

THE SOUTHERN JH/MS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME CANDIDATES
2019

RICHARD CARPENTER

Richard attended Southern Middle School from 1990 to 1993, and graduated with the Reading High School Class of 1997; but well before graduation, he started his work life at the Reading Farmers Market on Penn Street, where he learned how to “butcher” in the meat shop. Richard worked in this trade for several years as a teenager, and at the age of 18, he was hired as the meat manager for BJ’s Wholesale Club. Richard continued to work his way up the ladder at BJ’s, and eventually became their youngest General Manager.

In 2007, Richard founded Axxess Mechanical at the age of 28 with only five employees. Today, he is the President and CEO of Axxess Industries, which is currently celebrating its 12th anniversary in business. Richard now oversees more than sixty employees who perform various trades throughout the United States, including pipefitting, welding, rigging, electrical work, and general labor.

Richard is also deeply committed to community service. He is a member of the Board of Directors for New Journey Community Outreach (NJCO), a group which provides a daily soup kitchen, a weekly food pantry, and a weekly clothes closet for low income families located on South 6th Street. This past June, Richard co-sponsored a golf fundraiser that raised over \$6000 for NJCO; last December, Richard responded without hesitation to NJCO’s desperate request for winter clothing by purchasing over 100 much needed items, including coats, hats, scarfs, gloves, and blankets; and each year, Richard has continued to provide financial support and volunteers from Axxess Electrical to help with Reading’s “Christmas on the Mountain”, a holiday tradition that also benefits the Reading High School Junior ROTC Program.

Richard currently lives in the Leesport area with his wife, Valerie, and daughter, Caitlin, age 5.

ARLENE E. (WENRICH) CLEAVER – Posthumous

Arlene was born in Reading, PA, to a proud veteran of the Spanish-American War; she attended Southern Junior High from 1933 to 1936, and graduated from Reading Senior High School in 1939. Arlene was married for 59 years to Edward J. Cleaver, a WWII veteran; and was the mother of daughter, Claire. She devoted her career to advocating for the men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces and the Pennsylvania National Guard. In January, 1956, she joined the **Department of Veterans Affairs of Berks County**, and five years later, became **Director** of the department. As one of the first women to head a Veteran’s Department, Arlene broke barriers for other women. She served 34 years in her position, while also serving as **Treasurer** of the **Eastern Region of Directors** for 27 years; and the **State Treasurer of Directors** for 20 years.

Prior to her position in the Berks County Court House, Arlene was employed during WWII as a knitter’s helper at Berkshire Knitting Mills. Later, she held other positions as a secretary-treasurer, as an independent sales rep for housewares, and as the owner-operator of a food-service stand at the Reading Farmers’ Market. It was, however, her lifelong dedication to the military that kept her active, even after retirement. Arlene continued to attend meetings and conventions, and to deliver speeches on topics affecting U.S. veterans and their families. In recognition of her achievements and leadership, Arlene received Special Recognition in **Berks County’s Military Hall of Fame** in November, 2014; and her passing in 2015 received condolences in the form of a **Pennsylvania Senate Proclamation**.

Arlene was an avid traveler, cook, seamstress, and card player; and a tireless volunteer for numerous charitable associations and organizations, frequently holding office. She was a life member of the Max Schaeffer VFW Post 6558; American Legion, Greg Post 212; and Women of the Moose, Chapter 381 (Star Recorder 1955-1960, Deputy Grand Regent 1959-1960). Arlene was also a life member of the Southern Junior High School Alumni Association and 60-year member of Holy Guardian Angels Church, Hyde Park.

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ANTHONY CONSENTINO - Posthumous

EDUCATION: Anthony was a graduate of Southern Junior High School in 1952 and Reading Senior High School in 1955; he completed courses in drafting, trigonometry, and surveying; self-taught geometry; and also completed various ongoing classes pertaining to water systems.

EMPLOYMENT: Anthony began his career as a laborer for the Reading Water Bureau in 1956; through course studies and work experience, he became a draftsman for the Water Bureau's Engineering Department, where his duties included surveying; he was promoted to the position of Chief Professional Land Surveyor, and then promoted again to Distribution Engineer, where he was responsible for all of the system's treated water. Anthony also served as Assistant Engineer for Reading's Chief Water Engineer, responsible for the quality and flow of water to 123,000 customers; and he ultimately became Executive Director of Reading Water Authority when it was created in 1994.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Anthony managed a \$30,000,000 upgrade to Reading's water system; he initiated water main cleaning projects; he supervised installation of new water meters that were electronically read; and he initiated a computerized control and record system that allowed greater access to system distribution and old records. Anthony also contracted with an outside firm to oversee the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent water bills; he formed a Water Authority round table for studying various issues, such as the inevitability of a dam break; and he helped to solve water system problems and disputes at court hearings and state, county and municipal meetings.

Anthony enjoyed working with the public, often visiting private homes and businesses; he gained extensive knowledge of Reading's water system through on-the-job experience and related course studies; and with hard work and determination, he rose through the ranks from laborer in the Water Bureau to the status of Executive Director for the Reading Water Authority.

