



CITY OF FLORENCE WALK OF HONOR

INDUCTEES AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



FRANK PERRON ACHORN

Walk of Honor 2011

In 1947 Frank Achorn began his successful work as a chemical engineer in 45 states and 40 countries to feed the hungry of the world through increased crop yields. He later secured eight patents related to the fertilizer industry.



CHARLES CAINE ANDERSON

Walk of Honor 2016

Widely known and admired both for his success in business and for his philanthropy, Charles C. Anderson was one of only 12 individuals in the United States to receive the Horatio Alger Award in 2014.



CLAY BENNETT

Walk of Honor 2023

Clay Bennett received both the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning and the National Journalism Award in 2002, followed by the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in 2007 and multiple awards from the Society of Professional Journalists in succeeding years.

DR. JEFFERY LYNN BRIGGS

Walk of Honor 2024

With four commendations and two awards, Dr. Jeffery Briggs was the most highly lauded winner of the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition by the National Academy of Music in 2011.



GENERAL ARTHUR E. BROWN, JR.

Walk of Honor 2007

A 1953 graduate of West Point, Gen. Brown culminated a 36-year military career as Director of the Army Staff (1983-1987) and Vice-Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army (1987-1989).



ROBERT E. "BOB" BRUNINGA

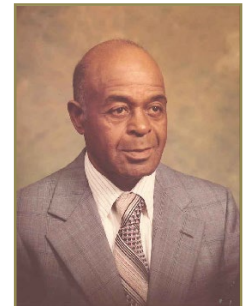
Walk of Honor 2019

Robert Bruninga's invention of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) for amateur radio in 1993 was adopted worldwide. He was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2002 and received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Award in 2014.

JOHN THOMAS BULLS, JR.

Walk of Honor 2009

For 21 years following the end of World War II, John Bulls served as Agricultural Extension Advisor for the U.S. State Dept. in India, Nigeria, Tunisia and Uganda, assisting farmers and organizing community development programs.



LTC ALLEN ("SKIP") BUTLER

Walk of Honor 2024

Through multiple deployments to Vietnam, LTC Allen ("Skip") Butler became known as a brilliant attack helicopter pilot in the 101st Airborne Division. He led a team that modified helicopters for lethal capabilities, piloted by the top 10% of all U.S. Army aviators.

MAURICE CAUSEY

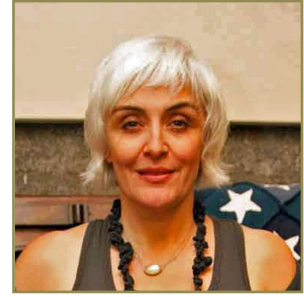
Walk of Honor 2018

At age 16 in 1982, Maurice Causey won a Ford Foundation Scholarship to the American School of Ballet. He has served as Ballet Master for the Royal Swedish Ballet and the Netherlands Dance Theatre.



NATALIE CHANNIN
Walk of Honor 2014

Beginning in the year 2000, the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum in New York and the National Textile Museum in Washington, among others, have honored the fabric and clothing designs of internationally known Natalie Chanin.



STEWART ERNEST CINK
Walk of Honor 2011

Winner of both national and international golfing championships, in 2009 Stewart Cink became the first native Alabamian to claim the coveted claret jug as the champion of the British Open in Turnberry, Scotland.

GENERAL JOHN COFFEE
Walk of Honor 2007

Through his personal and business relationship with Andrew Jackson, Gen. Coffee led Jackson's cavalry in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 and became a celebrated American hero.



LT. KATHLEEN DIAL COILE
Walk of Honor 2021

Recipient of the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross for her heroics as a flight nurse with the U.S. Air Force in World War II, Lt. Coile disregarded her own crash injuries to save others.

EZRA LEE CULVER
Walk of Honor 2007

With a fourth grade education, Ezra Culver employed his own innovative concrete process in major 20th century projects. His construction experience included work on Yankee Stadium, Lincoln Tunnel and the Florida Keys bridges.





