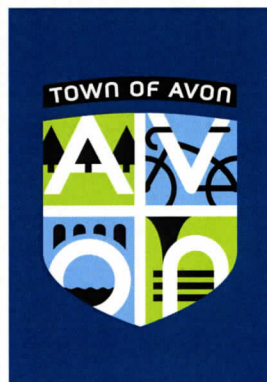
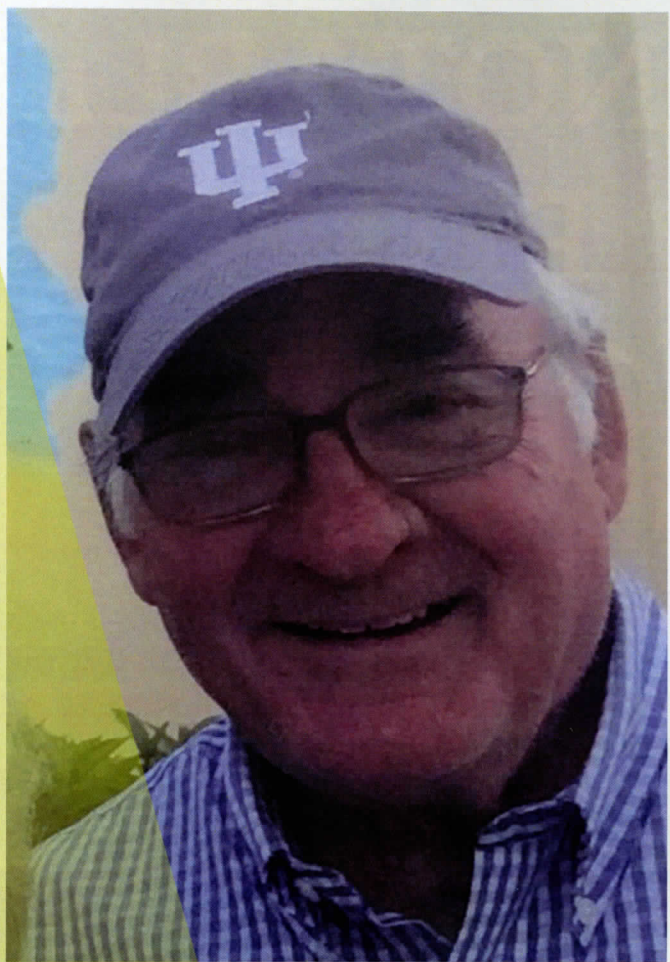


# 20 NOTABLE PEOPLE OF AVON *Award*

NOVEMBER 30, 2015





## **LLOYD ACTON**

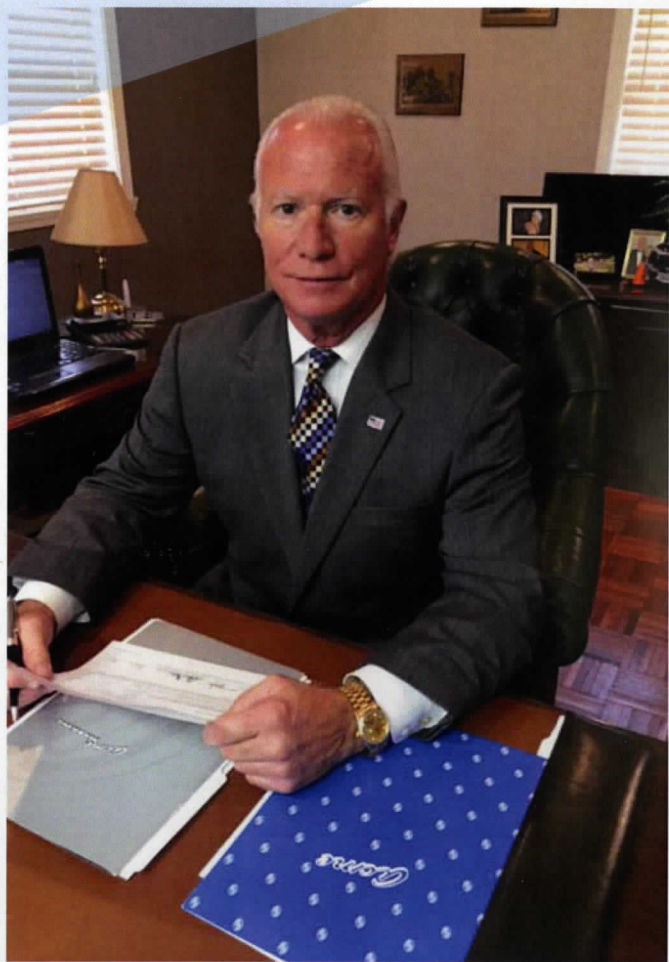
Lloyd graduated from Avon High School in 1959 with 8 varsity letters, and is a member of the Avon High School Wall of Fame. He served on the Avon School Board for 28 years from 1980 to 2008 and currently serves on the Avon Community School Facilities Corporation. Lloyd also served on the Indiana School Board Executive Board from 2000 to 2009 where he was President from 2006 to 2007.

