

Arthur L. Johnson Alumni Hall of Fame

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Hall of Fame was created to honor distinguished alumni and individuals associated with the high school, who have contributed in a positive manner to their profession, their community, or to the students of Arthur L. Johnson High School. There are five categories for which an individual can be nominated: Accomplished Professional, Community Contributor, Volunteer, Crusader Pride, and Distinguished Faculty. This year we are pleased to add the category of Fallen Military Heroes to honor our alumni who have fallen in battle protecting our freedom and our rights. Below is a biography of each inductee. Included in your program is the biography of each of our Fallen Military Heroes inductees.

Hall of Fame Class of 2021

Robert Taylor (Distinguished Faculty)

Robert E Taylor played football at TCNJ. After finishing his playing career, Taylor would pursue a career in coaching, where he has coached such sports as baseball, wrestling, softball, and of course football. From 1969 to 1973, he served as the head football coach at Colonia High School. He then became the head football coach at David Brearley Regional High School, serving in that role from 1974-1992. Most recently, he led the Johnson High School team from the 1993 to 2002 seasons. He sports a career coaching record of 199-84-7, while also capturing eight Mountain Valley Conference Championships. In addition to the conference titles, Taylor has also collected six New Jersey State Championships.

In 2002, Bob moved his successful coaching career from the field to the hallways of ALJ as Principal. His strength as a coach, inspired all students but especially those who struggled academically. His straight talk, no nonsense got those students to the finish line. Any student or faculty member who had the pleasure of working next to Bob, knows he is full of energy, enthusiasm and positivity. He handled difficult times such as: 9/11 with poise and grace. His leadership and smile will forever be remembered as an inspiration to our school.

Currently, Bob is the President of the Fitness and Wellness Professional services and Director of Program Development RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center. He continues to serve as an instructor for NJSIAA and other reflective educational topics. He resides in South Jersey.

Don Smolyn '65 (Crusader Pride)

Don Smolyn graduated from Johnson High School in 1965. Don served as a "volunteer football coach" at Johnson High School in 1966 and 1967. He attended Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado where he was a member of the football team. He graduated from Adams State in 1970. He was the Head Football Coach at Green Brook High School from 1971-1975.

In 1976 he was named the Head Football Coach at Lenape Valley. He remained the head coach at Lenape Valley until his retirement in March, 2021. Don Smolyn served 26 years as an Administrator at the Lenape Valley High School. Coach Smolyn has lead the Lenape Valley football program to 12 Conference championships, and 7 State titles. At the time of his retirement he was the winningest active football coach in New Jersey with 348 victories. He also served as a football coach for the US Army All American Bowl in San Antonio Texas.

Among his initiatives as Director of Athletics was the formation of a Girls Soccer program, Varsity Ice Hockey program, and a Boys and Girls Lacrosse programs. Don Smolyn raised private funds to install lights on the Football Field and create a Weight Room and Fitness Center. In addition, he has raised funds for The American Cancer Society, The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Pediatric Cancer, The Susan B Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, The Warrior and Family Support Center at the Brooke Army Medical Hospital, and the Aaron Feis Scholarship at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Don Smolyn received the "John Bateman Rutgers University Winners for Life Award" in 2004, was named the National High School Coach of the Year in 2003, the National Football Foundation Distinguished Coach Award, he is a member of the Sussex County Hall of Fame, the NJSIAA Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the Lenape Valley Sports Hall of Fame. In 2021 he was awarded the National Power of Influence Award by the American Football Coaches Association. He has also been named Football Coach of the Year 12 times.

Don and his wife Joan have two children. A daughter, Alexis married to Peter Buckley, they have 2 children, Lauren and Kaitlin. A son, Christopher, married to Meredith Guerin, they have two children, Henry and Frederick.

Amy Heller '94 (Community Contributor)

Amy, who graduated from ALJ in 1994, and Villanova in 1998, founded WGIRLS while she was working on Wall Street in 2007. WGIRLS is a membership-based organization of professional women who dedicate their time and talents to fundraising, volunteering, and advocating on behalf of disadvantaged women and children in their local communities.

Villanova's strong culture of service to others influenced Amy as an undergraduate. Being immersed in that culture for four years helped shape her perspective on incorporating giving back into her life and career. Amy has recently joined the board of Villanova's Center for Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship. She is excited to share her experiences with students and mentor those who are interested in social entrepreneurship.

With nine chapters throughout the United States and United Kingdom, WGIRLS hosts several dozen fundraising events throughout the year. Proceeds support customized WGIRLS programming within the local community and/or are donated to local, pre-selected, 501 organizations that share WGIRLS' vision to support underprivileged women and children.

This year's Project G.L.A.M in New York City outfitted 1000 young women with everything they needed to attend their senior prom feeling confident, proud and beautiful. To meet the demand for this program, WGIRLS accepts and stores thousands of new and gently worn gowns throughout the year. The organization also partners with companies such as: CoverGirl Cosmetics, Pantene hair Care, and Carolee jewelry. WGIRLS started Project G.L.A.M five years ago and since then have outfitted over 9000 women for prom.

