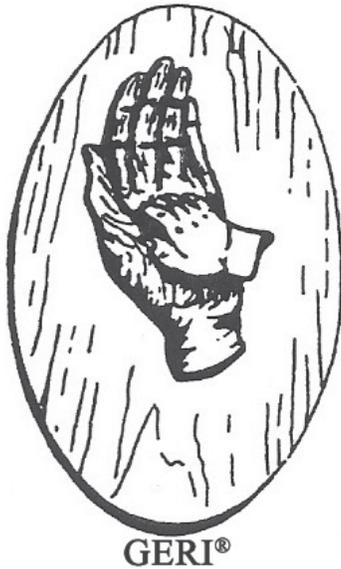


The
Maryland Senior Citizens
Hall of Fame





The Story of GERI®

A group of distinguished citizens of varying ages, including senior activists, gathered on September 18, 1987 to promote the founding of a Hall of Fame dedicated to honoring senior citizens of the State of Maryland who have made exemplary contributions to society. Those selected by a special panel of judges would be inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and have their names inscribed in the Archives of the Hall of Fame

As the arts and sciences have their Grammy, Emmy, Tony and Oscar, so do the senior citizens of Maryland have their GERI, the geriatric “Nobel Prize” for extraordinary community service.

The GERI sculpture, a baby’s hand in the palm of an adult hand, was specially designed to represent the admired philosophy of our maturing population, namely to give meaning and worth to the later years. Thus, the hand of the older person holding the hand of the child signifies understanding and love between generations. The GERI symbol depicts the intrinsic value of service to others, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or handicapping condition.

GERI is a tangible expression of the leaving of a memory, a legacy, indeed a shining symbol of the fundamental value of giving and serving. The tenderness of the child is entwined with the strength and wisdom of the older person.

The Hall of Fame Corporation seeks to immortalize men and women and to record their names in the Archives of the Hall of Fame for all time because of their caring and volunteer efforts in improving the lives of others.

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame is a corporation under the laws of the State of Maryland. It is a not-for-profit organization whose Board of Directors is all volunteers

2020
GERI[®] MRSPA AWARD RECIPIENTS

William P. and Genevieve Metzger

Harold Siskind

William P and Genevieve Metzger

Baltimore County



William P. and Genevieve Metzger moved to Oak Crest in 2012 and quickly became active residents. They epitomize living life to the fullest, volunteering as a couple as well as individually, to improve the lives of all people.

Although Bill and Gen are members of different churches, they work as a team supporting the needs of each church. They have performed many physical improvements, beautification and hospitality projects at Bill's church. Together, Bill and Gen help with the St. Margaret's Christmas gift project, wrapping and distributing the gifts.

Oak Crest has benefited from the generosity of the Metzgers. They co-founded the Acorn After Dark, a bimonthly "night club" style entertainment evening in the pub. They both write articles for the resident-run monthly newspaper, keeping everyone informed of Oak Crest happenings. In addition, Bill and Gen are ambassadors for the sales department, assisting with clubs and activities during open apartment events.

The Metzgers do volunteer work separately as well. Gen has been a volunteer at the front desk of the Upper Chesapeake Hospital. At the Institute of Notre Dame, she teaches students how to knit and crochet. She uses her craft skills to make scarves and baby blankets for charity to be used as Christmas gifts. Gen is also active in the Oak Crest *Buddy Read* and pen pal programs with local elementary schools. In addition, she participates in the letter exchange with children of Kids Thrive Therapy, a pediatric occupational therapy group.

Bill has served on the Oak Crest Resident Advisory Board for two years. He is an active gardener. He helped organize the greenhouse and storage shed for the Garden Club, plants and maintains vacant garden plots with produce that he donates to his friends and neighbors. Bill is also the founder of the Oak Crest book club, *Guys Read Too*.

Besides all the wonderful things they do for their churches and Oak Crest, Bill and Gen revitalized the beans and franks casserole donations from Oak Crest residents for Our Daily Bread. They then deliver the casseroles to this organization several times a year.

William P. and Genevieve Metzger are role models for every retiree who is able to volunteer. They truly live life to assist others in any way they can.



Harold Siskind

St. Mary's County

Harold Siskind gives freely of himself, his time and his talents to make the lives of St. Mary's County citizens better and more fulfilling.

As a former teacher, Harold's dedication to children and education is obvious. So it is no surprise that after retiring he continued his service to the students and retirees of St. Mary's County Public Schools. As Co-President of the St. Mary's County Public School Retirees Association (SMCPSRA), Harold spent countless hours attending the public school and county commission board meetings, advocating to maintain health benefits for current and retired employees. He has also served as chair of the Legislative and Bylaws Committees as well as regularly collecting food bank donations. In addition, Harold is a big part of the organization's many community service activities.