His awards include the Avon Rotary Club Citizen of the Year, Avon Alumnus of the Year, Indiana Outstanding Boardmanship, Indiana Governor's Distinguished Hoosier Award, and the Indiana Department of Education Bell Ringer Award.

Lloyd served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He is a member of Plainfield Christian Church, has been on fifteen mission trips, and is a member of the Avon Optimist Club.

The V. Lloyd Acton Leadership in Education Scholarship was established in 2000 in his honor to provide scholarships for students majoring in education.





## **BILL BAILEY**

He led the effort to incorporate the Town of Avon and served as its first Council President. He is a graduate of Avon High School and Indiana University School of Business.

Bill is the third generation owner of the family business in Avon called Acme Masking that produces work tools for both national and international aircraft engine repair and maintenance facilities.

He is a recipient of the Avon Rotary Club Citizen of the Year award.



## **DR. JOHN CALDWELL**

John started his ministry work at Kingsway Christian Church in 1974 and continued there for 37 years retiring as Senior Minister. He led the church's growth from meeting in a bank building to its current facility where attendance has reached over 2,000.

He led the Church's many efforts to assist those in need in Avon and throughout the world. Since his retirement, he has continued preaching and teaching to people all around the world.





## **FLORENCE CARTLIDGE**

Florence was a recipient of many community awards including Citizen of the Year by Avon Rotary Club, Avon Founding Citizen of the Year and AT&T Silver Spirit Award for athletic excellence in tennis.

Avon United Methodist Church honored her with "Florence Cartlidge Day" to recognize her fifty years of service to the church and community.

Her community service included the Avon Optimist and Rotary Clubs, Board Member of the Washington Township Public Library, and Hendricks Regional Health Foundation. She was a founding Board member for Sycamore Services, a leader in making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

She won the Indiana State Tennis Championship seven times and was ranked 4th nationally in Women's Doubles. She also taught tennis lessons to hundreds of young men and women from the Avon area. In 2008, she sold her property to Hendricks Regional Health YMCA and her family donated the Cartlidge Barn (pre-Civil War) to the 4-H Fairgrounds to be used for educational purposes and special events.





## **PAM DEWEESE**

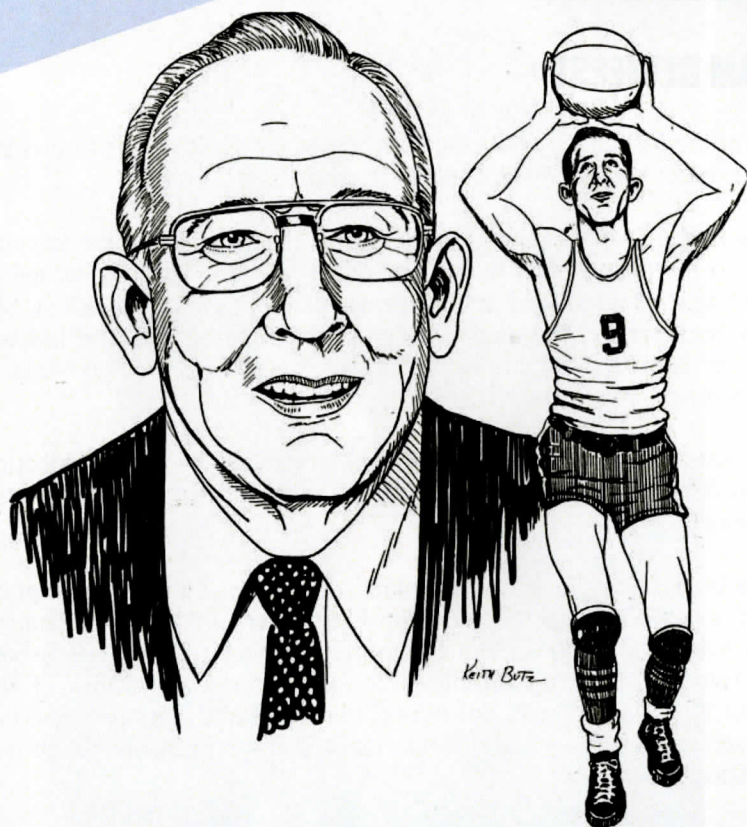
Pam has served on the Avon School Board for 21 years and is the founder of the Avon Education Foundation.

