

Ted Strickland
Governor

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Executive Director



Commissioners: Eddie Harrell, Jr., *Chair* Leonard Hubert Stephanie Mercado Tom Roberts Rashmi Yajnik

SECOND ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010

AVERY FRIEDMAN
DR. KARLA IRVINE
ERIC PARKS
RHONDA RIVERA
DR. MARIAN SPENCER

DR. FRANK W. HALE, JR.
WILLIAM McCULLOCH
SALVADOR RAMOS
DR. RATANJIT SONDHE
BALDEMAR VELASQUEZ

Mistress of Ceremonies – Angela Pace of WBNS 10TV

HONDA
The Power of Dreams


WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY


National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER

ASHLAND

“Full enjoyment of our sacred civil rights also requires acceptance of civil responsibilities. There are no innocent bystanders. We are not special because of who we are; we are special because of what we do for our community. If you say there is injustice, then be just. If you believe there is too much hatred and violence, then be kind, accepting, and peaceful. If you say we need more leaders, then lead through your words and deeds. You must be the change that you seek.”

—Eddie Harrell, Jr., Chairman,

Ohio Civil Rights Commission



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





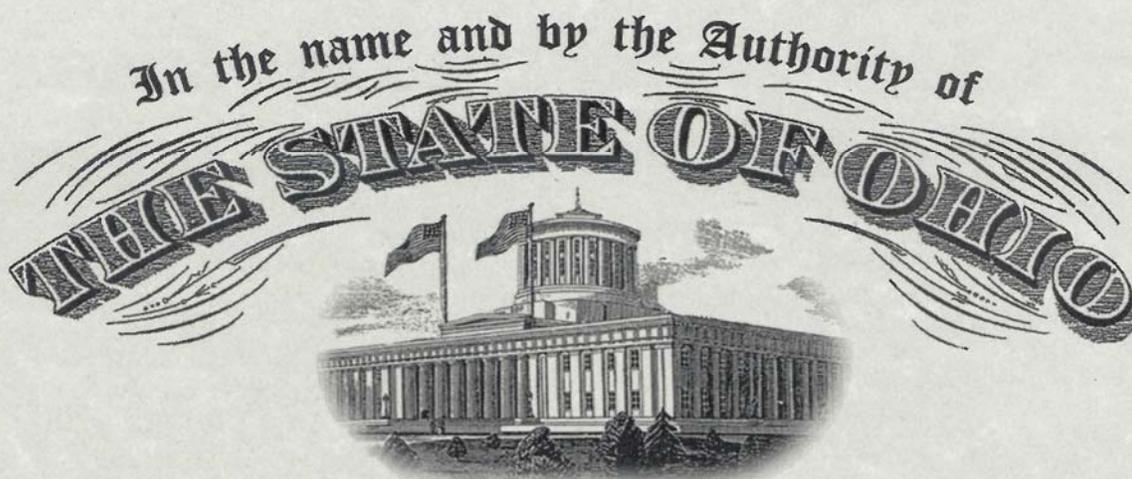
Civil Rights

SECOND ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME
2010

The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame seeks to acknowledge the citizens who have left their mark in the State of Ohio through their tireless efforts in furthering civil and human rights in their communities. These distinguished individuals have served as beacons making significant strides in support of civil and human rights. Through their exemplary leadership they have helped to eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in this great state as well as foster cultural awareness and understanding for a more just society.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Ted Strickland

Governor of said State

hereby officially recognizes

The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame
2nd Annual Inaugural Induction Ceremony
2010

We remember these pioneers in the struggle for equality not only out of respect for the past, but out of respect for the future. Because when we remember, there are invaluable lessons these pioneers can still teach us today. One of the many lessons pioneers can teach us is that we need not ever wait for permission to do what's never been done before. We need not make an appointment to seek a better time. We can begin today.

On behalf of all Ohioans, we thank them for the character they have exemplified for our community and the leadership they have shown in areas such as government, religion, law, medicine, literature and community service.

