



2011 Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony

Presented by the
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Thursday, October 6, 2011

7:00pm

Summit on the Park
Canton, Michigan



WE CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS AND PROGRAMS!



2011 Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony

Presented by the
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Welcome

Darrin Duistermars, MRPA Hall of Fame Committee

Invocation

Reverend Hurley Coleman, Jr., MRPA Past President

Dinner

Introductions

Darrin Duistermars, MRPA Hall of Fame Committee

History of MRPA Hall of Fame

Ann Conklin, MRPA Chief Operating Officer

Induction Ceremony

David Brown *presented by Roger Kowalski*

Hurley Coleman, Jr. *presented by Ron Olson*

Michael R. Engan *presented by Marilyn Troshak*

Larry W. Fitch *presented by Eric Reickel*

Peter C. Harlow *presented by Sam Palamara*

Luther T. Holt *presented by Portia Fields Anderson*

R. D. Musser and R. D. Musser, III *presented by Vic Chiasson*

Ralph A. Richard *presented by Dan Stencil*

Donald L. Sparpana *presented by Denny Troshak*

Presentation of Awards, Sue Wells, MRPA President

Announcements

Darrin Duistermars, MRPA Hall of Fame Committee

Tour of MRPA Hall of Fame

Dessert in Lobby



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST
CANTON TOWNSHIP LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

David Brown



David "Bud" Brown was passionate about sports, recreation and kids. Holding the titles of Recreation Director, teacher and coach, Brown oversaw recreation programming for the cities of Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Hazel Park, a portion of Oak Park and Royal Oak Township.

Brown earned his Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) and was hired by Ferndale High School as a teacher and coach in 1927. In 1938, he was assigned additional duties as the community's Recreation Director.

Brown created the concept of "Magic Squares," which provided recreation solutions for landlocked communities that were unable to expand their park acreage. The large multipurpose areas could accommodate 11 different activities on the same surface -- basketball, badminton, tennis, roller-skating, foursquare, figure skating, hockey and more. Several 'Magic Squares' were built in Ferndale and other adjoining communities, and Brown traveled throughout Michigan to promote the concept. He was a pioneer in another manner in Oakland County, responsible for the installation of one of the first lighted football fields used in a district game.

Brown served as Recreation Director in Ferndale for 28 years. At the end of his tenure, he advocated transferring the management of the Recreation Department from the school system to the City. Brown was instrumental in laying the groundwork for an outstanding long-term relationship between the City of Ferndale and the school district; the entities worked together to make facilities available at no cost, thus saving money by not having to create, manage and maintain separate facilities. The City of Ferndale, the school district, and community residents benefitted from Brown's spirit of cooperation and partnership through the years.

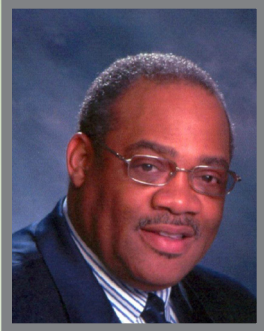
An active MRPA member, Brown served as Association President in 1955; he held Board Offices of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President as well. Brown served on key MRPA committees from the early stages of the Association through the 1960's. As a member of the Athletic Committee, he spearheaded standardization of the rules and assisted in instituting the 'non-eligibility list' of players, ensuring that individuals who were barred from participation by a community were also banned on a statewide level.

Brown continued to organize events during retirement; he was instrumental in creating the 'Ferndale Days' celebration for former Ferndale residents in Clearwater, Florida. The event still takes place today.

David "Bud" Brown was the ultimate professional, a man known for doing the right thing regardless of the circumstances.



Hurley Coleman, Jr.



Reverend Hurley Coleman, Jr. is a dynamic spokesperson for parks and recreation; his humor, kindness and patience have influenced all who have had the opportunity to serve with him.

After graduating from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Community Recreation Administration in 1977, Coleman began his career at Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation as a Community Recreation Planner. He would later serve within Saginaw County Parks and Recreation, the City of Saginaw Recreation

Department and Wayne County Parks, where he was appointed Assistant County Executive to the late Edward McNamara. He was later named the Director of Recreation for the City of Detroit.