She is the longest serving female and the second longest serving Board member in the history of Avon Schools. She has served as President of the Board and currently serves as Vice President. She has been recognized as a "Master Board Member" by the Indiana School Boards Association and received the "People Who Make A Difference" award from IUPUI.

She was elected as the first Board President for the Avon Education Foundation and helped raise \$300,000 in private donations for Avon Schools.

Pam is a co-founder of the Partners in Education Volunteer Program and is past President of the Avon Elementary PTO. She co-chaired the Academic Achievement Committee of the Strategic Plan, served on two redistricting committees and has been a member of the Band, Choir and Sports Boosters Clubs and Band Together. She has served on the finance and stewardship committees at Avon United Methodist Church.





## CHET FRANCIS

Chet Francis graduated from Avon High School in 1936. He was a member of the 1940 Indiana University NCAA National Championship basketball team as well as a 3-year letterman in basketball and baseball at Indiana University.

He was a World War II Marine Corps Major who saw action in the Pacific. After returning from the War, he played professionally for the Indianapolis Kautskys Basketball team (now the Indiana Pacers) and was drafted by the Boston Red Sox.

He coached Vincennes Lincoln High School to 7 sectional championships and 2 regionals during a 1947-57 coaching career, with his teams making frequent appearances in the top 10.

He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986 and received two Sagamore of the Wabash awards.



## **JOHN & LYDIA GIBBS**

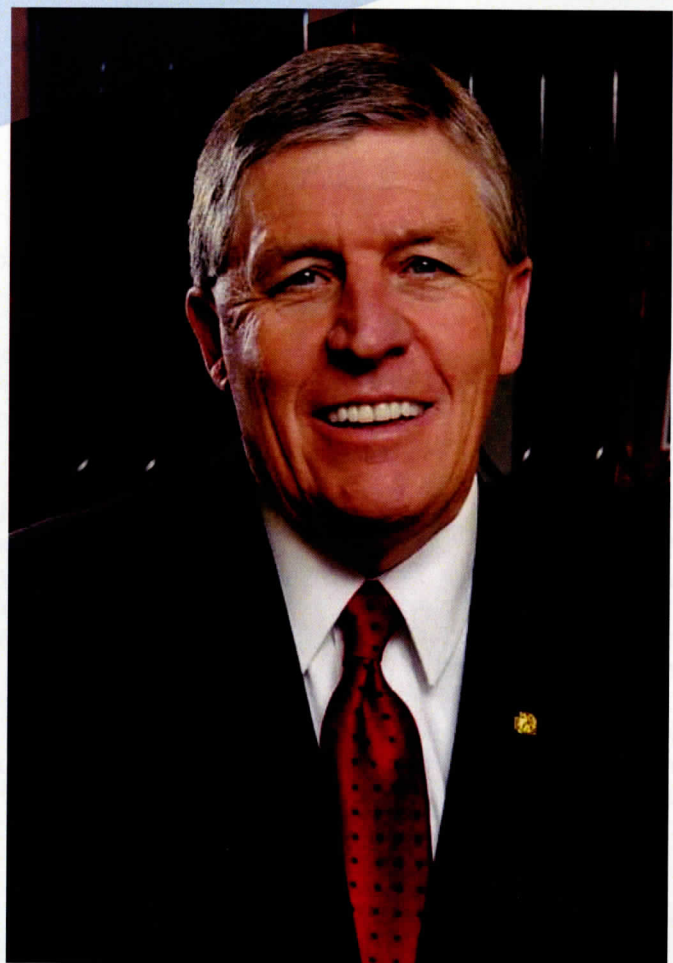
John and Lydia graduated from Avon and participated in school activities while they attended Avon High School.

