

# ASPIRE 2015 Annual Community Leadership Awards

*To honor community leaders who have been selected by local organizations on the basis of sustained, positive and visionary leadership within the organization with the goal of serving the greater Severna Park Community.*

**Martin Gorman**, nominated by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce

Martin Gorman, owner of Ledo Pizza, continually strives for excellence in community service. In his position as the owner of Ledo Pizza, Martin offers local schools and non-profits regular fundraising opportunities at all three locations. On designated evenings from 4:00 to closing, the featured organization receives a portion of customer receipts. In 2014, Martin and Ledo Pizza of Severna Park generated more than \$9,000 in contributions toward the Severn River Lions Club alone. With eight to ten fundraisers per month at each restaurant, Ledo contributed nearly \$50,000 back into the community.

Martin just contributed four years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, and has been active in their Shop Local program. He was recently named an Honorary Lions Club Member.

**Judy Harris**, nominated by SPAN

The staff and volunteers at SPAN are proud to nominate Judy Harris for the ASPIRE Leadership Award. For almost two decades, Judy has had the vision of helping our neighbors in need. Judy has been serving on SPAN's Board of Directors, representing Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church, and on numerous committees, for over 16 years. Judy leads by example, and without expectation of any recognition. She is always ready to go above and beyond to make our community a better place to live.

Judy Harris' endless dedication enables SPAN to make a difference every day - a difference today that will last for many tomorrows.

**Rachel Jacobs**, nominated by Severna Park Kiwanis

Rachel Jacobs has grown up in the Kiwanis family and is a key member of the Severna Park Kiwanis Club. Over the past year, Rachel has led many of our service projects such as the Anne Arundel County Backpack program and SPAN Holiday Baskets. She is chairing a Mardi Gras Celebration fundraiser which will be held in March, and is working with our entire club to organize food, donations and entertainment.

In her spare time, Rachel is attending Graduate School, learning to become a Special Education teacher and work with special-needs youth in Washington, D.C. Rachel Jacobs is a great example of a young lady giving back to her community.

**Arthur Timmons**, nominated by the Greater Severna Park Council

It all began in a log cabin – when Art Timmons’ grandparents cleared land in the pine forest that was to become Carrollton Manor, and in 1934 built a log cabin from trees onsite. Art, born and raised in Baltimore, graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute with the skills that led, after a stint in the Army, to a career as a surveyor. In 1962, his family built a larger home on the riverfront in Carrollton Manor and Art moved to Severna Park. Fifty years ago, he married Joyce and they began married life in that original log cabin. They raised two daughters and are now enjoying an active retirement.

GSPC is fortunate to have Art, and his surveying background, helping us to understand land use, roads, and development. He has taken on the most time-consuming and difficult part of GSPC’s work, and we are very grateful for all of his leadership, skilled assistance and energy!

**Deborah Tocknell**, nominated by Partners In Care

Partners In Care is proud to nominate Deborah Tocknell for the ASPIRE Leadership Award. She is Chairman of the Jewelry Committee at their Boutique, located at Ritchie Highway and East-West Blvd. All types of jewelry items are donated to the shop and they must be sorted, tagged and priced. Her knowledge and faithful service are extremely valuable.

Debbie’s husband, Phil, is the minister at Baldwin United Methodist Church in Millersville. Debbie serves as a Pastoral Assistant, Worship Chair, as a member of various committees and as Bookkeeper for the Finance Committee. Somehow she also finds time to help as the daily manager for the Montgomery County Hospital Thrift Shop, volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association and with animal rescue, and regularly visits her mother who is in a nearby assisted care facility. She was recently elected President of the National Commission on Equitable Compensation for the United Methodist Church. Congratulations, Debbie !!

**Carl Treff**, nominated by the Magothy River Association

Carl Treff has been the Magothy River Association Volunteer and Communications Coordinator for 15 years, maintaining the master database of 2200 records. He has led MRA efforts of Oyster Gardening, the CreekWatchers Program, and the Grasses for the Masses Program (planting and growing underwater grass).

He started an annual tradition at the now-closed Eagle Cove School for students to move oyster spat bags from truck to shallow water. His sons and that tradition have moved to St. Martin’s-in-the-Field Episcopal School where he is helping to develop new environmental projects such as building osprey nest platforms and annual tree plantings at Beachwood Park on the Magothy.