Harold's association with SMCPSRA goes even deeper. He takes his membership so seriously that he has served as an integral part of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. He has been an Area Director and is currently the Member Benefits Committee chair and a member of the Legislative Committee.

The Garvey Senior Activity Center Council also benefits from Harold's volunteer service. This organization is dedicated to ensuring that seniors stay active in mind, body and spirit. This group works closely with the Department of Aging, seeking to provide activities, entertainment, exercise and wellness classes for the center in Leonardtown. Harold is always the first person to volunteer his expertise, ideas and muscles whenever there is an upcoming event or activity. When a new center was needed, Harold was a huge contributor through every step of the process: from gathering signatures for support, to design and planning, to fund raising, through to the groundbreaking.

Christmas in April St. Mary's County is a non-profit that repairs homes of low-income homeowners, especially the elderly and disabled free of charge. Harold has served this organization for over 30 years, pitching in wherever and whenever he is needed.

Harold Siskind has done many great things for the residents of St. Mary's County. He exemplifies what it takes to be a respected and valued volunteer. His heart is as big as his smile.

2020

Hall of Fame Honorees

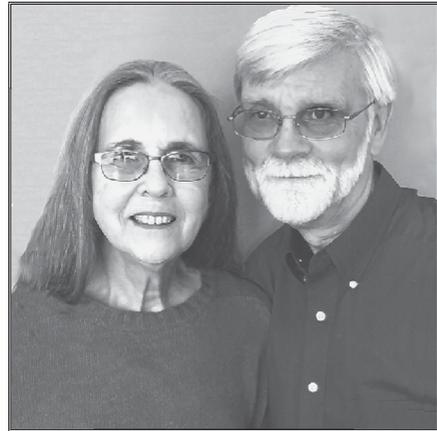


Pamela Alemu	#William P. and Genevieve Metzger *
Constance D. Andrews	Jeffrey A. and Jane W. Michael
Edythe Brooks	#C. Elizabeth Moore
Martha A. Brooks	#Nicalena Neary
Ralph W. and Patricia M. Case *	Gloria E. Nelson
Carole Cheatham	Peter N. Parr
Dottie Chicquelo	Patricia Ann Plowman
Mary V. Coleman	Dawn Boyer Porter
Kathleen Cotter	#Maryann M. Royall
Elinore E. Davidson	Elaine M. Ruth
#Charles and Michelle Day	Gary E. Saylor
Eleanore DiPietro	#Rita Wiant Schoenadel
Manny Eisner	#Harold Siskind *
Susann D. Felton	#Elizabeth A. Stonesifer
Dennis G. Ford, Ph.D.	Doris Sweet
Homan F. Hallock *	James E. Thompson
Nancy W. Heese	Barbara Trammell
#Clareen Heikal	#Charles G. and Elynor M. Truffer
#Velma C. Hicks	Peter B. White
Shirley S. Jackson *	#Rosalin A. Wilcox
#Jayne Howell Johns	L. Tammy Kennedy Wolfe
#Joan L. Jordan	#Jean L. Wright
Helen Kemp	#Nancy W. Zinn

MRSPA members (info below)
GERI® Award Winners

Charles and Michelle Day

Anne Arundel County



Charles and Michelle Day approach their volunteer efforts with energy and enthusiasm. They support each other's endeavors.

Charles attended Glen Burnie High School where he later became a teacher and an active alumni member. In retirement, he continues to be the "go to man" working at the annual craft fair, or as an announcer at special events and music concerts.

His love of baseball and museums led him to be a tour guide at the Sports Legend Museum in Camden Yards and at the Babe Ruth Birthplace. Charles led tours and helped develop and adapt information for visitors with special needs.

Michelle's interest in science led her to volunteer at the National Aquarium where she trains tour guides and gives guided tours for special needs children and senior citizens. One of her special duties is being a dolphin watcher, observing all stages of their life cycle.

Both of the Days are devoted to more than one Glen Burnie Church. At St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Michelle used her skills as a reading specialist to set up a free summer reading program for elementary students to improve their reading and writing skills. Charles works with youth activities and other church business. Michelle also supports Christ the King Catholic Church by providing cooked food for the *Our Daily Bread* casserole ministry.

Charles and Michelle Day support each other in their individual volunteer programs and at times, call on each other when extra hands are needed. They see life's challenges as opportunities to learn and to share.