They raised and milked dairy cattle and raised grain row crops in Washington Township on the same farm John's parents, Howard and Gail Gibbs, farmed. John also owned and operated a milk route. Both were 10-year 4-Hers as were all their children.

Lydia was on the Avon School Board for 8 years; on the Hendricks County Council for 12 years; and was the Hendricks County Assessor for 8 years. She also was on the Town of Avon Committee in the 1990s which established the Town of Avon. John was a School Bus Driver for 21 years and was a board member of Hendricks Power (Hendricks County REMC) for 31 years.

The Hendricks County Parks Department will be developing their farm located in the southwest part of Washington Township into a Park known as Gibbs Park.





## **DR. RICHARD HELTON**

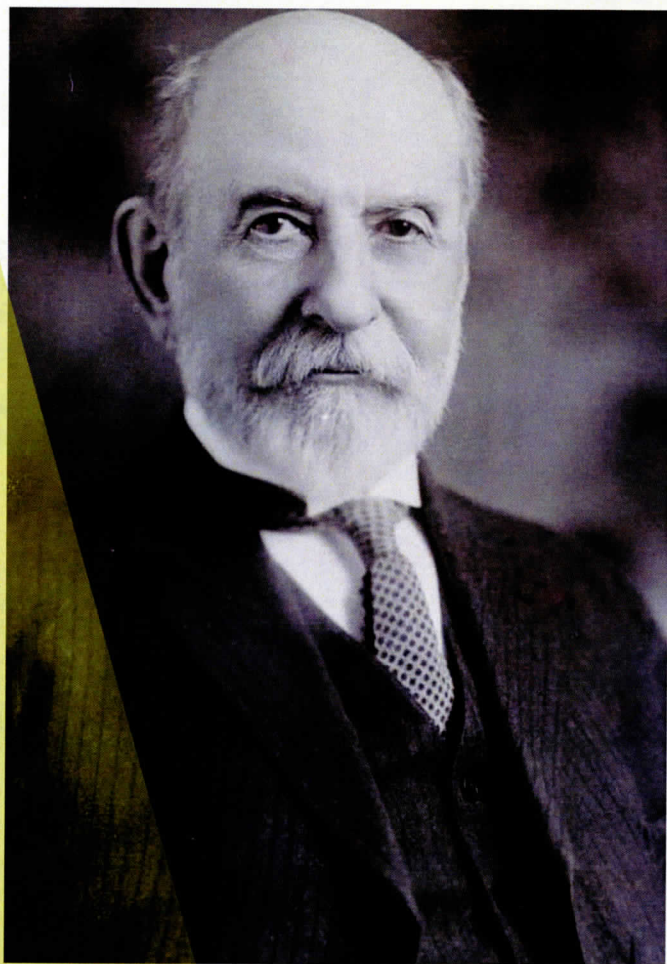
Dr. Helton was superintendent of Avon Schools from 1990 to 2004. He managed a student population that grew from 2,800 students in 1990 to 6,400 students in 2004 and supervised \$140 million of building construction including Avon High School.

During his tenure at Avon Schools, the graduation rate was 90% and 82% of graduates pursued a college education. Also, Avon Schools were in the top 12% of all schools for ISTEP.

Dr. Helton is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Hanover College, Indiana University's Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to Education Award, Alpha Beta Gamma's College President of the Year, and Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

He is also a recipient of the Indiana School Boards Association's Lorin A. Burt Educator of the Year Award and the Indiana Department of Education's Bell Ringer Award. He was twice named a Sagamore of the Wabash.





## **WILLIAM TEMPLE HORNADAY**

William was born in 1854 on his family's farm in Avon which is located  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of present day Washington Township Community Park. He is credited with saving the American Bison and was an advocate of wildlife conservation.

He was chief taxidermist at the Smithsonian's National Museum in Washington, D.C. where, in 1888, he created a display of bison to educate the public about their possible extinction. This led to the establishment of federally protected ranges for the bison. His idea of a zoological park in Washington D.C. led to the creation of the National Zoo. While at the Smithsonian, he became friends with Theodore Roosevelt.