As a founder and president, Amy oversees all aspects of WGIRLS, sets the vision, and works closely with the board to ensure the organization's continued success. She feels very fortunate that she has been able to successfully transition from a career on Wall Street to a career in social entrepreneurship.

Says Amy, "I am so proud of the WGIRLS. Through the dedication and hard work of our members we have created a place where women come together in friendship and service to make a real difference in the lives of others. The WGIRLS grows leaders, encourages team work, and promotes volunteerism in an environment that CELEBRATES friendship and fun."

Joseph Rick Fuentes (Accomplished Professional)

Rick Fuentes has had almost four decades of experience in law enforcement as an enlisted member with the New Jersey State Police. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the City University of New York with a published dissertation on the domestic business operations of Colombian cocaine cartels.

Over the span of his investigative career with the NJSP, he has received numerous awards, to include: the national Meritorious Intelligence Award, issued while a member of the Newark Joint Terrorism Task Force; 1993 Trooper of the Year award for several drug trafficking investigations; and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

Mr. Fuentes was superintendent of the New Jersey State Police from March 1, 2003, to November 1, 2017. As superintendent, Mr. Fuentes commanded an enlisted and civilian work force of more than 4,000 men and women tasked with a broad range of patrol, investigative, homeland security, administrative, forensic laboratory and emergency management responsibilities. He managed an annual budget of more than \$300 million.

In his capacity as superintendent, Mr. Fuentes also served as the State Director of the Office of Emergency Management. He managed more than 25 presidentially – declared states of emergency in New Jersey, most notable being Superstorm Sandy in 2012. He also created and managed New Jersey's state and local response to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

While superintendent, Mr. Fuentes served in executive positions with the International Association of chiefs of Police and was a charter member of two main law enforcement advisory bodies to the United States Attorney General and Director of national Intelligence.

Following his retirement, Mr. Fuentes is a principal policy advisor and visiting fellow at the Rutgers University Center on Policing. He consults for American and foreign police departments on issues of public safety. He is the current chair of the IACP Homeland Security Committee.

Dr. Peter Boettke (Accomplished Professional)

Peter J. Boettke is a University Professor of Economics and Philosophy at George Mason University, as well as the Director of the F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and BB&T Professor for the Study of Capitalism at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Dr. Boettke has developed a robust political economy research program that expands an understanding of how individuals acting through the extended market order can promote freedom and prosperity for society, and how the institutional arrangements shape, reinforce, or inhibit the individual choices that lead to sustained economic development

Dr. Boettke has authored, co-authored, and edited several articles and books on related themes on Economics, Politics and Social Philosophy. His most recent book, *F. A. Hayek: Economics, Political Economy and Social Philosophy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Before joining the faculty at George Mason University in 1998, Boettke taught at New York University. In addition, Boettke was a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution for War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University during the 1992-1993 academic years and the F. A. Hayek Fellow in 2004 and 2006 at the London School of Economics as well as a visiting professor or scholar at the

Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, the Max Planck Institute for Research into Economic Systems in Jena, Germany, the Stockholm School of Economics, Central European University in Prague, and the Charles University in Prague. In March 2011, Boettke was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic.

Boettke has served as the President of the Southern Economic Association, the Mont Pelerin Society, the Association of Private Enterprise Education, and the Society for the Development of Austrian Economics. In 2013, he became a Founding Honorary President and Honorary President for the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research.

At George Mason University, Boettke directs the weekly Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) Workshop, Boettke is an affiliated faculty member in Mason's Russian Studies Program, has taught at the Mason Antonin Scalia Law School, and has served on dissertation committees in the School of Public Policy. He has also taught in the Honors College Programs at Oakland University, New York University, and George Mason University.

As a teacher, Boettke is dedicated to cultivating enthusiasm for the economic way of thinking and the importance of economic ideas in future generations of scholars and citizens. He is the co-author, along with David Prychitko, of the classic principles of economics texts of Paul Heyne's *The Economic Way of Thinking* (13th Edition, 2013, Pearson; formerly with Prentice Hall). His efforts in the classroom have earned him a number of distinctions including the Golden Dozen Award for Excellence in Teaching from the College of Arts and Sciences at New York University and the Mason Alumni Association's 2009 Faculty Member of the Year award.

In 2005, Boettke received the Charles Koch Distinguished Alumnus award from the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University and the Jack Kennedy Award for Alumni Achievement from Grove City College. Boettke was the 2010 recipient of the Association of Private Enterprise Education's Adam Smith Award as well as Mason's College of Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award. In 2012 and 2013 respectively, Boettke received a doctorate honoris causa in Social Sciences from Universidad Francisco Marroquin and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University.

Outside of the classroom, Boettke has pursued a parallel career in athletics. A former high school and college basketball and tennis player, Boettke first worked as a tennis teaching professional before pursuing his graduate degree in economics. After graduate school, he began coaching youth basketball and eventually coached at the high school and elite AAU level. Several of his former players went on to compete in college. In 2009, he was inducted as a coach into the local basketball hall of fame in Northern Virginia.