An effective leader and advocate, Coleman has made numerous presentations at the NRPA Congress and conferences across the country. He has served on various MRPA committees and was elected President in 1990; Coleman received the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1993. On a national level, Coleman served on the National Recreation and Park Association's Ethnic Minority Society and was elected President of the Society in 1995.

Coleman's passion has inspired elected officials and residents to support the parks and recreation movement. While serving in Wayne County, Coleman testified at congressional hearings on community parks and recreation spending at the invitation of Congressman John Dingell. Coleman was named to the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks (now the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee) in 2006, he currently serves as Committee Chairman. Coleman is one of seven members selected to serve of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, originally appointed by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2007. Coleman has taken an active role in recruitment and retention issues as a member of the Commission, as well as expanding recreation to non-traditional users.

A man of faith, Coleman was appointed pastor of the Greater Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in 2001, upon the death of his father, Dr. H.J. Coleman. He continues to serve as Pastor in his home town of Saginaw.

Reverend Hurley Coleman, Jr. is a passionate advocate for parks and recreation; inspiring elected officials and many others to support parks and recreation in Michigan and beyond.

Michael R. Engan



Mike Engan has been a cornerstone supporter for parks and recreation in Michigan. With career experience in the parks and recreation field, the corporate sector of the industry and within the Association itself, he is an accomplished recreation professional. Engan has represented Michigan on the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council, served as Vendor Representative on the MRPA Board of Directors, served as Hershey's Track and Field State Chairman and has been involved on the ASA National Council.

Engan is a founding member of the MRPA Foundation and currently serves on the non-profit's Board of Directors. Established in 2002, the Foundation works to enhance the health of Michigan citizens through increased access to recreation and outdoor experiences. The Foundation also supports professional development opportunities and recognition of parks and recreation practitioners.

Mike Engan was president of Engan-Tooley-Doyle and Associates (now Miracle Recreation of Michigan and Indiana), a playground manufacturing company founded by Engan and partners Bob Tooley and Tim Doyle. Engan set the bar for excellence and his commitment to the field was evidenced by high standards of service, consistent product quality and exceptional support of MRPA and its members. Engan and his company received the MRPA Grand Award in 2000 in honor of outstanding service to the Association.

Engan dedicated his career to helping others enjoy their communities through parks and recreation. As President of Engan-Tooley-Doyle, he was not only an involved vendor member, but a true philanthropist to the parks profession and MRPA. Always encouraging others to become involved in the Association, Engan's personal contributions and continued support have helped shape the future of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Michael Engan dedicated his career to empowering others to create and enjoy significant experiences through parks and recreation. He cares about people, communities and mentoring; his many contributions remind people of the value of parks and recreation.



Larry W. Fitch



Larry Fitch began his professional career as a teacher and coach with the Colon Community School District and later the Marshall Public Schools. He later served as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Trenton, where he was promoted to Director of Parks and Recreation and then to City Administrator, a position he would hold for six years. Fitch would return to the Park and Recreation field, finishing his professional career as the Director of Wayne County Parks.

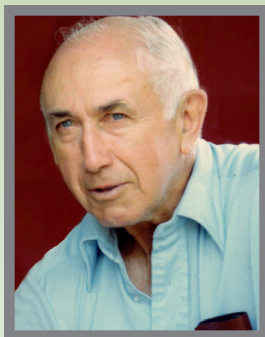
During his time with Wayne County, Fitch worked closely with the Friends of Wayne County Parks group and County Administration to pass a key millage for the park system. Fitch was instrumental in the millage implementation, adding new programs and facilities. His efforts were key to the renewal of the millage by a wide margin.

Fitch was an active member and staunch supporter of MRPA. He served on several committees including Long Range Planning, Constitution, Winter Conference and Athletics; he was elected President in 1988. Fitch also served on the committee that worked with Cedar Point to create the Association's Discount Ticket Program, providing an important revenue source for both MRPA and participating agencies. He tirelessly promoted the benefits of MRPA membership, encouraging others to become involved in the Association; Fitch was awarded the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1978, he also earned various civic awards from the Trenton Jaycees and Rotary Club.

