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SIXTH ANNUAL

ATHLETIC  
HALL OF  
FAME



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# W e l c o m e

*To the Sixth Annual Liberty Union High School District*  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER

## PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies  
*Victor Thornhill, Director*

\* National Anthem  
L.U.H.S. Barbershop Quartet  
*Nephie Steer, Carl Pentel, Jeff Willson, Kyle Roberts*  
*Sue Stuart, Director*

\* Welcome  
*Jack Ferrill, Athletic Hall of Fame President*  
*Dan Smith, Superintendent, L.U.H.S.D.*

\* Dinner

## INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Induction of WENDY FORTNER BROWN  
Introduced by Keith Dawson  
Acceptance by Wendy Fortner Brown

Induction of RAY VALVERDE  
Introduced by Jack Ferrill  
Acceptance by Ray Valverde

Induction of JOHN MUNDELL  
Introduced by Jack Ferrill  
Acceptance by John Mundell

Induction of MICHELLE VESTAL  
Introduced by Victor Thornhill  
Acceptance by Richard Barrios

Induction of MICHELE STRANAHAN  
Introduced by Linda Ghilarducci  
Acceptance by Michele Stranahan

Induction of HAROLD WHEELER  
Introduced by Jack Ferrill  
Acceptance by Harold Wheeler

Induction of the 1956 BASEBALL TEAM  
Introduced by Lou Bronzan, Coach  
Acceptance by Al Celoni, Captain

## CLOSING CEREMONIES

*Victor Thornhill*

*Jack Ferrill*



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# *Message from the President*

## *L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame*



Jack Ferrill

We are inducting six individuals and a team tonight. The Board of Directors feel that these seven inductees represent truly outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the L.U.H.S.C. athletic history. I agree wholeheartedly.

I congratulate all of the inductees on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hall of Fame. They are certainly worthy and deserve the honor being bestowed on them tonight.

As we celebrate the Sixth Annual L.U.H.S.D. Induction dinner, we salute the outstanding group of people being honored tonight for their successes in athletics and in life and for their positive contributions to their communities. They are all successful citizens – the same work ethic, determination, pride and dedication that made them successful athletes continues to play an important part in their present lives.

This is the seventh year of the Hall of Fame, and it appears now that we will have a permanent home for our Hall of Fame – in the Brentwood School recently purchased by the L.U.H.S.D. The Board of Directors is certainly looking forward to working with the L.U.H.S.D. Administration to make this a reality.

I would like to thank all of you in attendance tonight because your presence is crucial to our success. I would also like to thank all of those benefactors who have given personal contributions or have purchased advertising space in our Induction Dinner Program. As you know, an undertaking such as the Athletic Hall of Fame is certainly not without considerable expense. Without the financial support of you fine, caring individuals and businesses, the Hall of Fame could not and would not survive. Thank you all for making the Hall of Fame a success.

Besides the efforts of community members, the success of the Hall of Fame is the result of the hard and tireless effort of nineteen dedicated board members whose only goal is to make the L.U.H.S.D. Hall of Fame the best it can be. As President, I want to thank each and everyone of them for their efforts to make the Hall of Fame a success and to guarantee that it continues as a repository of our district's rich athletic tradition and history.

Sincerely,

*Jack Ferrill*

President



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## **Wendy Fortner Brown**

### **Athlete**

Wendy Fortner Brown certainly ranks as one of the most stellar Lady Lions to ever represent the Cardinal and Gold. Wendy attended Liberty from 1976 to 1980 and during that time she left an indelible mark on Liberty athletics. She earned her varsity letter in basketball as a frosh and was named to the second team All-F.A.L. During her frosh year she was also an F.A.L. Champion in track and field as a shot putter and discus thrower. In 1977-78 she was again elected to the second team All-F.A.L. basketball squad and selected to the All-Tourney Team at the Del Valle Tournament. She even found time to earn a varsity letter in Cross Country in 1978. Also in this sophomore year she was again a F.A.L. Champion in the shot put and was a participant in the Nor Cal Meet of Champions. She won the Parker-Robb Track and Field Athlete of the Week in 1978 and was awarded the Most Valuable Track Award at Liberty. The 1978 Liberty ladies track team went undefeated and won both the F.A.L. Championship and the North Coast Section Championship - a first and only such championship in Liberty's history - and Wendy was an integral part of that effort. In her junior year, 1978-79, she was selected first team All-F.A.L. in basketball and was All-Tourney at the Acalanes Invitational and the M.V.P. at the Delta Queen's Invitational Tournament. She was elected the basketball team captain. She again was the F.A.L. Champion in shot put and went on to the Nor Cal Meet of Champions. She was a Parker-Robb Athlete of the Week for track and field and Liberty's Most Valuable Track Athlete. In her senior year of 1979-80 Wendy became recognized as one of Liberty's top women athletes ever. She was chosen again to the first team F.A.L. basketball team and chosen team