He also developed the Bronx Zoo which would be regarded for generations as the finest zoo in the world.

Through his writing and lobbying, he became the conscience behind the movement in the early Twentieth Century to legislatively enact hunting bag limits and prohibitions on hunting endangered species, or importing materials derived from them.

He wrote over 20 books and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles. Hornaday wrote, *Two Years in the Jungle* (1885), a work which became one of the more widely read nature travelogues of the Nineteenth Century.

In 1915, he created the Boy Scouts of America's Wildlife Protection Medal which was renamed the William T. Hornaday Award after his death and is still awarded annually.

In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt honored Hornaday by naming a mountain peak in Yellowstone National Park for him. Today, Mount Hornaday stands sentinel over the Pebble Creek and Lamar River valleys at the northeast corner of the Park overlooking the abode of one of those crucial earlier remnant populations of bison.





## **SHARON HOWELL**

Sharon has been the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Avon since 1997. She is a recipient of the Financial Management Award from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns.

She is a Board member of the Avon Parks Foundation and Avon/Washington Township Library Guild. She has served on the Board for the Avon Community Heritage Festival, Relay for Life and Leadership Hendricks County. She volunteered as a reading mentor at Avon Schools and was a member of the Avon Sports Booster Club. She is a charter member of the Avon Kiwanis Club.



## **MARIA LARRISON**

Maria is a founding board member of Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center and currently works there as their child and family advocate. She is also guardian ad litem for Hendricks Superior Court 4 where she gives a voice to children.

She has worked for the Hendricks County Prosecutor's Office where she assisted crime victims through the criminal justice process and created an advocacy program that is recognized as one of the best in Indiana. She has served as an officer of the Indiana Victim Assistance Network where she coordinated efforts among advocates around the state.

She was founding board member of Sheltering Wings Center for Women and worked at the Center as residential services manager, chief operating officer and chief executive officer. She helped lead a \$2.5 expansion of the facility.

Her honors include the Indiana Commission for Women Torchbearer Award, Outstanding Victim Advocate from the U.S. Attorney's Office - Southern District, Outstanding Citizen Award from the Plainfield Police Department and Volunteer of the Year Award from Kids' Voice of Indiana.

She volunteers for Indy Honor Flight, Kids' Voice of Indiana, Shepherd Community and LoveStrong Ministries. She is a member of the Avon Rotary Club.



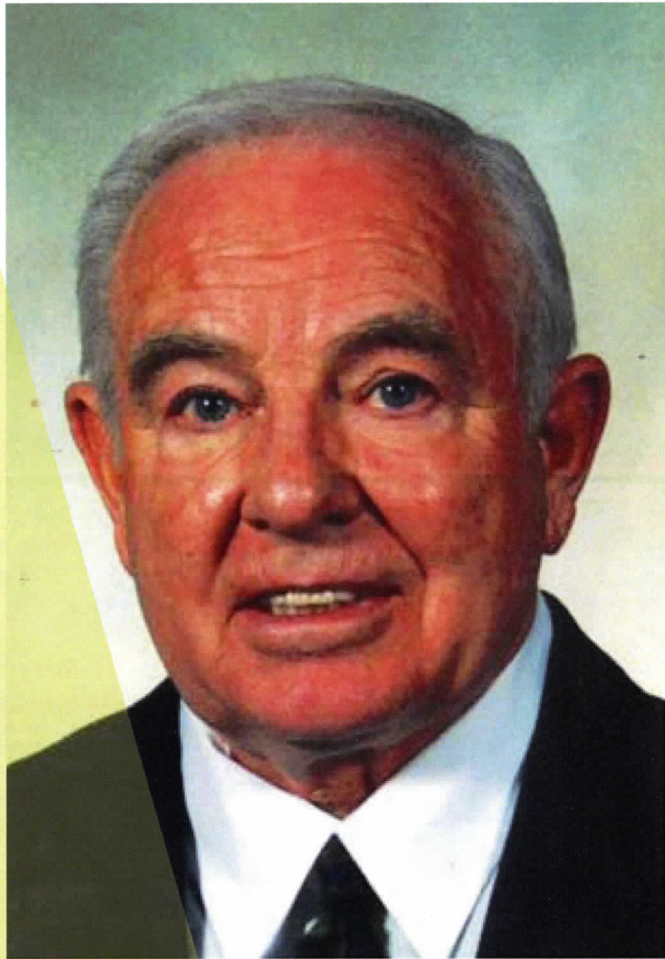


## **REX MCCLAIN**

Rex is descended from Michael McClain, one of the original settlers of Washington Township, and graduated from Avon High School in 1956.

