

**** PRESS RELEASE ****
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SCHUYLER COUNTY HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT THREE
October 18, 2016

WATKINS GLEN, NY – After a hiatus of three years, the Schuyler County Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the selection of three new members to be preserved in the Hall on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

After reviewing a number of outstanding nominations from the community, the committee has selected the following for their tremendous contributions to Schuyler County:

Dutton S. Peterson

- NYS Assemblyman from 1937-1942 and NYS Senator from 1952-1964. Recognized as the only ordained minister to ever have served simultaneously in the Senate.
- Decorated U.S Marine hero, receiving a purple heart and a battlefield commission from Corporal to Lieutenant.
- Graduated from the Binghamton Bible Training School (Class President), Kings School of Oratory (Class President), Ohio Wesleyan University, and the Boston University School of Theology (Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Sigma Rho honors).
- Served as a Methodist minister for 35 years, with four congregations in conjunction with serving as NYS Senator. Served as president of the NYS Council of Churches.
- Active in resettling refugees in this country following World War II. 144 displaced persons were housed at the Peterson farm outside Odessa.
- In 1950, he was sent to visit Germany, Italy, and Austria as a representative of the National Council of Churches and the International Refugee Organization of the United Nations.
- Remembered as a strong and sturdy friend, always willing to lend a hand to anyone; honest, upright, and courageous as a pastor and as a legislator; energetic and willing; a man of prayer and practice in the Christian way, devoted to his Master and Lord.



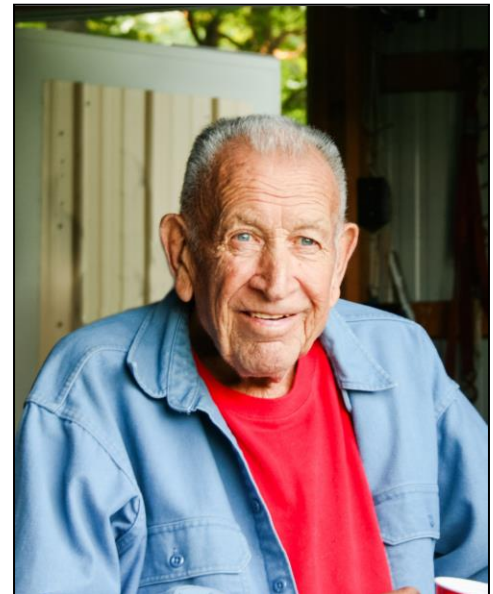
Anthony J. "Tony" Specchio, Sr.

- In 2014, Tony was inducted into the NYS Veterans Hall of Fame.
- In 2013, Tony was the recipient of the Watkins Montour Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow.
- Tony has provided a life-time of service to our community, including his service with the US Army during the Korean War as well as witnessing the 7th detonation of the atomic bomb at Camp Desert Rock (NV).
- Tony served the community as follows: Chairman of Schuyler County's Soil & Water District (since 1978); Veterans Service Representative for BPOE (Elks) Lodge #1546 (since 1980); Deputy Representative at the Bath VA (since 1990); Adjutant for the American Legion Post 555; member of the Watkins Glen Fire Department; Town of Reading Supervisor; Schuyler County Legislator; and Village of Watkins Glen Superintendent.
- Tony has organized countless Memorial and Veteran Day events to commemorate veterans.



William ("Bill") Wickham IV

- Lifelong resident, 7th generation farmer, and direct descendant of 1st non-native settler William Wickham I, all of Hector. Father to 6 children, all active in the community.
- Founding member and Board of the New York State Wine Grape Growers, Board of Directors of Welch's, Farm Bureau, New York Grape Research Fund; Cornell graduate.
- Watkins Glen Squires Drum & Bugle Corp: Corp Director, chaperone, mechanic, mentor, and father to hundreds of youth and all 6 of his kids.
- Long time Committee Chair for Cub Scout Pack 52 and Boy Scout Troop 52 out of Burdett that included all 4 of his boys.
- U.S Air Force veteran.
- Past Chief, member, and EMT of the Valois Logan Hector Fire Department, longtime "Voice of the Hector Fair".
- Lifelong member and elder of Hector Presbyterian Church.
- Member and held various offices of Watkins Glen School Board, Elks, Masons, Lions, Grange, Schuyler Republican Committee, and NYS Water Resource Commission.



The selection of these three individuals brings Schuyler County Hall of Fame membership to a total of 41 people, dating back to the inaugural Class of 1995. Plaques honoring Hall of Fame members can be found on the walls of the first floor hallway in the County Office Building.

2016 Induction Ceremony:

The induction ceremony for the newly selected members is Tuesday, October 18, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Seneca Lodge in Watkins Glen, NY. All family and friends are invited to attend this very prestigious event to honor these incredible people for their very positive contribution of energy, commitment, and persistence to achieving their vision for Schuyler County. The Brubaker family of Seneca Lodge is sponsoring the induction event with light snacks and hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar is available.

Overall sponsorship for the Schuyler County Hall of Fame is provided by Schuyler County and the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dennis Fagan, Chair of the Schuyler County Legislature shares, "Schuyler County is proud to lend its assistance to the Hall of Fame and the incredible people whom it honors. The forty one Hall of Fame inductees represent the best of Schuyler County and it is truly an honor to offer our support."

Rebekah LaMoreaux, President and CEO of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, "I too am deeply honored to be a small part of such an historic and touching moment in the times of Schuyler County. These men and their families have shaped this community, and they deserve all the recognition that comes with this induction. Congratulations!"

To RSVP for the induction, please contact Cassandra Putman at the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce at 607-535-4300 or email cassie@watkinsglenchamber.com by October 14.

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