On this 14th Day of October,
Year Two Thousand Ten

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland
Governor



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Welcome Remarks

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown grew up in Mansfield, Ohio as the youngest of three brothers who learned the importance of social and economic justice from their parents. Throughout his service in Congress, as U.S. Senator since 2007 and as a Congressman from Ohio's 13th District from 1993-2006, Brown has fought to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans. As Ohio's Secretary of State in the 1980s, Brown also increased voter registration to ensure that our elections were free and fair to all those who exercised the right to vote.

From promoting equal rights and opportunity to fighting discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation, Senator Brown believes the protection of individual rights and liberties is a fundamental part of his oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

A leading advocate for America's middle class and strengthening our social safety net, Brown serves on the Senate Banking Committee and is Chairman of its Subcommittee on Economy Policy where he is working to expand economic opportunity through housing, community development, financial literacy, and employment programs. He is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition, and Family Farms, where he ensures our schools and communities benefit from critical food and nutrition assistance programs. Senator Brown is also a member of Appropriations, Veterans' Affairs, and Ethics Committees.

Brown is married to Connie Schultz, a columnist who won the Pulitzer Prize for giving voice to the underdog and underprivileged. They reside in Avon, Ohio and have four grown children and grandson all of whom make Ohio their home.

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OCTOBER 14, 2010





Eddie Harrell, Jr., *Chair*



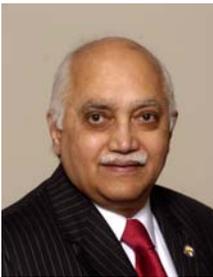
Leonard Hubert



Stephanie Mercado



Tom Roberts



Rashmi Yajnik

Welcome to Ohio's Second Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission and co-sponsors Honda of America Mfg., Inc., Wright State University, Ashland, Inc., and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are very proud to host this annual event. Collectively, we are committed to preserving the civil rights history in our great state.

On behalf of Ohio's diverse citizenry, we extend our sincere appreciation to the outstanding persons selected today for induction into Ohio's Second Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The inductees represent some of Ohio's finest citizens for their service and sacrifice to society. This celebration of their splendid achievements aims to capture the highest aspirations of our state and nation and inspire others to follow their legacies.

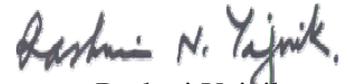
The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is honored to perform its role as Ohio's leader in promoting equal opportunity and goodwill. We are grateful for the opportunity and committed to administering Ohio's strong public policy against discrimination.

A. Phillip Randolph once stated, "Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted; and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship." Today's ceremony will fuel the eternal flame of freedom for future generations.

Sincerely,


Eddie Harrell, Jr.
Chairman


Leonard Hubert
Commissioner


Rashmi Yajnik
Commissioner


G. Michael Payton
Executive Director


Tom Roberts
Commissioner


Stephanie Mercado
Commissioner



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Office of the President
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001
(937) 775-2312
FAX (937) 775-3663

Protecting the rights of Ohio citizens has been the job of the Ohio Civil rights Commission for more than half a century. From its early beginnings as the Fair Employment Practices Agency, it was the watchdog organization for discrimination. Today, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission works to "eliminate prejudice, its harmful effects, and its incompatibility with American principles of equality and fair play."

Wright State University is proud to partner again with our fellow founders, Honda Manufacturing of America, Inc. and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, to co-sponsor the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors the men and women of Ohio who have made it their life's work to civil rights.

As President John F. Kennedy noted, "There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."

Today, we will honor an educator, a community activist, a lawyer, and a politician. We will honor a person with disabilities, an advocate for the Latino community and an advocate for the Asian Indian American community. We will honor them for a lifetime of supporting civil rights, building a more culturally aware society, and for expanding tolerance across the nation.

Wright State University recognizes the innate value of the individual. It is our honor to stand with these inductees and our co-sponsors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David R. Hopkins

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





September 10, 2010

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Honda and our associates throughout Ohio, I would like to congratulate the 2010 inductees of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Your passion and willingness to make a difference is why Ohio is a great place to live and work.

This is also an opportunity to recognize the support and dedication of each inductee family as well. Without you, many of the outstanding accomplishments of today's honorees would not have been possible.

Today's ceremony provides all of us with a great opportunity to recognize what is possible when people are not afraid to dream. For it is through dreams that we can imagine new ideas and new ways to advance positive change.