Clareen Heikal

Prince George's County



Clareen Heikal, a former pediatric physical therapist with the Prince George's County Board of Education, continues in retirement to demonstrate concern and initiative for encouraging and enabling children while being outgoing and cheerful.

She has been involved as a volunteer with the Progressive Equestrian Therapeutic Services. This program offers riding lessons free of charge to children and adults with disabilities. As chair of the Board, Clareen has taken the lead in raising several thousand dollars for the horses' boarding.

When a few residents of Cheverly decided to establish a community based non-profit *Village* to support aging residents in need who wanted to stay in their homes, Clareen took the initiative to gather the needed information to make the *Village* become a reality. She has continued to work diligently to assist participants in the *Village* with their needs and problems.

In addition to these important projects, Clareen finds the time to deliver Meals on Wheels every other week for Cheverly's home-bound residents.

Clareen Heikal is a natural born leader who has a vision for the people of her city and county and who is respected for her efforts. She is a valued resident throughout Prince George's County, especially in her hometown of Cheverly.



Velma C. Hicks

Baltimore City

Velma C. Hicks served as president of the Association of Baltimore City Public School Retirees, Inc. In this role she represented the association with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. Velma currently serves as president of the Baltimore Teachers Union 340 R Retiree Chapter. As such, she provides speakers who share information with retirees, including topics such as health benefits, social security, pensions and financial planning. To keep the organization informed regarding state legislative issues, she attends various meetings in Annapolis during the 90-day legislative session.

As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Velma volunteers with Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully where she works once a month with young ladies age 14-18. Program activities include affirmation, etiquette, writing a resume, STEM and service learning. She also volunteers at voter registration, book bag give-away and health fairs for her sorority. Velma represents her sorority by attending Delta Days in the nation's capital, and in Annapolis. These meetings focus on political issues, with workshops, speakers and local, state and national political leaders.

As a member of the Metropolitan Alliance of Black School Educators, Velma participated in reading to students during American Education Week. She assisted by providing snacks to staff during Teacher Appreciation Week and registering students ages 17-19 as future voters.

Velma C. Hicks deserves recognition for her contributions, dedication and commitment to the citizens of Baltimore City as an educator and a humanitarian.

Jayne Howell Johns

Prince George's County



Jayne Howell Johns, a retired Prince George's County educator, through her volunteer service, has given back extensively to her community and has served as an outstanding role model

Jayne spends much of her time serving the Prince George's Public School Retiree Association as a member of its community service committee. This committee helps families and children with food baskets, shoes, school uniforms and school supplies for both students and teachers. She has also solicited money from the Harmony Hall Community Center so that those senior citizens could contribute to the purchasing and distribution of school supplies to students.

She is very active as Chairwoman of the Scholarship Program for the Coalition for Afro-Americans in the performing arts. The members of this organization help train high school students for recital dates for the annual competition.

Jayne is an active member of her church, Mount Ennon Baptist church, where she works with the scholarship committee to provide scholarships to high school seniors. She also coordinates workshops to help them with applying to college.

Jayne Howell Johns has a motto "serving is the rent we pay for our time here on earth." As a result, she has made an impact on her community through her service and enthusiasm. Her rent is paid in full!



Joan L. Jordan

Baltimore County

As a teacher, Joan L. Jordan planned and executed her lessons with enthusiasm. She brought this same passion to her volunteer projects.

Joan is an avid supporter of her church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran United Church of Christ where she has served as President of Zion's church council. She also contributes as a member of the choir and handbells. She is also chair of the church's Mission Committee

She offers continuous support to an African refugee family that her church helped sponsor. Joan assists with the children's education by attending IEP meetings and helping the mothers make important decisions about their education. She has personally tutored the children or found them a tutor

Joan's interest in making home repairs led her to become a crew member with *Building Together* helping to repair homes for the elderly. She volunteered to travel to Mississippi at her own expense to repair homes for the Hurricane Katrina victims and to Panama City to help restore homes devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Volunteering on the Scholarship Committee of the Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association, she reviews applications in order to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Joan L. Jordan's dedication and consideration of people is evident in all her volunteer activities. Her pleasure and reward is seeing those she has served progress in life.

C. Elizabeth Moore

Cecil County



C. Elizabeth Moore grew up on a farm, married a farmer and worked full-time as a school nurse. In retirement, she has used her planning and organizational skills to aid many farm-related associations.

Betty has energetically volunteered her services to the Maryland Farm Bureau, Cecil County Chapter, where she helped to initiate the first benefit auction. From its inception in 2001, this annual auction now raises several thousand dollars to help local agricultural programs: 4-H programs, agricultural classes at the local school of technology and the Cecil County Farm Museum.

