



**ALASKA BUSINESS
HALL OF FAME
LAUREATES
1987 - 2020**



Albert C. Swalling

1987 Laureate

In 1941, Albert C. Swalling began construction on the first dock in Whittier. Later, he became the project leader for the Whittier railroad tunnel and then was transferred to Shemya to coordinate several waterfront projects for the military. When the war was over, he formed Swalling Construction in Anchorage. Since then, Swalling has been honored nationally with the Associated General Contractors "Hard Hat Award" for contributions to the industry. His other ventures include Steel Fabricators Inc. and Matanuska Valley Bank, which was later moved to Anchorage as the Alaska Bank of Commerce. When hardships faced the bank, Swalling took over and became president. Under his direction, the bank grew and became First Interstate Bank of Alaska.



Robert C. Reeve

1987 Laureate

Robert C. Reeve started flying for Chisana Mine in 1932, providing logistical support. During the 1930's Reeve Airways grew to support other mines in the Valdez area and provide transportation for medical emergencies, mapping and mail deliveries. In 1941, he secured a freight contract from Fairbanks with Noel Wien. He also surveyed sites from Canada to Nome and hauled supplies to new government airfields. In WWII he was called the "Air Force of the Alaska Communications System," providing exclusive logistical services to set up communications along the Aleutians. Later, when the government wanted to close military airfields on the Aleutians, Reeve used his own capital to maintain the airports.



Edith R. Bullock

1987 Laureate

Edith R. Bullock was instrumental in developing a successful Western Alaska barging and distribution operation. In 1951, she and her husband began B&R Tug and Barge to provide cargo transportation and oil distribution to Kotzebue. The business grew to deliver goods to 11 villages. Bullock served three sessions on the Territorial Legislature. She was also a founding member of the Arctic Circle Chamber of Commerce, Kotzebue and served as the secretary from 1951 until 1969. During her time on the Chamber, Bullock worked to secure road money, a new school and electricity for the area.



A. Les Nerland

1987 Laureate

Les Nerland is the second generation CEO of the Fairbanks based Nerland's Home Furnishings. Les Nerland took over management of the family business in 1930. Under his guidance, the firm has changed emphasis from paint, glass, wallpaper and other building supplies to handling fine home furnishings. Today the family business consists of three stores - two in Fairbanks and one in Anchorage. He has also held positions as president of Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks and the Alaska Bankers Association. Nerland has also served the Fairbanks community as a member of the city council and as mayor from 1938 - 1940.



Elmer E. Rasmuson

1987 Laureate

Under Elmer E. Rasmuson's guidance, National Bank of Alaska developed into the state's largest banking institution. Rasmuson worked to consolidate many smaller banks throughout Alaska and provide a branch banking system for the entire state. As president of NBA, he was a primary organizer of the bank's heritage library which displays an extensive collection of Alaskan art and artifacts. He served on the University Of Alaska Board Of Regents for 19 years, 13 years as president and was the first chairman of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. In 1964, Rasmuson was elected as Anchorage's mayor and led the reconstruction of Anchorage following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake.



Larry Carr

1988 Laureate

Larry Carr opened a grocery store with his brother in a small Quonset hut on the corner of 13th and Gambell in 1950. One year later he bought out his brother. By 1954, he had begun expansion, acquiring a store in Fairbanks. The purchase of real estate in the early 1950s allowed Carr to alter create shopping centers anchored by the grocery stores, making things more convenient for his customers. He was the first West Coast supermarket to add salad bars and is one of the few to boutique natural foods and gourmet items. In 1974, Carr formalized a long time business relationship with Barnard Gottstein and created the Carr-Gottstein Holding Company.



Walter Hickel Sr.

1988 Laureate

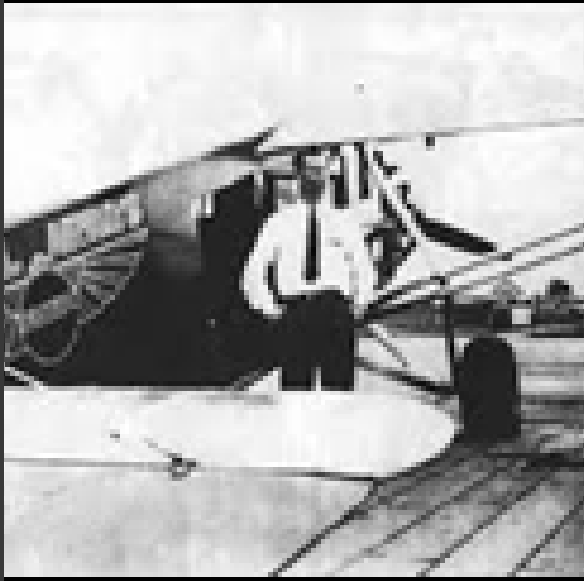
In 1947, Walter Hickel Sr. launched Hickel Construction Company. After the 1964 earthquake, Hickel announced that he would build the Hotel Captain Cook, providing Anchorage with a much needed vote of confidence. Later, he built the University Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks as well as several warehouses and office buildings. He became governor in 1966 and resigned in 1969 to become President Nixon's first Secretary of the Interior. As governor, he leveraged oil royalties to build a Kenai Peninsula refinery, extended the Alaska Marine Highway System to Seattle, and lobbied to extend the Alaska Railroad. As secretary, he championed the environment and responsible development.



Austin Lathrop

1988 Laureate

In 1915 Bank of Cordova director, Austin Lathrop, moved to Anchorage to start a freight business. While there, he built a theatre and an apartment building before moving to Fairbanks to do the same. Over the next 25 years, Lathrop bought and revived the Healy River Coal Mine (later to become the Usibelli Coal Mine), launched radio stations KFAR in Fairbanks and KENI in Anchorage, and acquired the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. In the 1920s, Lathrop joined a group of businessmen to start the Anchorage Times Publishing Company, and later formed the Alaska Moving Picture Corporation.



Ray Petersen

1988 Laureate

In 1937, after becoming frustrated with his employer for forcing him to fly under unsafe conditions, Raymond Petersen quit and formed Ray Petersen Flying Service. The service expanded in 1943, purchasing two CAB-certified carriers: Jim Dodson Air Service and Bristol Bay Air Service. Petersen acquired operations in 1945, creating Northern Consolidated Airlines. Then, in 1952, Petersen implemented the first pension plan in the airline industry. The 1968 merger of Northern Consolidated and Wien Consolidated led to labor unrest and in 1978, Peterson left the industry. He and his son, Raymond, later purchased the Angler's Paradise fish camps, which Northern Consolidated had created in 1950.



Joseph Usibelli Sr.

1988 Laureate

In 1964 at the age of 24, Joseph E. Usibelli took control of the Usibelli Coal Mine after his father's death and began a 23 year career during which he would lead the mine to phenomenal success. In 1970, Usibelli purchased Vitro Minerals Mine; the area's only other coal mine. Since then, he has built the business steadily, selling coal to power plants in the Fairbanks area and throughout the rail belt region. In 1976, Usibelli began negotiations with a Korean company to facilitate exports to Korean power plants. Despite obstacles, in 1985 exports to Korea began and have continued at annual rates of 600,000 to 800,000 tons.



Bernard Behrends

1987 Laureate

Bernard Behrends arrived in Sitka, Alaska in 1887. He took a job as a clerk and bookkeeper at the Sitka Trading Company, thus beginning a 49-year career in hardware and banking. After the Sitka Trading Co. closed, Behrends opened his own hardware store and became one of the territory's most successful outfitters for the multitudes coming north for the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1914, he built what became the leading territory bank for the next several decades. Later, he entered the political arena, serving on Juneau's first city council and holding the office of the town's treasurer for more than 20 years.



Barnard J. Gottstein

1989 Laureate

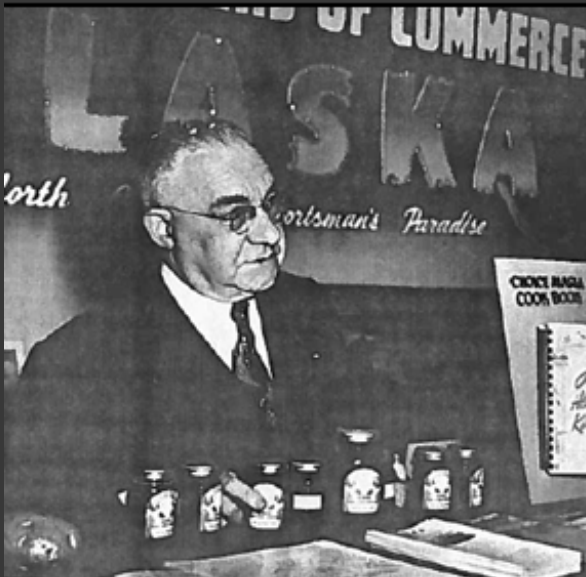
In the 1950's after taking over the family wholesale business. Barnard Gottstein began supplying Larry Carr's first grocery store in Fairbanks. Gottstein and Carr soon joined together, purchased two more stores and built one. Carr-Gottstein continued to develop businesses, including Carr's Payless stores and warehouses. In the 1960's, Gottstein began to use computerization to improve inventory control. This led to the opening of Alaska's 1st modern warehouse, giving businesses the advantage of working from an Alaska based inventory. In 1974, Gottstein and Carr formalized their longtime business relationship, creating the Carr-Gottstein Holding Company.



August Hiebert

1989 Laureate

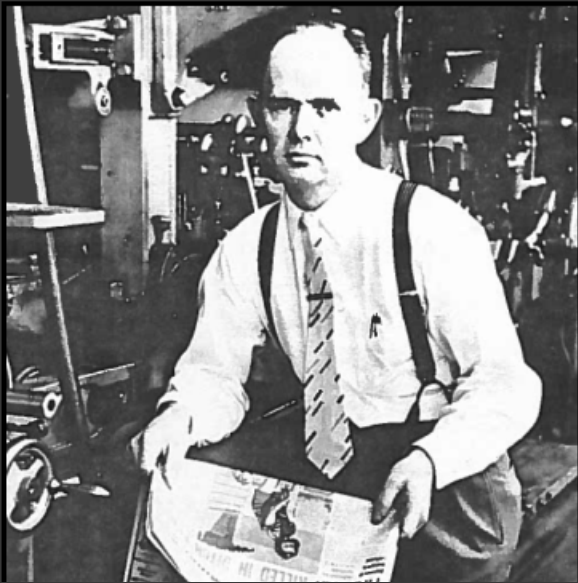
August G. Hiebert helped to engineer the state's 1st radio station, KFAR in Fairbanks and later designed and operated KENI in Anchorage. He formed Northern Television Inc. to start the 1st TV station in the state, KTVA, and became known as the "Father of Alaska Television." Hiebert later started the 1st TV station in Fairbanks and launched Alaska's 1st FM radio station, KNIK. He pioneered Bush television, first setting up mini TV stations in pipeline camps and later securing satellite transmitters and earth stations for villages. In 1969, he worked to bring an experimental earth station to Anchorage to enable the city's TV stations to broadcast satellite transmission of the Apollo 11 moon landing.



Zachary Loussac

1989 Laureate

In 1908 Zachary Loussac secured a job in a Haines drugstore and later opened his own drugstore in the gold mining town of Iditarod. The store burned in a fire, and Loussac was forced to move to San Francisco. He returned to Alaska to open a drugstore in Juneau, and later moved to Anchorage where he opened yet another drug store. Loussac also invested in real estate and in the Evan Jones Coal Mine. Later, he established the Loussac Foundation, which provided funds to move Anchorage's public library out of a tin warehouse and into a new building.