At Honda, we recognize the power of dreams. That is why we applaud the efforts of today's honorees. Your tireless work and effort has helped enrich the lives of citizens throughout Ohio and all over the world.

Today, we celebrate the achievements of the inductees, but we recognize that, in order to truly honor their efforts, we must find new ways to carry out their commitment to equality. This means using our own dreams to improve our communities and continue their legacy of civil rights.

Sincere congratulations,

Hidenobu Iwata
President and CEO
Honda of America Mfg., Inc.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





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Rev. Darryl Woods

September 10, 2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

“The mission of the Freedom Center is to use the lessons of history to inform contemporary audiences about the struggle for freedom and the examples of individuals who, with courage, cooperation and perseverance, help advance legal and human rights for everyone.”

This mission certainly applies to the 10 individuals selected to be honored today as inductees in the Second Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Each of them displayed, throughout their lives, great courage, exemplary perseverance and an undying spirit of cooperation as they went about the task of advancing human and legal rights and social justice. In the tradition of the 18th Century abolitionists who devoted every fiber of their being to ridding the nation of the stain of slavery, the men and women we are honoring today contributed a lifetime of devotion to a cause larger than themselves: insuring that all people, no matter their background, ethnicity or station in life, would be treated in the law with dignity, respect and justice.

On behalf of the Board of the Freedom Center, our staff and volunteers, I am proud to be associated with the Civil Rights Hall of Fame, and to join as a sponsor with Wright State University, Ashland, Inc., and Honda Manufacturing of America, Inc. for this most important occasion in the history of Ohio.

I am sure I share with all of you the desire that the honor bestowed on today's inductees will inspire everyone to carry on the great struggle for freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donald W. Murphy'.

Donald W. Murphy
Chief Executive Officer &
President

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010



MEET OUR EMCEE

Angela Pace cares about the community. As a TV journalist, she used her visibility to benefit of many important causes. As a resident, she has an extensive record of community involvement.

Angela is the Director of Community Affairs for WBNS-10TV, serving as a liaison between WBNS and the Central Ohio community. She was raised and schooled in Columbus (Capital University and Columbus Public Schools). She has worked in central Ohio all her life. These kinds of roots give rise to her unflinching donation to the area in which she grew up.

Angela anchored the 6PM and 11PM editions of 10TV Eyewitness News for 13 years, beginning her on-air duties in March of 1993. She previously worked at WCMH-TV for 13 years. For five of those years she anchored the weekday 6pm, 7pm and 11pm newscasts. During her career at WCMH-TV, she worked as a floor director while still in college and later as a reporter. Angela also worked at WCLT Radio in Newark, where she was a news director as well as a reporter.

Her list of accomplishments and honors reflect her tireless commitment to the community. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Mid Ohio FoodBank, the Lincoln Theater Association, the Children's Hospital Foundation, the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, and the Jazz Arts Group. She served on the Capital University board of trustees for eight years, and was also a member of the Capital University alumni board. Her work with the United Negro College Fund included hosting their annual telethon from 1987 to 1991 and serving as grand marshal for their walk-a-thon for four years. She was a board member for "I Know I Can" for 17 years. Angela is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Angela was inducted into the 1992 Columbus Public School Hall of Fame and received the 1994 Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Central Ohio, the 1992 Governor's Award for Journalism and Community Service, the 1991 Woman of the Year for the Pilot Club and the YMCA-East, the Golden Rule Award from the Columbus School Board, the Pi Lambda Educator's Award, the 1983 Wink Hess Journalism Award, the Columbus Education Association's Martin Luther King Junior Humanitarian Award and the Capital University Outstanding Alumni Award. Angela also received the 1996 Toastmaster's International Leadership Award. And in 2006, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra board gave Angela the Music Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. Most recently, the Columbus Bar Association has established a foundation in her name. A large portion of the funds has been used to help build the new Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Children's Hospital.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010