He assisted his father in the duties of Township Trustee and he served on the Avon-Washington Township Public Library for 32 years. He served as Library Board President for two years. Rex has coordinated the Avon Alumni Association and coached youth baseball and softball. He assisted the Avon Band Boosters and served as its' President.

Rex is a 50 year member of the Avon Optimist Club and founded the Care Bears Ministry at Bartlett Chapel United Methodist Church. He is a recipient of the Key to the Town award from the Town of Avon.



## **JIM MILLER**

Jim played basketball for Avon High School and graduated in 1954. He was an Indiana high school basketball coach for 37 years with different schools and retired with a record of 607-251. He won 16 Conference Championships, 18 sectionals, 5 regionals, 2 semi states and went to Final Four in 1966 and 1994.

He is the recipient of 9 Coach of the Year Awards and he was the Indiana Nominee for National Coach of the Year in 1988. Jim is also a member of the Franklin College Hall of Fame and was inducted in to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004.





## **BEULA MUSTON**

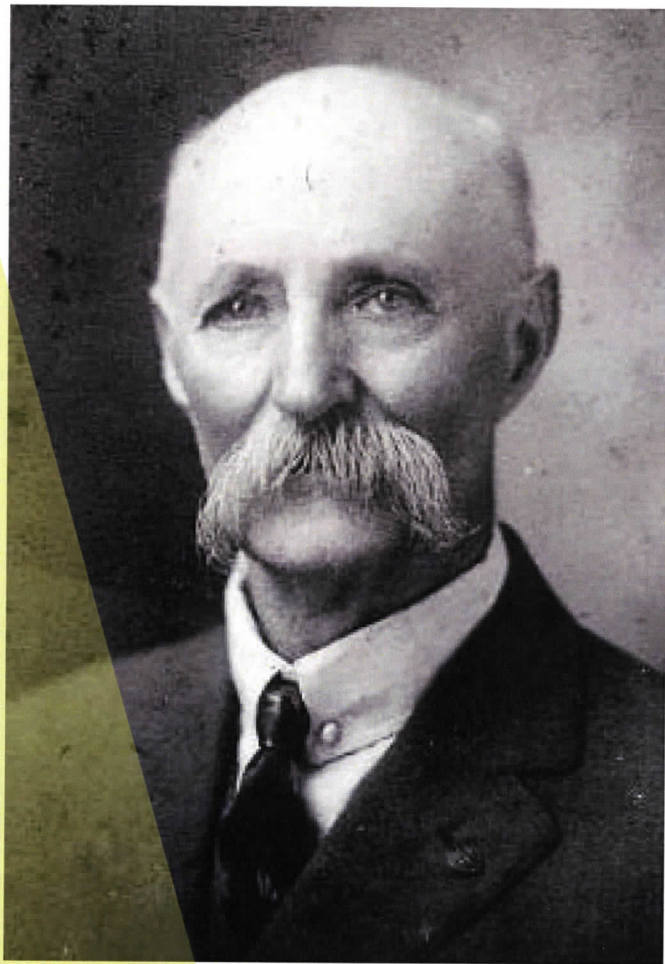
Beula was born in Avon in a home that was located along US 36 where LKQ currently resides and graduated from Avon High School in 1930. She is a descendant of three pioneer families of Washington Township: Barker, Reed, and Larsh.

She obtained a nursing degree and helped establish the first hospital in Hendricks County and was inducted into the honorary nursing sorority of Sigma Theta Tau. Beula also received a journalism award for her article titled "Nighttime in Pediatrics" that was published in the American Journal of Nursing and reprinted by Ross Laboratories.

Beula taught Red Cross Home Nursing Classes in Avon, organized the Council on Aging in Hendricks County, and developed a blood pressure testing program for senior citizens.