Charles Snedden

1989 Laureate

In 1950 Charles Snedden purchased the Fairbanks-Daily news Miner and began to turn over ownership of the paper and its subsidiaries to his own employees. The Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP) rewarded loyalty and provided incentive to stay with the company. Snedden and the News-Miner were among the first to change the offset printing and later to word processing. In addition to developing a national reputation for pioneering new computer equipment, Snedden and the News Miner earned an international reputation for producing high quality color, winning numerous competitions sponsored by Eastman Kodak.



Noel Wien

1989 Laureate

In 1927 Noel Wien formed Wien Brothers Air Service with his brother, Ralph, and Gene Miller and began the first scheduled flight between Fairbanks and Nome. When Miller sold his share, the firm was renamed Wien Alaska airways. Wien, nicknamed "the Lindberg of the North" by the National Press Association, made northern Alaska accessible in a new way. In 1928, when breakup made the region unreachable, Wien provided mail service to the Seward Peninsula and consequently was awarded the first airmail contract issued to an Alaskan commercial airline. Wien continued to expand his service, adding routes to Kotzebue and Point Barrow. The company continued to prosper under Wien's guidance until his retirement in 1940.



Robert Atwood

1988 Laureate

In 1935 reporter Robert Atwood moved to Anchorage and purchased the Anchorage Daily Times. On January 2, 1936 Atwood ran a report on the advantages of Anchorage as a strategic defense site and sent copies to the War Department in D.C. By the mid-1940s, the Army began construction of Fort Richardson. Atwood went on to wield the influence of the Times in favor of issues from statehood to attracting the Navy to Alaska. Atwood was also influential in establishing the Alaska Marine Highway System and building the Anchorage International Airport.



Charles West

1991 Laureate

Charles West began his career as a bush pilot flying for Wien Air. By 1947 he had assembled the pieces of what would become Westours. He offered flight and highway tours and started to package rail-motor coach trips from Skagway to Whitehorse, Fairbanks, McKinley Park and Anchorage. After selling Westours in 1973 to Holland America Line, he started West Travel Inc., a parent company of Alaska Sightseeing Tours. In 1988, he was elected to the Travel Hall of Fame, joining Neil Armstrong, Charles Lindbergh and the Wright Brothers. He was also instrumental in forming the Alaska Visitors Association.



Carl F. Brady

1990 Laureate

As the pioneer of commercial helicopters in Alaska, Carl Brady developed the first skid-type landing gear for helicopters upon discovering, during rural assignments that wheeled choppers rolled down mountain slopes. In 1948, Brady persuaded the US Geological Survey that helicopters would make topographic mapping faster and more cost effective. That summer, crews flown by Brady mapped the northern half of Chichagof Island. It had taken six years to do the southern half. During the 1950's oil exploration on the Kenai Peninsula, Brady joined forces with a competitor to meet oil field needs. The merger gave birth to ERA helicopters, which later became ERA Aviation.



Kenneth Eichner

1990 Laureate

In 1941 Ketchikan city bus driver Kenneth Eichner and a friend bought a bus company and named it Northern Bus. The company provided city transportation for 20 years and school transportation for 40 years. He began flying to help a friend keep his flying service and soon became known as a skilled pilot to remote sites. In 1955, he opened a Standard Oil station, the first full-service station in Ketchikan. Later, in 1958, Eichner and nine partners founded TEMSCO Helicopters. By 1966, he had risen to president of TEMSCO. Under Eichner's direction the company thrived until it was sold to Southeast Stevedoring in 1989.



Pamela F. Oldow

1990 Laureate

Pamela Oldow is Alaska's first licensed female skipper. When Oldow received her ocean operator license in 1977, she became one of ten women in the world and the first in Alaska to earn the certification. She used her license to pilot boats for the National Park Service planners who were considering an area for National Park status. The Kenai Fjords National Park was named in 1980 and Oldow initiated scheduled tours of the new park that summer. In 1982, Oldow and a partner formed Kenai Fjord Tours. Oldow also owned Resurrection Bay Tours, a fishing charter business founded in 1968.



Lowell Wakefield

1990 Laureate

In 1945 Lowell Wakefield incorporated Deep Sea Trawlers which later became Wakefield Seafood's Inc., a leader in the fisheries industry. By 1955, his firm was producing 85 percent of the total king crab catch in the United States. Wakefield was recognized as contributing more to the growth and development of the United States king crab fishery than any other individual in 1968, the company was sold to Hunt-Wesson Inc. After retiring from the seafood business, Wakefield devoted much of his time to formulating fisheries legislation, fishing regulations for Alaska and the high seas, and conservation measures to protect the king crab. He also was instrumental in negotiations for the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty.



Captain Jim Binkley

1989 Laureate

"Captain Jim" Binkley began his career in 1946, working in Nenana on the riverboat Taku Chief. A flood during breakup in 1948 forced an evacuation to Fairbanks where Binkley began working at the university power plant and St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1951, Chuck West of Westours hired Binkley to run a tour boat. Later, West sold the boat to the Binkleys, and Alaska Riverways Inc. was born. Today it has grown to become one of the largest and most popular tourist attractions in Fairbanks. Binkley's signature sternwheeler river tour, which is reminiscent of the 1900s, includes a stop to learn about dog sledding and Native lifestyle.



Roy Huhndorf

1992 Laureate

After working as a warehouseman, Roy Huhndorf joined the Alaska Federation of Natives to manage a US Department of Labor contract to recruit job trainees. Later he ran the statewide health aid program for the Indian Health Service. In 1970 Huhndorf became president of the Cook Inlet Native Association, the non-profit predecessor of the regional corporation, and pushed for the congressional land settlement. Huhndorf was later named president and CEO of CIRI in 1975. During his tenure in this position, Huhndorf led CIRI to an incredible 14+ consecutive years of increasing profits.



Milt Odom

1992 Laureate

In 1936 Milton Odom entered into a partnership called Anchorage Fruit and Produce, later to become Anchorage Cold Storage (ANCO) when Odom bought out his partner. In 1937, Odom met the president of Coca-Cola and persuaded him to sell a franchise to him for \$1. In the following years, ANCO grew as Odom acquired other soft drink franchises. In 1960, Odom purchased Alaska Freight Lines, which he ran for four years until he sold the business to Sea-Land Service. Odom's other business ventures included the Hotel Captain Cook, a joint project with Governor Hickel, and Campco Pacific, a catering company that served the trans-Alaska pipeline crews.



Cliff Taro

1992 Laureate

Since 1952, Cliff Taro has provided the necessary equipment and longshoreman for vessel loading and unloading. Under Taro, Southeast Stevedoring grew along with the Alaskan timber industry, stevedoring the first shipment from the Ketchikan Pulp Co. In 1954, and later, the first shipment of sawn timber to Japan at the Wrangell Lumber Co. Since then, Taro has formed North Pacific Maritime Inc. to serve as a husbanding agent for vessels and crews and has become chairman of Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska. He is also owner of TEMSCO Helicopters, a leasing company, an equipment rental business, two towing companies, a gas station, and a grocery store.



Alvin O. Bramstedt Sr.

1991 Laureate

In 1940, Alvin O. Bramstedt Sr. began announcing for KFAR in Fairbanks. He soon progressed to become the manager of Lathrop's radio and television stations in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Later, Bramstedt purchased a controlling share of Midnight Sun Broadcasting Co., which became the largest network of radio and television stations in the state. He left Midnight Sun Broadcasters to launch his own television station in Anchorage and in 1965 was the first to tape the national television news in Seattle and fly it to Anchorage. Ten years later he brought the nightly news to Alaska via satellite. Then, on June 18, 1966, during his tenure at Channel 2, he introduced Anchorage to color television.



Frank Chapados

1991 Laureate

After its start in the mid-1950s, Frank Chapados' company, the H & S Warehouse Association, acquired food and liquor clients and began a local moving/storage service for the military. Later, he purchased Miller Beer franchise. Following statehood, Chapados won a seat in Alaska's state legislature and went on to serve two terms as Fairbanks' representative in the House. A charter member of the Alaska Truckers Association, he helped prepare the industry for regulation. He also served on the House and Senate Finance Subcommittee, studying the feasibility of a ferry system in Southeast Alaska and drafting legislation to authorize a bond issue to implement the system.



John Kelsey

1991 Laureate

As part owner and manager of Valdez Dock Co., John Kelsey has been crucial in developing and modernizing the state's transportation infrastructure. When the 1964 earthquake destroyed the docks, Kelsey and his brother rebuilt them. Kelsey also created one of the biggest tank farms in Alaska. At the beginning of Alaska's modern oil boom, he played a key role in the creation of a permanent fund for the city of Valdez. He has served as mayor of Valdez, chairman and trustee of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp and been appointed to the Alaska State Development Corp.



Lew Williams Jr.

1994 Laureate

Lew Williams Jr. began his career in 1936 as an 11 year old paperboy with the Juneau Empire. In 1939 when his father purchased the Wrangell Sentinel, Lew became a printer's apprentice. Lew later married, and the couple purchased the Petersburg Press in 1956. In 1966, the Williams' moved to Ketchikan, where Lew worked as an editor of the Ketchikan Daily News until he purchased the paper in 1976. The Williams' were the first to switch an Alaskan daily from an afternoon to a morning publication. They were also the first to use modern offset printing and among the first to install computers for newsroom production.



A.W. Brindle

1993 Laureate

In 1928, A.W. Brindle and his brother Harold purchased a Ketchikan cannery and named it "Ward Cove Packing Co." and as an investment in the industry, Brindle helped create the Washington Fisheries Research Institute in 1946. By the 70s, after a period of phenomenal growth, Brindle's operations covered extensive territory. He also delved into ventures outside of the fishing industry. He was president of the Tongass Trading Co., a retail store in Ketchikan, and an early investor in Juneau's Baranof Hotel, as well as in banks in Sitka and Ketchikan. In 1960, Brindle became director of National Bank of Alaska and later helped to establish the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.



Daniel Cuddy

1993 Laureate

Daniel H. Cuddy assumed the presidency of the First National Bank of Alaska in 1951, after the death of his father who had purchased a controlling interest in the company ten years earlier. He has successfully guided the bank through both good times and bad, maintaining a conservative and consistent approach to banking. During his forty-year tenure as the bank's president, Cuddy aggressively opened branches across the state and since 1984; First National has ranked as a national leader for safety and return on investments. Under Cuddy, the bank's assets have skyrocketed from \$30 million, when he assumed control, to numbers in the billions.



Leo & Agnes Schlotfeldt

1993 Laureates

In 1947, Leo and Agnes Schlotfeldt purchased Sourdough Express, a small Fairbanks company that hauled household goods, coal, and gravel. The company grew and was split into two divisions: Sourdough Express Inc., which continued to haul freight, and Sourdough Fuel, which focused on fuel distribution and home-heating services. By 1955 Sourdough Express had expanded to include operations in Anchorage and went on to become an agent and par towner of Global Van Lines. The Schlotfeldts have continued to diversify, acquiring several transportation related ventures and becoming involved in warehouse property development.



Merle "Mudhole" Smith

1993 Laureate

Merle Smith began flying for Cordova Air Service (CAS) in 1937. Later in 1942, he flew for Morrison-Knudsen. When war efforts left bush communities without supply deliveries for months, Smith airlifted in provisions. After the war, Smith returned to CAS and later purchased it. In the 1940s Smith airlifted supplies from Seattle every day during a 69-day steamship strike which severed Cordova's supply lines. Under Smith, CAS's revenues soared from grossing only \$10,000 to grossing millions annually by the 1960s. Smith's contributions to aviation were nationally recognized in 1977 when he was inducted into the Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame.



Oscar & Peggy Dyson

1992 Laureates

In 1971, Oscar Dyson brought the first commercial-sized ground fish catch into Kodiak, launching the region into a new economic era. A skipper for over 40 years, Oscar was part owner of All Alaskan Seafoods Inc. and has helped shape fishing industry policies, serving on the Alaska Board of Fisheries for 13 years. Peggy Dyson is known in the marine navigation world as the "Voice of the Fleet" and the "First Lady of the Sea". Since 1972, transportation and fishing vessels as far away as the Caribbean and the Midway Islands have tuned into Peggy's marine weather broadcasts twice daily, 365 days a year. Peggy was under contract with the National Weather Service.