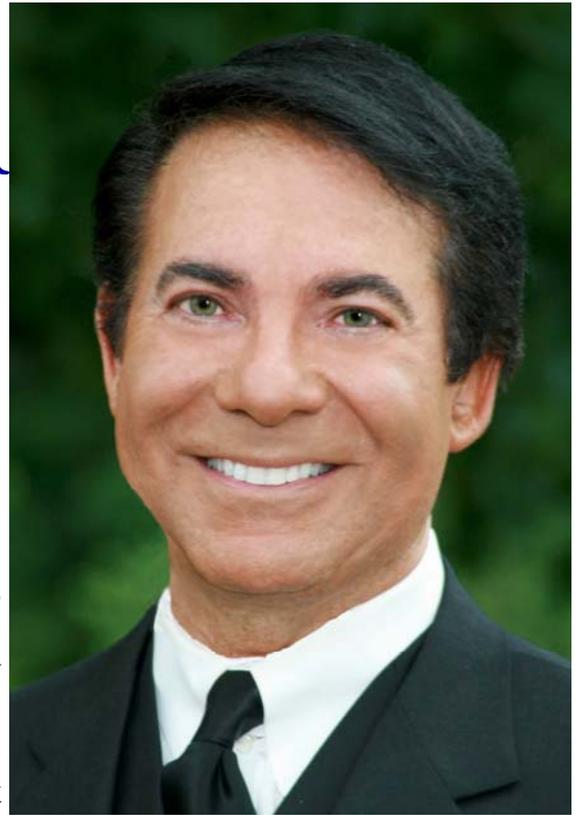
MEET THE 2010 OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS INDUCTEES



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010



Avery Friedman



*Nominator: Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness,
Former Chairman, Ohio Civil Rights Commission
President & CEO of the Southern Christian Leader-
ship Conf., Cleveland, Ohio*

Avery Friedman, known as the “People’s Lawyer,” has dedicated his life to promoting civil rights and advocating for the underdog through tenacious litigation of more than 3,000 civil rights cases as well as legal training provided to hundreds of law students at elite law schools across the country. Mr. Friedman is a national speaker on issues of civil rights and is often referred to as a “walking reference source” by the *Wall Street Journal*. He also serves as a frequent contributor to national publications such as *Time*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*. Mr. Friedman can also be seen weekly on CNN where he serves as a legal analyst. Mr. Friedman’s body of work has reached national audiences through his service as Special Counsel to the Texas Commission on Human Rights and Special Counsel to the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, consultation work with fair housing organizations and virtually all state civil rights agencies in America, and providing his expertise on civil and constitutional rights by special invitation from the U.S. Senate and House Committees. Mr. Friedman’s extensive work in the area of civil rights is nationally recognized through many awards including the U.S. Fair Housing Achievement Award, Ohio Humanitarian Award, NAACP Freedom Award, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Human Relations Award, and the Legendary Champion of Civil Rights Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, just to name a few.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Dr. Frank W. Hale, Jr.

*Nominator: Dr. Valerie B. Lee, Interim Vice Provost,
The Ohio State University, Office of Minority Affairs*

Frank W. Hale, Jr., Ph.D., Vice Provost and Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University (“OSU”), is a nationally renowned educator who has spent his life advocating for diversity, equity, and access. Dr. Hale has served the education community locally and internationally for more than fifty-four years including service as OSU’s first African-American Graduate School Dean. In this capacity, Dr. Hale

advocated for excellence through diversity and, in collaboration with the university-wide Fellowship Committee, was responsible for leading the effort to secure more than \$15 million in graduate fellowship awards that were granted to nearly 1,200 minority students. Through Dr. Hale’s visionary leadership he founded the university’s Graduate and Professional Visitation Day Program and the undergraduate program, Minority Scholar’s Program, in an effort to actively recruit underserved and underrepresented student groups. During Dr. Hale’s tenure at OSU, the university became the number one producer of Black PhD students. The Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center at OSU was named in Dr. Hale’s honor and established to develop and maintain supportive programs and activities for all students with particular emphasis on African-American students. The Center also serves as an instrument to stimulate the documentation of contributions Blacks have made to the world of Arts, Letters and Science. Dr. Hale was appointed in 1999 as a Distinguished University Representative and Consultant in the President’s Office at OSU and served in this capacity until 2005. Dr. Hale has served on many nationally recognized boards including the United Negro College Fund, Union College (Nebraska), Columbia Union College, National Association of Equal Opportunities in Higher Education, the Ohio Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, and the Seventh Day Adventist Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Hale is the author of eleven books and has been published in more than 50 professional journals.