Fitch lobbied on behalf of MRPA and the profession in both Lansing and Washington; his efforts helped establish the Land and Water Conservation Act and the Bottle Bill (also known as the Michigan Beverage Container Act) which was enacted in 1976 and implemented in 1978. Fitch made various presentations and sat on panels at educational conferences; he also wrote and edited the MRPA publication *The Horn* for two years.

Larry Fitch worked tirelessly to bring forth positive changes in the field of Parks and Recreation, both locally and statewide. His high level of care and commitment to each and every project made a significant difference.

Peter C. Harlow



Peter (Pete) Harlow is remembered as a consummate professional, a man of great integrity and work ethic. Following graduation from Michigan State University, he began his career as a teacher and coach before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Harlow returned to Michigan and worked for the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department for 33 years.

Harlow was an integral part of the City of Detroit, serving as a leader and model for departments throughout Michigan and the United States. His initiatives led to the improvement of facilities and services for Detroit residents, enabling citizens the opportunity to seek the benefits of positive leisure activities. Harlow created the City's Park Guard Division and was responsible for organizing hundreds of sporting teams, including baseball, fast pitch and slow pitch softball, football, ice hockey, U.S. Olympic Boxing Trials and more. Other special events in which Harlow played a key role include the United States Youth Games, Detroit Fishing Derby, Soap Box Derby and the Metro Youth Fitness Program.

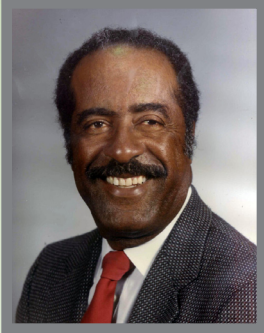
His vision led to a variety of partnerships, including a project between MRPA and the Detroit Tigers to raise funds for sandlot baseball. He went on to organize the Sandlotters of Michigan Committee and in 1964, the first inter-league game between American and National League Teams was played. Over the years, the event generated \$1.3 million, which was distributed to 105 communities in Michigan, Ohio and Ontario.

Harlow received the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1975, he is also the recipient of the West Detroit Optimist Club's Fine Fellow Award and Appreciation Award, the Michigan Sports Sages A.W. Thompson Humanitarian Award and Ralph Young Presidential Award, and the Friend of the Boy Award from the Boys Club of Metro Detroit.

Peter Harlow was a man of integrity and principle. He believed that anything could be accomplished by following your light, not compromising what is right, and learning by patient practice.



Luther T. Holt, Jr.



Luther T. Holt, Jr. was a dedicated professional in the parks and recreation field for nearly 40 years. He served the communities of Lexington, KY, Highland Park and Detroit with a keen sense of dedication and a commitment to resident quality of life.

An earnest park advocate, Holt was a proponent for the training of both seasonal and salaried staff and remained committed to the development of fundamental activity programs for residents. His focus on youth programs developed athletic skills and bolstered the self-esteem of young residents during an era of less than equal opportunity.

When faced with budget cuts, Holt spoke out to motivate citizens and educate residents about the importance of recreation and leisure services. He actively spoke out regarding the consequences cities would face due to a lack of recreation opportunities. His efforts in Highland Park secured public and private funding to build a community center, enhance programs and create outdoor recreation facilities.

An active member of MRPA, Holt served on the MRPA Board of Directors and a variety of committees; he was the recipient of the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1982. Holt was also an active member of NRPA; he made several presentations at national conferences. Holt was known for his great attitude; he always had a kind word and constantly lifted people's spirits. He was a well-respected leader and served as a role model for many young MRPA professionals.

In retirement, Holt continued to serve the profession as a member of the Recreation Commission in Peachtree City, Georgia, where he assisted in raising more than \$150,000 for an accessible playground (one of many achievements as a commissioner). The Luther T. Holt Memorial All Children's Playground was named in his honor. Holt received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Georgia Recreation and Park Association in 2000 and November 17, 2000 was proclaimed "Luther Holt Day" in Peachtree City, Georgia.