Bill Allen

1995 Laureate

Bill Allen came to Alaska in 1968. While working on a platform near Kenai, Allen's expertise was noticed by ARCO officials, who encouraged him to start a company to do production facility installation and upgrade work for them. Allen took their advice and the VECO Corporation was born. In the mid-1980s, VECO, already an integral part of North Slope construction, acquired Mukluk Oilfield Services Inc. and Northern Oilfield Services Inc., becoming the leader in oilfield services at Prudhoe Bay. In 1989, Allen bought The Anchorage Times. He successfully ran the paper for three years, increasing both profits and circulation before selling it in 1992.



Jack J. Conway

1995 Laureate

In 1933 Jack Conway bought a waterfront store in Sitka. By 1935, Conway's property housed a wharf, a marine oil station, and a space for tank storage. In 1937, Conway opened his own insurance company, Conway Insurance. Two years later, he opened and became president of the First Bank of Sitka.

Conway maintained his position as Bank president until 1967, when the bank merged with National Bank of Alaska. Following the merger, Conway served as a NBA director and advisory board member until 1982. In honor of his 43 year banking career, Conway was named Director Emeritus of NBA.



Don Donatello

1995 Laureate

Don Donatello began his career running Don's Bleach from his apartment, but when the business expanded into clearness and waxes, he purchased property near downtown Anchorage. In 1958 he built a meat rendering plant to extract tallow, which was sent to Seattle, and meal which was sold as fertilizer. In the early 1960s he built a soap plant and began to ship soap to the Lower 48. He built the feed mill in 1964 and began mixing animal feed in 1965. To sell the feed, Donatello built the Alaska Mill & Feed store in 1978. That same year he built a fertilizer plant, to make his own brand of fertilizer, Alaska Gro. Today, Donatello's operation occupies three blocks and consists of 11 buildings.



Michael Heney

1995 Laureate

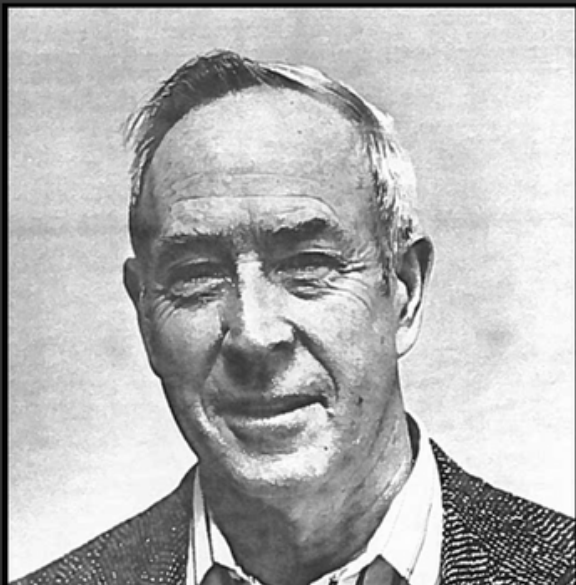
Traveling to Skagway in March 1898 Michael Heney charted a route for his first railroad, the White Pass & Yukon, which would run from Skagway to Whitehorse, Canada. It took Heney's crew two years to build the railroad. In 1904 he began charting a route for the Copper River Railroad which would lead to the copper fields in the Kennecott area. In March 1906, he sent a small party to the Orca Bay area to survey the starting point of the new railway. The men established a tent camp and named it Cordova. Heney died on October 11, 1910, five months later, the Copper River Northwestern Railway, was completed.



Bill Bishop

1994 Laureate

Larry Carr opened a grocery store with his brother in a small Quonset hut on the corner of 13th and Gambell in 1950. One year later he bought out his brother. By 1954, he had begun expansion, acquiring a store in Fairbanks. The purchase of real estate in the early 1950s allowed Carr to alter create shopping centers anchored by the grocery stores, making things more convenient for his customers. He was the first West Coast supermarket to add salad bars and is one of the few to boutique natural foods and gourmet items. In 1974, Carr formalized a long time business relationship with Barnard Gottstein and created the Carr-Gottstein Holding Company.



Herb Lang

1994 Laureate

Herbert Lang purchased Anchorage Sand & Gravel in 1965. The plant, which had been badly damaged in the 1964 earthquake, soon began to flourish under Lang's direction and in the 1970s; Dimond Fabricators Inc. was added to provide reinforcing steel. Later in the 1980s, Lang started Alaska Soil Recycling and a concrete block plant. The company thrived under Lang for over 25 years, growing from its original 20-acre site on First Avenue to a sprawling 90 acre operation in two locations and increasing revenues eight-fold. Today, AS&G is a small empire of aggregates dealing with block, concrete, sand, ready-mix, and asphalt.



Dale & Carol Lindsey

1997 Laureates

Dale & Carol Ann Lindsey began their business in 1959, purchasing a small heating fuel delivery company in Seward. The business grew, and in 1984, the Lindsey's challenged Chevron in the huge Dutch Harbor/Unalaska market by opening Petro Marine bulk terminal. Doing business as Harbor Enterprises, the Lindsey's acquired the Chevron plant in Kodiak, doubled the size of the Dutch Harbor facility, moved into Nikiski, and established their own barge company, Forty Niner Transportation by 1986. They continued to expand, moving into Soldotna, Kenai and Homer. The company's size doubled in 1995 with the acquisition of facilities in Southeast Alaska and the Yukon.



William G. Stroecker

1997 Laureate

William Stroecker followed in the footsteps of his father and elder brother when he took over as President of First National Bank of Fairbanks. He stayed with the bank and watched it grow as it was sold to Alaska Pacific Bank and then to KeyBank. After the purchase, Stroecker became vice president of public relations for KeyBank in Fairbanks. Stroecker is well known for his commitment to and involvement in the Fairbanks community. For over 30 years he has been president of the Alaska Goldpanners Board of Directors and served on the Salvation Army board for more than 45 years.



Walter & Vivian Teeland

1997 Laureates

In 1947, Walter & Vivian Teeland purchased a small Mat-Su Valley store with a house behind it. At that time, Wasilla boasted approximately 100 residents and for 25 years the Teelands were the only shopkeepers serving the small community with their combination grocery/general store/hardware store. In 1970, the Parks Highway was built alongside Teeland's. By 1972 it was clear that things would be changing quickly, so Walter and Vivian decided to retire and sell the store. Today a convenience store stands where Teeland's once did, but their legacy has been preserved; the Teelands' store and house are now on display in the Wasilla Museum.



Don Abel Jr.

1996 Laureate

In 1964, Don Abel Jr. went to work for his father as manager of Don Abel Millwork, Glass and Building Supply. He bought the business in 1970, and later in 1979 moved it to a size acre site on the Mendenhall River. By the mid-1980s, business was dropping at the rate of 30% a year due to the collapse in oil prices. Abel overcame the obstacles and has recently added a rental department and home technology center. A strong supporter of education, Abel served as a member and president of the University Of Alaska Board of Regents. During this time he strove to merge the extensive community college system with the existing four year colleges.



Leo & Beverly Walsh

1996 Laureates

Leo & Beverly Walsh began their company as a small house-moving and construction business in the early 1950s. Later, Walsh & Co. introduced the concept of instant housing in remote areas, dropping ready-made homes (complete with furniture, drapes, and carpeting) on to a prepared site at Adak Naval Air Station. Walsh & Co. came to specialize in military projects building both the Cobra Dane Array radar installation and a 500 man dorm on Shemya. The Walshes strongly supported the community. Leo was very involved with the Anchorage Boys' Club and the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Beverly helped found Bishop's Attic and was honored as Mother of the Year in 1986.



Dr. William Ransom Wood

1996 Laureate

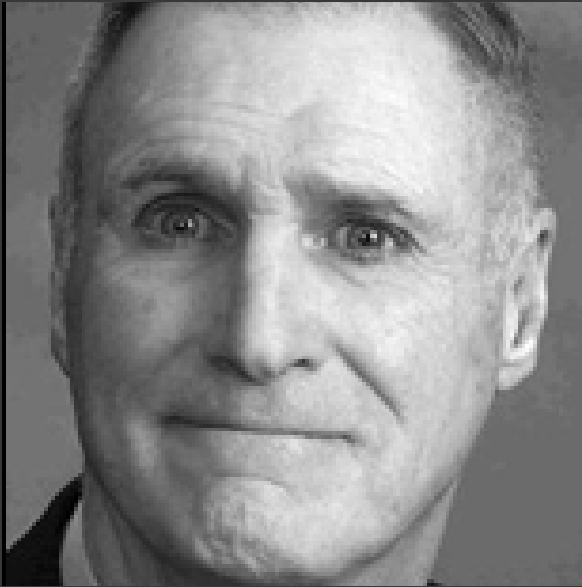
After assuming the presidency of the University of Alaska in 1960, William Ransom Wood oversaw a record number of ground-breakings on the Fairbanks campus while directing rapid growth in other branch and community colleges throughout the state. Wood led the university to become the foremost center for Arctic research, earning millions of dollars in grants from the National Science Foundation. During the last years of his presidency, Wood spearheaded the building of the \$8 million Fairbanks Community Hospital. When he retired in 1973, he had served longer than any other president of the university.



Charles Brewster

1999 Laureate

While in the US Marine corps in 1939, Charles Brewster decided to come to Alaska to fish and trap. When he arrived in Alaska he found employment as an ironworker on Elmendorf Air force Base. Then in 1952, he and his wife Betty opened a laundry and dry cleaning establishment in Mountain View, which catered to the military. When business started to lag, Brewster began carrying work clothes in the store as well. Brewster expanded his merchandise and eventually added a second store.



William A. Corbus

1999 Laureate

William A. Corbus has three decades of family and service history in Juneau. In 1970, Corbus moved to Alaska and became assistant manager of Alaska Electric light & Power. He rose to president and general manager eight years later, succeeding his father, William Corbus. In August 1998, he led AEL&P into a \$100 million, 35-year agreement with the state of Alaska. Corbus has been active with the University of Alaska Advisory Board, Juneau Boy Scouts, and has served as director of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. He also served five-year tenure on the Alaska State Pension Investment Board and as Director for B.M. Behrends Bank and Key Bank.



GHEMM Company Founders & Pioneers

1999 Laureates

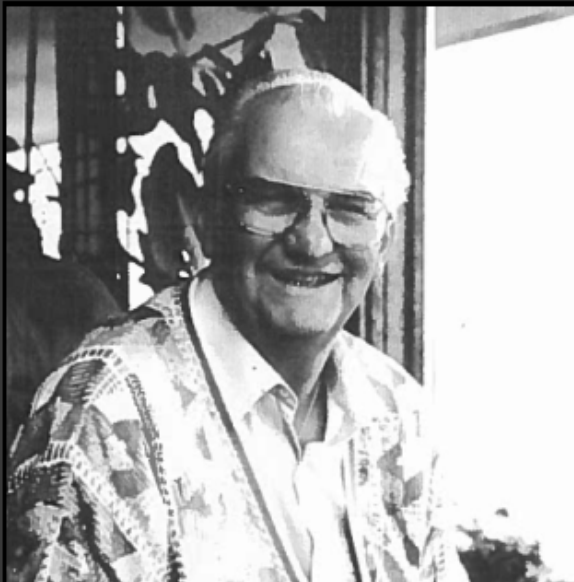
The GHEMM Company evolved from a freighting partnership started in the late 1940s by Robert Mitchell and Clyde Geraghty. Later, Harvey Marlin, Carl Heflinger and Carl Erickson joined, and in 1952 the five men incorporated the heavy equipment business. Since 1959, when Heflinger sold his interest in the company to Conrad Frank, the company has operated a general construction contractor, maintaining an office in Fairbanks and various job sites throughout the northern region of Alaska. The GHEMM Company has undertaken projects in diverse regions ranging from North Slope villages to Saint Lawrence Island. One of the company's key projects was the Yukon River Bridge, a \$33.5 million job completed in 1975.