OSCAR STANTON DEPRIEST

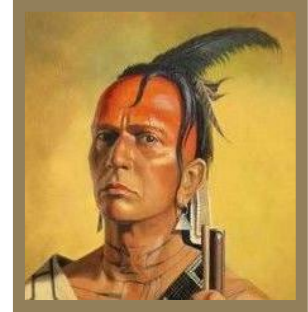
Walk of Honor 2016

In 1928, Oscar S. DePriest, son of former slaves, became the first 20th Century African-American Congressman from the north. He is credited with the Anti-discrimination Amendment to the 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps Bill.

DOUBLEHEAD, CHEROKEE CHIEF

Walk of Honor 2018

Through negotiations with President George Washington, Chief Doublehead owned all lands between Bluewater and Cypress Creeks. The lands became federal property after 1807, allowing a corporation to purchase 5,515 acres to establish Florence.



LIN DUNN

Walk of Honor 2018

Serving as head coach in women's collegiate basketball, 1970-1996, Lin Dunn became a 17-year coach in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and was inducted into the WNBA Hall of Fame in 2014.

RONNIE GENE FLIPPO

Walk of Honor 2007

In his 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives (1977-1991), Ronnie Flippo held such important posts as the chairmanship of the Space Science Subcommittee during the development of the space shuttle, Columbia.



ALMEDA FOWLER

Walk of Honor 2024

Performing in both silent and talking movies in her long film career, Almeda Fowler was chosen for a coveted role by the legendary Al Reeves to be a star in his traveling vaudeville troupe known as "The Big Beauty Show."



HOMER J. GIVENS

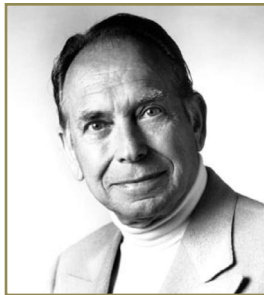
Walk of Honor 2017

For unparalleled bravery on the battlefield in France during World War I, Corporal Homer Givens was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by the French government which hailed him as the war's first American hero.

MAJ. GEN. GEORGE W. GOETHALS

Walk of Honor 2007

In 1891, G. W. Goethals, in his role as supervisor of public works on the Tennessee River, reported directly to the Secretary of War. Later, he was Chief Engineer for the construction of the Panama Canal.



AARON GUS GREEN

Walk of Honor 2017

In 2001, Aaron Green, a Taliesin Fellow and a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, was awarded the very first Gold Medal by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

REAR ADMIRAL MARY ALICE HALL

Walk of Honor 2019

A distinguished US Naval Officer, RADM Mary Alice Hall became, in 1991, the first Navy Nurse since WWII to receive the Distinguished Service Medal and, in 1993, the first military nurse to command a military hospital.



WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER HANDY

Walk of Honor 2007

Born in Florence in 1873, W. C. Handy wrote some of the country's most recognizable blues music such as the "St. Louis Blues." He became internationally know as the "Father of the Blues."



GENERAL HUGH PATE HARRIS

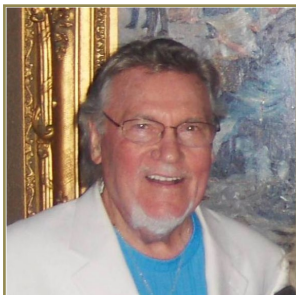
Walk of Honor 2013

Hugh P. Harris became a four-star general in 1964, the 66th officer to receive this rank. A leader in the development of the airborne concept, he held such important posts as Commanding General, U.S. Continental Army Command.

CAROLINE LEE HENTZ

Walk of Honor 2007

Educator and author Caroline Hentz was among the first female novelists in America. Her 13 volumes were some of the most popular in the U.S. during the mid-1800's, and her three dramas were produced in major cities.



KELTON D. "KELSO" HERSTON

Walk of Honor 2012

Starting his musical career in the 1950's, Kelso Herston became a leader, playing guitar with hundreds of performers, producing more than 50 recording artists, publishing 100+ hit songs and creating more than 5,000 commercial jingles.

