

We proudly salute our...

Graduates of Distinction 2015

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.



2015 Graduates of Distinction

Judy Chamberlain Holloway Class of 1962



Judy Bee Chamberlain Holloway was a pillar of Walla Walla High School's Class of 1962 and, to this day, is "diligent in keeping people and groups together," according to her nominators. At Wa-Hi, she was president and founder of Pep Club, a group that empowered girls and helped boost their self esteem. She then went on to Central Washington University, where she was active in dorm, student government and social activities like Parents' weekends.

In 1970, Judy was hired as the first elementary school physical education teacher in the district, funded by a Schools of the 21st Century grant, and she worked at Prospect Point until her retirement in 1999. While there, she started morning jogging programs, jump rope and unicycle teams, and added the Presidential Fitness Test to her curriculum.

Post retirement, Judy has been hard to slow down. In her church, she does yardwork, helps deliver holiday gift baskets to older members, and helps with shopping and preparation of one meal a month for the Christian Aid Center. She is well-known for encouraging church members and friends to socialize and establish new friendships. But, one of her biggest missions, according to her nominators, is to keep her graduation class connected – and she's helped do exactly that by chairing all but one class reunion.

Judy's nomination was coordinated by her friend and classmate, Bev Allen, with help from Pamela Ray and Skip Pritchard.

Judy chose **Toss Benefiel**, a custodian at Prospect Point School while she taught there, as her most inspirational staff person because of his help and encouragement, always with a pleasant attitude and usually a joke!

Carol M. Barker Class of 1974



Carol was a scholar, varsity athlete and student leader during her years at Wa-Hi. Her nominator and coach/teacher, Charlotte Wirth, described her as a very coachable and excellent player.

Following graduation, she attended Whitman and was again excelling until her academic career was stalled by a sledding accident that left her a quadriplegic at the age of 20. She has not walked since that day, but her determination and perseverance are remarkably intact.

In 1980, she graduated magna cum laude and with Phi Beta Kappa honors from Whitman College, then taught a Liberty Christian School for three years before pursuing a law degree at Willamette University in Salem. She placed sixth out of 122 students in her 1981 graduating class, after taking the bar exam orally. She then practiced law and served as vice chair of the Advisory Council for the Disability Services Unit for Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties in the 1990's.

A woman of strong faith, Carol has led bible study sessions with Barbara Fletcher of Salem Alliance Church since 1988 and the pair has co-authored nearly 40 Bible Study Guides in the past 16 years. Barbara says Carol has been a "tremendous blessing to so many ...and her life is a testimony all by itself." Friend and nominator Mark Anderson agrees, writing that for 30-plus years, she has managed both her household and caregivers with fortitude and gratefulness...and ALWAYS (in capital letters) has a positive outlook that she willingly shares with others.

Carol's nomination was coordinated by Charlotte Wirth, with help from Arlene Smith, Mark Anderson and Nancy Mitchell.

Charlotte is one of Carol's inspirational staff members along with Jolynn (McBee) Worth, who was Dean of Girls and her advisor as President of Girls League. Both women have been important in Carol's life and impacted her personal journey.

Richard "Dick" Moeller Class of 1963

According to his nominator, Dick "took his high school graduation and soared," with Walla Walla being a better community because of his efforts. After taking two years of carpentry classes at Wa-Hi, he discovered that building was his passion and he worked in that field for nearly 40 years – most of the time as president of his own construction company. He also served as president of the Walla Walla Community College Carpentry Program for 30 years.



Post retirement, Dick took up volunteering – first with the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce and then with the Walla Walla County Fair and Frontier Days after meeting manager Cory Hewitt and hearing her dream to rebuild the historic Fair Pavilion, with the cupola, and upgrade the Fairgrounds. He took up the challenge, serving on the Pavilion Preservation Foundation and the Long Range Maintenance Committee, in addition to two years as Board President and Director of Security and Rodeo. Most recently, he represented the fairgrounds during the Orchard Street sidewalk project, which included installation of the new main entrance gate and signage.

He also is a leader in the Walla Walla Team Penning organization and enjoys rodeo and pleasure riding with wife Julie Anne and friends. Friends Gayle Sanders and Jeanne Ruecker describe him as a "man of outstanding character, strong work ethic and great compassion."

Dick's nomination was coordinated by Cory, Gayle and Jeanne, along with members of the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners and Fair Board President Steve Harvey.

He chose Richard "Dick" Neher, his high school P.E. teacher, as his most inspirational staff member, because of his punctual attitude, preparedness and leadership qualities.

Selection Committee

We would like to thank our Selection Committee for their diligent and thoughtful work this spring.

Committee members are:

- Norma Arceo
- Dondi Cortinas
- Tera Davis
- Anne Golden
- Art Griff
- Dan Hess
- Peggy Sanderson

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

Eleanor Roosevelt

Past Graduates of Distinction

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|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Gerwyn Jones | Class of 1928 | Barbara Johnson | Class of 1967 |
| Claro E. Bergevin | Class of 1941 | James K. Hayner | Class of 1968 |
| Harold R. Frank | Class of 1941 | Bruce T. Bjerke | Class of 1968 |
| Thomas L. Copeland | Class of 1942 | Karen E. Glover | Class of 1968 |
| Charlotte Wirth | Class of 1944 | Eric Johnson | Class of 1968 |
| Gordon S. Riess | Class of 1944 | Jill A. Largent | Class of 1968 |
| Neil Follett | Class of 1944 | Michael Maiden | Class of 1968 |
| Gene Frank | Class of 1946 | Greg Ralston Pepin | Class of 1968 |
| Gordon L. Jaynes | Class of 1946 | Daniel J. Hess | Class of 1968 |
| James F. Aylward | Class of 1946 | Dr. Richard K. Knuth | Class of 1969 |
| Dr. William C. Dement | Class of 1947 | Michael M. Murr | Class of 1969 |
| Dr. George Cole Williams Jr. | Class of 1947 | Jeanne Parker-Miller | Class of 1969 |
| Val Jensen | Class of 1947 | Paul H. Schniedmiller | Class of 1970 |
| Richard P. Neher | Class of 1949 | Mary Jane Towner-Glaser | Class of 1971 |
| Wilber Pribilsky | Class of 1951 | Vickie Anderson VanZandt | Class of 1972 |
| Edward N. "Ned" Lange | Class of 1952 | Mark Anderson | Class of 1973 |
| Robert I. Brunton | Class of 1953 | AnnRene Joseph | Class of 1973 |
| H. Eugene Blattman | Class of 1954 | Megan Ferguson-Clubb | Class of 1974 |
| R.F. "Dick" Monahan | Class of 1958 | John E. (Jack) Pelo | Class of 1974 |
| Gretchen Miller Kafoury | Class of 1959 | Daniel Reid | Class of 1974 |
| Ned Shafer | Class of 1961 | Dr. Philip Phillips | Class of 1975 |
| Philip N. Lane, Jr. | Class of 1962 | Jeffrey Ray | Class of 1978 |
| John P. Folsom | Class of 1962 | Tim Donaldson | Class of 1979 |
| Carol Santa | Class of 1962 | Irene Gonzales | Class of 1980 |
| Stephen Hayner | Class of 1966 | Craig Nelson | Class of 1981 |
| Daniel DeSiga | Class of 1967 | David Wagner | Class of 1993 |