Earl H. Beistline

1998 Laureate

After serving in WWII, Earl Beistline returned to Fairbanks to work for the territorial assay office. In 1946, Beistline substituted in a University of Alaska Fairbanks mining engineering class for the last two months of the semester. This marked the beginning of a distinguished 36 year career at the university as a professor of mining. While at UAF, he served as Acting Academic Vice President, Provost of the Northern Region, and Dean Emeritus. Beistline continued with his work in mining after retiring from the university, serving as Chairman from the 1986-87 and maintaining a mining consulting business.



Lloyd Hames

1998 Laureate

In 1949, Lloyd Hames began his career in Alaska working in a small Sitka grocery. He expanded the business while vastly improving the quality of food available to Southeast Alaska residents. Hames was the first ship in fresh meat and milk from Washington dairies in the 1950s. Then, in 1969, Lloyd and his wife purchased the business and again expanded it, building a second grocery store that they then replaced with the Sitka Sea Mart in 1978. Later, in 1985, Hames built Port West, Sitka's first mall. He became best known for his role as Commissioner of Corrections from 1990-1992, in which he strove to reduce prison operating costs.



Bill & Lily Stolt

1998 Laureates

Bill & Lily Stolt opened their electrical supply store in Anchorage in 1933, three years after the Great Depression hit. In 1940, Bill was elected to the first of two consecutive terms as mayor of Anchorage. With Lily assisting as his secretary, he ran the city out of his store. BY 1942, the Stolts had expanded to carry a variety of appliances. When war efforts halted the production of appliances, the Stoltz boarded their store's focus to include gift items, paint, and paper drapes. In 1963, their son began running the main store. Bill and Lily ran the gift shop for ten more years, until they retired in 1973.



Frank M. Reed Sr.

2000 Laureate

Frank Reed started his career at the Anchorage Light & Power Co., and then joined the Army, serving as a liaison officer at Fort Richardson until 1946. Reed then entered the electrical contracting business and later built Turnagain Apartments in downtown Anchorage. He served as a Branch Manager for the Small Business Administration and in 1960 he began his 28 year banking career. In 1966 he was promoted to Senior Vice President of Matanuska Valley Bank and later became the director when the bank changed to Alaska Bank of Commerce in 1973. Reed helped create the approved charter for Anchorage to unify the city and borough into one municipality to eliminate duplicated services.



Ed Rasmuson

2000 Laureate

Ed Rasmuson attended high school in Anchorage and graduated from Harvard in 1962. Following graduation, this third generation Alaskan worked at Chemical Bank and Brown Brothers, Harriman before returning to Ketchikan in 1964 where he began his long career with National Bank of Alaska. Beginning in 1966, he achieved successive promotions and in December 1971 he was promoted to Executive Vice President. He became president of National Bank of Alaska in 1974 and chairman of the board in 1985. Rasmuson, a strong supporter of education, served on the Sheldon Jackson Board of Trustees for seven years, on the University Board of Regents board for 14 years, and on the State Board of Education Alaska in 2000.



James Messer

2000 Laureate

James Messer moved to Fairbanks in 1948 and began a career at Aurora Motors, which he later purchased in 1954. Working with his longtime friend, Senator Ted Stevens, as a liaison for the community in military affairs, he helped build the strong relationship between Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, and Eielson Air Force Base. Messer has been widely recognized for his contributions to the Fairbanks economy and region. The Army and Air Force established the "Jim Messer Award," and General Colin Powell presented him the distinguished support to the Armed Forces Award. Messer has also received the two highest civilian honors in Fairbanks; The Chamber of Commerce George Nehrbras Award and the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Community Service Award for commitment to military affairs.



Eleanor Andrews

2002 Laureate

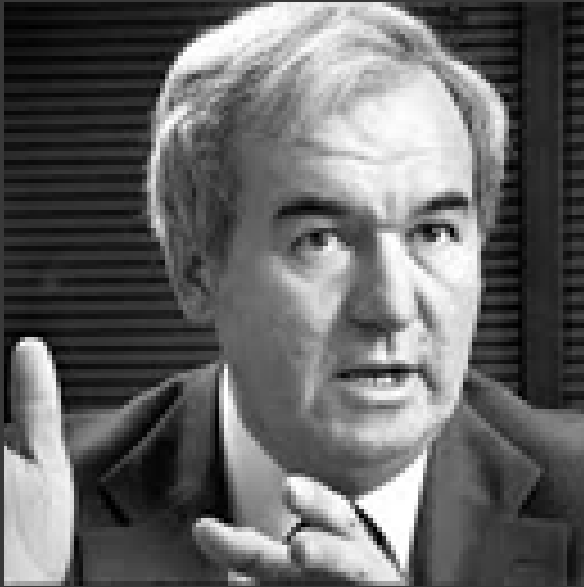
In 1986, Eleanor Andrews built a company from the ground up that has become one of Alaska's most successful business concerns. As president and chief executive officer of The Andrews Group, she found her own niche and began one enterprise after another. The Andrews Group incorporates such essential assistance as mailroom management, catering, housekeeping, warehouse, commissary, laundry and other management services for government, private and public entities. Even though her business responsibilities demand the lion's share of her time, Andrews still finds time to become involved with community activities. She focuses her energy on assisting organizations determining public policy.



Marc Langland & Arnold Espe

2001 Laureates

When Marc Langland moved to Sitka in 1965 for a job with National Bank of Alaska, one of the first people he met was Arnold Espe. Soon after their first meeting, the two men became friends and cultivated a relationship that would last for more than 30 years, until Espe's death Nov. 9, 21997. In the three decades their relationship spanned, Espe and Langland fished and hunted together, worked together, and as it turned out, helped shape the economic landscape of Alaska. Among their achievements, they will be remembered for establishing a successful commercial bank where others had failed. Today, Northrim boasts more than \$500 million in assets and has eight branches in Anchorage and one each in Eagle River, Fairbanks, and Wasilla.



Morris Thompson

2001 Laureate

Throughout his long career, Morris Thompson represented Alaska Natives in many struggles from the nation's capital, to the state capitol and from his office at Doyon Ltd. headquarters in Fairbanks. In 1968, Hickel named Thompson special assistant for Indian affairs. Thompson returned to Alaska in 1971 as area director of the Bureau of Indian affairs and was appointed commissioner of the BIA in 1973 by President Nixon. By all accounts, Thompson took special pride in bridging the gap between Native and non-Native people. He felt that communication was the key to bringing the diverse cultures together. When Thompson took his office at Doyon, Alaska was in the throes of a recession and Doyon's losses had mounted to \$28 million. When he retired in 2000, the corporation posted a profit of \$70 million.



Bob & Betty Allen

2001 Laureates

In three decades of business in Sitka, Bob Allen, together with his wife Betty, have built one of the most successful enterprises in Sitka and Southeast Alaska. Allen Marine vessels operate in Sitka, Juneau, Whittier and Seward—and just recently in the traffic clogged waters of the commuter run from the New Jersey shore to Manhattan. Allen Marine became a major benefactor to a wide range of Sitka and Alaska organizations, repeatedly providing low or no cost water transportation. A series of entrepreneurial enterprises prepared the Allen's for what became a successful marine construction business. In 1987 Allen Marine built the first of its high-speed aluminum catamarans and monohulls, powered by jet propulsion engines, for which the company has, became famous through the US.



Ernie Hall

2002 Laureate

Ernie Hall's business, Alaska Furniture Manufactures is a spin-off from the company where he once worked, Anchorage Bedding and Furniture. When the owner sold off the manufacturing part, Hall and his wife picked up, starting with a military upholstery contract before moving into furniture refinishing and manufacturing. In the early eighties, National Bank of Alaska approached Hall to manufacture casework for the bank. Since then, the business has continued to grow by providing furniture for banks, medical facilities, and others all over the state. The Halls now own a 20,000-square-foot factory in Anchorage and employ 12 to 20 people year round.



Jacob Adams

2002 Laureate

Jacob Adams served as President and CEO of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; the largest Alaska owned and operated company with five million acres of oil rich lands along Alaska's northern borders. Under his leadership, the organization has grown from earning gross revenues of only \$218 million in 1990 into a billion dollar company in just 10 years. He estimates that 60% of the Corporation's business comes from the oil industry, including oil field services, refinery work, and other income relating to leases. "I grew up with whaling and knew what to expect," said Adams. "Hardly any Natives had a background in business... But I think we have been able to adapt."



Loren Lounsbury

2002 Laureate

Loren Lounsbury arrived in Alaska as a youngster on a steamship in 1944 and eventually worked in the engineering firm his father started in 1949, Lounsbury & Associates. He continued with the firm off and on until 1985. His periodic departures military service in Korea, an experience that helped develop his talent for international relations. From 1967-1970, Lounsbury was tapped for public service as Public Utility Commissioner of Alaska. He returned to state work again in 1985 as Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development. He serves as the honorary counsel for the Republic of Korea from 1976-1982. During his tenure, he convinced Korea to put a full-time counsel general in Anchorage, and as commerce commissioner, he opened the first Alaska state office in Seoul.



Sue Linford

2002 Laureate

Linford and her husband, Russell, launched Linford of Alaska in 1973. It began with a \$50,000 bank loan, two trucks, one employee, and a home office. Today, the company is a well-known specialty food distributor, stocking 1600 items that support the military, hotels, and espresso makers. It operates out of a 44,000 square-foot building in downtown Anchorage that houses the office and warehouse and has 15 employees. Linford also is known for her generous community service.



Dave Rose

2003 Laureate

Not sure about a career in accounting, Dave Rose volunteered for the draft. He later left the Army in 1975 at the level of GS-15- a rank equivalent to a full colonel. He was encouraged to take a year off, but only two days after leaving he began his work with the State of Alaska. He became the first director of the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority. From the Bond Bank he focused his energy on establishing AIDEA, Alaska's economic development engine designed to import capital into Alaska to finance business and industry. After leaving the public finance arena he began his own company in the private sector. The Alaska Permanent Capital Management Company designs and manages portfolios worth a total of \$1.8 billion.



Governor Bill Sheffield

2003 Laureate

In 1960, Bill Sheffield founded his own company, Sheffield Enterprises. At its height, Sheffield managed 750 employees and owned 16 hotels throughout Alaska and the Yukon. In 1982, Bill ran for Governor and after a successful campaign moved into the Governor's mansion. In his last years in office, Bill cut 1 million dollars for the State budget, purchased the Alaska Railroad, signed into law the Buy Alaska Program, developed the Power Cost Equalization Program and provided the leadership to develop Red Dog Mine. After 4 years of public service and 17 years of business ownership, Bill retired. In 1995 Governor Tony Knowles asked him to fill a position on the Alaska Railroad Board. Bill held the position of president and CEO until January 2001. Next, Bill became the Director of the Port of Anchorage.



Pete Leathard

2003 Laureate

In 1974, Alaska was a-buzz with the prospect of newly discovered oil. Without a model or precedent to advise, Pete joined effort with others at ARCO to develop the Prudhoe Bay oil field. Pete left ARCO in November 1981 after 13 years with the company. That year, Pete joined VECO, heading up VEMAR, a subsidiary, location in Houston, Texas. One year later, Pete moved back to Alaska- this time as Senior Vice President of Operations for VECO.



