

CLASS OF 2023 INDUCTION CEREMONY





CLASS 15 OF 2015



Haska.

AIRLINES

Proud Sponsor of Alaska School Activities Association Alaska High School Hall of Fame





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WELCOME

As part of its 50th anniversary in 2006, Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) initiated the Alaska High School Hall of Fame to "identify and honor in a permanent manner, those individuals who have exhibited high ethical standards and integrity while achieving excellence in high school athletics and activities in the state of Alaska; as well as others who have distinguished themselves by virtue of exemplary contributions to the advancement of interscholastic athletics and activities in the state."



The induction of these outstanding individuals and organizations will mark the 17th year of the Hall of Fame. During this time 8 activity participants, 7 activity sponsors, 10 administrators, 75 athletes, 43 coaches, 8 officials, 12 contributors, and 8 Lifetime Achievement recognitions have been inducted.

We welcome Alaska Airlines' continuing sponsorship as it celebrates its 90th anniversary as one of the country's most respected air carriers.

We take great pride in inducting the members of the Class of 2023 and invite all inductees, families, friends, supporters and constituents to share in the enduring spirit of this occasion.

Billy Strickland

ASAA Executive Director

INDUCTION CEREMONY

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 | 2:00PM LAKEFRONT HOTEL

Welcome - Billy Strickland ASAA Executive Director

National Anthem / Alaska Flag Song - Gary Matthews

Master of Ceremonies - Don Winchester

Recognition Past Inductees

Speech - Stacey Wayne

Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2023

Reception





SITKA HS
Debate, Drama
& Forensics





Stacey Wayne started coaching and teaching drama at Sitka High in 1987 and took two students to the state championship event in that inaugural year. The next year she was able to add debate resulting in the school's first DDF team.

With the help of talented assistants, Wayne developed a powerful program that led to more than 40 individual and team state titles in her 25-year coaching career. Her prowess led to the state DDF event being held in Sitka in 2010 when she was named the coach of the year.

"(Wayne's) dedication to the Drama, Debate, & Forensics activity is evident in the lasting legacy she built and the impact she had on all her students," said current Sitka coach Christian Litten. "She engaged in a way I hadn't known other teachers to do and helped push me to be a strong actor and public speaker when I was a student.

Wayne calls her proudest accomplishment knowing all the students she coached and mentored who've continued to share their DDF talent passion through coaching themselves. Her coaching tree has branched out all over the state – to Anchorage, Metlakatla, Mount Edgecumbe, Skagway and elsewhere.



XCR, Track & Field, Soccer, Basketball





2023 Athlete Inductee

Before graduating from Kenai Central High in 2015, Allie Ostrander played some basketball and soccer. Oh, she also ran - about as dominantly well as anyone before, during or after her time as an Alaska high school legend.

Not only did Ostrander win the Nike Cross Country National Championship as a senior, she left for her storied collegiate career at Boise State as one of the most sought-after high school stars in the nation. She earned 10 state titles over a four-year span as a Kardinal, won 36 of the 40 races she competed in during her senior year of track and field. Ostrander's time of 9 minutes, 58.74 second in the 3,200 meters registered as the second-best high school time in the country. She was named Gatorade Player of the Year four times, totaled four school records in track and pieced together six titles in Alaska's famed Mount Marathon race.

"Allie is a perfectionist, determined to be the best at everything she does and has done," said Stacia Rustad, a veteran coach. "Allie was kind and supportive to all her teammates, she was a complete competitor and made her teammates around her better." Ostrander is currently an assistant cross-country coach at Seattle Pacific. She also recently announced a return to the professional running ranks with NNormal, a company co-founded by fellow Mount Marathon winner Kilian Jornet.



CHUGIAK HS Basketball, Football, Track & Field





2023 Athlete Inductee

Armand Ruffin's accolades are many. "Armand was undoubtedly the best overall athlete to ever wear a Chugiak Mustangs' uniform," legendary coach Tom Huffer Sr. said.

