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***NEW JERSEY HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 50***

***NOMINEES FOR CLASS OF 2012***

***Public vote to run through January 1, 2012***

“We expanded our list of nominees this year because the people of New Jersey have nominated so many remarkable individuals over the past 12 months,” said John O’Brien, Chair of the New Jersey Hall of Fame Voting Committee and Director of the New Jersey Press Foundation. “As people study the candidates and decide how to vote, they will be learning about great role models who never gave up in the pursuit of their dreams.”

The annual Hall of Fame nomination process begins in the summer when a panel of experts, comprised of university professors, scientists, editors, authors and other authorities, reviews and evaluates a list of more than 230 potential Hall of Famers. That list, compiled from nominations made by the public and the experts, is presented to the Voting Academy, which is the voting steering committee for the Hall of Fame. The Voting Academy is made up of approximately 100 of the state’s most prominent organizations as well as former Governors. The Voting Academy then votes to determine the nominees in each category.

"Each year our list of nominees is indeed impressive," said John Keegan, Chairman of the Charles Edison Fund and Chairman Emeritus of the Hall of Fame Foundation Board. "The people of our state should be proud of these individuals who have attained remarkable success.

Schools around the state are using our Hall of Fame instructional units, created by teachers under the leadership of the NJEA and the Comcast Foundation to instruct students about New Jersey history, to develop leadership skills and to introduce the voting process using the NJHOF vote as the cornerstone of their lessons."

Now through January, everyone can vote on-line at the Hall of Fame website which is [www.NJHallofFame.org](http://www.NJHallofFame.org). With this call to vote, the Hall of Fame introduces a new look to the website, designed and maintained by SetNine, a Newark-based web development firm. In addition to a robust website, the NJHOF has an exhibit on the boardwalk in Asbury Park and plans to create a mobile museum which will take exhibits to schools and communities around the state.

"Education is the key to our mission," said Marie Blistan, NJEA Treasurer and member of the Board of Commissioners. "With the construction of a mobile museum, we will be able to take the Hall of Fame to the people of New Jersey. Families can easily pay a visit to the trailer when it comes to their communities not only to teach their children about New Jersey history, but also to inspire them to excel."

Although created through bipartisan unanimous legislation, the New Jersey Hall of Fame is supported exclusively through private donations. Major sponsors include J.H. Cohn, NJEA, Comcast and the Comcast Foundation, Charles Edison Fund, Johnson & Johnson and PNC Bank. Other major supporters include the New Jersey Broadcasters Association, BGIA, the Hess Corporation, the Horizon Foundation and the Edwards family.

The public can vote for their selections to The New Jersey Hall of Fame on-line at [NJHallofFame.org](http://NJHallofFame.org). Inductees to the Class of 2012 will be announced in January.

# NEW JERSEY HALL OF FAME

## CLASS OF 2012 NOMINEES

### HISTORICAL

The Historical Category is open for deceased New Jerseyans whose contributions transcend any one particular category.

1. **Aaron Burr** Newark (1756-1836) After attending Princeton University, he served in the army during the Revolutionary War, was a successful attorney and later became vice president during Thomas Jefferson's presidential term.
2. **Alice Guy Blache** Fort Lee, Mahwah (1873-1968) Born in Paris, she was a French filmmaker who became the first female director in the motion picture industry and helped make Fort Lee the first film capital of America.
3. **Annie Oakley** Nutley (1860-1926) As the major attraction at Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, she captivated audiences by shooting pistols, rifles and shotguns. After overcoming poverty and becoming a legendary markswoman, her life was immortalized through Irving Berlin's hit musical "Annie Get Your Gun."
4. **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** Tenafly (1850-1902) Activist, abolitionist and a leading figure in the early woman's right movement, she helped organize the first women's rights convention, became the first president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and co-authored "History of Woman Suffrage."
5. **Grover Cleveland** Caldwell (1837 – 1908) The only president to serve two non-consecutive terms, he is still praised by historians for his honesty, independence and good character.
6. **Irene Hill Smith** Woodbury (1926-2011) Civil rights leader, activist and humanitarian who lead the NAACP at the County, State and National levels, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Legislation and served Governors and Presidents in many capacities.
7. **Molly Pitcher** Trenton, Monmouth (1754-1832) One of the few heroines of the Revolutionary War, she fought alongside her husband in the war, carried pitchers of clean water to soldiers during the Battle of Monmouth and later met with General George Washington, who issued her a warrant as a non commissioned officer.
8. **Richard Stockton** Princeton (1730-1781) The first person from New Jersey to sign the Declaration of Independence, he was a judge on the Supreme Court and selected to represent New Jersey in the Continental Congress. The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is named in his honor.
9. **Selman Waksman** New Brunswick (1888-1973) Known as the "Father of Antibiotics," this Russian immigrant was a professor of biochemistry and microbiology at Rutgers University, where his work led him to the discovery of over twenty antibiotics. A former president of the American Society of Microbiology, he won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1952 for his discovery of the first antibiotic used to cure tuberculosis.
10. **Thomas Paine** Bordentown (1737-1809) Born in England, this great thinker immigrated to the colonies in 1774 where he was an author, pamphleteer, revolutionary and leading intellectual in pre-Revolutionary War efforts. Bordentown was his home for more than 25 years.