Richard Wien

2003 Laureate

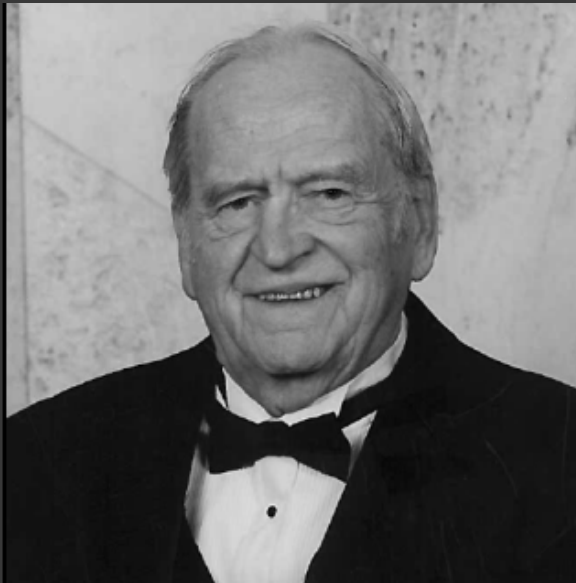
In the mid-1960's the expanding called for greater speeds and availability- a demand that Richard Wien was prepared to meet. In 1969, Richard surprised the transportation sector by leaving Wien Alaska Airlines and joining his brother Merrill in business to form Merric, Inc. a helicopter charter contact business. Richard and Merrill successfully maintained the company until the company merged with ERA Aviation. Between 1981 and 1986, Richard began his career in service, which to date includes corporate board positions with The Alaska Air Group and Usibelli Coal Mine. In 1986, Richard stepped into a new venture- Florcraft, Inc.



Grace Berg Schaible

2004 Laureate

Grace graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with a stint at George Washington University in Washington D.C., where she worked for the Director of Veteran's Affairs. Two years later Grace went to work on her Master's Degree. While finishing her thesis, she worked as a research analyst for the first Alaska Legislative Council in 1955. After earning her degree from Yale, she returned to Fairbanks and soon became a full partner in Merdes, Schaible, Staley and DeLisio. In 1987 Grace became Alaska's Attorney General. She was the first woman to hold this position in Alaska—a fact she'd undoubtedly like to change as she continues to inspire both young women and men to rise to their full potential.



William Moran Sr.

2004 Laureate

Bill first came to Alaska in 1949 and started his banking career in Ketchikan. Bill went to work for First National Bank of Ketchikan as an executive Vice President. He was elected president of the bank in 1964 and then Chairman of the Board in 1984. Bill Jr. started his own banking career at Bank of the North in Deadhorse, and then joined his father at First Bank in 1976. Bill Jr. started as Auditor and Comptroller, and eventually became he bank's president in 1984. Together, the two Morans helped build First Bank into a leading bank in Southeast Alaska. When Bill Sr. started there, the bank had just one office and assets totaling 5.8 million dollars. He helped it grow to 8 branches and assets of 310 million dollars.



Bill Tobin

2005 Laureate

William J. Tobin is one of Alaska's most senior active journalist, a veteran of more than 57 years in Journalism. He was an editor and executive of The Anchorage Times for nearly 30 years. His weekly column has appeared for more than 40 years, making it the longest-running column in Alaska newspaper history. Prior to joining The Times in 1963, Bill was the Associated Press for more than 17 years, beginning as a copy boy in Indianapolis in 1946. He was transferred to New York City in 1952 and assigned to AP News features at the wire service's headquarters in Rockefeller Center.



Al Fleetwood

2005 Laureate

Al Fleetwood moved to Anchorage with a catering company and then, much to everyone's surprise, launched a career in banking. He helped start Alaska State Bank in Fairbanks, later joined Alaska National Bank in Anchorage, and finally went to Enserch Alaska Services before retiring. Among his long list of honors and achievements, Fleetwood was the only person to have chaired all three major chambers in Alaska: the Fairbanks, Anchorage and Alaska State chambers of commerce. In addition to running his own consulting business, Fleetwood & Associates, and serving Alaska First Bank and Trust as Chairman of the Board, he serves on numerous community boards.



Carl Marrs

2005 Laureate

Carl Marrs was born and raised in Alaska and served both shareholders and the community as a whole through his 31- year career with Cook Inlet Regional Incorporated. As CEO, he presided over tremendous growth and record dividend payouts, cultivated the talents of countless individuals, and maintained a strong commitment to community service, both personally and professionally throughout it all. Over the years he's also served on the boards of the Fiscal Policy Council of Alaska and the Alaska Railroad Corporation.



Richard Lowell

2005 Laureate

Richard Lowell started his Alaskan adventures in 1975, as a controller for KAPS Transport accounting firm. He has risen through the ranks in Alaska's insurance industry, culminating in his position as president and CEO of Ribelin Lowell & Company Insurance Brokers Inc., from which he recently retired. For more than 20 years, Lowell has contributed to the community and encouraged his employees to do the same.



Tennys Owens

2005 Laureate

Tennys Owens is the owner of Anchorage's first art gallery, Artique, Ltd., built the business from a 900-square-foot space showing collected works to a 8,500-squar-foot facility complete with publishing and corporate department. The gallery represents Alaskan artists from around the state. Tennys notes that they have a combined experience of 114 years from five full-time employees, plus another 50 years from her seven part-time employees. She used her success and her love for art to serve the community in many ways- including heading to Millennium Project in 200, donating to dozens of charities every year, and inspiring other businesswomen to achieve success.



The Miller Family

2005 Laureates

In 1952, Con and Nellie Miller opened a general store in the budding community of North Pole. With assistance from children, grandchildren, the general store is now the famous Santa Clause House. Con and Nellie Miller involved their children in the business from its early days. And even though the couple continued to live above the store for many years until Con's death in 1996, they turned over operations to children Mike, Merry Key and Terry. The Santa Claus House also maintains a strong community presence with involvement in numerous activities and organizations. In addition to sponsoring youth sports teams, local nonprofit and community organizations and participating in Make-A-Wish, the Santa Claus House features local vendors.



Al Parrish

2006 Laureate

In 1965 Walter Hickel invited Al Parrish to come to Alaska and work at his Captain Cook Hotel. Al stayed with the Captain Cook Hotel for 10 years before going to work as Vice President, of Sheffield Hotels in 1975. In 1987, the company merged with Holland America Line- Westours Inc., and Parrish served as the President of the combined companies until 1996. In 1982 when the position of CEO for Providence opened up in Anchorage, Parrish took advantage of the opportunity. Al Parrish became the CEO of Providence Health System in Alaska, which, since its inception 100 years ago, has grown into the state's largest and most integrated health care provider and the largest private employer in Alaska.



Jim Campbell

2006 Laureate

Jim Campbell's career spans nearly 4 decades of leadership in business, civic involvement and government service. When Jim started his career at Spenard Builders Supply the company had four employees and one small retail store. When Jim retired from his position of President and CEO of SBS in 1985, he had built the company into one of Alaska's largest stores with 600 employees and 12 statewide stores. In 1990, Jim took the reins at Alaska Commercial Company as President. Once again, Jim turned the company around and began making profits. Here, he spent his time leading 20 stores in 17 Bush communities into one of the most incredible turnarounds in Alaska history.



John B. Coghill

2006 Laureate

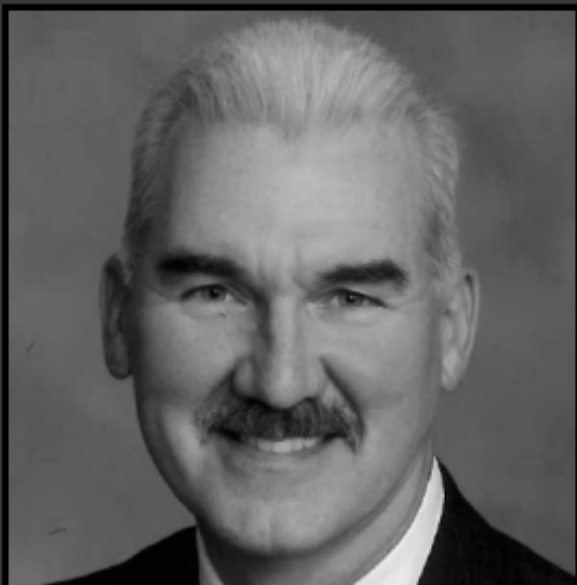
John B. "Jack" Coghill has worn many hats in the town of Nenana. A true entrepreneur, Jack and his wife France have owned and operated a movie theatre, a roadhouse, and a fuel distribution company that distributed fuel products to villages and towns throughout the interior. This spirit can be traced to his father, who bought property in 1912 at the new town site in Nenana and started a trading post. At an early age, Jack, along with his 2 brothers, received an early education in business. Jack continues his partnership in the store, which is now run by his niece. Aside from being an entrepreneur, Jack has had a very notable political career.



Orin Seybert

2006 Laureate

Orin bought his first plane, a Taylor craft two seater, while still in high school. Being the only person on the island who owned an aircraft, Orin often used his plane to transport sick villagers from Pilot Point or Chignik to the hospital in Dillingham. Eventually, from these small favors, Peninsula Airways was born in 1956 with a Piper Tri-Pacer. In 1986, Peninsula Airways started service out of Anchorage to King Salmon and Dillingham. In 1991, PenAir enter into a code-shared agreement with Alaska Airlines and in 2001 when Reeve Aleutian closed down operation, PenAir assumed their destination point: Adak, Sand Point, Cold Bay, Saint Paul, and Dutch Harbor. Orin has built PenAir into a hugely successful business with more than 400 employees.



Robert Jacobsen

2006 Laureate

Robert Jacobsen was born and raised in Juneau, graduating from Juneau Douglas High School in 1973. He then went to the University of Oregon, where he received his degree in Political Science in 1977. In 1982, with help from family members and friends, Bob Jacobsen started Wings of Alaska with only 2 planes. Since then, the company has grown to be the largest carrier in Southeast Alaska with 15 planes and over 90 employees in the summer. In 2002, the company split into 2 entities, Wings of Alaska and Wings Airway. Wings Airways provides services for the cruise ship industry, as well as flights to the Juneau Icefields and Taku Glacier Lodge.



Betsy Lawer

2007 Laureate

Betsy Lawer's 35 year of experience in the banking industry has led her to develop expertise in banking and beyond, including commercial lending, investor loan production, bank operations, electronic data processing, marketing and loan documentation. Born in 1949 in Anchorage, Lawer has received many distinguished awards and honors. Established in 1922, First National Bank Alaska operates 29 branches in 17 communities. The bank employs more than 800 people and donates more than \$1 million annually to sports and nonprofits in Alaska. Betsy currently serves as the bank's Chair and President.



Ron Cosgrave & Bruce Kennedy

2007 Laureates

Cosgrave and Kennedy have each left their mark in Alaskan aviation history as being the two men largely responsible for the legendary revitalization of Alaska Airlines. In the 1970s Cosgrave and Kennedy saved the airline from overwhelming debt and impending bankruptcy. Ron Cosgrave served as chairman and innovation helped restore the airline to a position of profitability and respect. Within a year under Cosgrave's leadership, Alaska Airlines had repaid all of its creditors, and flights began arriving on time. Cosgrave has been credited with a turnaround, but he said, Kennedy played a crucial role in the transformation. Cosgrave adds 'I couldn't have done it without him.' Cosgrave served on the Alaska Air Group board of directors until several years ago.



Ron Duncan

2007 Laureate

Ron Duncan, President, CEO and co-Founder of General Communications, Inc. has made significant contributions to the communications industry in Alaska. Duncan co-Founded GCI with Bob Walp in an apartment in Anchorage. Today, GCI brings service to over 175 communities in Anchorage, and digital connections to 125 rural communities. GCI has played a crucial role in the development of the surge in the communication industry in Alaska by building two of the three undersea fiber optic cables that ultimately connect Alaska to the rest of the United States. GCI currently employs 1,300 employees, many of whom have worked there for several years.