Ruffin excelled in basketball, football and track and field before graduating from the school in 1987. He earned a total of 10 varsity letters, plus all-state honors in all the sports as both a junior and senior, and helped lead the Mustangs to a track state championship as a senior. He was also named the Gatorade Player of the Year.

"Armand was not only an outstanding athlete, his character was above reproach in regard to his work ethic," said longtime Alaska educator K Scott Daugharty. "Behind in formal schooling when he arrived in Alaska, he consistently worked in class to catch up with his classmates.

"His uncle also required Armand to work in his janitorial business 20-40 hours a week depending on Armand's schedule, and this work ethic has served Armand well in later life."Ruffin currently resides in Tacoma, Wash., where he works in school security and coaches basketball, football and track.





Starting in Brandon Drumm's junior season, and especially during his senior season, the Service High football team played with the clearest of vision. The Cougars saw fit to give Drumm the ball – a lot – while Alaska eyeballed arguably the greatest performance by a running back in state history.

A 1998 Service graduate, Drumm rushed for nearly 4,000 yards as a junior and senior, and the Cougars capped off his career with an 11-0 record and 1997 First National Bowl title. He ran for a state single-game record 368 yards in a game against Juneau the previous year and scored nine touchdowns in that game.

As a senior, Drumm was named the state player and Gatorade player of the year. Sports Illustrated included him as one of Alaska's 50 greatest sports figures in 1999. He also lettered multiple times in track and field.

Drumm enjoyed success as a fullback during his collegiate career at the University of Colorado and was drafted by the NFL's Detroit Lions. Today, Drumm resides in Anchorage with his wife BreeAnna and four children and is a successful small-business owner.



PETERSBURG HS Swimming, Track & Field





2023 Athlete Inductee

Izabelle Ith proved time and time again to be a successful, award-winning leader both athletically and academically.

Ith earned varsity letters in both swimming and track and field during all four years of high school at Petersburg. She graduated in 2017 with a 4.0 grade-point average. She was her senior class' valedictorian and a three-year National Honor Society member. Athletically, Ith won four state track titles in the 100-meter hurdles and triple jump and two in the 300 hurdles and long jump. She was Peterburg's first Gatorade Player of the Year in 2017 for track and field. She qualified for the state swim meet four times as well.

"On the track at the long jump pit, an official nicknamed Izabelle the 'Rocket Girl,' and rocket she did," said former Petersburg coach Brad Taylor. "There has been no athlete I've coached in the last 40 years that's worked harder or dedicated themselves more than Izabelle."

Collegiately at Williams College, Ith was twice named a NCAA All-America honoree. Today, she works for Boston Children's Hospital and has continued to be an athlete, competing in triathlons and half marathons. She is also a member of the Boston Children's Hospital running club.





2023 Athlete Inductee

A 2001 Soldotna High graduate, Joshua Gemmell's efforts in a swimming pool led to many a memorable moment, including a captivating performance at the 2000 state high school championships.

It was during that meet Gemmell won all four of his events – 100-yard freestyle and breaststroke and two relays – and was named the outstanding competitor. He established a state record, broke three school records and helped the Stars finish second in the team standings. He finished with five school records.

"It was a great accomplishment because we weren't a one-person team," Gemmell said. "The entire team contributed, and everyone stepped up under pressure.

The previous year, Gemmell won the same two individual races at the state meet. He lettered four times in swimming at Soldotna and three times in soccer. He swam collegiately at the Arizona State University

"An outstanding person and a great leader in and out of the pool," former Soldotna coach Sohail Marey said of Gemmell. "As a high school swimmer, he was always a star."



2023 Coach Inductee

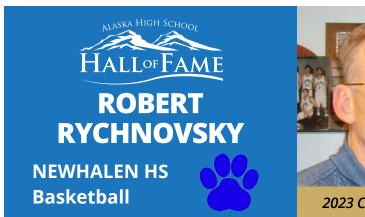
A Fairbanks staple for more than six decades, Milo Griffin should be as familiar to Alaskans as he was to always holding rolled-up papers in his hands along the basketball sidelines while coaching.