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**The Arts & Entertainment Category includes musicians, singers, songwriters, actors & actresses, artists, dancers and those who work in the related field.**

1. **Alan Alda** Leonia (1936 - ) Popular actor, director and screenwriter, he is best known for his role as Hawkeye in the TV series "M\*A\*S\*H," for which he was nominated for 21 Emmy Awards and won five. He is very active in support of St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
2. **Celia Cruz** Fort Lee (1925-2003) A salsa singer, originally from Havana, Cuba, she helped popularize salsa music in the United States, having 23 certified gold albums and becoming one of the most successful salsa performers ever.
3. **Christopher Reeve** Princeton (1952 – 2004) Most remembered for his role as Superman in the movie franchise, he was a seasoned actor who became a quadriplegic after a horse accident and later lobbied on behalf of people with spinal cord injuries and founded the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.
4. **Connie Francis** Newark (1938 - ) One of the first worldwide pop stars, she was a chart-topping singer during the 1950s and 1960s with hits like "Who's Sorry Now?" and "Stupid Cupid."
5. **Dionne Warwick** East Orange (1940 - ) A Grammy-award winning singer, she ranks second, behind Aretha Franklin, as the most popular female vocalist ever, with 56 chart singles on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart.
6. **Dizzy Gillespie** Englewood (1917-1993) In addition to being a renowned jazz trumpet player, he was also a bandleader, singer, composer and teacher. He pioneered Afro-Cuban jazz and has won several Grammy Awards.
7. **The E Street Band** Asbury Park (1974 - ) Best known as Bruce Springsteen's band, the group has also recorded with a wide range of artists from Bob Dylan to the Grateful Dead.
8. **Joe Piscopo** Passaic (1951 - ) Comedian, actor, musician, singer, he is a multitalented performer who is always in demand as a performer. A true Jersey guy, Piscopo is generous with his time and has been recognized for his philanthropy, volunteerism and generosity.
9. **Michael Douglas** New Brunswick (1944 - ) Following in the steps of his father Kirk, he became a prominent actor who won three Golden Globes and two Academy Awards and can be seen in the upcoming sequel to *Wall Street*, *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*.
10. **Sarah Vaughan** Newark (1924-1990) After winning an Amateur Night performance at the Apollo Theater, she opened for Ella Fitzgerald and later became one of the greatest of all jazz singers, winning a Grammy Award and the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz Masters Award.

## **ENTERPRISE**

**The Enterprise Category is open to scientists, business leaders, inventors, leaders in medicine, entrepreneurs and philanthropists.**

1. **Alfred Vail** Morristown (1807-1859) An inventor and skilled mechanic who helped Samuel Morse develop and commercialize the telegraph. He was also the recipient, in Baltimore, of Morse's famous first message sent through the telegraph, "What hath God wrought!"
2. **Alice Waters** Chatham (1944 - ) Influential chef who is a famous champion of locally-grown fresh ingredients and has recently attracted national attention for promoting food education in schools and for being a leading advocate of a stimulus package that works to give every child in the public school system free breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.
3. **David Sarnoff** Princeton, Camden, (1891-1971) Considered "the father of electronic communications," he formed the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and the Radio

Corporation of America (RCA), which went on to produce radio and television broadcasting, color TV and flat-panel display.

4. **Dr. James Still** Moorestown (1812-1882) Known as "the black doctor of the pinelands," he drew people from miles around New Jersey to be, although had no formal training as a physician; used herbs and botanical remedies of his own devising to treat his large number of patients.
5. **Elizabeth Coleman White** New Lisbon Pemberton (1871-1954) She introduced the nation's first cultivated blueberry and was the first to use cellophane in the packaging of blueberries. She helped organize the New Jersey Blueberry Cooperative Association, was the first woman member of the American Cranberry Association and the first woman recipient of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture citation.
6. **John Dorrance** Cinnaminson (1873-1930) A chemist by profession, he went to work for the Joseph Campbell Preserve Company, now renamed the Campbell Soup Company, where he invented condensed soup. He went on to become the company's president for 16 years, turning the business into a household name.
7. **John Roebling** Trenton, Roebling (1806-1869) A German-born civil engineer, he originated the wire rope suspension bridge design, which was the same design that he used to build the Brooklyn Bridge.
8. **Mary G. Roebling** Trenton (1905 – 1994) Broke the glass ceiling for women in business in general and in the banking and financial services industry specifically. She was the first female governor of the American Stock Exchange.
9. **Paul Volcker** Teaneck (1927 - ) Born in Cape May, Volker graduated from Teaneck High School and Princeton University to become a leading economist and Chairman of the Federal Reserve under Presidents Carter and Reagan.
  