Helvi Sandvik

2009 Laureate

Sandvik freelanced for a while before joining NANA as vice president of operations for the NANA Development Corp. She also served as vice president of resources for the NANA Regional Corp. where she was responsible for overseeing resource development projects on NANA lands, as well as for evaluating new development opportunities. As president of NANA Development Corp., Sandvik works under the direction of NANA's board of directors. Her focus is on fulfillment of NANA's commitment to provide job opportunities for shareholders while continuing to grow into a billion-dollar revenue corporation. NANA Development Corp. is involved in more than 35 subsidiaries or partnerships.



Clarence Kramer

2007 Laureate

At age 17, Clarence Kramer knew that he wanted to be a logger. Kramer worked in logging camps in the Pacific Northwest. Within a few years, he and a friend formed their own logging company. The new, Alaska Company successfully bid on a contract with a large timber company in the state, and Bay Logging Co. was incorporated. At the end of the contract time, Kramer bought out his partners, and formed Kramer Logging. Even the businessman, Kramer understood that reasonable insurance was a necessity among loggers. He went on to form the Alaska Pacific Assurance Co., allowing logging contractors and others in the timber industry to self-insure at a more reasonable rate than could be achieved with Outside insurance companies.



Jim Sampson

2008 Laureate

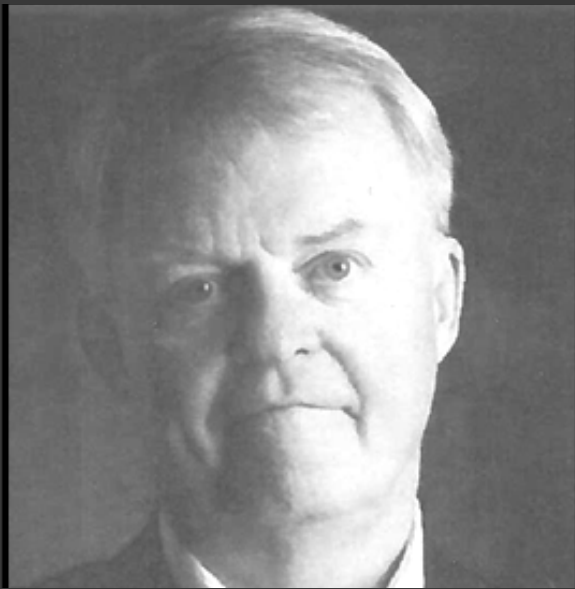
When Jim Sampson was in his mid-twenties, the pipeline came and the union asked him to work for them. After twelve years as a union rep, Jim left to work for Governor Steve Cowper as Commissioner of Labor, during which time he created the State Training and Employment Program. In 1991, Jim left state government and his bid for mayor of Fairbanks North Star Bough was successful. During all this time, Jim and Dick Cattanaach worked together. Jim was a trustee on AGC's training trust. As the AFL-CIO Executive Director and then Executive President, Jim worked with the Congress to get a pipeline training center in Fairbanks.



Pat Walsh

2008 Laureate

In late-1985, Pat Walsh took a leap of faith and opened The Walsh Agency, offering advertising and public relations services. Despite the downs of the economy in the '80s, The Walsh Agency survived... and thrived. Pat's sons Tony and Jack and Jack's wife Kirsten joined her and are now her business partners. Walsh & Sheppard Inc. merged with Ken Flynn Advertising in 2001, and then bought out Flynn when retired in 2006. They are now, simply, called Walsh Sheppard. Walsh Sheppard has nearly 20 employees that work out of stylish digs in downtown Anchorage. Walsh Sheppard's annual billing now exceeds \$6 million.



Richard Cattanach

2008 Laureate

Richard Cattanach moved to Alaska for the first time to work as a banker for the Alaska Bank of Commerce, but soon thereafter moved to Rochester, New York, to raise money for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. In 1980, he returned to Alaska for good and worked for Unit Company general contractors and became part owner shortly after. During his eighteen years with Unit, Dick became re-involved with the Alaska Chapter of Associated General Contractors, the largest trade organization in Alaska. As a representative of Unit, Dick served as a director, then became an officer of the board, and finally, in 1999, became AGC's executive director, despite having retired in 1998.



Robert & Barbara Halcro

2008 Laureates

Robert and Barbara Halcro came to Alaska on their honeymoon and opened an office in what is now the Inlet Towers. In April 1956, the first AVIS office was opened at the corner of 5th and B. The couple has also established AVIS in Guam and Saipan, and Bob owned and operated Windjammer Cruises, Inc. in Hawaii and Guam. In the 52 years since they began Avis Alaska, one of Alaska's largest car-leasing companies, it has grown into an operation that has more than 100 employees with over 1,700 vehicles. They have outfits in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Kodiak, Juneau, Petersburg, Skagway, Sitka and Whittier.



Andrew Eker

2009 Laureate

In 1986, Andrew Eker and Tom Behan bought the Teamster Recreation Center on East Tudor Road and turned it into a thriving fitness facility called the Alaska Club. Three years later, they bought the Anchorage Racquet Club, in 1994, acquired the Fairbanks Athletic Club. Over the next two decades, the partners continued to buy and improve properties, ending up with 17 clubs throughout Alaska. Andrew and his wife Mary Hughes are also committed to helping others find the success that they have had in Alaska. To this end, they have established two scholarships: a law scholarship for the construction management program in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington.



Jim Jansen

2009 Laureate

Jim Jansen came to Alaska in 1967 and worked as a truck driver at the Kennecott Mine. After working as a US Navy Seabee heavy-equipment operator and serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, Jansen joined Lynden in 1970. Jansen worked as a terminal manager in Anchorage, and has also held positions as the Southeast District manager, Fairbanks terminal manager, Alaska general manager and president of Lynden Transport Incorporated. In 1982, Jim became president CEO of Lynden Inc. Today the Lynden family of companies serves not only Alaska and Washington, but also western Canada and points across the US.



US Senator Ted Stevens

2010 Laureate

US Senator Ted Stevens' impact in state economic history has been comparable to that of William Seward, who engineered the purchase of Alaska from Russia. Born in 1923, he lived in a small cottage in Indianapolis. His father was an accountant, but the stock market crash ended his dad's job and led to the Great Depression. Stevens began working at age 6, doing whatever he could to help support the family, including selling newspapers, shining shoes and picking vegetables. The impact of Stevens' political career most obviously has been felt in the flow of federal dollars into the state's economy during his tenure- a flow that became a surge and a key growth factor over the last 15 years. Steven was quoted in 2005 that he was responsible for \$3 billion a year that was going into the Alaska economy and it was noted in 2007 that federal spending in Alaska was roughly \$8 billion a year.



Willie Hensley

2009 Laureate

In 1966 Willie Hensley spearheaded the formation of the Northwest Alaska Native Association, which filed a claim to 40 million acres in Alaska and chaired the Alaska Federation of Natives. The result was the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, now commonly known as ANCSA. In 1966, at 25 years old, Willie ran for Alaska House of Representatives in 1966 and was elected. He served two terms in the House and was elected to the State Senate in 1970 for a four year term. Willie spent 20 years with NANA both as a director and executive- eventually becoming President. For 40 years Willie served as director, executive director, co-Chairman, President Emeritus of the Alaska Federation of Natives.



Matthew Nicolai

2010 Laureate

Matthew Nicolai joined Calista in 1975 as communications supervisor. He served in various leadership positions before becoming president of the Native regional corporation in 1994. At that time Calista had 54 employees in Alaska; by 2008, annual revenues had risen from \$6.9 million to \$224 million, with 1,196 employees in 27 states, Guam, Iraq, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom. Assets simultaneously grew from \$13.5 million, he said, and shareholders' equity from \$145 million, he said, and shareholders' equity from \$8.8 million to \$106.8 million. The firm created more than 3,750 shareholder jobs and awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to Native shareholders and descents.



Margie Brown

2009 Laureate

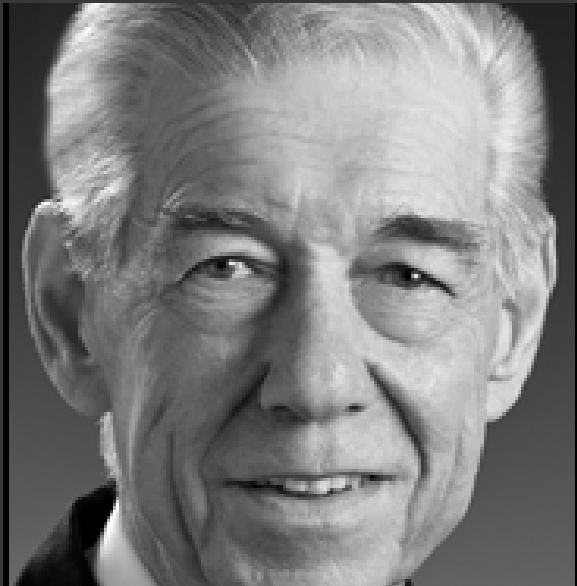
Margie Brown's career with CIRI has spanned three decades, beginning in 1976, shortly after CIRI was incorporated. Margie's first job was an assistant land planner. She was named CIRI land manager two years later. Under Margie's direction CIRI began making critically important land selections under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and under the very complicated Cook Inlet Land exchange. These lands gave the startup company an early capital infusion and also provided capital to all other Alaska Native Corporations throughout the state though ANCSA's revenue sharing mechanism. Margie considers the successful implementation of the Cook Inlet land Exchange to be among the most important achievements during her career at CIRI.



The Brice Family

2011 Laureates

Since 1962, Sam Richard, like his mother, helinka, before him, believed that success in rural heavy construction depended on owning and managing their own tug and barge company to ensure timely transport of materials and equipment. Sam was instrumental in designing the tug barge equipment that continues to define best practice and efficiency for ocean/ river combination, shallow-draft freight transport today. In 2010, Brice Construction and related companies were purchased by Calista, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation that's expanding its construction reach.



Vern McCorkle

2010 Laureate

Alaska Business Monthly Publisher Vern C. McCorkle was a friend to free enterprise in The Last Frontier, and creator of the Alaska Business Hall of Fame. According to former colleagues, McCorkle was a Navy veteran who knew business reporting from inside out. He'd also been a pool reporter and had written for some big names in the news business. But as much as he preferred being behind the scenes, he also could handle himself just fine behind a microphone, which he demonstrated to Anchorage radio listeners and television viewers. Before becoming publisher, McCorkle was city manager of Seldovia. Over the years, he'd also served in the same role for Haines, Nenana and Anderson. The magazine prints 12,000 copies of each issue and boasts more than 100,000 readers.



The Bailey Family

2010 Laureates

In January of 1990, Ron Bailey and his parents, Coy and Ruth Bailey, started a small used furniture store on Tudor Road, that they named A-1 Discount Furniture. Nine months later they moved into the old Anchorage Roller Rink on the corner of Arctic and Benson, and began to sell new furniture with the clean used furniture. The new store was 20,000 square feet, and their selection grew. In July of 1993, they added a partner (Mike and Krista Bailey) and a new store in Wasilla. In 2008 they added a store in Fairbanks and built their Superstore located in Anchorage.



Harry McDonald

2011 Laureate

Harry McDonald was down to a truck and a couple of trailers hauling milk from the Matanuska Valley when he had the notion to start Carlile in 1980 with his brothers, John. For the last couple of years, McDonald says, they have been doing about \$125 million in business annually. They have about 300 trucks, 1,500 trailers and 650 employees in Alaska, Texas, Minnesota and Alberta, Canada, with a long reach extending from Alaska across North America and even Hawaii. Carlile's trucking business to Prudhoe Bay, which has been featured on the History Channel show 'Ice Truckers,' also helped Carlile be seen far and wide as a logistically savvy operation.