She established the first Children's Church and the first Mother's Club for mothers of pre-school aged children at Avon United Methodist Church. She was a Boy Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, and 4-H Leader.

Beula was one of the leaders of Avon community residents that worked to ensure that Avon Community Schools would not be consolidated into another school system and she was instrumental in gathering support in the late 1950s and early 1960s for a new high school.



## **ADRIAN PARSONS**

Adrian Parsons helped make soybeans a sustainable and profitable crop for Indiana. He moved to Washington Township in 1852, served his country in the Civil War and was wounded in action. He served his community as Hendricks County Recorder, Washington Township Trustee, and as a teacher.

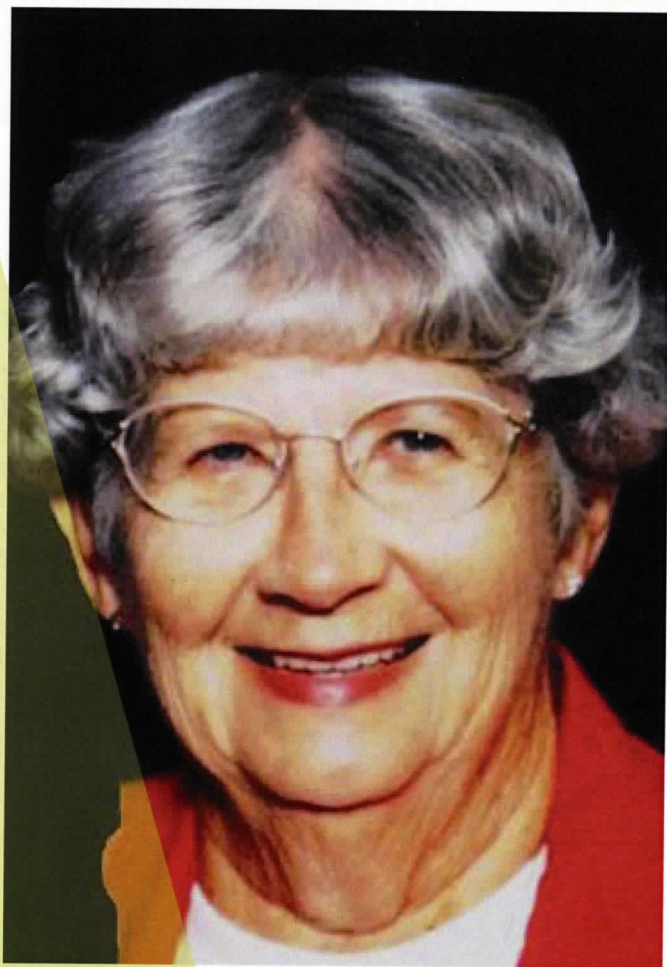
In 1884, Mr. Parsons bought an 82 acre farm in Washington Township and around 1891, he bought soybeans from Japan and became the first farmer in Indiana to engage in the purposeful and sustained experimentation and production of this grain. He is recognized as Indiana's Soybean Pioneer by the American Soybean Association and the farm press.





## **PATRICK RODGERS**

Patrick is a graduate of Avon High School and is a two-time State High School Golf Champion. At Stanford University, he tied Tiger Woods' record with eleven wins and broke Tiger Woods' career stroke-average standard by nearly a shot (70.3 to 71.1). He was ranked as the #1 amateur golfer in the world. He was an American Junior Golf Association All-American and three-time first-team collegiate All-American. He competed on the United States teams for the Walker and Palmer Cups. He won the Hogan, Nicklaus, and Haskins awards, a feat accomplished by only three other players in the past 25 years. He turned professional in 2014 and has earned his PGA Tour card for the 2015-16 season.



## **JOYCE HURON TRENT**

Joyce is a descendant of one of the pioneer families of Avon, the Hurons. Her family gave generously to the community. They donated land for the 4-room Avon School that was built along US 36 at approximately the location of Fire Station Number 1.

The family also gave their time and money to the Avon United Methodist Church (then Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church) and other organizations in Avon .

Joyce has been instrumental in her support of the Local History Room at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library. Not only through financial help but also through the donation of family treasures including land deeds, photographs, diaries, and columns written by her grandfather, Seth Thomas Huron, for the Republican newspaper. The collection has become the cornerstone of the Huron Heritage Room.