CHRISTOPHER D. NEIN

EDUCATION: Chris attended Southern Junior High School from 1979 to 1981, and was a graduate of Exeter Senior High School, Class of 1984.

MILITARY SERVICE: Chris served on active duty in the United States Navy from 1984 to 1990, and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He served for 5 years on the USS Richard W. Byrd DDG-23, which is a Charles F. Adams-class guided missile destroyer; and he also served for 1 year on the USS Monongahela AO-178, which is a Cimarron-class fleet replenishment oiler, commissioned in the United States Navy.

MILITARY HONORS: Chris achieved the rank of E-6 of the Enlisted Surface Warfare designation; and was also awarded the Navy's Achievement Medal, the Navy's Commendation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

EMPLOYMENT: Chris has served as a Loan Originator for Mortgage America, Wyomissing, PA, since 1999, and is now the company's Assistant Vice President. He is also the Pennsylvania Housing Financing Agency's top performing loan originator for the past five years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Chris is a past Board Member for Berks Advocates Against Violence, and a past Big Brother for Big Brothers/Big Sisters; he currently is a Board Member for the Exeter School District Education Foundation, and has served as Vice President for Crime Alert Berks County since 2002. In addition, Chris generously provided postage for mailing the Southern Breakfast Reunion fliers in 2017 and 2018.

COMMUNITY AWARDS: Chris received the President's Award from Crime Alert Berks County in 2003 and 2010, and the President's Award from the Berks County Police Chief's Association in 2006.

FAMILY: Married to wife, Jennifer; with four children: twins Emily and Eric; Andrew & Parker.

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ROBERT “BOB O” ORZECOWSKI

EDUCATION: Attended Southern Junior High School from 1961 to 1964, and graduated from Mt. Penn High School, Class of 1967; B.S. Degree from Pennsylvania State University and MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University; Paralegal Certificate from Pennsylvania State University; and certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources.

MILITARY SERVICE: United States Marine Corps, 1967-1970, Honorable Discharge. Awarded National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 5 stars (campaigns), Vietnam Campaign Medal w/device, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Served as machine gunner and infantry squad leader in Vietnam for three tours.

EMPLOYMENT: Worked in high technology defense contracting for 10 years; for the past 30 years, worked in all aspects of medical practice management for various private groups, primarily as Chief Operating Officer for private Hematology and Medical Oncology practices. Currently, Chief Operating Officer for Lancaster Cancer Center, Ltd.

WORK RELATED ACTIVITIES: Author of numerous articles and has presented both nationally and internationally on business, human resources, and medical management topics. Founder and past President of both state and national hematology-oncology management organizations. Member of the local Senior Certified Professional Chapter #179 for over thirty years, holding all officer positions multiple times, including President twice; chaired several committees and instructs in the Chapter's Professional Certification efforts. Bob has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at local colleges for over 20 years, teaching college credit courses in business, management, and human resources. He is on several Advisory Boards for pharmaceutical firms, and is a member of the Executive Council for the National Community Oncology Dispensing Assoc.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: *Past activities* were youth league baseball coach (1991-95), Program Chair for the Berks County Vietnam Memorial Commission (1986-89), and volunteer in the USMC Toys for Tots Program (1986-97). *Current activities* include active Life Member of the R.M. Butterweck Detachment of the Marine Corps League; producer and host of a BCTV show for 13+ years; Editorial Board member for the Oncology Practice Management Journal; Health Occupations Advisory Committee for the Reading-Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center; and Penn State Berks Business Advisory Council.

FAMILY: Bob has been married to his wife, Chris, for over forty-six years; they have three children and five grandchildren; and the family resides in Spring Township.

BROTHER WARREN PERROTTO, MSC

Brother Warren is a member of The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), an international congregation of religious priests and brothers who reach out to those who are poor - materially, emotionally, or spiritually. His First Vows were taken on March 19, 1967, followed by his Perpetual Vows on March 13, 1973.

EDUCATION: Attended Southern Junior High School from 1959 to 1962, and graduated from Reading Senior High School in 1965; Secretarial Diploma from Mansfield Business College in 1971; B.A. Degree in Religious Studies (with Highest Honors) from DePaul University in 1978; Master's Degree in Religious Education (M.R.E.) from Catholic University of America in 1985; ongoing Professional Development and Education Certification programs (earning over 30 certificates in Theology, Education, and Child Safety).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- High School Teacher and Administrator from 1978 to 2006 (Theology, Keyboarding, and Spanish).
- Adjunct Professor of Theology at DeSales University from 2011 to Present.
- ESL instructor in Allentown, PA; Bogota, Columbia; and Fiji from 2013 to Present.
- Justice and Peace Coordinator for MSC (USA Province) from 1980 to Present.
- Social Media Coordinator for MSC (USA Province) from 2015 to Present.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Tutoring ESL at Wabunsee Community College in Aurora, IL, from 2006 to 2011.
- Tutoring ESL at the Allentown Literacy Center in Allentown, PA, from 2013 to 2014.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: Religious Brothers Conference and Knights of Columbus (4th Degree).

PUBLICATIONS: *JPIC Corner* (Justice & Peace/Integrity of Creation); articles posted on MSC website.

AWARDS/HONORS: *Who's Who Among American Teachers* in 1994.