## **Cathy Vitale**

ASPIRE Heritage Award – 2015

“Shaping the culture and character of the community for a period of years”

Cathy Vitale grew up in Severna Park, Maryland in Berrywood. She attended Severna Park High School and graduated from the University of Maryland where she studied government and politics, and then received a law degree from the University of Baltimore. She and her husband, Mark Muckelbauer, and their son, Mark, Jr., live in Whitehurst where Cathy has served on the Board of the Whitehurst Community Association. Mark is a lieutenant with the Anne Arundel County Fire Dept.

Cathy has worked for many years as an attorney and has served on the Anne Arundel County Council from 2000 to 2010, and then as a delegate from District 33 in the Maryland State Legislature from 2010 to the present. During this time, not only did she practice law and give countless hours to her elected positions, she also gave very generously of her time to many volunteer activities. In 1994, she was elected to the Anne Arundel County Republican Central Committee where she served in several offices including Chairman, and also served as Secretary for the Maryland Republican Party. Among her many activities and positions, she was a Commissioner on the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, a member of the Severn River Commission, a member of the Governor’s Commission on Housing Policy, and she served on the Board of Directors of the Providence Center and of Camp Blaze, among others. In her “spare” time, Cathy is a Mentor to the truancy students at Marley Middle School where she hopes to make a difference in their lives.

She has been recognized by many organizations for her tireless efforts. Among her awards, she received the Fannie Lou Hammer Humanitarian Award in 2004 for her commitment to the advancement of women and children in Anne Arundel County. In 2005, she was given the Inaugural Distinguished Graduate Award from Severna Park High School, and in 2010 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Anne Arundel County Republican Party.

Now, to the delight of her many supporters and friends, Cathy Vitale has just been appointed a Judge for the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County. Congratulations, Cathy, for all you have done!

## **Coleman Eldridge**

ASPIRE Heritage Award – 2015

“Shaping the culture and character of the community for a period of years”

In 1978, Coleman Eldridge opened his store, The Shoe Specialist, in the Benfield Village Shopping Center, where he was one of the original tenants. He has been in the same location for 37 years, serving the residents of Severna Park and the surrounding communities. He lives in Hanover and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Coleman’s love for shoe repair began when he started working part-time in the shoe repair business after school and in the evenings. He would get off the school bus at Fort Meade and go right to the Post Exchange Shoe Repair Store owned by Mr. John Cirillo, who taught him the shoe repair trade. He was like a father to him. Once John determined that Coleman was fully qualified, he even helped him to start his own business.

Coleman not only performs show repair, but he specializes in orthopedic work and shoe care products. He is an authorized Vibram dealer, providing soles for Rockport Shoes which is a very popular brand of shoes. In addition, he repairs luggage and handbags.

He has served as Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Jessup Correctional Institution for the past 12 years. This Board meets with the Wardens and Commissioners of the various institutions to discuss what is being done in their facilities to keep the inmates involved in rehabilitation and the safety of the communities. Coleman also received two awards from the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce – one was in 1996 as the Minority Small Business Associate of the Year and the other was for his sponsorship of their 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

He is an active member of the Payne Memorial AME Church in Jessup, where he serves on many boards and ministry groups. He is the Pro Tem leader of the Trustees Board, the Co-Chair of the Finance Committee and sings in three choirs.

Coleman attributes his success to his philosophy: “Don’t judge me by the color of my skin but by the content of my character.” He treats his customers with respect and they treat him the same way. A satisfied customer is a repeat customer.

## **Ed “Coach” Wilson**

ASPIRE Heritage Award – 2015

“Shaping the culture and character of the community for a period of years”

Ed “Coach” Wilson was a special resident of Anne Arundel County for over 45 years, plus being a midshipman at the USNA in the Class of 1945. During his Navy career he served in WWII in the Pacific Theater and then served in the Korean War. After retiring from the Navy he returned to his Alma Mater to work as a publications officer where he won many national awards. He and his wife, Mary Lou, and his family lived in Severna Park in Fair Oaks.

He coached youth sports for 47 years, first in football and then for many years he coached basketball including 33 years with the Green Hornets, 12 years with 3D Basketball, and for 40 years he ran a free summer basketball clinic for boys and girls on the courts behind Severna Park High School. Not only did he give these young people a wonderful experience with sports, but he also served as a mentor and always as a friend. Many of his kids went on to play competitive college basketball and a couple of them were in the NBA.

He passed away recently and a number of his former players attended both the funeral and the special tribute held the following day where they could tell stories about what Coach meant to them. This is a quote from the 3D Basketball site by Trey Quinn, an Alum and a current coach: “It is rare to have someone touch countless lives and ask for nothing in return. Coach Ed Wilson epitomizes what it means to be selfless.”