captain for Liberty. She was a Parker-Robb Athlete of the Week in basketball and selected as the Most Valuable Player on the Liberty team. Wendy won a F.A.L. Championship in track in the shot put and went on to the Nor Cal Meet of Champions and then State Track and Field Meet. She was chosen the Most Valuable Track Athlete again and was named the Parker-Robb Athlete of the Year in track and field. For her efforts over four years, Wendy was selected the Lady Yearbook Athlete of the Year for 1980.

This young woman earned nine varsity letters in four years; was all F.A.L. in track and field for four years; was All-F.A.L. first team basketball for two years; was the first Liberty woman to break 40 feet in the shot put and set numerous scoring records in basketball over her career.

It is with extreme pride that the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame inducts Wendy Fortner Brown for her outstanding athletic contributions to Liberty Union High School.



## **John Mundell**

### **Athlete**

John Mundell attended Liberty from 1955 to 1959. He was an outstanding all-around athlete lettering in three varsity sports. John lettered in three sports as a freshman - football, basketball, and track. As a sophomore John earned his first of three varsity letters in football. In his senior year he was second team All-League and was awarded the Most Valuable Player Award as well as the Most Inspirational Player Award. John earned three varsity letters in basketball. He lettered in track and field for two years. John ran the 880 yard run, the 180 low hurdles, threw the discus, and ran on relay teams - especially distance medley teams. He qualified for the North Coast Sectional in the 880 yard run in 1959. Also in 1959, he won the Liberty Decathlon Championship as the all-around track and field athlete.

After graduating from high school, John went to Chico State College where he was again an outstanding all-around athlete. He earned four varsity letters in football - it is rare indeed for freshman to earn a varsity letter in football. He lettered two years in varsity basketball at Chico. John found a new sport at Chico State - boxing, and he was good at the sport. He earned his varsity letter as a freshman boxing as a heavyweight. As a sophomore, he moved down to a light-heavyweight, and he won the Chico Invitational Boxing Tournament and the League Crown. He was named to the All-American Boxing Team as a sophomore. As a junior he received a severe concussion in football, and as a result, he could not get medical clearance to box in his junior and senior years.

Upon graduating from Chico State, John went into teaching at Yuba City High School where he was assistant football coach for five years and was an assistant coach for the Northern California All-Stars in 1966 and 1967. He was the department chair for both boys and girls physical education departments and the athletic director. He



continued his interest in boxing by refereeing Northern California high school boxing matches. John left Yuba City High School and went to the University of Oregon and earned an M.A. degree in curriculum and instruction and was advanced to doctoral candidacy. He returned to education as an assistant principal in Salinas. He worked in a continuation program in Watsonville and then taught in the U.C. Santa Cruz Teacher Training Program. He also worked for the Santa Cruz Office of Education - Courts and Community Schools. He left education to become the executive director of Friends Outside in Monterey County - this program gives help to ex-offenders and their families.

In 1994 Chico State honored John by inducting him into the Chico State Athletic Hall of Fame for his outstanding athletic accomplishments. John presently lives in Oakley and is teaching with the Liberty Union High School District.

For his outstanding athletic record at Liberty Union High School and Chico State College, the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to induct John Mundell.



## **Michele Stranahan**

### **Athlete**

Michele Stranahan attended Liberty Union High School from 1984 to 1988. She was a two sport athlete who excelled in both sports - volleyball and track and field. As a frosh, Michele played and lettered in JV volleyball and earned her varsity letter in track and field placing fourth place at the F.A.L. finals and tenth place at the N.C.S. finals. In 1985 Michele played varsity volleyball and was selected as the Most Improved Player. In 1986, Michele lettered in swimming instead of track. She lettered and played on the 1986 Varsity Volleyball Team that was the first to reach the N.C.S. She was an A.D. Seeno Athlete of the Week during the 1986 season. During the 1987 track and field season, Michele began to show great talent especially in the shot put. She was first place in six dual meets in the shot put and placed third at the F.A.L. meet. She went on to place sixth in the shot at the N.C.S. meet and tenth at the Meet of Champions.