10. **Samuel I. Newhouse** Bayonne (1895-1979) A legendary publisher and media giant, he founded Advance Publications which now owns *The Star-Ledger* and magazines such as *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*.

## SPORTS

**The Sports Category is open not only to athletes, but also to coaches and others in the field of sports.**

1. **Bill Parcells** Englewood (1941 - ) The former head coach of the New York Giants, the New York Jets and New England Patriots, he has won three Super bowls and currently serves as the Miami Dolphins' Executive Vice President of Football Operations.
2. **Bob Hurley** Jersey City (1947 - ) Legendary basketball coach at St. Anthony High School, Coach Hurley has amassed 26 state championships and more than 1,000 wins in his 39 years at the school. Inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010, Hurley has devoted his life to coaching high school, turning down many college coaching offers.
3. **Carol Blazejowski** Elizabeth, Nutley (1956 - ) This three-time All-American basketball player for Montclair State University played in the now-defunct Women's Pro Basketball League before becoming the president and general manager of the WNBA's New York Liberty team in 2008.
4. **Ed Sabol** Atlantic City (1916 - ) Blair Academy graduate who was selected for the 1936 Olympic Team and later founded NFL Films; elected to Football Hall of Fame in 2011.
5. **Mary Decker Slaney** Bunnvale (1958 - ) A distance runner, she holds seven American records in her sport, including the title of being the first woman ever to break the 4:20 mark for the mile.
6. **Milt Campbell** Plainfield (1933 - ) The first African American to win a gold medal in the decathlon of the Summer Olympic Games, he also played football for the Cleveland Browns and the Montreal Alouettes; inducted into the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame.
7. **Roosevelt Grier** Roselle (1932 - ) While playing for Penn State University, he earned a place in the NCAA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary list of 100 influential student athletes and was a part of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fearsome Four" era.

8. **Wellington T. Mara** East Rutherford (1916-2005) Legendary owner of the New York Giants who was responsible for bringing the team to New Jersey in 1976; although he lived in Rye, New York, he was beloved by New Jersey fans and proved you could be a successful sports owner as well as a gentleman.
9. **Monte Irvin** Orange (1919 - ) Baseball Hall of Famer who followed Jackie Robinson in breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. A Negro League standout, Irvin was a star with the Newark Eagles before joining the New York Giants where he played with Willie Mays and was a World Series Champion. After baseball, he spent 17 years working for the baseball commissioner.
10. **Dick Vitale** Passaic (1939 - ) A Seton Hall graduate whose love of basketball led him to a successful career as a college and professional coach with stops at Rutgers, University of Detroit, and the Detroit Pistons. He has become a broadcasting icon and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005.

## GENERAL

**The General Category is a large category encompassing educators, military leaders, writers, poets, scholars, artists and others not specifically falling into the other categories.**

1. **Alexander Calder** Hoboken (1898 – 1976) a 1919 graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, this renowned artist and sculptor is most famous for inventing the mobile.
2. **Alfred Stieglitz** Hoboken (1864-1946) A photography and modern art promoter, introduced many European artists to the U.S. and ran several New York art galleries. His fifty-year career helped make photography an accepted art form; was married to painter Georgia O'Keefe.
3. **Charles Addams** Westfield (1912-1988) Particularly known for his black humor, he was a cartoonist whose characters became known as The Addams Family and inspired two television shows, three movies and a Broadway musical.
4. **Doris Duke** Hillsborough (1912 – 1993) Heiress, horticulturalist and art collector who became a great philanthropist, supporting wildlife refuge, environmental conservation, historic preservation, medical research and child welfare.
5. **Dorothy Parker** Long Branch (1893-1967) From growing up in an unhappy childhood, she rose to fame as an acclaimed writer and founding member of the Algonquin Round Table. She was also nominated for two Academy Awards for screenwriting.
6. **Dorothy Porter Wesley** Montclair (1905-1990) The first African American woman to receive her bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University, she organized the Mooreland-Spingarn Research Center and wrote for a variety of publications about the field of Black Studies.
7. **Joyce Carol Oates** Princeton (1938 - ) A professor in the creative writing program at Princeton University, where she has taught since 1978, she is also an accomplished writer, having won the National Book Award and being nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.
8. **Milton Friedman** Rahway (1912 – 2006) A Rutgers graduate, this Nobel Prize winning economist became one of the most influential and honored economists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
9. **Thomas Nast** Morristown (1840 – 1902) A German-born caricaturist who is considered the father of political cartoons. He is credited with creating the iconic drawings of Santa Claus, Uncle Sam, the Republican Party elephant, the Democratic Party donkey and Columbia, the image of America as a woman.
10. **Governor Tom Kean** Bedminster (1935 - ) New Jersey's 48<sup>th</sup> Governor, he has had a far reaching career including long-time President of Drew University and Chairman of the 9/11 Commission; remains one of the most popular political figures in NJ history.