From 1966-69, Griffin set many University of Alaska Fairbanks records as a player and was the school's all-time leading scorer for 36 years.

Griffin was a part of UAF's first induction class of the Nanook Hall of Fame in 2008. He was the first player to have a number retired by the Nanooks, the number 44 that hangs in the Patty Center Gym. He also played for the Alaska Goldpanners for multiple seasons.

Coaching mainly at Lathrop High, the number of students he helped guide through sports and life is astronomic. In 35 years leading basketball teams, he secured state tournament berths 33 times. He also coached baseball, softball, tennis and track and field. He'd be the coach if a team needed one.

"Milo has made a lasting impact on Alaska athletes both on and off the field and court," said Regis University women's basketball assistant coach Jessie Craig. "One would be hard pressed to find an athlete in Alaska during all these years who hasn't been impacted by him."





The fact Bob Rychnovsky started coaching at Newhalen High in the late 70's is enough to earn admiration from all corners. Thriving for that long a period in the small village 200 air miles southwest of Anchorage makes his career accomplishment more impressive.

"As you well know, most of rural Alaska's school districts struggle to keep their teachers for more than a few years," said Steve Atwater, a University of Alaska administrator and dean. "In response to this personnel churn, rural students may be reluctant to fully trust their teacher and as a result, often approach school in a passive way.

"Bob's 44-year commitment to Newhalen School and the communities of Newhalen and Iliamna is exemplary and allowed him to assume an enormous level of trust and respect by generations of Newhalen students."

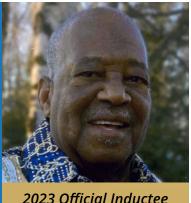
During his tenure, Rychnovsky made Newhalen a reputable basketball program at Alaska's 1A level, the classification for the state's smallest schools. The Malemutes won the 2012 March Madness Alaska 1A state championship and have placed second four times.



HAROLD WILSON

Official

Anchorage - Football & Basketball



2023 Official Inductee

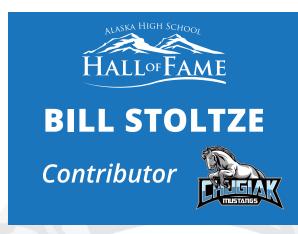
In a 2019 proclamation from the Alaska Legislature, the creators did a stellar job of encapsulating Harold Wilson's lifetime of achievement in the military, the workforce and as a dedicated sports official.

"Harold has exemplified the best of those American values: humility, industriousness and selfless service," it reads. "Moreover, in his service to our country, and his community, whether that be in uniform, on the factory floor or in a striped jersey of a referee, (Wilson) models these values for the many adults and children he works with a on daily basis."

Wilson retired from the Air Force and began officiating basketball in 1978. He started out as a football ref a few years later and added flag football to his officiating resume nearly 20 years ago. He's worked as the president and member at large of the Anchorage Sports Officials Association, all while officiating too many meaningful conference and state games to count.

Wilson's volunteerism is worthwhile as well. He's helped secure sponsors and organize hospitality for ASAA's March Madness Alaska and been a Special Olympics Alaska advocate.

"Harold's positivity and zest for life have made others always want to work beside him," said Don Winchester, one of the state's top sports historians. "His passion for the profession and for helping our youth has been evident all these years."





2023 Contributor Inductee

As an Alaska State Legislator, Bill Stoltze committed himself to championing efforts to improve the conditions of outdoor athletic fields all over Alaska. His leadership helped lead to artificial turf fields sprouting up in Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Southeast. The fields are utilized by physical education classes as well as baseball, football and soccer teams.

Stoltze is well known and respected for his support of youth activities. In his years as a legislator, he found ways to assist the Alaska School Activities Association when asked. For example, he found solutions to help sports officials and championed the "Play for Keeps, Win for Life" educational program. He helped make the University of Alaska Anchorage's Alaska Airlines Center a reality.