Michele's senior year began with outstanding performances in volleyball. She was selected All-Tourney at the Northgate Tournament and All-Tourney at the Diablo Invitational Tournament. She was the Big "C" Athlete of the Week and the Contra Costa Times Athlete of the Week. She was the Albert Seeno Athlete of the Week and the Liberty Athlete of the Week. Michele was named to the Tribune East Bay High School Honor Roll. She was selected to the first team All-F.A.L. Volleyball Team, and she was Liberty's Co-Most Valuable Player. In her senior season of track Michele was outstanding. She took six first places and one second place in the shot put in seven dual meets. At the Sonoma State Invitational and at the Stanford Invitational Meet she placed first in the shot put and second in the discus. At the Stapleton Relays she was second in the shot put, and at the Charlie Eaton Relays she was first in that event. Michele placed second in the F.A.L. in the shot put and second in the discus. At the N.C.S. Meet



she again placed second in both events, and at the Meet of Champions she was fourth in the shot put. She went to the C.I.F. State Track Meet and placed twenty-third in the shot put. She received the A.D. Seeno Award for track in 1988 and was selected for the Brentwood News Scholar Athlete Award. Michele was chosen the 1988 Yearbook Female Athlete of the Year Award.

Michele went on to San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton after graduating from Liberty. She played volleyball there in both the 1988 and 1989 seasons. In 1988 Michele was selected as the Most Improved Player. She then went on to Sonoma State College and back to her first love - track and field. In 1991 and 1992 she went to the N.C.A.C. finals and placed fourth in the javelin. Michele has the third best javelin throw and the tenth best shot put on record at Sonoma State College. In 1993 Sonoma State dropped track and field and ended Michele's athletic career. Michele majored in Criminal Justice at Sonoma State College.

For her outstanding athletic careers at Liberty Union High School, San Joaquin Delta College, and Sonoma State College, the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to induct Michele Stranahan.

# 1956 Championsh

The 1956 baseball team with a record of 13 wins and 5 losses was certainly one of Liberty's finest teams. In league play the team was 10 wins and 2 losses and tied with Amador High School as Co-Champions of the strong East Bay Athletic League. Third baseman Roger Stone with a .368 batting average and outfielder Mike O'Brien with a batting average of .357 were selected first team All-E.B.A.L. while pitcher Al Celoni and outfielder Toby Sanchez were selected to the second team All-League. Pitcher Al Celoni with a record of 9 wins and 3 losses was elected Team Captain and Most Valuable Player. In practice games, the feature game was Liberty's 18-0 win over Pacifica High School. In this game hurlers Al Celoni, Ralph Mendoza and Bob Cecchini combined to pitch a perfect game - no hit - no run and no runner reached first base.

Roger Stone led the league in home runs with 3 and had 7 extra base hits. Larry Mikkelsen was the league leader in runs batted in with 13. John Wisecarver and Carrol Elkins provided outstanding fielding plays at second base and shortstop respectively. Bob Cecchini, Al Celoni, and Ralph Mendoza were all in the top 5 of the league pitchers with the best winning percentages. Al Celoni had the third best league strikeout record with 55, and the three pitchers recorded a combined 89 strike outs in league play. Roger Stone, Bob Cecchini, and Mike O'Brien clubbed a total of 6 home runs



*Back row (left to right): Al Celoni (Captain), Car  
Urenda, Larry Mikkelsen, Lou Bronzan (Coach).  
Front row: Troy Treat (Manager), Roger Stone,  
Billy Marez (Manager).  
Not pictured: Jim Ligon, Rudy Ochoa, Toby San*

# ip Baseball Team



ol Elkins, Bob Cecchini, Mike O'Brien, Herman  
Ralph Mendoza, Larry Rosa, John Wisecarver,  
hez.

in league play. The team was a perfect blend of outstanding pitching, great fielding, good hitting, adequate power, and great team speed along with a great attitude and desire.

The L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame is proud and honored to induct this outstanding team and its players, managers, and coach into the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding record.