Jim Bowles

2011 Laureate

Jim Bowles' life began in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1974, and joined Phillips Petroleum upon graduation and moved to Odessa, Texas, where he met his wife, Kathy. Bowles retired as president of Phillips' Americas Division in 2002 and in 2004 he emerged from retirement to become president of ConocoPhillips Alaska. Bowles immediately reached out to others in the community, involving himself and ConocoPhillips in a very of charitable and conservation endeavors.



The Quinn Brothers

2011 Laureates

Lewis, Ted and Bryan Quinn are the siblings behind the synergy at their two Capital Office ventures, Capital Office Systems and Capital Office Supplies. Capital Office Supply, the original flagship of the triumvirate, dates back to 1946 when it was in the business of supplying pens and pencils to the provisional government of the Alaska territory. While the firm previously operated from storefronts in Juneau, It now sells consumable office supplies to businesses, primarily in that local market, through its catalog and website.



Robert Dindinger

2012 Laureate

In his first position out of college as an accountant, Robert 'Bob' Dindinger realized that he didn't have any passion for the job. In 1972, he transferred into Alaska Department of Tourism as a research analyst, where he found his true calling. In 1980, Dindinger decided to leave a comfortable State job for a life of adventure as a small business owner. He took a job as vice president of operations in Alaska for a company headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif., and in 1982, when he became its president; he moved ATA's headquarters to Juneau. In 1984, he became the company's CEO and Chairman.



The Green Family

1988 Laureates

Perry Green is the patriarch of the family that operated David Green Master Furrier since 1922. Grashin is instrumental in the internal working accounting systems of the David Green business and has been involved in the business for more than 30 years, while Perry's brother, Jerry Green, has been his guide and mentor, Perry said, a "silent Angel in the business, with wisdom and kindness as his sterling qualities."



Mark Eliason

1987 Laureate

Mark Eliason holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Iowa State in 1978. He started out his career working construction on the pipeline for three summers. In 1982, Eliason put up his first building on the Dead horse Airport property they had leased the previous year. By 1984 they had built several buildings. When Mark married Linda in 1984, the couple took a round-the-world trip in 1985. After that, they knew they liked to travel and decided to buy into the business. Eliason became the President and CEO of USTravel, a corporate travel management agency with more than a dozen offices in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon and \$200 million a year in sales. It is the largest privately owned travel management company in the Pacific Northwest, with a regional headquarters in Seattle.



Byron Mallott

2013 Laureate

Byron Mallott was appointed the first commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs by Gov. William A. Egan. He served as executive director of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. from 1995 to 2000. At various times, he has been a director, chairman and president and chief executive officer of Sealaska Corp. He also served as director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Byron is the longest-serving director of Alaska Airlines, and has served on the boards of five commercial banking institutions. Byron Mallott served as Alaska Lieutenant Governor under Governor Bill Walker.



Joe Usibelli Jr.

2013 Laureate

Joe Usibelli Jr.'s roots start in Italy. His great-grandparents, grandfather and grandmother's family immigrated to the US just after the turn of the 20th century, during a period when Italians streamed to the US. They came through Ellis Island moved to Washington State, and Emil Usibelli came to Alaska in 1935. During World War II, he got a government contract to mine 10,000 tons of coal per year to increase military supplies beginning in 1943. The contract included a license to mine on property in Healy area. That's where the Usibelli Coal Mine began. Usibelli will celebrate 70 years of operation during 2013 and now produces 2 million tons per year. Emil built the company from that first contract, starting the first surface coal mining technique in Alaska.



Will Anderson

2012 Laureate

After graduating with his master's degree, Will Anderson began working for the Boeing Co. in Seattle before taking a job as the vice president of finance with a Koniag subsidiary, ICRC. After working at Afognak Corp. for six months, Anderson was recruited to serve as the vice president of finance at Koniag Inc. Anderson decided to move to Anchorage, and Anderson served as Koniag's chief financial officer for six years before being promoted to its president and CEO five years ago. Since Anderson took the position, the corporation has thrived. In 2011, the company's diversified portfolio of assets grew to more than \$160 million, an increase of more than \$17 million from the previous year.



Mayor Rick Mystrom

2013 Laureate

A risk taker all his life, Rick Mystrom drove to Alaska from California. There was no job waiting for him in Alaska, but Mystrom waited for the first opportunity. When it presented itself with a local news team, Mystrom applied and landed a job in the salesman. Mystrom quickly ascended the ranks to become the station's top salesman. It wasn't long until he became manager. Mystrom was involved in many different businesses and was elected to Anchorage Assembly in 1979 and in 1982 was selected as one of the top three small businessmen in the United States by the Small Business Administration. Mystrom might be best knowing for his service as the Anchorage mayor from 1994-2000 and for being a decent golfer.



Chris Von Imhof

2014 Laureate

Chris von Imhof grew up in Bavarian ski resort town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in southern Germany. He traveled to the US and was hired at the Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, thus starting a long and satisfying career in the US hotel and tourism industry. Von Imhof's accomplishments since his job at the Hilton includes his role as chairman of the Hawaii Hotel Association, general manager for the Maui Prince Hotel, president of ATIA, and director of tourism for the State of Alaska. His biggest business accomplishment occurred while he was CEO and managing director of the Alyeska Resort, which provided his instrumental role in turning Alyeska ski resort from a small, struggling local ski hill into a world-class resort.



Martin Pihl

2014 Laureate

Ketchikan Pulp Mill was the engine of the Ketchikan economy through the latter part of the 20th century and was the main employer of residents of Ketchikan from 1954 to 1997. It was where Pihl grew as a professional. Ketchikan Pulp Corporation's mill was the first largest pulp mill built in Alaska, and in time, three sawmills were added to the mill, supporting 2,500 total jobs: 1,300 direct jobs and 1,200 by contractors. Pihl sees his years at Ketchikan Pulp as the time in his life of his greatest accomplishments.



The Doyle Family

2014 Laureates

James H. (Jim) Doyle founded Weaver Brothers Inc. in 1978. Simply owning and driving their first truck, Dream Come True, fulfilled the ambitions of Doyle's youth, and many successful business people with attest- if you want to be successful in business, do what you love. In 1982, Doyle hired his son Jimmy to run the Weaver Brothers Kenai terminal, quickly transferring him to Anchorage. Today, Weaver Brothers matched customer's sales and operational needs with modern technology and good old-fashioned safe and dependable services.



The Helmericks Family

2014 Laureates

Colville Inc. has roots deep in Alaska's history. Established by Alaska bush pilot and guide Harmon "Bud" Helmericks more than 60 years ago, Colville was originally known as the Arctic Tern Fish & Freight Company which served as a guide service for early North Slope oil exploration. The Helmericks homestead on the Colville River was also tied to the village of Nuiqsut, which was established 22 miles upriver of the homestead in the early 1970s. Today Mark Helmericks, one of Bud Helmericks' sons, is the president and chief executive officers and company owner.



Walter Hickel Jr.

2014 Laureate

As president and CEO OF Hickel Investment Company, Walter Hickel Jr. oversees six properties in the greatest Anchorage area, of which the Hotel Captain Cook is one. After graduating from college in 1972, Hickel Jr. worked as director of sales for the Hotel Captain Cook. In 1974, he interned at the San Francisco Fairmont Hotel to learn all of the facets of the hotel operations: from front desk and food and beverage operations to housekeeping. In 1975, he returned to AK to become the managing director for the Hotel Captain Cook, the Travelers' Inn in Fairbanks, and the Traveler's Inn in Anchorage.



Dana Pruhs

2015 Laureate

Dana Pruhs is the President & CEO of Pruhs Corporation, headquartered in downtown Anchorage. Most of Pruhs work is done in Southcentral Alaska, with a few projects in the Interior and other regions of the state. Pruhs other holdings include Quality Sand and Gravel, which provide aggregate for the construction work; Meridian Investment, and Harr Technology. Pruhs sense of community goes beyond providing jobs and encompasses serving on public boards and commissions. "I hope people will say that I made a difference in the lives of others."



Jana Hayenga & Jo Michalski

2015 Laureates

Jo Michalski and Jana Hayenga started Country Classics in 1980 after finding that there were no quilting stores in Alaska. Despite discouragement from local banks and business owners, they believed in their idea and that there was a market for what they were selling. They obtained financing through First National Bank of Alaska and admit that starting a business was a big change full of challenges. Since Country Classics, the two have owned four other stores together: Alaska Book Fair Company, Classic Toys, Flypaper, and Once Upon a Time, as well as other stores independently.



The Odom Brothers

2015 Laureates

As children, there never was any amount of doubt that Bill, Jim and John Odom would work in the family business. Their father, Milt was the founder of what today is the Odom Corporation. For his sons, the formation of a corporation was another step in the mentoring process their father had begun right away. Today, the brothers have opted to be socially responsible, invest in their business, and set a high bar for excellence and ethics in their field.



Sherron Perry

2015 Laureate

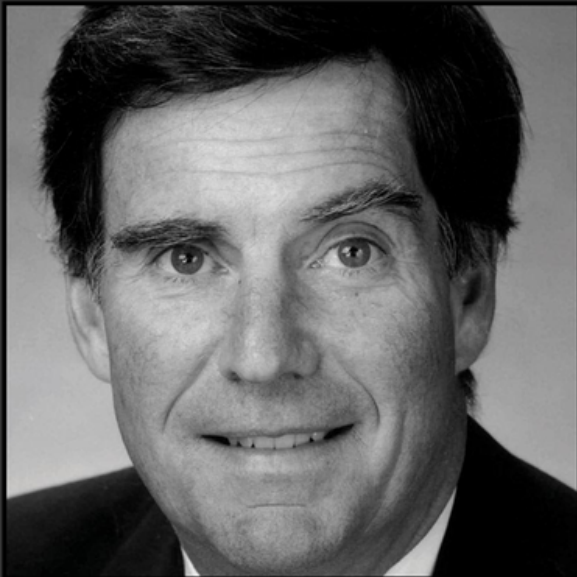
In the mid-1970s, Sherron Perry left the south in a bush plane headed for the adventure and opportunities in Alaska. Perry's weather observation skills combined with natural instincts as a pilot quickly landed him a job supporting the work of the quickly expanding mid-1970s oil and gas exploration industry in Alaska. Sherry Perry founded Fairweather LLC in 1976 with a focus on providing aviation weather observation services to remote regions of Alaska. Fairweather expanded its operations to include a number of highly-sought after support services designed to support exploration and production activities.



Lynn Johnson

2016 Laureate

Dowland-Bach was founded in 1975 to develop failsafe wellhead shutdown systems at the Prudhoe Bay Oilfield. It now produces a wide range of systems in styles and models to suit its customers' needs. At its 20,000 square foot shop in Anchorage, Dowland-Bach is an industry leader in stainless steel fabrication. As a co-founder, Lynn Johnson has been with Dowland-Bach since 1975 when it started with just two employees. Since those days, Johnson steered the company's growth from a two person operation offering one product, to a 26 person team with multiple lines of products in two divisions.



Michael B. Burns

2016 Laureate

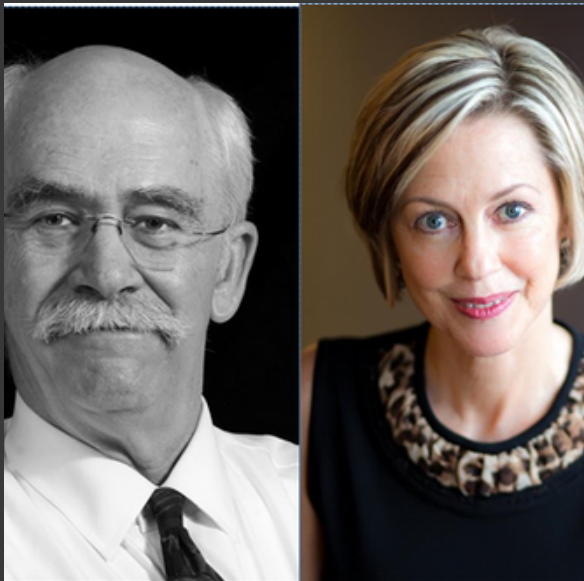
Michael J. Burns joined the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation as Executive Director in August 2004. Burns oversaw the fund as its value rose to \$40 billion, then slid back to \$26 billion in 2009 after the economy crashed, and then jump back up again. Prior to that, he was president of KeyBank. Hired as president of Alaska Pacific Bank in 1985, Burns held that position for several years until moving to KeyBank in 1987. In his role at KeyBank, Burns directed growth from eight to more than twenty branches and moved it into position as the third largest bank in the state.