HARLON HILL

Walk of Honor 2007

The NFL Rookie of the Year (1954) and MVP (1955), Harlon Hill starred with the Chicago Bears. The Harlon Hill Trophy is presented annually to the NCAA Division II Football Player of the Year.



DR. ELLEN DORRIT HOFFLEIT

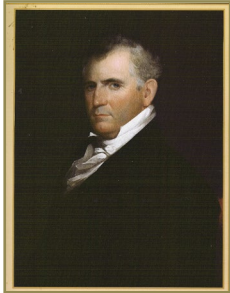
Walk of Honor 2016

Dr. Ellen D. Hoffleit, celebrated worldwide for her many contributions to astronomy, discovered more than 1,200 variable stars. She authored *Yale Bright Star Catalogue* which is used in almost every astronomical observatory in the world.

REAR ADMIRAL JOHN HOOD

Walk of Honor 2016

Commander of the Hawk, the fastest U.S. ship in the Spanish-American War, Rear Admiral John Hood then commanded the Fourth Division of the Atlantic Fleet in World War I. The USS John Hood (DD-655) was named for him.



JAMES JACKSON

Walk of Honor 2009

Often referred to as the most successful breeder of thorough-bred horses in America, James Jackson imported Glencoe and Leviathan to the U.S. in the early 1800s, leaving a permanent imprint on both the breed and American racing history.

ADMIRAL RICHARD JACKSON

Walk of Honor 2023

In 1911, Admiral Richard H. Jackson commanded the Yangtze River Patrol during the Chinese Revolution. By 1926, he rose to the rank of Commander of the Battle Fleet. His eyewitness account of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor was included in the official Navy report.



JESSE CLOPTON JAMES

Walk of Honor 2019

As an accomplished scientist, Jesse C. James did groundbreaking studies of Venus, Mars, and the Sun; and he managed the Harvard Astronomy Station in Texas. He garnered 12 patents and authored 22 papers in scientific journals.

WILLIAM D. "BUDDY" KILLEN

Walk of Honor 2007

Buddy Killen earned international renown as a music publisher, songwriter, record producer and recording artist. He helped launch the careers of a host of well-known musicians during the last half of the 20th century.



HENRY S. "HANK" KLIBANOFF
Walk of Honor 2009

A keen observer and researcher of the Civil Rights Movement in the South, Hank Klibanoff won the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*.



REAR ADMIRAL FRAN MCKEE
Walk of Honor 2009

In 1976, Fran McKee became the first woman line officer promoted to Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. A wide range of opportunities for women in the Navy is a result of her personal example and her work on the Navy's Equal Rights Committee.

JUSTICE JOHN A. MCKINLEY
Walk of Honor 2007

First serving as a member of the U.S. Senate (1826-1830), John McKinley was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Van Buren, becoming the first justice from Alabama.



DON LESLIE MICHAEL
Walk of Honor 2010

One of only 141 American service men to receive the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. U.S. Army SP4 Don Leslie Michael received this award posthumously, and his name appears in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

MICHAEL HALL MOBBS
Walk of Honor 2010

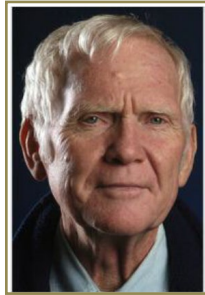
Representing the Secretary of Defense at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks in the 1980's, Michael Mobbs was a leader in negotiations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., resulting in the most complex arms control treaty in history.



DR. AUGUSTINE UZO MOKWUNYE

Walk of Honor 2021

As Director of the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, 1996-2004, Dr. Mokwunye capped a career of service to farmers and others in his native Nigeria and in many other African nations.



CHARLES LEE MOORE

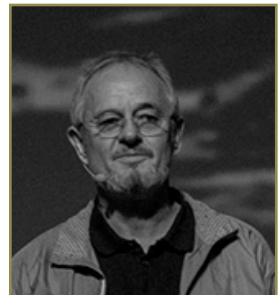
Walk of Honor 2011

Recipient in 1989 of the first Kodak Award for Photojournalism, Charles Moore chronicled such major events as the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's South, political violence in Haiti, and the air war in Vietnam.

