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Eleanor Roosevelt



'The future belongs to those who  
believe in the beauty of their dreams.'

Walla Walla Public Schools



# Graduates of Distinction 2004

These Walla Walla Public Schools graduates  
have distinguished themselves in their  
communities, professions, and careers.

They continue to give of themselves to  
society and bring honor to the district.



We proudly salute our...

# 2004 Graduates of Distinction



With the Graduates of Distinction Program, Walla Walla Public Schools wants to recognize and honor the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. In addition, we want to pay tribute to school staff members who provided positive school experiences, and were inspirational in the lives of these graduates. Our Graduates of Distinction will serve as positive role models for current and future students. It is important for students to see how impressive their future accomplishments, both personal and professional, can be to our community and society. As we celebrate with our distinguished graduates and staff members, we also bring honor to Walla Walla Public Schools. Quality education is our past, present and future.



## Ned Shafer - Class of 1961

Capable Leader  
Civic Volunteer

Ned Shafer is sincere proof that you can go home again and serve your community in a meaningful way. He grew up, as do many Walla Walla youth, spending time at the YMCA. After graduating from Washington State University in 1969 with a degree in recreation, he earned a masters degree, also in recreation, from the University of Oregon. He moved up through the ranks in several Northwest YMCAs, from program director in Yakima and Eugene to associate director in Tacoma before returning to his hometown YMCA as director in 1978. Under his capable leadership, membership has grown from 500 to more than 5,000 and the annual budget now approaches \$2 million.

Each of Ned's letters of support for Graduate of Distinction spoke to his quiet, consistent, and strong sense of community. As a longtime member and past president of the Rotary Club, Ned helped spearhead a tree preservation project for Walla Walla. In 11 years, the club has planted more than 2,000 trees and Ned has been involved in most of the work parties. He is currently a board member for the Blue Mountain Audubon Society and a community liaison for the Seattle Times. For the past five years, he has served as master of ceremonies for the Blue Mountain Youth Recognition Awards. Ned has five children and six grandchildren. His wife, Vicki, is a teacher with Walla Walla Public Schools.

### *Inspirational Staff Member*

Lola Whitner - Walla Walla High School English Teacher



## Jeffrey Frank Ray - Class of 1978

Award Winning Anchor  
Community Advocate

Jeffrey Ray was student body president for Walla Walla High School's Class of 1978, but his real passion was broadcast journalism. He worked at KHIT radio during high school and vacations from Lewis and Clark College in Portland. According to one of his professors, he applied his liberal arts education, with a degree in history, to the "tough work of tracking down leads and pursuing truth" as he held successful

investigative reporting positions with television stations in Seattle, Spokane, Portland, and now Boise. During the last 21 years, he has garnered three Emmys, covered the Ruby Ridge standoff in Idaho, accompanied Keiko the whale to Iceland, and uncovered large-scale corruption in Boise city government. It was for his strong investigative work in Boise that he earned Columbia University's 2004 Alfred I duPont award, broadcast journalism's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize.

According to his nominators, Jeff's life is a balance of hard work, family, and friends. He is a weekly volunteer in his children's elementary classrooms and has supported community causes such as the Diabetes Association Walkathon and Boise Highland Games and Scottish Festival. His strong belief in the heroism of the common led to his series, Idaho Gems, which chronicles the good news stories of ordinary citizens. These have led to lasting friendships, including rancher Tom Hall, who recently included Jeff, his wife Sheila and two children in his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and proclaims himself a loyal fan of Channel 2 news because he can "count on the accuracy of Jeff's journalism."

### *Inspirational Staff Member*

Glen Mitchell - Walla Walla High School Band Instructor



## Harold R. Frank - Class of 1941

Successful Entrepreneur  
Scholastic Benefactor

Hard work and education have been important to Harold Frank, one of nine children born to immigrant parents who settled in Walla Walla's "Germans from Russia" community. He worked in the family grocery store while attending Walla Walla High School and one year of Whitman College. Harold served three years in the U.S. Army and then graduated from Washington State

University in 1948, with a degree in electrical engineering. While working for Continental Oil in Southern California, he realized the value of magnetic recording and started his own business, Applied Magnetics, in his garage. By 1968, his then successful company acquired Key Technology and helped build a business that has created hundreds of local jobs.

According to Harold's cousin Gene Frank, he has always gladly given his time and financial assistance to others. He established scholarships at Washington State University, Santa Barbara City College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He served on the Whitman College Board of Overseers, UCSB Board of Trustees, and the WSU Foundation's Board of Trustees. He lives in Goleta, California and is an active member of the Santa Barbara Foundation Investment Committee. Harold and his wife Diana have two sons and one stepson, and are the proud grandparents of six.

### *Inspirational Staff Member*

B.A. Tack (deceased) - Walla Walla High School Science Teacher

## Past Graduates of Distinction Recipients

### 2003 Graduates of Distinction

Irene Gonzales	Class of 1980
Gene Frank	Class of 1946
Mark Anderson	Class of 1973

### 2002 Graduates of Distinction

Robert I. Brunton	Class of 1953
James K. Hayner	Class of 1968
Charlotte Wirth	Class of 1944

### 2001 Graduates of Distinction

Vickie Anderson VanZandt	Class of 1972
Jeanne Parker-Miller	Class of 1969
H. Eugene Blattman	Class of 1954
Edward N. "Ned" Lange	Class of 1952
Gordon L. Jaynes	Class of 1946

### 2000 Graduates of Distinction

Bruce T. Bjerke	Class of 1968
Dr. William C. Dement	Class of 1947
Philip N. Lane, Jr.	Class of 1962
Gordon S. Riess	Class of 1944
Wilber Pribilsky	Class of 1951

### 1999 Graduates of Distinction

James F. Aylward	Class of 1946
Karen E. Glover	Class of 1968
Eric Johnson	Class of 1968
Michael M. Murr	Class of 1969
Richard P. Neher	Class of 1949