Jason Metrokin

2016 Laureate

Jason Metrokin was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Massachusetts College and MBA from Alaska Pacific University. After serving for 5 years on the board of directors, he was named President and CEO of Bristol Bay Native Corporation in 2009. His family is from Kodiak Island Bristol Bay Alaska. Jason is a Bristol Bay descendant and is the first non-original shareholder of an ANCSA corporation to become President/CEO.



Larry & Barbara Cash

2017 Laureate

Larry founded RIM Architects in 1986 and remains President/CEO of the firm. Larry has a Bachelor Architecture degree from Auburn University. In 1978 Barbara Cash started RIM Design a woman-owned small business in Alaska that has been providing design services worldwide for over 30 years. Together they have an extensive portfolio and equal experience in the public and private sectors and believe their power is in collaboration. Most people in Anchorage have been in a RIM building, from Barnes & Noble to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Credit Union 1, and the new Arctic Slope Regional Corporation office tower, this entrepreneurial and passionate duo are an inspiration.



Oliver Leavitt

2017 Laureate

Oliver Leavitt is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Vice-President of Government Affairs. ASRC is one of 13 regional Native corporations established by Congress under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Under Mr. Leavitt's direction, exploration began on the Western Arctic Coal Field, an area believed to contain up to one-tenth of the world's coal supply. ASRC owns the subsurface rights to 92,000 acres of land in the 1.5 million acre ANWR coastal plain, considered to be the most promising on-shore site for oil and gas discovery in the nation.



James Udelhoven

2017 Laureate

Established on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula in 1970 by James Udelhoven, Udelhoven Oilfield System Services has been providing support service to the oil and gas industry for more than 45 years. The company got its start in Alaska after Udelhoven moved from Iowa in 1975. Udelhoven does contract work mainly with Alaska's top oil producers, serving the special needs of general contracting and oil production from Cook Inlet to Prudhoe Bay. Udelhoven has expanded its reach across the globe with steady and consistent growth in Alaska, Washington, Texas, Georgia, Montana, Tennessee, China, Turkey, Canada, Korea, Republic of Georgia, Bermuda, Singapore, Baku, Trinidad, Russia and Venezuela.



Admiral Tom Barrett

2018 Laureate

Admiral Tom Barrett, USCG (ret.) became the President of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company on January 1, 2011. Barrett previously served as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation and the first Administrator of the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), directing the agency's national safety programs for hazardous materials and liquid, natural gas, petroleum, and other hazardous liquid pipelines. Prior to that, he served 35 years in the United States Coast Guard and attained the position of Vice Commandant, the number two position in the Coast Guard. He commanded Coast Guard operations in Alaska and the North Pacific from 1999 to 2002. He and his wife Sheila have lived in Alaska for 19 years. They have four children. Barrett earned a B.S. in Biology from LeMoyne College, Syracuse, N.Y., and a Juris Doctor with honors from the George Washington University. He is a Vietnam veteran.



Bob Gillam

2018 Laureate

Mr. Gillam is McKinley Capital's founder and remains today its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He is responsible for overall corporate strategy and planning as well as providing oversight for all operational and investment management activities. Mr. Gillam serves on McKinley Capital's Executive Management Committee and is Chairman of the firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Gillam has over 40 years of experience in the financial services industry, including banking, brokerage and investment management. He has managed individual, corporate and public investment accounts since 1970, beginning at Foster and Marshall, where he was elected First Vice President. In 1975, Mr. Gillam was appointed by Alaska's Governor to the Alaska State Investment Advisory Committee.



Bob Penney

2018 Laureate

Robert Penney is the founder of Penco Properties, a business he continues to operate today with his son, Henry. Penney grew up in Portland, Oregon. His father was a fireman and his mother was an assistant in a dentist's office. On September 4, 1951, he arrived in Anchorage, where he launched a lifelong career in business. Penney says that instead of a deep interest in any one industry, he had a passion for business and entrepreneurship: "My first semester of college after high school, I couldn't figure out what I wanted to be - a CPA, a doctor, or a scientist, and I kind of lost interest. Then when I moved to Alaska and started in a retail lumber yard, all of a sudden, I said, 'I want to be a business man,' so that's been my goal since." Robert Penney has worn several hats - from 1957 on he has been a mobile home dealer, an RV dealer, a real estate developer, and a few retail businesses. Penney is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, and started the Mayor's Charity Ball, and started the Kenai River Sport-fishing Association 25 years ago.



CE "Chuck" Robinson

2018 Laureate

Charles "Chuck" Robinson was a monumental figure in the development of communications in Alaska. Starting shortly after Alaska became the 49th state, Robinson worked at a Statewide White Alice Communication System sites for the military and continued his endeavors in the Last Frontier in telecommunications for the next five decades, serving as the president and CEO of Alascom; president and CEO of Pacific Telecom; and founder, Chairman and CEO of Alaska Communications Systems. Robinson's daughter, Robin, describes her father as "intelligent, dedicated and working," adding that he was a born leader and team builder who valued loyalty and was generous "on all levels." His son Bret also spoke of Robinson's work ethic, saying "That's why he was so well respected; nothing was handed to him," he started from the bottom and worked his way to the top.



John Binkley

2019 Laureate

John Binkley has had long and varied involvement in different businesses in the Last Frontier. One of his first endeavors was a tug and barge business, Northwest Navigation, that he started in 1977 that he operated with his wife until the mid- 80s. Binkley also was involved in public service. While living in Bethel, he became involved in city politics and was elected to the city council before serving in the State House of Representatives and then the State Senate. Later on, Binkley switched gears and explored a new path with the Alaska Cruise Association, which he has helmed for 12 years, representing the cruise lines that operate in Alaska and fortifying the industry. Under his leadership, the cruise industry has grown from a low of approximately 850,000 guests to next year's projection of 1.3 million cruise guests. Binkley is proud to be working in the tourism industry and its significant economic benefits, bringing billions of dollars to the state and providing more than 40,000 jobs



Richard Strutz

2019 Laureate

Richard Strutz has always valued people over dollars. That mindset helped him work his way up through the ranks of the National Bank of Alaska (NBA), from teller to president. Another value that served him well during his career has been his continued optimism, which aided him as he led the bank through multiple situations fraught with uncertainty, including Alaska's economic recession in the late 1980s, an eventual merger between NBA and Wells Fargo in 2001, and, as the Wells Fargo Alaska Regional President, the recession of the late 2000s. His childhood and family ties served as the foundation of his principles - the Strutz family has been forging community ties in Alaska for more than one hundred years.



Connie Yoshimura

2019 Laureate

Connie Yoshimura was born in Chicago and grew up in Iowa as a third generation Japanese American. For Yoshimura, growing up as a bi-racial woman in a community like Webster City was difficult. Although she struggled with her identity, it ultimately led her where she is today: owner and broker of DWELL realty, a real estate agency that employee thirty-eight people in Alaska. When she moved to Alaska, she had no family or friends in the state to network with and the first home she stepped into was one she was showing to a client. From humble beginnings to March 2013, Yoshimura took a leap of faith and opened WDWELL Realty. Connie has over 30 years of residential real estate experience. She was the number one individual realtor, according to Multiple Listing Service in 2015, 2016, and 2017. DWEL Lrealty, LLC is an established real estate brokerage firm that serves the communities in Anchorage, Eagle River, Girdwood, and the Mat-Su Borough.



Rick Morrison

2019 Laureate

Businessman Richard 'Rick' Morrison moved to Juneau, Alaska in 1975 and to Anchorage in 1976, where he opened Anchorage Eero Volkswagen store as its service manager. He eventually became sole owner of the Morrison Auto Group, which no includes Volkswagen, Audi, Isuzu, and Porsche. Involved in community affairs, Rick was the founder and the chairman of the Vision Anchorage project and is active with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. He is a past board member for Enstar Natural Gas, Tryck Nyman Hayes engineering, Alaska Civil/Military Aviation Advisory Council, Alaska Airmen's Association and National Air Racing Group. He has been a flight instructor in Alaska for approximately 31 years and has flown nearly 5,000 hours in over 50 different types of aircraft. (photo from AAME Board of Directors Biographies)



Van Hale & Jack Amon

2020 Laureate

Jack Amon and Richard "Van" Hale opened the doors of the Marx Bros. Café on October 18, 1979; however, the two had already been partners in cuisine for some time, having created the Wednesday Night Gourmet Wine Tasting Society and Volleyball Team Which Now Meets on Sunday, a weekly evening of food and wine. In the hours after their final dinner on April 1, 1979, they moved their operation and all its accoutrements to a little house on Third Avenue. The night of the move was spiced with the intrigue and chaos of sleep deprivation and disputed ownership, and anyone walking in on the scene would have thought they were on the set of the old Marx Brother's movie, "A Night at the Opera." Nevertheless, they survived the night and named their restaurant the Marx Brother's Café - officially opening the doors on October 18, 1979. Over the past 30 years the Marx Bros. Café has grown into an elegant establishment acclaimed by tourists and critics and coveted by locals.



Aaron Schutt

2020 Laureate

From humble beginnings working at Fast Eddie's Restaurant in Tok, to ascending the corporate ladder to become the President and CEO of Doyon, Aaron Schutt's career advice has remained the same "Show up on time and work hard with a good attitude." Schutt has had several education and career paths. Schutt holds a master's of science in civil engineering from Stanford University, and graduated with honors and as an S. Town Stephenson scholar from Washington State University with a bachelor's of science in civil engineering, and he is a graduate from Stanford Law School. Before joining Doyon in 2006, Schutt was an attorney at the Anchorage offices of national law firms Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson, LLP and Heller Ehrman, LLP, where he represented tribal and ANCSA corporation clients in transactional and business matters. Schutt is Koyukon Athabascan and is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Tanana.



Pat & April Reilly

2020 Laureates

For nearly sixty years Rian Proof Roofing has been an integral part of Alaska's business community. Founded in 1962 by Jack Markley, the company is owned and operated today by Pat and April Reilly. Pat Reilly took over at Rain Proof Roofing in the early 80s after buying out April's father's share of the company. The family company has grown steadily over the years from a six-truck operation in the early '70s to fifty some trucks today, providing roofing peace of mind to homeowners in communities throughout Anchorage, Wasilla, and the Kenai Peninsula. With projects from the North Slope to Southeast, from the roof on your home or the Military Mall on Elmendorf Air Force Base, Rain Proof Roofing maintains a standard of excellence across the board.



Dave Lawer

2020 Laureate

Born and raised in New York City, David Lawer came to Alaska in 1971 to work on a construction crew to help pay his way through college and law school. After graduating from law school, he returned to Alaska and in late 1976 entered private practice law in Anchorage. Over the course of the next seventeen years, Lawer—who specialized in banking and finance—represented more than thirty banks, mortgage companies, and insurance companies with investments in Alaska. In 1993 he left the practice to become senior vice president and general counsel of First National Bank Alaska (FNBA), his principal client for many years. Lawer is well-known throughout the community for his larger-than-life personality. He is always thoughtful in his choice of words and direct and to the point when providing advice. As an "Alaskan New Yorker," Lawer continues to be a proud Yankees fan with a great sense of humor.

(except from First National Bank Alaska biography)

Junior Achievement of Alaska 2020