## SEASON RECORD

Liberty 5	-	Tracy 6
Liberty 1	-	Antioch 3
Liberty 18	-	Pacifica 0
*Liberty 10	-	Alhambra 4
*Liberty 15	-	Livermore 1
Liberty 12	-	Rio Vista 2
*Liberty 11	-	San Ramon 2
*Liberty 13	-	Albany 11
Liberty 7	-	Ripon 0
*Liberty 1	-	Amador 2
*Liberty 5	-	Alhambra 4
*Liberty 3	-	San Ramon 2
*Liberty 5	-	Albany 4
*Liberty 12	-	John Swett 2
*Liberty 2	-	Amador 3
Liberty 6	-	St. Mary's 7
*Liberty 4	-	Livermore 3
*Liberty 3	-	John Swett 0

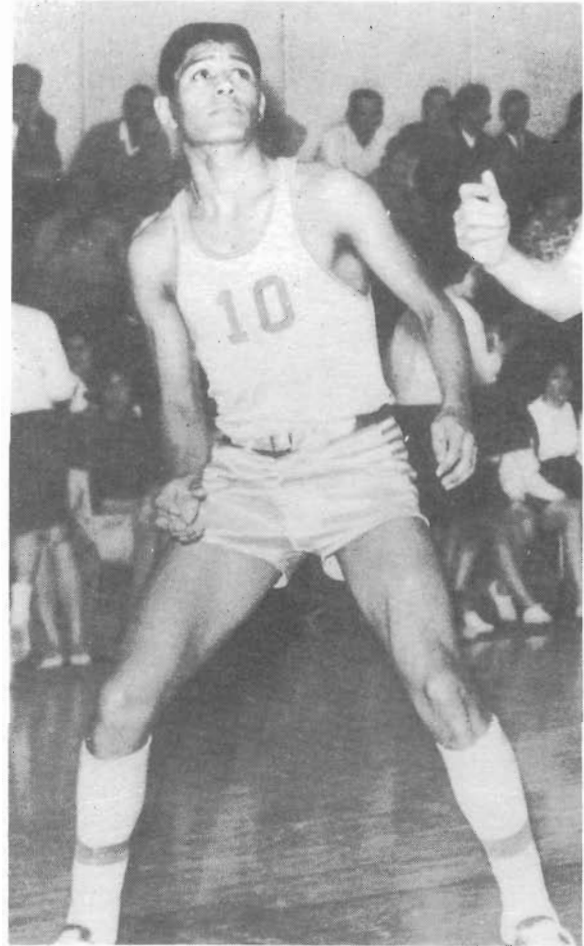
**13 Wins - 5 Losses - Overall Record**  
**10 Wins - 2 Losses - League Record**  
**Co-Champions E.B.A.L.**

## **Raymond Valverde**

### **Athlete**

Ray Valverde was one of the finest pure shooters to ever tread the hardwood at Liberty. His basketball prowess is legendary and was noteworthy because of his outstanding play over four years. In both his junior and senior years, he was an All-League Selection. His senior year was truly outstanding when he scored 215 points in 10 league games - a 21.5 scoring average which was the best in the league. He was, of course, the leading scorer for Liberty and one of the top-5 scorers in the entire East Bay. Ray was the Most Valuable Player for Liberty in both his junior and senior years. In his 1963 season, he was also awarded trophies as Team Captain, Best Free Throw Shooter, and the Sportsmanship Award, as well as the Most Valuable Player Trophy. In June of 1970 Ray was selected as a guard on the All-Decade Team from 1960-70 and was the highest scoring player of the decade. Other players selected were Mike Rozenski '70, Frank Stonebarger '65, Roy Ghiggeri '68, and Larry Corgiat '67. These players and Ray were the clear-cut standouts at their positions. As a freshman Ray lettered in both basketball and baseball and was the Most Valuable Player in baseball. In his sophomore year he concentrated on just basketball. During his senior year he ran track and was the league champion in the 880 yard run. For his successful athletic career and especially for his athletic exploits during his senior year, Ray was named the 1963 Yearbook Award Winner for the Top Senior Athlete. Ray's athletic career at Liberty was exemplary in that he always gave every ounce of himself at all times as well as being a team player and a fine student and an outstanding citizen.

Ray went on to the University of California and earned his B.A. degree. He



has served as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the Silver Creek District in San Jose. He has served as coordinator of a successful at-risk program.

