

*Connecticut
Hall of Fame*

*Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT*

The History...

On January 24, 2005 members of the Connecticut Hall of Fame Committee and Legislative Leaders formally unveiled plans for the creation of the Connecticut Hall of Fame.

Located in the atrium area on the second floor of the Legislative Office Building, the Hall of Fame was designed to honor individuals from Connecticut who have distinguished themselves in their professions, both nationally or internationally.

Not only was the Hall of Fame intended to recognize the outstanding achievements of Connecticut individuals, it was meant to serve as an educational tool for the large number of students who visit the State Capitol and Legislative Office Buildings.

Each year the committee reviews the applications of many nominees and refers their selection to the Legislative Leaders for approval. An awards ceremony, "Connecticut Hall of Fame Day," is held to honor those inducted.

Nominations have come from the Connecticut Historical Society, libraries, the State Library, Legislative Library, and other libraries throughout the State. Any individual or organization can make a nomination.

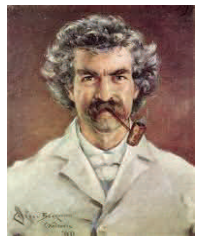
Funding is provided by corporate contributions and grants. Contributions are also received from individuals and foundations.

Hall of Fame Inductees...

2007



Katharine Hepburn, legendary actress who won four Oscars for best actress and one Emmy award was born in Hartford, CT in 1907. She spent several years acting on stage in and around New York. Over the course of six decades in Hollywood, she earned twelve Academy Award nominations. Ms. Hepburn resided in Old Saybrook, CT until her death in 2003.



Mark Twain, (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), great American writer and humorist was born in 1835. He completed his best known works (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*) while residing in Hartford, before moving to Redding, CT where he died in 1910. The Mark Twain House in Hartford where he lived from 1874 to 1891 is now a museum.



Igor Sikorsky, aviation pioneer and designer of the first helicopter, was born in 1889. Mr. Sikorsky founded Sikorsky Manufacturing Company, which became part of United Aircraft and Transport Corporation (now United Technologies Corporation). He resided in Stratford, CT until his death in 1972. The Sikorsky Memorial Bridge and Sikorsky Airport are named in his honor.

2008



Marian Anderson, first black opera singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, was born in 1897. She is considered to be Connecticut's Voice of Freedom. History was made in 1939 when she held a concert at the Lincoln Memorial after the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to let her perform at Constitution Hall. For many years Ms. Anderson made her home in Danbury, CT. She died in 1993.

2008 Continued....



Harry Gray, former Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of United Technologies, and one of the most outstanding business managers in the United States, was born in 1919. Mr. Gray led United Technologies from a \$2 billion defense company to a \$17 billion diversified conglomerate. Known for his philanthropies, the Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital is named for Mr. Gray and his wife, Helen. He died in 2009 in Hartford, CT.



Jackie Robinson, first African-American man to play major league baseball, was born in 1919. Mr. Robinson broke the color barrier when he was signed to play with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 and helped them win the World Series in 1955. His career batting average was .311 and he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He was a civil rights advocate and moved to Stamford, CT after retiring from baseball in 1957. He died in 1972.



Chief Ralph W. Sturges, lifetime leader of the Mohegan Tribe was born in New London, CT in 1918. Chief Sturges was instrumental in helping the tribe gain federal recognition. He worked with financial supporters to help develop and build the Mohegan Sun Casino in Montville, CT. Chief Sturges was also a skilled marble sculptor. His works were displayed at the CT State Capitol and other public buildings. He died in New London, CT in 2007.

2009



Paul Newman, legendary actor, film director, entrepreneur, humanitarian, professional racing driver and auto racing team owner. Born in 1925, Mr. Newman starred in more than fifty films in a career that spanned more than five decades. His food conglomerate, Newman's Own, is a multi-million dollar business, the profits of which are donated to various educational and charitable organizations. Part of the profits support the Hole-In-The-Wall Camp, which he created for children with life threatening illnesses. The children attend free of charge. The Hole-In-The-Wall Camp now operates on three different continents. He died in 2008 at his home in Westport, CT.

2010



Dr. Robert Ballard, founder and president of the Institute for Exploration, which specializes in deep-sea archaeology and deep-sea geology. The Institute joined forces in 1999 with the Mystic Aquarium and is now part of the Sea Research Foundation. Dr. Ballard brought a greater understanding of the undersea world to the public and increased awareness of marine conservation issues. He discovered the wrecks of the RMS Titanic, the battleship Bismarck, the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, and the wreck of John F. Kennedy's PT-109. He presently resides in Mystic, CT.



