

2019 Inductees

Oliver Kessing (Class of 1908)

Admiral Oliver Owen Kessing: Admiral Kessing graduated from Greensburg High School in 1908 and the Naval Academy in 1914. As a Lieutenant during WW 1, he served on the USS Huntington. He did hydroplane flying and served as a balloon observer with convoys where he was searching for submarines. He was the first, and because of the high degree of danger in the program, it was discontinued. During WW 2, he distinguished himself by outstanding service in command of advanced bases in the Pacific from Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, and beyond. Among his many awards that he received was the Legion of Merit.

In November, 1943, President Roosevelt presented him with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroic conduct. When enemy bombs started a raging fire in a supply and ammunition dump, Admiral Kessing organized a fire-fighting party . He made his way under constant danger of further air attack, to the dump. Working in a blazing inferno of exploding ammunition, he finally extinguished the fire. Later in his life he served as the third and final commissioner of the All-American Football Conference before it merged into the National Football League.

Bill Wenning (Class of 1956)

Bill Wenning: A 1956 graduate of Greensburg High School, Mr. Wenning went on to get both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Butler University. His career as a teacher began at the Greensburg Junior High School in 1962 where he taught 8th grade math and coached football, basketball, and baseball. In 1966 he moved on to teach upper level math at Greensburg High School for 34 years. Some of his many achievements at the high school included coaching over 85 teams, girls golf for 19 years, boys golf for 25 years and girls basketball for five years. He was the boys basketball announcer for 37 years and the football timer for 30 years. He directed local FCA activities for 34 years and was an active member and past-president of the Greensburg Teacher's Association.

Mr. Wenning's involvement and accomplishments in the community have been equally impressive. A past-president member of the Greensburg Optimist Club where he has served for 47 years, past-president and member of Big Brothers and Big Sisters for 20 years, past president and member of the Greensburg Country Club for over 50 years where he started the Youth Golf program. Always an active volunteer and as a coach his athletes recognized his ability to drive them to their best.