As one of the founding members of the Cecil County Farm Museum, Betty serves as chair of the Membership Committee and as a member of the Fundraising Committee. Her goal is to preserve and highlight the area's rich agricultural history and its impact on the local culture.

Betty is a lifelong member of and has held several leadership positions at Rock Presbyterian Church. Her fundraising skills have helped the members raise the money necessary to keep the church building and its related outbuildings functioning and in good repair. Rock Church will celebrate its 300th anniversary this year.

C. Elizabeth Moore wants to keep moving and doing. She believes volunteering helps her to be a better person. The many groups she serves definitely benefit from her contributions. She truly is a "Wonder Woman" of community service.



Nicalena Neary

Montgomery County

Nicalena Neary is a dedicated and tireless volunteer serving in a wide variety of capacities for several organizations.

Nickie has been a volunteer in the education department at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, sharing her love for and knowledge of the antiquities preserved there and the history of the space program. As a retired Montgomery County teacher, she enjoys interacting with groups of children who love the museum.

Serving the citizens of Montgomery County through the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary (RVFD), Nickie has received numerous awards including a Lifetime Service Award for her dedication to the RVFD. She spent numerous hours performing any duty assigned her.

She has also served the Montgomery County Public School Retiree Association (MCPSRA) for over 15 years. During this time she has been chair of the Legislative Committee, attending monthly meetings at both the local and state levels, working on bills that address the needs of education, retirees and senior citizens. She is currently MCPSRA's Parliamentarian and has assisted in writing and revising the association's by-laws.

Nicolena Neary's excellent character and desire to succeed have affected all with whom she works. Volunteerism that serves so many is to be commended.

Maryann M. Royall

Prince George's County



Maryann M. Royall voluntarily gives her time, energy and talents to serve and assist those who are in need of help.

After moving to Maryland from North Carolina in the 1970s, Maryann demonstrated her leadership and managerial skills by establishing a framework to guide the D.C. Chapter of the Carver High School Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. She has served as the founding President of the organization for all graduates who lived in Washington, D.C.

As a member of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association, Maryann chaired the Community Service Committee. She worked to purchase Share blankets, school uniforms and read to groups of students at designated schools. She is presently the chair of the Membership Committee.

Each year Maryann sponsors a student at James Randall Ryder Elementary School by donating clothes, school supplies, birthday presents and holiday gifts.

She is very active in her church, Allen Chapel AME Church. She strives to raise funds for the Angel Tree Ministry, helping the children of incarcerated parents. Maryann also works to raise funds for The Toni B. Farmer Scholarship Club which honors graduating high school seniors.

Maryann M. Royall is a community leader who goes out of her way to help people of all ages improve and succeed in life. Her particular focus on children and youth guarantees her impact on the future.



Rita Wiant Schoenadel

Allegany County

Thinking only of others and how she can help, Rita Wiant Schoenadel spends hours volunteering her services to charitable organizations.

Rita is an active member of the Allegany County Retired School Personnel Association (ACRSPA). She has kept her finger on the pulse of the education system. Thanks to Rita's volunteer connections with the Allegany Museum in Cumberland, she was able to spearhead an ACRSPA project this year. The project engages public school students with museum visitors through leading tours and answering questions about displays. This is a win-win project that offers authentic learning for the students.

LaVale United Methodist Church and its community benefit from Rita's service. There she has taught Sunday School and mentors younger teachers. Until recently, she also continued to serve as a board member on the Cumberland Parks and Recreation

Rita Wiant Schoenadel is an energetic 88-year-old who loves children and making a difference. She is a caring, generous and dedicated volunteer.

Elizabeth A. Stonesifer

Montgomery County



Elizabeth A. Stonesifer, a retired Montgomery County teacher, is a bundle of energy and ideas that she does not hesitate to use to help others.

In retirement, Elizabeth, better known as E.A., initiated a literacy program for first graders in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Title 1 elementary schools and has served as its director for 16 years. In this program, retired MCPS staff read a hardback book to the 1st grade classes once a month during the school year and then present each student with a copy of that book to take home.

This driven and focussed lady spends countless hours each week, month and year performing the administrative tasks that assure the smooth and continuous operation of every aspect of the program.

Elizabeth has served for several years in a variety of capacities for Questers, an international historical preservation and restoration organization which has local and state chapters in Maryland. She is currently the Vice President of her group which seeks to locate and preserve local antiquities and historical small town sites.

She has also served on the Scholarship Committee of the MCPS Retirees Association since 2003 and is currently co-chairperson also serving on the association's Board of Directors.