Deane Keller, American artist, academic, soldier, art restorer and preservationist was born in 1901 in New Haven, CT. Captain Keller helped rescue Italian masterworks from the threat of combat and looting during World War II. He taught for forty years at Yale University's School of Fine Arts. In addition to his academic career, Captain Keller was a prolific portrait painter. He was known as the "unofficial portraitist of the Yale faculty," completing over 160 portrait commissions for the university, including faculty, corporation board members, and two presidents. He died in 1992 in Hamden, CT.

2010 Continued....



Harriet Beecher Stowe, best selling author was born in 1811 in Litchfield, CT. Ms. Stowe was educated at, and subsequently taught at the Hartford Female Academy, founded by her sister Catherine Beecher in 1823. She also taught at the Western Female Institute in Cincinnati, established by her sister Catherine in 1832. Ms. Stowe wrote a number of books, the most famous of which is Uncle Tom's Cabin which she wrote in 1850. The book opened up the realities of slavery to the entire world and it became a best seller which has never been out of print. Ms. Stowe died in 1896.



Noah Webster, an American lexicographer, textbook author, spelling reformer, word enthusiast, and editor. He was born in 1758 in the West Division of Hartford, CT. Mr. Webster has been called the “Father of American Scholarship and Education.” His “Blue-Backed Speller” books were used to teach spelling and reading to five generations of American children. In the United States, his name has become synonymous with dictionaries, especially the modern Merriam-Webster dictionary that was first published in 1828 as An American Dictionary of the English Language. Mr. Webster died in 1843.

2013



Geno Auriemma, head coach of the University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team. He was born in Montella, Italy in 1954. During his illustrious tenure, Auriemma transformed the UConn women's basketball program into the standard by which all other programs are measured, both on and off the court. Under his coaching the women Huskies have gone from a team with only one winning season to one with eight national titles, 14 Final Fours, four perfect seasons and 37 Big East titles.

2013 Continued....



Jim Calhoun, coached men's basketball for 40 years, 26 of which he spent coaching the University of Connecticut Huskies. He coached the Huskies to three national titles and led four teams to the Final Four. Jim Calhoun was named Big East Conference Coach of the Year four times and in 2005 was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. He retired in 2012 and resides in Pomfret, CT with his wife Pat.

The couple are known for their philanthropy, including the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center at UConn.



Alfred Carlton Gilbert, American inventor, athlete, toy-maker and businessman was born in 1884. He graduated from Yale Medical School, and helped pay his tuition by performing as a magician. He also founded Mysto Manufacturing, which sold magic kits for kids. In 1908 he competed in the IV Olympiad in London, England, winning the gold medal in the pole vault. In 1911, while commuting on the New Haven railroad, Mr. Gilbert was inspired

by the new electrification catenary and designed the Erector Set, which quickly became the most popular construction toy in the United States. Mr. Gilbert died in 1961.

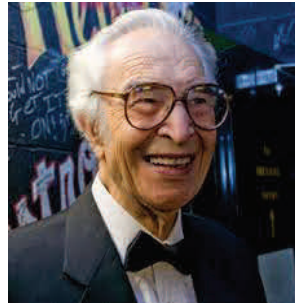


Roger Sherman, American lawyer and politician. Mr. Sherman served in both the Connecticut House of Representatives and the United States Congress. He also represented Connecticut in the Continental Congress. He is especially notable for being the only person to sign all four great state papers of the United States; the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution

and the Continental Association. He was elected as the first Mayor of New Haven, CT in 1784 and held that office until his death in 1793. Sherman, Connecticut is named for him.



Constance Baker Motley was a civil rights activist, lawyer and judge. She was born in New Haven, CT. The first African-American woman to win election to the New York State Senate, first female Borough President of Manhattan, New York and the first female African-American federal judge in 1966. Ms. Motley helped draft the complaint for the *Brown v. Board of Education* landmark suit. In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Ms. Motley and her fellow lawyers. She won nine of ten cases she argued before the Supreme Court and the tenth case was overturned. Ms. Motley died in September 2005.