MICHAEL "NICK" NICHOLS

Walk of Honor 2014

Winner of international awards such as the 1982 Wildlife Photographer of the Year through the Overseas Press Club, Michael Nichols was named Photography Editor-at-Large for National Geographic Magazine in 2008.



REEDER GLENN NICHOLS

Walk of Honor 2019

Serving as a radio engineer for the England-to-Australia airplane race in 1934, Reeder Nichols later commanded the US Air Force's radio group for Australia and the SW Pacific. A mountain in Australia is named in his honor.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES NOLES

Walk of Honor 2021

In a military career spanning 25 years, Brig. Gen. Noles was awarded two Silver Stars for valor in combat in Vietnam. He later served as Chief of the U.S. delegation to the Kuwait-U.S. Defense Review Group.



DR. ETHELBERT BRINKLEY NORTON
Walk of Honor 2007

Dr. E. B. Norton was a member of the U.S. Education Mission sent to Japan after World War II to advise Gen. MacArthur on the complete reorganization of the Japanese School System, which is still in place today.



EDWARD ASBURY O'NEAL, III
Walk of Honor 2007

Serving 16 years as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (1931-1947), Mr. O'Neal developed major New Deal farm policies in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration.

JONATHAN QUINN PETTUS
WALK OF HONOR 2017

Named Associate Director of Marshall Space Flight Center in 2016, Jonathan Pettus was honored with the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership in 2005 and the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executives in 2009.



SAMUEL CORNELIUS PHILLIPS
Walk of Honor 2007

Known as the “Father of Rock and Roll,” Sam Phillips established Sun Records in 1952, helping Elvis Presley and other well-known artists launch their careers. He received a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement in music.

NORBERT PUTNAM
Walk of Honor 2021

Beginning in the 1960's Norbert Putnam, an accomplished bassist, played for decades with most of the big names in the world of popular music. Along the way, he became a top arranger and producer, as well.





MARY BETH PYRON

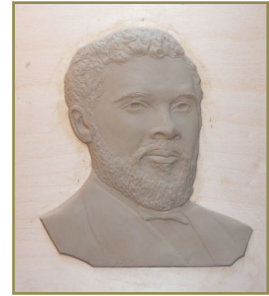
Walk of Honor 2022

Born with spina bifida, Mary Beth Pyron was named the National Poster Child for the March of Dimes in 1959. Later, she and her mother traveled throughout the country in behalf of children born with disabilities.

JAMES THOMAS RAPIER

Walk of Honor 2007

Lawyer and statesman James T. Rapier, a son of free African-American parents in Florence, holds the distinction of being just the second African-American from Alabama to be elected, in 1873, to the U.S. Congress.



ROBERT RAUSCH

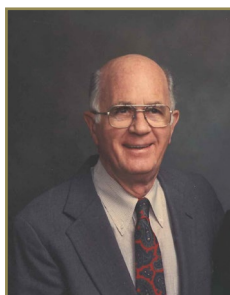
Walk of Honor 2023

As a photographer and designer, Robert Rausch received the Clio Award in 1996. In 2018, his works were selected as the best photographs by the New York Times. Exhibitions of his work have appeared in galleries in the United States and Europe.

WILLIAM BURCH "BILLY" REID

Walk of Honor 2013

The Council of Fashion Designers of America recognized Billy Reid as the Best New Menswear Designer in 2001, followed by the Gentleman's Quarterly, the Vogue Fashion Fund and the Best Menswear Designer Awards.



EDWARD STANLEY ROBBINS

Walk of Honor 2010

Well-known throughout the nation and the world for his innovative work with rubber and vinyl, E. Stanley Robbins supplied rubber inner tubes, retread rubber and, later, synthetic rubber for the Armed Forces in WWII.