"(Stoltze's) vision and support have been instrumental in keeping youth and student sports and activities thriving in Alaska," said Gary Matthews, retired ASAA executive director.

Stoltze has also been a longtime supporter of Special Olympics Alaska. He's remained true to his Chugiak community, so much so the main meeting room in the Chugiak Senior Center is named "The Bill Stoltze Room" in his honor.





2023 Lifetime Achievement Inductee

After outstanding accomplishments as a high school and college athlete, Rus Schreckenghost's marvelous career in coaching and teaching started in that order. He coached basketball, cross country and track and field for a few seasons before taking a job as a Dimond High math teacher in 1978.

Schreck, as he's affectionately known, hasn't slowed down since. He remains on the frontlines of all that is Alaska high school to this day as an Alaska School Activities Association associate director.

"Schreck and (Alaska) high school sports really are synonymous," said Mary (Pearce) Ahonen, a 2002 Dimond High graduate and decorated athlete. "Our state and our high schools would not be the same without him. I'm proud to call him a mentor."

Before joining ASAA in 2007, Schreckenghost excelled as an athletic director and organized many successful tournaments and meets. He's also been part of the Alaska Student Leadership Conference, an instructor for the Alaska Coaches Education Program and a Special Olympics Alaska volunteer.

"Schreck was supportive of what I wanted to do as an athlete," Ahonen said. "I'll never forget that."



2006 INDUCTEES - INAUGURAL CLASS



ATHLETE

- John Brown Ketchikan HS 1968
- Don Clary East Anchorage HS 1975
- Mike Cronk Walter Northway HS 1987
- Herb Didrickson Sheldon Jackson HS 1946
- Steve Frank Austin Lathrop HS 1973
- Elizabeth "Betsy" Haines East Anchorage HS 1978
- Nina Kemppel West Anchorage HSI 1987
- Rocky Klever West Anchorage HS 1977
- Chuck Kopp Cook Inlet Academy 1983
- Trajan Langdon East Anchorage HS 1994
- Butch Lincoln Kotzebue HS 1991
- · Aelin Peterson West Valley HS 1992
- Mark Schlereth Robert Service HS 1984
- Brian Swanson Chugiak HS 1994
- Molly Tuter Soldotna HS 1993
- Kristy Klinnert Waythomas Kodiak HS 1987
- Gary Wilken Austin Lathrop HS 1964

COACH

• Tom Huffer, Sr - Chugiak HS

ADMINISTRATORS

- Gil Truitt Mt. Edgecumbe HS
- Les Wells Anchorage School District & ASAA

CONTRIBUTOR

First National Bank Alaska



ATHLETE

- · Gary Beller West Anchorage HS 1968
- Carl Blackhurst Haines HS 1996
- · Yohance Humphrey Chugiak HS -1997
- Brit Jacobson Reid Chugiak HS 1994
- Ron Pollock West Anchorage HS -1968
- Emily Ransom Golick Seward HS 1994
- · Sarah Olerud Swinton Haines HS 1986

COACH

- · Joe Floyd Kodiak High School
- · Don Hather Hoonah/Tok/Skagway HS
- · Buck Nystrom Eielson/North Pole HiS
- · Dick Thompson Dimond/Service HS
- · Larry Whitmore Bartlett HS
- · William "Bill" Wiltrout Anchorage/Homer HS

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

• Karen Grussendorf - Sitka High School - 1967-1998

CONTRIBUTOR

· Dave Brann - Homer

2008 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Ann Berdahl Nikiski HS 1997
- Jeannie Hebert-Truax Monroe Catholic High - 1988
- · Gary Steeby Chugiak HS 1974

COACH

- Robert "Bob" Boudreaux Soldotna HS
 - Football
- Dwayne Davies Kake HS Basketball
- Reilly Richey Juneau-Douglas HS Football
- John W. Tobin North Pole HS Wrestling
- Alice Witte Homer HS Volleyball

