

Walla Walla Public Schools  
364 South Park Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 529-7713 (FAX)  
(509) 527-3000  
www.wpps.org

Eleanor Roosevelt



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

Walla Walla Public Schools



# Graduates of Distinction 2005

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...

# 2005 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.



## Dr. George Cole Williams Jr. Class of 1947

Well Respected Dentist  
Genealogist/Gemologist (Mineralogist)

For 37 years, Dr. George Cole Williams was a "dentist of the times." "He did everything as well as most any dentist...but more importantly, he did it from his heart!" Such was the praise in all nominating letters for this 1947 graduate of Walla Walla High School. He graduated from the University of

Oregon Dental School in 1954 and began private practice in Forest Grove, Oregon. He also taught part-time at the Dental School, gave dental health programs for area schools, and offered voluntary dental work at a local home for boys. Not content to just be "his family historian", as one nominator described him, George has demonstrated a wide interest in genealogy. He has written several books, developed and organized archives for Pacific University, and worked as a docent at a museum of Northwest history. He currently maintains historical records for his 157 year-old church in Forest Grove.

George has an avid interest in rocks and minerals. As a longtime member of the Tualatin Valley Gem Club, he has exhibited in the Willamette Valley and won awards at regional and national shows. With his wife, LaVerne (also a product of Walla Walla Schools), he presents mineralogy demonstrations for elementary students and once provided a special exhibit for the British Columbia Federation Gem Show. While their four children were young, George and Laverne would caravan to large gem shows and out-of-the-way rock collecting sites for family vacations, according to one nominator. Another said: "One would have a difficult time finding a more decent, moral, family man to represent Walla Walla Public Schools."

### Inspirational Staff Member

Lucille McIntyre (deceased) - Walla Walla High School Latin Teacher



## Michael Maiden - Class of 1968

Artistic Visionary  
Successful Businessman

Growing up along the Touchet River gave 1968 Wa-Hi graduate Michael Maiden some inspiration for what later would become his passion and career. With a color palette and modeling clay, he found an artistic way to celebrate his love of birds and wildlife at Central Washington University, graduating in 1972 with degrees in fine arts and education. He spent six months in Army basic training, then landed a job teaching

art at Garrison Junior High School. During his three years as a teacher, Mike found time to work on his passion: sculpting and metal fabrication. In 1975, he opened the Maiden Foundry and his passion for art became his career. His one-employee business grew and, in 1975, relocated to Sandy, Oregon, where he now employs more than 80 full-time artisans.

Mike and his wife Vicky, Chief Executive Officer of their company, are well-known in their community and beyond. He earned the title of Oregon Businessman of the Year in 1995 and was nominated for a Governor's Art Award in 2001 for his "contributions of time and expertise." He has put his teaching experience to use in the foundry business by designing an apprentice program that provides extensive on-the-job experience for each of his employees. He donated an American eagle sculpture, for which he has become famous throughout the world, to the Hour of Power Ministry and provided free foundry service for a Vietnam War Memorial located in Sandy, Oregon. In his own words, Mike claims "the primary mission of my art is to cause the view a moment of pleasure and a minute to dream."

### Inspirational Staff Member

Elton Fenno - Walla Walla High School History Teacher



## Gerwyn A. Jones - Class of 1928

Community Advocate and Leader  
"Mr. Baseball"

At 95 years young, Gerwyn A. Jones has definitely, in the words of his nominator, "made his mark" on the community of Walla Walla. He worked as physical director of the YMCA while he attended Whitman College, then stepped into his first role as community activist upon graduation in 1932 when he served as building committee chairman for the Memorial Swimming Pool project. In intervening years, he served as chair-

man of the Veteran's Memorial Park complex; founding member of the Union Gospel Mission (now Christian Aid Center); board member for the future Borleske Stadium; and member of the organizing committees for Little League, Pony League, and the Booster Club. He could even be counted on to coach youth baseball teams. He helped put in a pool at the old YMCA site and then served on a leadership committee for an entire new building 16 years later. Today, he still finds time to work out at the newest "Y" a few times a week.

As a tireless volunteer, Gerwyn wore a variety of hats as he helped lead the Fort Walla Walla Museum from its infancy as a collection of local artifacts in a few buildings to a major local attraction with a paid professional staff. He could be counted on for bookkeeping, fund raising, and endowment building. He'd even open gates when no one else was available. He has earned awards of merit from the Chamber of Commerce, Whitman College, Walla Walla Valley Pioneer and Historical Society, and Rotary Club. In his professional life, Gerwyn was a partner in Cox-Jones Insurance for 65 years, retiring in 1999. He still goes to weekly Rotary meetings and can be counted on to attend major museum meetings.

### Inspirational Staff Member

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## Past Graduates of Distinction Recipients

### 2004 Graduates of Distinction

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Jaffrey Frank Ray | Class of 1978 |
| Harold R. Frank   | Class of 1941 |
| Ned Shafer        | Class of 1961 |

### 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 |