

W.Va. Chamber Inducts Inaugural Hall of Fame Class

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Six state business leaders earn honor

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS -- Six longtime business leaders in the state have been selected to the new West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

In honor of the Chamber's 75th anniversary this year, the organization decided it was time to honor some of its longest-serving members and some of the state's most notable business executives. Chamber President Steve Roberts announced the honorees at the group's annual meeting and Business Summit at The Greenbrier.



People inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame class are:

- G. Thomas Battle, a Charleston lawyer, former partner in the firm Spilman, Thomas & Battle and a former chairman of the state Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Virginia School of Law. Battle served six years as the state's tax commissioner and as chairman of the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. He was chosen a Fellow by the West Virginia Bar Foundation and earned the Award of Merit by the West Virginia Bar Association.
- William C. "Billy" Campbell, an insurance entrepreneur. Campbell is a Huntington native who graduated from Princeton University and is a former member of the House of Delegates, where he served with the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd. Campbell also served as chairman of the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. He began attending the West Virginia Chamber's annual meetings in 1948 when The Greenbrier reopened following World War II. Campbell is best known as one of the most distinguished amateurs in golf history. He holds the record for playing in 33 consecutive U. S. Amateur Championships. His resume includes winning the 1964 U.S. Amateur, two U.S. Senior Amateur championships, 15 West Virginia Amateur championships and three state Open titles. Notably, he is the only person to head both the U.S. Golf Association and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club.
- Philip E. Cline is currently the acting president of Alderson-Broaddus College. He is the retired CEO and president of Broughton Foods Co., executive vice president of J.H. Fletcher and Co. and general manager of the Radisson Hotel in Huntington. He is a past chairman of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce, Huntington Industrial Corp., Cabell Huntington Hospital and the board of advisers for Marshall University. He also served as a member of the Huntington City Council. Cline has an undergraduate degree in accounting and a master's degree in political science from Marshall University.
- John L. McClagherty was born in Princeton, graduated from Northwestern University and the West Virginia University College of Law. He was the longtime managing member and CEO of the law firm Jackson Kelly. He is a past chairman of the state Chamber of Commerce, past president of both the West Virginia Bar Association and West Virginia Bar Foundation and served as president of the West Virginia Symphony board of directors from 1982 until his death in 2003. McClagherty was a driving force behind the fundraising and successful completion of The Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia in Charleston. His widow, Sallie McClagherty, accepted his Hall of Fame award.
- A. Michael (Mike) Perry has been a key leader in the state's business, education and health communities throughout his career. A graduate of Marshall University and the WVU College of Law, he and his wife, Henriella, are co-founders of Heritage Farm Museum & Village in Huntington. Perry is a former chairman of the state Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Bankers Association and the University System of West Virginia. He also served as interim president of Marshall University. He is a former chairman of both Key Centurion Bancshares and First Huntington National Bank. Perry also served as the first chairman of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at WVU.
- I.N. "Ike" Smith IV is a Charleston native and a graduate of Washington & Lee University and the Washington & Lee Law School. He is the former president and CEO of Kanawha Banking & Trust Co. and Intermountain Bancshares. He has served as chairman of the West Virginia Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce and as a district governor for Rotary International. Smith is a trustee emeritus of Washington & Lee University and the University of Charleston.