CONTRIBUTOR

• James "Whizzy" Whisenhant - Lathrop HS



ATHLETE

- Myra Harris Frank A. Degnan School -1996
- Matt Mattson West Valley HS 1994
- Mara Rabinowitz West Valley HS 1984
- Mao Tosi East Anchorage HS 1995

COACH

- Dan Eide Valdez HS
- · Lynn Roumagoux Dimond HS

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- · Peter Hilts Susan B. English School 1984
- Michael More West Anchorage HS 1965

OFFICIAL

• John T. Jones - Anchorage

CONTRIBUTOR

· Spenard Builders Supply

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Richard McCormick - Douglas/Lathrop/Nome/Wrangell

2010 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Carlos Boozer, Jr. Juneau-Douglas HS -1999
- David Killpatrick West Anchorage HS -1990
- Larry Martin Homer HS 1969

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

• Roy McPherson - Ketchikan HS

CONTRIBUTOR

AT&T Alaska





ATHLETE

- Scott Gomez East Anchorage HS 1996
- · Matt Hemry Dimond HS 1986
- Sam Hill Kotzebue & Nikiski HS 1996
- Tom Huffer Jr. Chugiak HS 1985
- Jessica Moore Colony HS 2000
- Kikkan Randall East Anchorage HS -2001
- · Sarah Sullivan Afoa Dimond HS 1979

ADMINISTRATOR

· Richard "Dick" Mize - Anchorage School District

COACH

Woody Wenstrom - West Valley HS

OFFICIAL

• James Mason - Anchorage

2012 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

 Steve MacSwain - East Anchorage HS-1983

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- Vivica Genaux West Valley HS 1987
- Richard Cooper Haines HS 1984
- Roger Schmidt Sitka HS 1987

COACH

- Paul Brauneis Chugiak HS
- · Mike Smithers Ketchikan HS
- · Craig Jung Kenai Central HS
- Ed Blahous Sr Chugiak HS

OFFICIAL

· James Paxton - Anchorage

ADMINISTRATOR

• John Andrews - Kenai Peninsula School District

CONTRIBUTOR

- Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage
- Alaska Commercial Company AC





ATHLETE

- Edward Blahaus, Jr. Chugiak HS 1985
- Mia Costello West Anchorage HS 1986

COACH

- · Roger Nelles Delta Junction/Wasilla HS
- · Catherine Rhodes Colony & Wasilla HS
- Joe Tremerallo Lathrop HS
- Chuck White East Anchorage & West Anchorage HS

ADMINISTRATOR

· Ron Gleason - Angoon & Juneau-Douglas HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Steve Ivanoff - Unalakleet



2014 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Whitney Leman Schollenberg Ninilchik School - 2003
- Steve Simmons Chugiak HS 1985
- · Archie Young Wrangell HS -1991

COACH

- · Donna Dooley-Dimond HS
- Virgil Hooe Anchorage School District
- Boyd "Dan" D. Leman Ninilchik HS
- · Dave Reeves Dimond HS
- Bruce Shearer Kenai/Anchorage School District

OFFICIAL

• Don Kassube - Anchorage

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

Richard "Dick" Barker - Tok & Bethel HS



ATHLETE

- · Chris Kuper, Dimond HS 2001
- Jeremiah Richards, Palmer HS 1997
- Reggie Tongue, Lathrop HS 1992

COACH

- · Ted DeLeon, West Valley & Ben Eielson HS
- · Rex Rock Sr., Pt. Hope HS
- · Dave Schroer, Homer HS
- · Lancer Smith, Palmer HS
- Mike Zibell, Noorvik HS

ADMINISTRATOR

· Roger Steinbrecher, Seward HS, Sand Point HS

CONTRIBUTOR

- Alaska Airlines
- · Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

2016 INDUCTEES

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

Victor Barranco - North Pole - 2001

ATHLETE

- Chad Bentz Juneau-Douglas, 1999
- Casey Flair East Anchorage 2004
- Ian Pitzman Homer 1986
- Jed Wade Wasilla 2004