## **DEAN & CAROLYN TURNER**

Dean and Carolyn were lifetime farmers in Avon. Carolyn graduated from Avon High School and was a lifelong resident of Avon. She helped start the first Avon Kindergarten and the Hendricks County Meals on Wheels program. She was President of the Hendricks County Extension Homemakers, Avon Home Economics Club and the Hendricks County Hospital Guild. She served as a precinct committee person and received the Avon Citizen of the Year and Avon Alumnus of the Year awards.

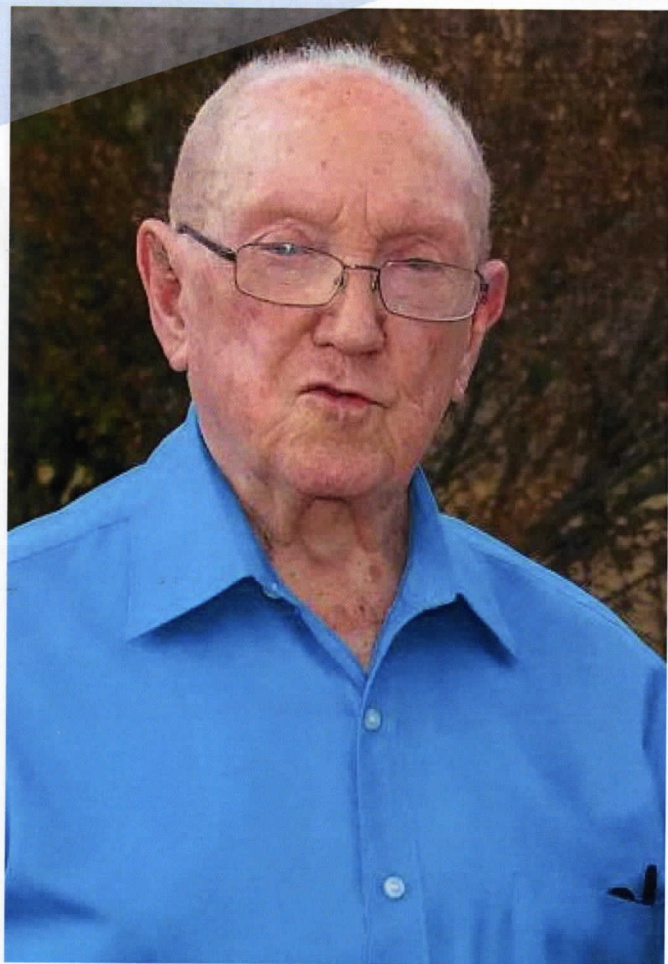
Dean was a 10 year member of the Avon School Board and was President of the Avon School Building Corporation. He was a member of the Avon Optimist Club and was instrumental in getting the first Avon volunteer fire department established. He was a member of the Hendricks County Fair Board for 36 years and was a past Director of the Indiana State Fair Board and State Fair Commission. He was elected to the Indiana Association of County and District Fairs Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the Hendricks County Planning Commission and the 4-H Building Corporation. He was President of the Hendricks County Board of Health and the Hendricks County Merit Board.



## **ORVILLE WOODY**

Mr. Orville Woody was a long time resident of the Avon community and is a World War II Veteran. He taught at Avon Schools, was instrumental in the incorporation of the Town of Avon in 1995, and helped create the Greater Avon Chamber of Commerce. He also was a member of the Hendricks Symphonic Choir. He is a recipient of the Key to the Town award from the Town of Avon.





## **CHET WRIGHT**

Chet Wright served in the Indiana Army National Guard starting in 1940 and retired with the rank of Brigadier General in 1978. He received three Sagamore of the Wabash awards for his service to his State and Country. Chet resides in Avon and the Avon World War II Memorial Soldier status is made in his likeness.

Chet was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. In 1940, he enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery, 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard.

In 1944, he served in combat in the Pacific Theater on both Leyte and Luzon, as well as several smaller islands. Serving as the Adjutant of the first battalion size unit to return to the United States from World War II, he set up procedures that were adopted by higher headquarters for future shipments.

Chet was promoted to Brigadier General in 1972 and he was permanently appointed to that grade by the President and received federal recognition in 1973.

Brigadier General Wright's other awards include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Hoosier Award, and Legion of Hoosier Award.