Elizabeth A. Stonesifer's commitment to her causes is infectious as she involves persons of all ages to serve with her. Her efforts benefit the folks of today and will carry through to people of the future.

Charles G. and Elynor M. Truffer

Talbot County



When Charles G. and Elynor M. Truffer moved into Bayleigh Chase Acts Retirement Life Community, they immediately became involved in the community's activities. They did not leave their energy and enthusiasm at the door.

The Truffers became members of many committees and began a bean bag toss (Corn Hole) activity that became a major success. They represented Bayleigh Chase at OlympiActs, a friendly competition of several ACTS Communities. Ellie won the Corn Hole competition while Charlie participated in miniature golf. They are great 'cheerleaders' for the community.

Ellie, a retired educator, has used her experience while comforting neighbors who are having difficult times or visiting patients in assisted living and nursing care. She co-chairs the Hospitality Committee which involves welcoming new residents and inviting them to share dinner with other neighbors.

Charlie was also involved with education by serving on Anne Arundel County's Board of Education and as coach of several youth athletic programs. Now he serves as a Finance Committee member and encourages Bayleigh Chase members to get involved.

Charles G. and Elynor M. Truffer do not consider their efforts and energy spent on the behalf of others "volunteering." They consider it their privilege to be able to help others and to be invited into others lives.

Rosalin A. Wilcox

Baltimore County



Rosalin A. Wilcox is a very energetic and spry senior who spends a considerable amount of time helping others.

At the Augsburg Nursing Home, Rosalin is known as the “Bling Lady” as she brings energy, laughter and conversation to the residents on how to make themselves look good. She is respected for taking the time to listen, for making them look beautiful and letting them know she cares

She volunteers at the Augsburg Bazaar, taking charge of the plant booth. To prepare for this adventure, she has to buy a variety of plants and flowers and learn about her purchases so that she can explain how best to tend them to their new owners.

Rosalin is aware of the feelings of others as she volunteers to serve her church and its community. She calls shut-in members every week to inquire about their wellbeing and if they have any immediate needs. She takes it upon herself to check on patients in hospitals and nursing homes. Rosalin approaches this great need with an enthusiasm that brings joy to the homebound and elderly patients.

Rosalin A. Wilcox’s selflessness is expressed by serving her fellow man. Serving with joy and easing a heart is her special gift.

Jean L. Wright

Kent County



Keeping active and involved in the community allows Jean L. Wright to serve her fellow man as she did when she was working.

Jean's leadership ability was easily recognized while working with the Kent County Retired School Personnel (KCRSPA). In her time with the KCRSPA she has served as chair of the Program and the Sunshine Committee and eventually becoming Vice President for four years and President for four years. Jean also reads to elementary school children on a weekly basis and especially on Dr. Seuss Day.

This energetic lady's volunteer effort does not stop with schools. Jean is an active member of Kennedyville United Methodist Church where she holds many positions. She is president of the Women's Society, Sunday School Superintendent and Lay Leader. In her spare time, she volunteers to visit shut-ins and work with special church events.

Jean also visits the University of Maryland Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation Center weekly helping with Bingo or playing the piano at lunch time.

Jean L. Wright is a dedicated leader who works for and relates to people of all ages. She is always willing to help and go the extra mile.



Nancy W. Zinn

Calvert County

Nancy W. Zinn's willingness to volunteer has improved the lives of people in Calvert County for many years. The list of organizations she has served is lengthy.

At the St. Leonard Vision Group, Nancy serves as treasurer and also chair of the Community Spirit Committee and its two annual events - Easter Egg Hunt and Holiday Carol Sing.

As Associate Director and Corresponding Secretary of the Calvert County Fair Board, she chairs the Youth Day Committee and is the treasurer for the Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert Scholarship Contest. Nancy particularly assists seniors visiting the Fair and participates in planning events to meet their special needs. She also works to actively involve community seniors in 4-H All Stars.

After retirement, Nancy joined the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association. She assists at all membership meetings and serves on the Newsletter Committee.

Her lifelong involvement with the Port Republic Christ Church finds her currently serving as Senior Warden, and Coordinator of the Heart F.E.L.T. (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) program. Nancy finds time to be the editor of the church newsletter and co-chair of the Annual Tournament Supper. She also works for the Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse #7, coordinating and greeting the 1200 students who attend its events.

One person wrote "there is not another citizen of Calvert County who is more involved in voluntary service in both educational and humanitarian causes than Nancy W. Zinn. She sees a need, develops a course of action, recruits others to help, and implements a plan that results in the greatest good." Well said!