Ray served on the Board of Trustees for the Knightsen School District for six years and is presently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Liberty Union High School District. He lives in Brentwood with his wife, Trina, and their four children.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame inducts Ray Valverde for his outstanding athletic accomplishments at Liberty Union High School.



## **Michelle Vestal**

### **Athlete**

Michelle Vestal attended Liberty from 1986 to 1990 and made an outstanding impact as an athlete starring in four sports. She was truly one of the finest athletes to ever wear the Cardinal and Gold. She earned varsity letters in four sports - basketball, volleyball, softball, and swimming. Not only did she earn letters in four sports, she was a dominant player in three. In basketball she lettered for four years but capped her basketball career with a super senior year - 1989-90. Michelle was selected to the All-D.F.A.L. and named the Co-M.V.P. She was the team captain and led the team in scoring with 11.3 points per game; second leading rebounder with 6 per game; and third in steals with 36. She was co-M.V.P. on the Liberty team and won the Athletic Director's Academic Award and the N.C.S. Scholar Athlete Award. She was the Contra Costa Times Athlete of the Week and the Tribune/Golden State Warriors Athlete of the Year in Basketball. She was chosen to the A.A.U./Mars Milky Way Bar High School All-America Basketball Team.

In Volleyball Michelle made the varsity team as a sophomore, and as a junior, she was the Lions' Most Valuable Player and earned All-League honors. In her senior year, Michelle was again chosen as Liberty's M.V.P. and was named to the All-D.F.A.L. Team. She was chosen as a Lion and N.C.S. Scholar Athlete. She was selected the Athletic Director's Academic Award winner for volleyball. Michelle averaged six kills a game from her outside hitter position.

In softball Michelle lettered for two years. As a junior, she was selected the Most Improved Player. In her senior year she came on strong with her glove, bat, and foot speed. She was chosen the top offensive player on the 1990 Liberty team. She was selected to the first team All-D.F.A.L. and first team All-East Bay, and again she was named to both the Lion and N.C.S. Scholar Athlete Awards. Michelle was chosen for the Tribune/Oakland Athletics Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award in 1990 and also received the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award.



The Brentwood News named Michelle as the Female Scholar Athlete of the Year for 1989-90. Michelle truly was a three sport standout in volleyball, basketball, and softball and was an All-D.F.A.L. selection in each and helped lead all three of those teams into the North Coast Playoffs. With a lot of help from her outstanding play in left field and at the plate plus her never ending hustle, Michelle played on the first ever Liberty softball team to win the North Coast Section Championship. Michelle capped her Liberty career by being selected as the Liberty Yearbook Female Athlete of the Year for 1989-90.

Michelle had better than a 4.0 grade point average, was a team leader who led by example, and was a model citizen. Michelle went on to the U.S. Air Force Academy. There she played four years of Division II basketball and four years of fast pitch club softball. She graduated in June of 1994 with a B.S. degree in biology with military distinction and was commissioned a second lieutenant. She then attended pilot training and graduated number one in her class and took all of the awards including "Top Gun." She is now a fully qualified pilot/officer in the U.S. Air Force.

It is with a great deal of pride that the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame inducts Michelle Vestal for her outstanding athletic and academic careers at Liberty Union High School and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

## **Harold Wheeler**

**Athlete - Coach**

Harold Wheeler attended Liberty Union High School and was an outstanding two sport athlete. He lettered in frosh football and baseball in 1965, and he earned his first of three varsity letters in football as a sophomore. He was an outstanding receiver who earned first team All-E.B.A.L. honors in both his junior and senior years. Hal was an excellent baseball player who earned three varsity letters. He was captain of the baseball team in both his junior and senior years and was selected first team All-E.B.A.L. as a catcher in his senior year. He won the batting title in 1969. Has was a power hitter who clubbed a total of 11 round-trippers in his junior and senior seasons.

Upon graduating from Liberty, Hal enrolled at Diablo Valley College and concentrated on football for two seasons - hoping to earn an athletic scholarship. He earned an A.A. degree upon graduation from D.V.C. and went on to the University of Nevada-Reno where he played both football and baseball. He lettered in football for three years before a severe knee injury ended his athletic career. He lettered in varsity baseball in 1972. Hal was fortunate to be such a talented athlete which enabled him to win varsity letters in two major sports at a Division One school level.