David Brubeck was an American jazz pianist and composer. He wrote a number of jazz standards, including “In Your Own Sweet Way” and the “Duke”. His music is known for employing unusual time signatures, and superimposing contrasting rhythms, meters and tonalities. Mr. Brubeck was officially designated a “Living Legend” by the Library of Congress and a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1997 he won the Connecticut Arts Award. He received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor on his 89th birthday in 2009. Other awards include a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Brubeck was a resident of Wilton, CT for over fifty years. Mr. Brubeck died in December 2012 in Norwalk, Connecticut.

2014 Continued



Judge John T. Downey was born and raised in New Britain, Connecticut. After graduating from Yale University he joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). While on a mission over China in 1952 his plane was shot down and he was captured. He spent the next twenty years in a Chinese prison. President Nixon was instrumental in getting him released after his visit to China. He graduated from Harvard Law School and was appointed Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters. He served as Connecticut's Secretary of Business Regulation and for two terms as Chairperson of the Connecticut Public Utilities Control Authority. He received the Robert C. Zampano Award for Excellence in Mediation and the CIA Director's Medal for his service to his country and the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Cross award. The New Haven Juvenile Matters Courthouse and Detention Center was named after him in 2002. In 2007, the Connecticut Bar Association honored Judge Downey with its highest honor for a judge, the Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award, for his outstanding contributions to the judicial field in CT. The CIA has produced a documentary that chronicled his capture. Judge Downey died in November 2014 in Branford, Connecticut.



Frederick Law Olmsted is considered to be the father of American landscape architecture. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1822. He moved to New York in 1848 and in 1857, without having a college education, Mr. Olmsted became superintendent of New York's Central Park. As superintendent of the park he served as the administrator and then architect-in-chief of Central Park's construction. Next, he served as the administrative head of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which was the forerunner of the American Red Cross. Mr. Olmsted was instrumental in saving and creating parks (Yosemite, Mariposa Big Trees & Central Park). Mr. Olmsted also designed Beardsley Park. He died in 1903.

2014 Continued



Frederick Rentschler was an American aircraft engine designer, aviation engineer, and industrialist. Mr. Rentschler resided in West Hartford, Connecticut. He was a talented inventor of aviation equipment and founded Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, which created and manufactured many revolutionary aircraft engines, including those used in the aircrafts of Charles Lindberg, Amelia Earhart and James Doolittle. Pratt & Whitney's airfield, located in East Hartford, CT was named Rentschler Field in his honor. He is also the co-founder of United Aircraft and Transport Corporation, the predecessor of United Technologies Corporation. Mr. Rentschler died in 1956 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Hartford, CT.



Stephen Sondheim is an American composer and lyricist known for his contribution to musical theatre. He is the winner of an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards including the special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, multiple Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer prize and the Laurence Olivier Award. He wrote lyrics for "Gypsy" and "West Side Story" before going on to compose both music and words for 1970's shows like "Company", "A Little Night Music" and "Sweeney Todd". Mr. Sondheim resides in New York and Connecticut.



General Henry Burbeck was a long-time artillery officer in the United States Army. He was born in Boston, MA, in 1754. General Burbeck served during both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, achieving the rank of Brigadier General. During the War of 1812, he commanded the Connecticut State Militia in New London, Connecticut. It was General Burbeck's idea to have a military academy in West Point, New York. He died in 1848 at his home in New London. The Massachusetts Society of Cincinnati, of which he was a member, erected a monument for him in Cedar Grove Cemetery, New London, Connecticut.



Nathan Hale, Connecticut's official state hero was born in Coventry, Connecticut in 1755. At fourteen he attended Yale College. Mr. Hale was a teacher in East Haddam and New London before joining the militia and becoming American's first acknowledged spy. In 1985 he was recognized as an official hero; his famous last words before being hanged in 1776 for being a spy for the colonies were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." There is a statue of Mr. Hale in the Connecticut State Capitol building.



Helen Keller was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. Ms. Keller was born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. In 1882 she became ill and was left blind, deaf and mute. The family hired Anne Sullivan in 1887, to teach Ms. Keller. Ms. Sullivan taught Ms. Keller to communicate using sign language. She was the first deafblind person to earn a bachelor of arts degree. Ms. Keller travelled to over 40 countries. She was appointed Counselor of International Relations Overseas for the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. A school in Easton, Connecticut was named after her, where she resided until her death in 1968.



