



MARION COUNTY HALL OF FAME



Background: The Marion County Hall of Fame was the concept of Marion County Commissioner John W. Watkins. An “ad hoc” committee of community leaders was convened to discuss the concept. The recommendation was made in 1988 to create the Hall of Fame in conjunction with the Marion County Historical Society. A charter was developed to establish the membership criteria and selection process. Guidelines for an Honors Panel, whose purpose would be to select the members, were developed. The Honors Panel included representatives of the Marion County Historical Society and various community educational, governmental, religious, and social agencies. Heritage Hall was chosen to house the Hall of Fame Wall which displays the commemorative bronze plaques recognizing each member of the Hall of Fame. Since the creation of the Hall, twenty-three individuals have been chosen as members:

- George H. Alber - Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
- Eber Baker - “Founder” of Marion
- Henry M. Barnhart - Inventor & Industrialist
- Judge John Bartram - Pioneer & Civic Leader
- Dr. E. Maud L. Bull - Physician & Church Leader
- James H. Godman - Civic Leader, Auditor of State of Ohio
- Florence Kling Harding - First Lady of the United States
- Warren G. Harding - 29th President of the United States
- William H. Houghton - Manufacturer
- Edward Huber - “Father” of Marion Industry
- George W. King - Industrialist
- Rev. Milton E. Lashley - Community-wide Social Ministry
- R.T. Lewis - Real Estate Developer, Philanthropist
- Mary Dennison Galey Mangrum - Violin Prodigy, Concert Artist
- Joseph Morris - Humanitarian, Conductor on Underground Railroad
- Dr. Charles E. Sawyer - Sanatorium Founder & Presidential Physician
- Frederick S. Smith, MD - Medical Pioneer & Congressman
- Dr. Frederick A. Stengel - Optometrist & Museum Benefactor
- Stanley B. Stowe - First County Agricultural Agent
- Norman Thomas - Six Time Socialist Candidate for President
- James Francis Thorpe - “Athlete of the Century”
- Henry A. True - Banker, Historian, Philanthropist
- Benjamin Waddell - Philanthropist & Humanitarian

Purpose: The purpose of the Marion County Hall of Fame shall be to permanently recognize persons who have brought fame and honor to Marion County by their personal accomplishments here or afar, or have made direct or notable accomplishments to the Marion County area in education, the arts, business/industry, government/civil service, literature/media, history, sports, agriculture, and who by their lives brought credit to Marion County.

Criteria for Membership: To be eligible for membership in the Marion County Hall of Fame, an individual shall be deceased for more than five years** and must meet at least one, and preferably more than one, of the following:

- Born in Marion County
- Lived in Marion County at least five years
- Died as a resident of Marion County
- Entombed in a Marion County cemetery

In addition, the nominee must have been associated with a significant historical, artistic, or humanitarian activity in Marion County.

*** Exception for consideration: A person still living, or deceased less than five years, shall require three consecutive Honors Panels to concur unanimously in the selection.*

Selection Process:

- Each year the Marion County Historical Society shall announce a deadline, as determined by the Honors Panel, for nominations to be submitted.
- Nominations will be made using the approved Nomination Form. Supporting documentation of the candidate's qualifications for consideration must accompany the form. Insufficient supporting documentation may reduce the likelihood of acceptance.
- All nominated candidates will be reviewed by the Honors Panel who will make the decision on which candidates, if any, are approved for acceptance.
- Candidates who are not chosen for acceptance may be renominated in subsequent years.
- Individuals chosen for membership will be honored with a commemorative brass plaque to be placed on the Hall of Fame Wall in the Auditorium of Heritage Hall. The plaque will be revealed as part of an honoring ceremony which is open to the general public.