COACH

· Don Erickson - Covenant High School, Unalakleet

ADMINISTRATOR

- · Dave Dirksen Wrangell, Annette Island
- · Gary Matthews Haines, ASAA





ATHLETE

- Beth Ladd Homer HS 1991
- · Brad Oleson North Pole HS- 2001
- Dwayne Jones Dimond HS 1980
- · Jody Hensen Reding Homer HS 1991

COACH

- Dave Cloud Homer HS
- Bob Durado West Anchorage & East Anchorage HS
- Earle Walker Anchorage School District
- · George Houston Juneau-Douglas HS
- · Phil Jordan Alaska High Schools

ADMINISTRATOR

Teresa Johnson - Anchorage School District

CONTRIBUTOR

RAVN Alaska - Alaska

2018 INDUCTEES

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

Andrew Vait – Homer HS

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

- Mark Robinson Homer HS
- Robert Hutton Hoonah HS
- William Searle Homer HS

ATHLETE

- Cameron Severson Petersburg HS
- · Daryn Colledge North Pole HS
- · Kyle Fossman Haines HS
- · Leah Francis Juneau-Douglas HS
- Talisa Rhea Juneau-Douglas HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- · Al Howard Soldotna
- Dan Gensel Kenai Peninsula

OFFICIAL

- · Jack Renn Anchorage
- Ron Henderson Anchorage/Kenai



ATHLETE

- Alev Kelter Chugiak HS 2009
- Austin Vanderford Ninilchik HS 2008
- Cody Tanner Chugiak HS 1978
- · Justin Dorn Juneau-Douglas HS 2001
- Philip Engebretsen Homer HS 1989
- · Randy Hanson Bethel Regional HS 2010
- Stacia Rustad Kenai Central HS 1992

COACH

- · Mike Ashley Anchorage School District
- · Vic Belleque Dillingham HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

· Steve Nerland - Anchorage



2020 INDUCTEES

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

• Royal Henderson - Haines HS

ATHLETE

- · Alana Clooten Lathrop HS
- Cayle Byers Chugiak HS
- · Lincoln Johnson Nikiski HS
- · Lorrie Clifford Chugiak HS
- · Mendy Benson Kenai Central HS
- · Sarah Murphy Service HS

CONTRIBUTOR

- Anita Harry Homer HS
- · Orthopedic Physicians of Alaska

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Bob Barger - Sitka & Anchorage

OFFICIAL

· Clarence Thompson - Anchorage



COACH

• Don Witzel - Colony HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- · Hal Spackman Southeast
- Jean Jackson Klawock HS

ADMINISTRATOR

· Carrie Rocheleau - Southeast



2022 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Corise Bittner Story Homer HS COACH
- Dave Massey Juneau-Douglas HS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
- · Merlin Cordes Kenai Peninsula



CLASS OF 2023

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

Stacey Wayne - Sitka HS

ATHLETES

- Allie Ostrander Kenai Central HS
- · Armand Ruffin Chugiak HS
- · Brandon Drumm Service HS
- · Izabelle Ith Petersburg HS
- · Joshua Gemmell Soldotna HS

COACH

- · Milo Griffin Ben Eielson/Lathrop/West Valley HS
- · Robert Rychnovsky Newhalen HS

OFFICIALS

· Harold Wilson - Anchorage

CONTRIBUTOR

· Bill Stoltze - Chugiak

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

• Rus Schreckenghost - Anchorage/ASAA



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The Hall of Fame was established to identify and honor, in a permanent manner, individuals who exhibited high ethical standards and integrity while achieving excellence in high school athletics and activities, as well as others who have distinguished themselves by virtue of exemplary contributions to the advancement of interscholastic athletics and activities in the State of Alaska.

Alaska High School Hall of Fame
4048 Laurel Street Suite 203 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • www.alaskahalloffame.org



The Alaska School Activities Association is a statewide nonprofit organization established to direct, develop and support Alaska's high school interscholastic sports, academic and fine arts activities.

Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) 4048 Laurel Street Suite 203 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • <u>www.asaa.org</u> • <u>www.asaa365.com</u>