Mary Louise "Meryl" Streep is an American actress who has worked in theatre, television and film. She is widely regarded as one of the most talented and respected movie actors of all time. Ms. Streep has been nominated for an Academy Award 19 times (more than any other actor or actress in history) and has won three times. Ms. Streep's early performing ambitions leaned toward the opera. She became interested in acting while a student at Vassar and upon graduation, she enrolled in the Yale School of Drama. She gave an outstanding performance in her first film role, Julia (1977), and the next year she was nominated for her first Oscar for her role in The Deer Hunter. She went on to win an Academy Award for her performance in Kramer vs. Kramer (1979), Sophie's Choice (1982) and The Iron Lady (2011). Ms. Streep presently resides in Salisbury, Connecticut with her family.



Horace Wells was an American dentist, a pioneer in the use of surgical anesthesia in dentistry, specifically nitrous oxide (laughing gas). He was born in 1815, in Hartford, Vermont. Dr. Wells set up a practice in Hartford, Connecticut in 1844. He reported on the pain-killing properties of nitrous oxide and was the first person to have his tooth extracted while under anesthesia. Dr. Wells started using anesthesia on his patients performing painless dental operations. At Massachusetts General Hospital in 1845 he gave a demonstration to medical students using anesthesia, but the gas was improperly administered and the patient cried out in pain. Due to this embarrassment, Dr. Wells was discredited in the medical community. He gave up dentistry and became a travelling salesman around Connecticut. He started doing self experiments with chloroform and became addicted and deranged. He eventually committed suicide. The American Dental Association honored Wells posthumously in 1864 as the discoverer of modern anesthesia. He was also recognized by the American Medical Association. He is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut. There is a statue of Horace Wells in Bushnell Park in Hartford, Connecticut.



The Connecticut Hall of Fame Award



Awards for 2016 Inductees

PHOTO GALLERY



2008 Induction Ceremony



2009 Induction Ceremony



2010 Induction Ceremony

PHOTO GALLERY



UConn Coach Geno Auriemma and
Rep. Themis Klarides

Charles Barlow and Lisa Roush of the
New Milford Historical Society and
Sen. Joseph Crisco



Jeffrey Marsted, grandson of A.C. Gilbert
and Sen. Anthony Guglielmo



Former UConn Coach Jim Calhoun and
Rep. Betty Boukus



PHOTO GALLERY CONTINUED



2013 Connecticut Hall of Fame Inductees



UConn Coach Geno Auriemma, Charles Barlow, Trustee of the New Milford Historical Society, Lisa Roush, Director of the New Milford Historical Society, Rep. Betty Boukus, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Former UConn Coach Jim Calhoun and Jeffrey Marsted, A.C. Gilbert's grandson



Rep. Wood, Sen. Crisco, Rep. Lesser, Steven Manuel, Executive Director, New London County Historical Society, Wyatt Kopp (a descendant of Gen. Henry Burbeck), Sen. Guglielmo and Scott Shiland (also a descendant of Gen. Henry Burbeck)



Rep. Lesser, Steven Manuel, Wyatt Kopp, Sen. Guglielmo and Scott Shiland

PHOTO GALLERY



Sen. Crisco and Rep. Wood and 2016 ceremony attendees



Ilene Frank, Chief Curator,
CT Historical Society and
Rep. Boukus



Sheryl Hack, Executive Director,
CT Landmarks and Rep. Lesser



Rep. Wood



Sen. Crisco and Rep. Willis



Rep. Wood and 2016 ceremony attendees

PHOTO GALLERY



Sen. Crisco



Dr. William Nash, President of the CT Dental Assoc., members of the CT Dental Assoc. and Rep. Vargas at the podium



Sen. Guglielmo

CONNECTICUT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jim Calhoun
Geno Auriemma
A. C. Gilbert Roger Sherman

Paul Newman
Mark Twain Igor Sikorsky
Katharine Hepburn
Marian Anderson Jackie Robinson
Chief Ralph W. Sturges Harry Gray
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Noah Webster Deane Keller
Dr. Robert Ballard

Meryl Streep
Nathan Hale Horace Wells
Gen. Henry Burbeck Helen Keller

HONORARY CHAIRMEN:

Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney

Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff

Senate Republican President Pro Tempore Leonard Fasano

Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz

House Majority Leader Matthew Ritter

House Republican Leader Themis Klarides

CHAIRMEN:

Senator Anthony Guglielmo

Representative Matthew Lesser

Representative Terrie Wood

The Connecticut Hall of Fame is located at the
second floor atrium of the
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Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
(860) 240-0100

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/halloffame.htm>