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OCTOBER 14, 2010

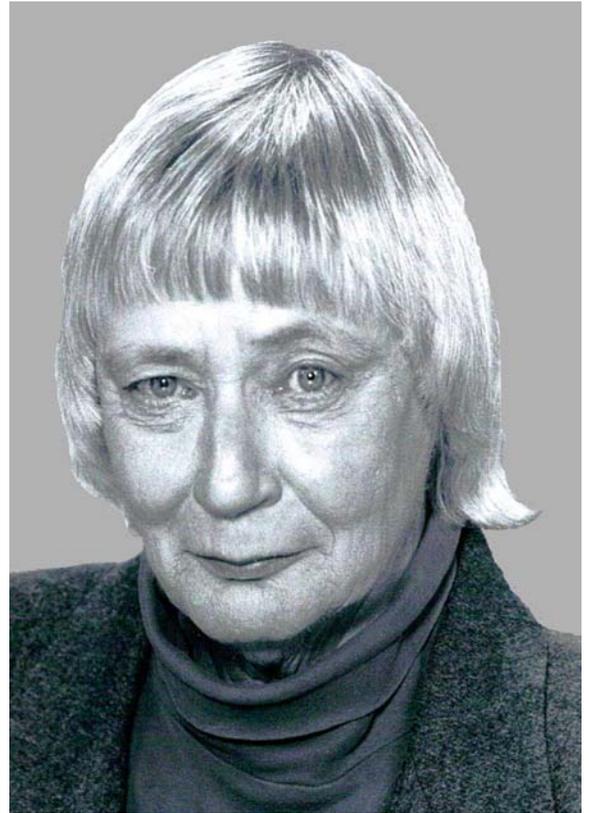


Dr. Karla Irvine

(1933-2009)

*Nominator: Elizabeth Brown, Executive Director
Housing Opportunities Made Equal*

Known as the “Mother of Fair Housing,” Karla Irvine was born in Boston, Massachusetts and later moved to Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband where she became integrally involved in the struggle for racial integration through a lifelong fight for fair housing opportunities. Ms. Irvine’s role as an advocate began through her involvement with the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. In 1977, Ms. Irvine became the Executive Director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal where she served for the next 27 years. In this capacity, Ms. Irvine developed a nationally recognized model for enforcing fair housing law and promoting racially inclusive communities. She also developed a Mobility Program, used innovative investigative techniques such as testing to prove discriminatory practices, and served as a mentor for fair housing groups nationwide. Ms. Irvine was a lifetime member of the NAACP and served on its Executive Board. She was appointed to the Federal Reserve Board’s National Consumer Advocacy Council, served as Vice-President of the Board for the Greater Cincinnati Mortgage Counseling Center, co-founded the Ohio Fair Housing Congress, and was one of the original founders of the National Fair Housing Alliance. Ms. Irvine was the recipient of several awards and recognitions including the ACLU Award, U.S. Department of HUD, Fair Housing Special Achievement Award, and the NAACP’s Special Achievement Award.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





William McCulloch

(1901-1980)

Nominator: Wright State University

William McCulloch was born on November 24, 1901 near Holmesville, Ohio. He was a graduate of the College of Wooster and The Ohio State University's law school. He began practicing law in Piqua, Ohio upon his admittance to the Ohio Bar in 1925. Mr. McCulloch served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1933 until 1944, serving as Minority Leader from 1936 until 1939 and as

Speaker of the House from 1939 until 1944. He continued his dedication to public service by joining the Military Government Forces and serving for nearly two years. In November 1947, Mr. McCulloch was elected by special election to the U.S. House of Representatives and was reelected to twelve successive terms. Mr. McCulloch was known for paying personal visits to the homes of minority constituents to check on their well-being and hear their personal stories of disparate treatment. Mr. McCulloch took a leading role in the Civil Rights Movement by introducing civil rights legislation. His support of the legislation ensured the essential votes in the House that paved the way to its ultimate passage. President John F. Kennedy referred to him as the "...the most important and powerful political force" in enacting the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The importance of Mr. McCulloch's life and leadership was recognized in 2010 through a proposal that he represent the State of Ohio in National Statutory Hall in Washington, D.C.