Luther Holt was a sincere advocate for high quality recreation programs and facilities; he was an influential presence in his community as a recreation professional and later as a volunteer.

R. Dan Musser & R. Dan Musser III



The Musser family owns and operates one of Michigan's most unique and renowned destinations. Known as "America's Summer Place," Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel is steeped in historical significance, grandeur and tradition.

The partnership between Grand Hotel and MRPA began in 1967 with the establishment of the senior travel program now known as the "Grand Experience." During its first year, the program brought 25 seniors to the Island. With continued support from the Musser

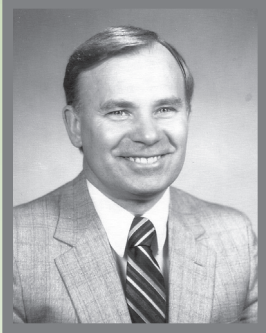
family and Grand Hotel, the Grand Experience now provides a unique Mackinac Island experience to nearly 1,200 participants annually.

When MRPA faced financial difficulties in the early 90s, Grand Hotel provided generous assistance to ensure that the Association and its services would continue. The relationship has only grown since then; Grand Hotel offers additional MRPA travel programs including Spring Fling and the Late Summer Holiday and hosts the annual Board and Leadership Team Retreat. Grand Hotel is the exclusive sponsor of the MRPA Awards Banquet; the event is an opportunity for Association members and advocates to celebrate outstanding park and recreation professionals each year. The Musser family continues to be a genuine partner to the Association, through both good times and bad.

You cannot tell the story of MRPA without including the contributions and impact of R. Dan Musser and R. Dan Musser III. The Musser Family and Grand Hotel have been tremendous supporters of MRPA, outstanding businessmen and men of great integrity.



Ralph A. Richard



Ralph Richard began his career in 1965 as a Summer Playground Director in Redford Township; following graduation from EMU he served as the Director for Waterford Township and later the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department. He concluded his illustrious career in 2006, retiring from the field as Executive Officer for Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Throughout his career, Richard was instrumental in securing land acquisitions, building new facilities, developing cultural arts offerings and ensuring historical preservation.

Richard worked tirelessly to enhance the communities he served through parks and recreation services. He developed a nationally acclaimed arts program in Southfield and secured nearly 2,300 acres for park development in Oakland County, land which now comprises Lyon Oaks, Rose Oaks, Addison Oaks and Highland Oaks County Parks. A pioneer in the recreation field, Richard led the way in establishing adaptive recreation programs and built the first refrigerated toboggan run in Michigan. He continued to broadly influence the direction of the recreation and park profession with his involvement as a member of the Curriculum Development committees for MSU and EMU.

Richard was an active member and supporter of MRPA. He often provided facilities for MRPA functions that supported student scholarships and Association fundraising. He served as MRPA Treasurer, on the Great Lakes Regional Council and was elected President of MRPA in 1987. Richard received the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1988 and led his staff to NRPA National Gold Medal finalist recognition in both Southfield and Oakland County. Richard served as President of the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials; he earned their Lifetime Award in 2006.

Ralph Richard's calm approach to difficult situations, his willingness to listen and to give timely and appropriate advice, his spirit of cooperation, and commitment to his profession are his distinction.

Donald L. Sparpana



Don "Sparky" Sparpana was an active member of MRPA; he served as Board President in 1981, was chairman of countless committees and represented the Association on the Great Lakes Regional Council for 20 years. A recipient of the MRPA Fellowship Award in 1978, Sparpana also served as WMRPA president and on the Board of MAHA and MASA.

Sparpana worked with determination on a variety of NRPA issues as well. A longstanding member of the NRPA Board of Trustees, Sparpana participated on a number of committees including Long Range Planning, Election Revision, Research, Certification and Accreditation; he personally raised \$150,000 as part of the Fund-Raising Committee for NRPA.