In 1975 Hal became a teacher and coach at Douglas High School and became the varsity baseball coach of the school in 1979. Thus began a legacy of outstanding baseball teams. During Hal's tenure as coach, Douglas won two Northern Nevada AAA Baseball League Trophies and one Northern Nevada AAA Baseball Zone Championship Trophy. He was named the Northern Nevada AAA Baseball Coach of the Year in 1985, 1987, and 1989. He was selected as the National High School American Baseball Coaches Association District Coach in 1991. Along with his high school coaching, Hal found time to coach Senior Babe Ruth Baseball and won six State Championship Trophies. In 1989 he signed a contract to scout for the Chicago Cubs,



and from 1989-1991 he managed the Chicago Cubs' rookie winter club. In 1992 he signed to scout for the California Angels. In 1994 Hal retired as the head baseball coach at Douglas High School and managed the Nevada Yankees, a semi-pro team, that took second place in the U.S. Open Semi-Pro Tournament. Hal's legacy was three players signing to play professional baseball - two reached the major leagues. Forty-three of his players played either Division I, Division II, or junior college baseball.

Hal received a B.S. degree in education in 1974 and a M.A. degree in education from University of Nevada-Reno in 1979. He presently lives in Gardnerville, Nevada with his wife, Mary, and their two children, Matt and Kristi.

For his outstanding athletic accomplishments at Liberty Union High School and University of Nevada-Reno and his outstanding coaching career at Douglas High School, the L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to induct Harold Wheeler.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A special thanks to Jacque Ferrill for all of her work on collages, signs, decorating, printing, and matting and mounting pictures, and for her year-round work as our unofficial historian and scrapbook keeper.

## PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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Jack & Jacque Ferrill	Dan & Sheilia Pitau	
Clifford & Billie Fortner	Rochelle Poerio	

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## L.U.H.S.D. Athletic Hall of Fame

### PAST INDUCTEES

#### 1992 Inductees

Theodore (Ted) Ohmstede - Contributor  
Frank Stonebarger - Contributor  
Lou Bronzan - Coach  
Herman Urenda - Athlete  
Floyd Reese, Jr. - Athlete  
Arthur Honegger Family - Family  
Brentwood Lions Club - Organization  
Jack Ferrill - Coach

#### 1993 Inductees

William (Bill) Bunn - Athlete  
Bob Dal Porto - Athlete  
Jack England - Athlete/Coach  
Debbie Geyser - Athlete  
Harry A. Geyser, M.D. - Contributor  
Mike Rozenski - Athlete  
1965 Football Team - Team

#### 1994 Inductees

Jack Adams - Contributor  
Keith Dawson - Coach  
Manuel Tarango - Athlete  
Tarango Family - Family  
Robert Maiocco - Athlete  
Jerry Miller - Coach  
Ron Nunn - Athlete

#### 1995 Inductees

David Borjon - Athlete  
Stephen Bronzan - Athlete  
Tara Clark - Athlete  
Roy Ghiggeri - Athlete/Coach  
Richard "Dick" Linn - Athlete  
Stonebarger Family - Family

#### 1996 Inductees

William Bristow - Contributor  
Rick Fortner - Athlete  
Dennis Pilati - Athlete  
1951 Football Team - Team  
Rochelle Ann Poerio - Athlete  
Nicole Simoni - Athlete

Congratulations to the past and present members of the  
L. U. H. S. D. Hall of Fame



## — Notes —

*This space is provided for your personal notes on this evening's proceedings  
and autographs of the inductees...*

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### *In fond memory of deceased Hall of Fame members*

Ted Ohmstede	1992
Frank Stonebarger	1992
Arthur Honneger	1992
Kay (Mitzie) Honegger	1992
Bill Bunn	1993
Harry A. Geyser, M.D.	1993
Don Capozzo	1993
Larry Corgiat	1993

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

## HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The Board of Directors urges any one of you to submit names for nomination to the Hall of Fame to be considered for selection. The Board needs your assistance to help identify and honor those who deserve recognition.

Any Board Member will provide you with the proper nomination form and will be happy to help you fill it out. It is essential that all of you participate to make the process successful and meaningful. Nomination forms are also available at the Liberty Alternative Education Center at 104 Oak Street here in Brentwood.

### CONGRATULATIONS LIBERTY HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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