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OCTOBER 14, 2010



Eric Parks

(1949-2007)



Nominator: Eric Duffy

Eric D. Parks was a champion and advocate for those with disabilities in the State of Ohio. Mr. Parks was left blind due to a playground accident as a child. After receiving degrees from Mount Union College and Miami University, Mr. Parks served as a governor-appointed Commissioner of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and chaired the state vocational rehabilitation agency from October 1995 to March 1999. His long history of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities included testimony on behalf of the commission for state biennial budgets as well as encouraging passage of legislation to reauthorize the federal Rehabilitation Act. Mr. Parks was an active member of the University & Northwest Sertoma Service to Mankind Club which raised funds for the Sertoma philanthropic organization and promoted the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center. In 1999, Mr. Parks was inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities.



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OCTOBER 14, 2010





Salvador Ramos

(1939-2009)

Nominator: L. Tony Ortiz

Director Hispanic Affairs, Wright State University

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Salvador Ramos obtained his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas Western College and earned a Master's in Business degree from Auburn University. Following his passion for serving people, Mr. Ramos took a position as a teacher before joining the Air Force. He was an activist for the equal treatment of Hispanics in education and military service. Mr. Ramos selflessly served as a mentor to migrant families and established a support network to ensure children received the benefit of public education and that families had access to much needed community services. During his time in the military, Mr. Ramos protested inequities against Hispanics and lobbied for direct hire authority earning him the title of the first Hispanic Employment Program Manager at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Mr. Ramos often spent his personal time educating Hispanic officers on their civil rights and advocating for equal treatment by providing representation to them in the grievance process. He also advocated for the promotion of Hispanic employees in the Air Force and worked diligently to create a Hispanic engineering recruitment program that remained in place long after his retirement. Mr. Ramos was recognized with highest distinction as the Hispanic Employment Program Manager of the Year at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and was named Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan by the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs for his work both locally and nationally. Following his retirement from active duty as Lt. Colonel, Mr. Ramos went on to serve as an Air Force Academy Liaison to Greene County high schools where he continued his legacy of civil rights advocacy by making special efforts to recruit minorities and females.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 14, 2010



Rhonda Rivera

*Nominators: Elliot T. Fishman, Ricochet
E. Gordon Gee, President,
The Ohio State University*



Rhonda Rivera is recognized as the “matriarch” of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender (“LGBT”) rights movement in Ohio and is well-known as a prominent legal scholar who effectively created the study of “sexual orientation law” as a recognized field of legal study and practice. Her seminal article published in 1979 in the *Hastings Law Review* called, “Our Straight-Laced Judges; The Legal Position of Homosexual Persons in the United States,” was a testament to the history of discrimination and oppression faced by the LGBT community. The law review article was not only recognized for forming the foundation for the current social justice movement for the national LGBT community, but also for advancing a movement and creating a new area of law and legal practice. Ms. Rivera served as the President and Executive Committee Chair of Stonewall Union (now Stonewall Columbus) and was successful in advocating for the state’s first executive order banning sexual orientation discrimination in state employment signed by Governor Ted Celeste. Ms. Rivera also worked tirelessly with political leaders in the City of Columbus to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 1990. She served Ohio residents as the first practicing attorney in the state to advertise as a “gay” attorney and represented over 400 gay and lesbian clients and more than 200 clients living with AIDS. Ms. Rivera has a wealth of experience in the education field and spent nearly two decades at The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law where she is credited with laying the foundation for creating many of the university’s policies addressing equality for the LGBT community.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Dr. Ratanjit Sondhe

Nominator: U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

Ratanjit Sondhe is a prominent business leader whose invaluable leadership has strengthened the Asian Indian American community and advanced the needs of inner-city entrepreneurs in the State of Ohio. Dr. Sondhe emigrated from India in 1968 and founded Poly-Carb headquartered in Solon, Ohio, shortly thereafter. As CEO for more than 30 years, Dr. Sondhe embodied the spirit of the Civil Rights

