard – Teacher & Coach 1958 – 1997, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee**

Gretchen Prichard taught Health, English and Physical Education at Bath High School for 38 years from 1958-1997 and started the girls' basketball, volleyball and softball programs before deciding to focus solely on basketball.

Coach "P" was known as a "Pioneer of Girls Athletics" in Ohio. Her overall record at Bath was 460-119 ending her career 2nd on the win list for Ohio High School Girls Basketball Coaches. Her 1971-1976 basketball teams won 62 consecutive games, the state's longest. She coached six teams to undefeated regular seasons and had only one losing campaign. Three years later that team was the 1987 OHSAA State Champions, the first Bath team to win a state title. Ten years later, in 1996, the Wildkittens were State Runner-up.

To honor her achievements, Coach Prichard was named to the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame, the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and an inaugural member of the Ohio Girls Basketball Magazine Hall of Fame. She was twice named Ohio's "Coach of the Year", and District 8, All- Northwest Ohio, and WBL "Coach of the Year" a total of 11 times.

Coach P was an early adopter of "mental imagery" and felt strongly that those who "Believe it, Achieve it" while those who "Doubt it, Do Without it". She made practices challenging and focused on helping her players relax and have fun during games ensuring her teams "played their best when playing the best". She was a motivator, often in creative ways, and instilled the attitude "Yes I Can" with her players. P's focus on great shooting, passing and an up-tempo style of play established the Bath tradition that is still evident today.

"P" says her teams had the benefit of awesome parents, fans, dedicated players, challenging opponents and strong community support. Her motto was and continues to be "WE ARE FAMILY". She, and husband Dave, proudly raised their children in the Bath community.



### **Jerry Ward – Class of 1960, Professional Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee**

BGen (Brigadier General) Jerry Ward began life in Lima, OH in 1942 born to Joseph and Ethel Ward. He was the youngest of six children and brother to Mary (retired Bath School Bus driver), Betty, Norma, Helen, and Joseph. He was a proud BHS graduate class of 1960 where he played for the Bath football team. From there, he graduated with honors from Bowling Green State University where he continued his football career. He was an Academic All-American football star, Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities and began towards a pro football career.

Jerry, however, chose to put football aside to pursue a burning interest in aviation and entered the Marine Corps in August of 1966. While in the Marine Corps, Jerry was also able to play football for the Marines while stationed in Virginia before heading to his duties in Vietnam. Jerry attended flight school and shortly after he was deployed, he became one of the first Huey gunship drivers, where he earned two of the most distinguished single mission Air Medals – the Distinguished Flying Cross twice and a Purple Heart after his helicopter was shot down. He flew over 1,250 missions in Vietnam. After active duty, he opted to transfer to the Reserves at NAS Norfolk, VA flying the CH-46. Later, he transferred to NAS Alameda, CA to fly the CH-53w and later command the HMH-769. His final tour was as Commanding General of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing before he retired in 1997 after 31 years of faithful and committed service.

His very successful civilian occupation was with Reynolds Metals where he was the Western Territory Manager. Jerry married his wife Carol and together they raised their one and only child, Kelly. He also loved his horses and was an accomplished cutting horse breeder and rider. Another of his loves (and successes) was his "ranchette"- first in Tracy, CA and then in Lockeford, CA. Unfortunately, Jerry unexpectedly died of a massive heart attack in May of 2001.

Jerry (a.k.a. Coach/ Big Jerry) profoundly influenced the lives of everyone who ever knew him. He was widely regarded as "one of the best Marine officers that I've ever known." Many benefited from his sage council and mentoring. His leadership by example inspired many to achieve much higher levels. His superb plotting skills, knowledge and experience challenged everyone who flew with him.

Jerry was honored by those who knew him with the gesture of the memorial of the Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Chair that is located at the Minutemen Memorial Building in Washington, DC. BGen Ward will also proudly be moved to rest eternally at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. in the near future.