In addition to the MRPA Hall of Fame, Don Sparpana has been inducted into the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and the MASA Softball Hall of Fame. To say that he was an engaged and involved professional would be an understatement.

Sparpana displayed the same drive and initiative during his career as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Wyoming. He was the 'go to' guy for any questions regarding sports – particularly softball and baseball – and willingly shared his knowledge. Sparpana had a passion for recreation and strove to provide the best possible opportunities and facilities to his residents. He was instrumental in the completion of one of Michigan's first accessible play structures in the 1980s and worked to ensure that citizens had access to tennis and basketball courts, baseball, softball, and soccer fields.

An involved professional and a driven director, Sparpana was also a champion of young recreation professionals. He was known as a welcoming mentor who treated both industry veterans and the greenest new professionals as respected equals. His supportive demeanor and dedication to the profession have made Sparpana an example for us all.

Donald Sparpana was a driven parks and recreation advocate and mentor to many young recreation professionals; he was welcoming, supportive, and offered encouragement to those in the profession.



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Thank you 2011 Hall of Fame donors:

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Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association (in honor of Mike Engan)

**Thank you to the MRPA Foundation for continued support
of the MRPA Hall of Fame**

The MRLA Hall of Fame

Class of 2005

Jim Bristor
Harry Burns
Arch Flannery
Herb Jennings
Hubert Johnson
David Laidlaw
Lawrence Moser
Virginia Munger
Karla V. Parker
R. Eric Reickel
Jesse Rutherford
Joe Seavey
Benjamin Yack

Class of 2006

Jim Beers
Jim Bruce
John Considine
Jack Golden
William Kreger
Harold Myron
Jim Perry
James Reid
Henry Schubert
Lew Wint

Class of 2007

Tom Chappelle
David Ewalt
Anthony Filippis, Sr.
Kerry Kammer
Chuck Oxley
William Sherman
Kenneth Smithee
Tomas Washington

Class of 2009

Chase Hammond
Roger Kowalski
Chuck Lewis
Betty Lloyd
Olga Madar
Curt Shaneour
Susan Wedley
Margaret Whitehead

Class of 2011

David "Bud" Brown
Hurley Coleman, Jr.
Michael Engan
Larry Fitch
Peter Harlow
Luther T. Holt
R. Dan Musser & R. Dan Musser III
Ralph Richard
Donald Sparpana





Congratulations to the
2011 MRPA Hall of
Fame inductees.



**Congratulations to the
MRPA Hall of Fame
Class of 2011!**

**SMRPA meets the second
Tuesday of every month at the
Foster Community Center in
Lansing and welcomes new
members, vendors, and visitors**

**For more information contact
SMRPA President, Angela Dove at
doveam@haslett.k12.mi.us**

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**West Michigan Recreation
and Park Association
celebrates the
MRPA Hall of Fame
Class of 2011!**

The MRPA Hall of Fame Committee

Harry Burns
Darrin Duistermars
Kae Eidson
Geri Jackson
Jim Perry
R. Eric Reickel
Linda Walter
Susan Wedley

**Congratulations
Ralph Richard
from your
Northwest colleagues.**



THE MRPA FOUNDATION
CONGRATULATES
THE 2011 CLASS OF THE
MRPA HALL OF FAME!

LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE FOUNDATION AT
WWW.MRPAFOUNDATION.ORG.





About MRPA

The Michigan Recreation and Park Association represents nearly 2,000 professionals dedicated to creating community through people, parks, and programs.



About the MRPA Foundation

Established in 2002, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Foundation provides financial support to people and programs that work to enrich the health and well-being of all Michigan citizens through increased access to recreation and outdoor experiences. In addition, the Foundation supports ongoing professional development opportunities and recognition of parks and recreation practitioners.



About the MRPA Hall of Fame

The MRPA Hall of Fame provides recognition for professionals and special individuals who have made outstanding, unique, lasting, and extraordinary contributions through recreation and park services in Michigan. The Hall of Fame is on permanent display at the Summit on the Park in Canton, Michigan.



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