Movement by maintaining a very diverse workforce. Dr. Sondhe initiated and led a campaign to include Asian Indian American citizens in federal procurement programs. In 1988, Dr. Sondhe founded the Asian Indian American Business Group (AIABG) in order to improve cross-cultural business communications for the betterment of all levels of government. AIABG now has branches established in Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton. Dr. Sondhe played an instrumental role in the creation of the Cleveland Urban League's Multicultural Business Development Center which launched more than 45 inner-city entrepreneurial businesses locally before it was re-launched as a successful nationwide initiative. Dr. Sondhe possesses a passion for education and is currently partnering with one of Ohio's leading institutions, Case Western Reserve University, to establish a campus in India with the goal of creating educational opportunities for underserved populations in the areas of engineering, science and technology. Dr. Sondhe also serves audiences around the world as an educator, author, lecturer, TV/radio personality, entrepreneur, and polymer technologist.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 14, 2010



Dr. Marian Spencer

Nominator: Urban League of Greater Cincinnati

Dr. Marian A. Spencer, granddaughter of a freed slave, was born in Gallipolis, Ohio. She began a career as a civil rights activist at the age of 13 when she joined the NAACP. Dr. Spencer graduated from high school as the co-valedictorian of her class and a member of the National Honors Society and then moved to Cincinnati to attend the University of Cincinnati where she earned a bachelor's degree in English. It was in Cincinnati that she met her husband, Donald Spencer, who worked side by side with her in the struggle for racial equality. Dr. Spencer and her husband became well-known throughout the Cincinnati area as leaders in civil rights, civil liberties and voting rights. In 1952, Dr. Spencer chaired the NAACP committee responsible for leading the effort to take legal action against Coney Island in a successful attempt to desegregate the amusement park after she was denied entrance based on her race. She served as a lifelong supporter and worker for the NAACP where much of her work was focused on public school desegregation. During her years with the Cincinnati NAACP, Dr. Spencer served on the Executive Board as Chair of both the Legal Redress and Education Committees, and in 1981, she became the first female President of the chapter. Dr. Spencer also served as a member of the University of Cincinnati's Board of Trustees, Chair of the Community Steering Committee for Indigent Defense, and President of the Women's City Club and Links, Inc. Dr. Spencer was elected in 1983 as the first Black councilwoman for the Cincinnati City Council and was later named Vice-Mayor of the city. Dr. Spencer's work has earned her several awards and honors including 1984 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year, YWCA Career Woman of Achievement, and the Humanitarian Award from the Freedom Heritage Foundation of Columbus, to name a few.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 14, 2010





Baldemar Velasquez

*Nominator: Lilleana Cavanaugh, Executive
Director Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino
Affairs*

Baldemar Velasquez was born into a migrant farm worker family in 1947 and began working on a farm at the age of six. He graduated from Bluffton College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1969 and later earned an advanced degree in Theology. He has been an avid activist for migrant worker rights for nearly five decades. Mr. Velasquez has dedicated his life to working for social justice, dignity, and improved working conditions for agricultural workers through leadership in organizing and advocacy. Mr. Velasquez has gained international recognition for advancing migrant worker rights around the world although much of his work has focused on Ohio. In 1978, Mr. Velasquez led 2,000 workers in one of the largest agricultural strikes in history when he called for trade union recognition and was successful in landing a multi-party collective bargaining agreement. He also organized movements to successfully negotiate collective bargaining agreements with Campbell's, Heinz, Deans Foods and Mt. Olive Pickles. Mr. Velasquez served as an integral force in negotiating the founding of an independent labor commission, the Dunlop Commission, to extend collective bargaining rights to Midwest farm workers for the first time. Mr. Velasquez currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs and as President of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee that he helped to form in 1963. Mr. Velasquez is the recipient of several awards and honors including an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from the University Toledo, Hispanic Leadership Award from the National Council of La Raza, and the Midwest Academy Award for outstanding contributions to social change.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 14, 2010



“What the people want is very simple—they want an America as good as its promise.”

—Barbara Jordan



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 14, 2010



Special Recognition

2009 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees

William Bowen

Joan Campbell

Robert M. Duncan

Ruth Gonzales de Garcia

Rev. Bruce Klunder

C.J. McLin, Jr.

Toni Morrison

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth

Carl B. Stokes

George Washington Williams



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 14, 2010

