

John E. (Jack) Pelo - Class of 1974

Respected Business Executive

Civic Volunteer

Advocate for Youth

Determination, drive and a strong work ethic have been key in the life of 1974 Walla Walla High School graduate John E. (Jack) Pelo. He had a 4.0 GPA, was a respected basketball and baseball player and took part in many school activities.



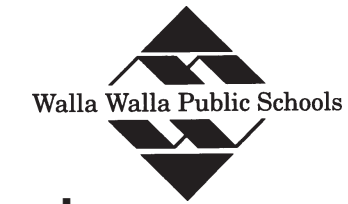
Following his graduation from Washington State University in 1978, Jack worked as an accountant with Price-Waterhouse in Seattle, then returned to Walla Walla in 1983 to work for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, serving as Manager of the Northwest Division. In 1996, he was offered the opportunity to move to Salt Lake City, where he became President and CEO of Swire Pacific USA, a Coca-Cola bottler for 11 western states that employs nearly 2,000 people. In addition to his role with Swire, Jack also is chairman of the board of directors of the American Beverage Association.

Jack has been an active community leader and volunteer in both Walla Walla and the Salt Lake City area. He has been both member and officer of the Exchange Club of Walla Walla; he served on boards for Walla Walla Community College Foundation, the Walla Walla YMCA, Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Salt Lake City, Washington State University Foundation, and Key Technology, Inc.; and he has coached youth teams for Junior Jazz basketball, YMCA basketball and Walla Walla Pacific Little League baseball.

In 1995, with co-chair Tom Madsen, he headed up a successful \$3.5 million renovation campaign for the Walla Walla YMCA. In summing up his association with Pelo, Madsen said “working with him on the campaign allowed me to see ...a quiet, but strong, presence that was extremely effective as he invited others to share his vision for a new and improved Y.”

Pelo and his wife Melinda (a 1975 Wa-Hi graduate) have three children: Ryan, Kevin and Katie. Pelo’s parents, Dick and Kay, still live in Walla Walla, so he maintains close ties with the local community. He was nominated by Pete Reid.

Inspirational Staff - Bill Bieloh, coach and math teacher



Walla Walla Public Schools

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These Walla Walla Public Schools
graduates have distinguished
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and careers.

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

Claro E. Bergevin - Class of 1941

*Family Historian
Community Leader
Respected Businessman*

Hard work and determination have been hallmarks in the life of Claro E. Bergevin, a 1941 graduate of Walla Walla High School. While a student at Wa-Hi he loved to run track and, in his senior year, set the 440 yard dash record that still stands to this day.



Retired since 2002, Mr. Bergevin was a respected leader in the local farming community. He was a breeder of registered Horned Hereford cattle for more than 30 years and he farmed in both Walla Walla and Franklin Counties, raising a variety of crops. For 22 years, he also managed fertilizer and chemical plants in Touchet and Pendleton. During World War II, he served in the Marines and saw action at the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. He has kept contact with his Marine comrades for more than 60 years and will be hosting a gathering for them later this year.

On the community front, Mr. Bergevin has been a Walla Walla School District Board member, a county Planning Commissioner, member of the Frenchtown Recreation Club Board of Directors for 18 years, and volunteer for Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days. In 1995, he was the fair parade marshal. In retirement, at the age of 85, he still serves the community with his work on the Frenchtown preservation and restoration project.

Mr. Bergevin and Betty, his wife of 61 years, are parents of five children. In one of his nomination letters, his granddaughter Tera Zohner wrote: "Claro has instilled in his children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren an overwhelming love for family and community that spreads beyond the bounds of Walla Walla. His devotion to our family's history and future knows no limits and he is truly a hero to each of his family and friends." Mr. Bergevin was nominated by his children: Terry, Mike and David Bergevin, Karen Bergevin-Zohner and Debbie Bergevin-Beal.

Inspirational Staff - Chester Lybecker, FFA teacher, (deceased) and Bess Kirk, Algebra teacher, (deceased)

Gretchen Miller Kafoury - Class of 1959

*Longtime Public Servant
Community Advocate
Lifelong Learner*

Gretchen Kafoury has lived a life of public service, influenced by the Kennedys. After graduating from Whitman College in 1963, she left the security of Walla Walla for Peace Corps service in Iran. After two years, she returned to work in the Robert Kennedy presidential campaign.



Later, in her new hometown of Portland, she quickly became involved with volunteer political work and some lobbying efforts. In 1977, she was elected to the Oregon State House of Representatives and began a public service career that spanned two decades. After representing East Portland for five years, Ms. Kafoury went on to serve as Multnomah County Commissioner from 1985 to 1990, then Portland City Commissioner from 1991-1998. She recently retired from Portland State University, but remains active on the Portland Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Throughout her career and in her personal life, Kafoury has advocated for social and economic justice for all citizens. Several of her nominators agreed that she "has been a champion for fairness and justice." Among her many honors are a Whitman College Alumna of Merit award, Outstanding Alumna and Urban Pioneer awards from Portland State University, and the dedication of the \$10 million Gretchen Kafoury Commons by the Portland Housing Authority in 2000. In 2001, she received the Spirit of Portland award in recognition of her service to the city.

Kafoury has two grown children. Deborah is a 1989 Whitman College graduate who has followed in her mother's footsteps, serving in the Oregon State Legislature and now running for county commissioner. Katharine is a graduate of Evergreen State College in Washington. She is a personal trainer and regular participant in running events in the Portland/Vancouver area. Kafoury was nominated by Donna Cook Gardner of Walla Walla.

Inspirational Staff - Russell Larson, band teacher, (deceased) and Fay Hamm, English teacher, (deceased)