DR. AMIT ROY

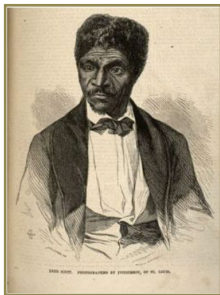
Walk of Honor 2014

Named President of the International Fertilizer Development Center in 1992, Dr. Amit Roy distinguished himself as leader of a team to create sustainable agricultural productivity worldwide, alleviating hunger and ensuring food security.

DR. WILLIE H. RUFF, III

Walk of Honor 2022

In 1947, Dr. Willie H. Ruff, III was selected for the All-Black 766th Air Force Band, playing at every Air Force Base in the U.S. As Professor of Music at Yale University, 1971-2017, his teaching inspired students from across the globe.



DRED SCOTT

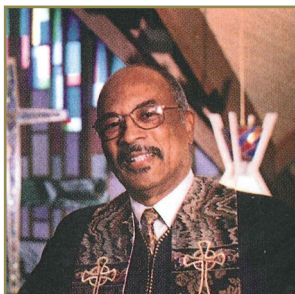
Walk of Honor 2011

Dred Scott, a slave who served as the hostler in Peter Blow's Florence Hotel, waged a 14-year legal fight for freedom that resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott Decision of 1857, a pivotal event in American history.

DR. LYNN MIDDLETON SIBLEY

Walk of Honor 2012

Devoting her career to reducing childbirth mortality among women and newborns across the world, Lynn Sibley developed a 21st century community-based model for maternal and newborn health in low-resource countries.



BENNETT WALKER SMITH

Walk of Honor 2010

Rev. Dr. Bennett W. Smith, as president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, expanded the organization internationally. Active in Civil Rights in America and South Africa, he counseled President Bill Clinton on racial equality.



THOMAS SIGISMUND STRIBLING

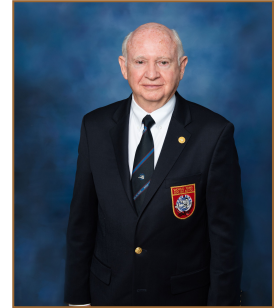
Walk of Honor 2007

In 1934, T. S. Stribling won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Store*, part of the trilogy set in Florence. His story “Birthright” was produced in Hollywood as a silent movie and, later, with sound.

DR. WILLIAM R. (“BILL”) STRONG

Walk of Honor 2022

Educator and geographer Dr. William R. (“Bill”) Strong received the National Council for Geographic Education’s Distinguished Teaching Award (1986). As Geographer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society (1991-1993), he earned its Distinguished Geography Educator Award.



DR. JOHN WILKINSON TAYLOR

Walk of Honor 2018

As Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Dr. John W. Taylor pioneered international programs following WWII aimed at ending illiteracy by promoting education within communities. He introduced an early version of distance learning through correspondence courses via radio.

ROBERT HUE (“BOBBY”) WALLACE

Walk of Honor 2022

As the Head Coach for the football team at the University of North Alabama, Robert Hue (“Bobby”) Wallace’s teams earned three consecutive Division II National Championships (1993-1995), and he was named Division II Coach of the Year three times.



GERALD GORDON WILLIAMS

Walk of Honor 2023

Dr. Gerald G. Williams, recognized as an international leader in agronomy, devoted his life to alleviating poverty and world hunger through sound agricultural practices. After retirement from the TVA in 1980, he served the Heifer Project International in Cameroon.



LT. COL. R. EDWARD YEILDING

Walk of Honor 2007

After flying more than 90 worldwide reconnaissance missions, in 1990 Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding set a coast to coast aircraft speed record of 67 minutes 54 seconds flying the SR-71 spy plane, which is now at the Smithsonian.

WILLIAM “BILL” YOAST

Walk of Honor 2024

A beloved high school teacher and athletics coach, William “Bill” Yoast was a leader in the successful integration of a racially diverse football team in Virginia in 1971. It became the inspiration for the highly-acclaimed film, “Remember the Titans.”

