



TATTLER



Calvin M. Woodward High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Issue

Winter 2026



Congratulations To Our 2026 Woodward Hall of Fame Inductees!



Karen Niewiadomski-Kinsey
Class of 1975 (posthumous)



Donald Koralewski
Class of 1975 (posthumous)



David Pakulski
Class of 1978



Robert Furr
Class of 1988



Sandra Murphy
Class of 1994



Redus Thomas
Class of 2000

*Make your reservations now for the 43rd Annual Woodward High School Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony and Dinner April 18, 2026 At The Toledo Club, 235 14th St., Downtown Toledo*

Details on page 7

Karen Niewiadomski-Kinsey, 1975

Karen Niewiadomski-Kinsey grew up in the Polish Village, a neighborhood she was fond of because you could get everything you needed without having to leave the neighborhood. A 1975 Woodward graduate, Karen attended St. Hedwig's for elementary school and later pursued her post-secondary education at the University of Toledo. She was referred to in high school as "Crazy Legs" for how she moved as a cheerleader and Karen never stopped dancing through life. She owned and operated D&D Dance Studio in Toledo and choreographed musicals and plays for St. Francis de Sales, Notre Dame Academy, and other various high schools and community theaters for over 35 years. Karen had a passion for dance, musicals, and theater, and that resonated with her students, whom she loved like family. Her contributions to the St. Francis de Sales drama department are honored annually with "The Karen Award." The memorial award is bestowed upon a high school junior involved with the drama department who wholeheartedly embodies the love of dance and performance and serves as a leader. Karen passed away on April 16, 2021, and is survived by her husband, William, step-daughter, Jaclyn (Dylan) Calvin, siblings, Carol (Mark) Tyson and Fr. Art Niewiadomski, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donald Robert Koralewski, 1975

After graduating from Woodward High School in 1975, Donald "Don" Koralewski studied fine arts photography at Ohio University and earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast communications from the University of Toledo prior to joining the United States Navy in 1979. Don attended recruit training followed by photographic training at the U.S. Naval Schools of Photography in Pensacola, FL. He qualified as a Naval Aircrewman, earning the distinctive Aircrew Wings of Gold, which enabled him to photograph from nearly all types of Naval aircraft. He subsequently was selected by portfolio review to attend the prestigious Military Photojournalism Program at Syracuse University. Following graduation and designation as a Navy Photojournalist, he became a writer and photographer, spending two years at the Navy Public Affairs Center in Norfolk, VA. Don finished his active duty career as the only photojournalist on the 6th Fleet Staff and was sent to the aircraft carrier America during Operation El Dorado Canyon, documenting the Navy's part in launching airstrikes against Libya. Post Navy, Don dedicated much of his life and career to small-town journalism. Over his 30-plus years as a journalist, Don worked as a reporter, writer, photographer, and editor at small community newspapers and also served several years as a public affairs specialist and webmaster with the University of Toledo. He held positions as managing editor at several Virginia newspapers before becoming the editor of The Bryan Times in September 2016. He received many accolades for his work in news, editorial writing, and photography. In 2018, the Bryan Times staff, under his direction, won first place for Best Public Service Reporting from the Ohio Press Association for its coverage of the Michindoh Aquifer issue. Don was married to his wife, Nelda, for 23 years and served as her caretaker until her death in December 2019. He passed away from cancer on December 11, 2020, and is survived by his sisters, Karen Carr, Donna Hatch, Darlene Spradlin, and Angela Arvanitis, and his step-daughter, Kelly Sweet.

David Pakulski, 1978

The son of a Woodward graduate and the first of seven siblings to graduate from WHS, David Pakulski, or "Paku" as he was known during his time at Woodward, credits much of his success in life to the vocational education he received at WHS. Educators such as Ted Csizek made a lifelong impact on David by teaching him to learn with his head and his hands. Those skills served him well as he moved from post-secondary education into his career in the manufacturing and supply chain industry. After graduation, David earned his associate's degree from Owens Community College, his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University, and his master's degree from the University of Toledo. He began his career as a shift supervisor for Vulcan Materials Company and made several career advancements with different companies before taking on the position of Senior Supply Chain Manager for Wurtec Inc. Having earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1976, David continues to serve his community today as a volunteer with the LPGA Golf Tournament and as a lector at St. Adelbert Church. He has also served as a board member of the Polish American Community of Toledo. David has been married to his wife, Dee, for 36 years.

Robert Furr, 1988

Class of 1988 graduate Robert Furr went from the halls and football fields of Woodward High School to a dedicated 30-year career in public service. He began as the first person of color to serve as an officer in the Sylvania Township Police Department, then joined the Toledo Police Department in 1993. Robert advanced through roles such as Field Operations Officer, Vice/Narcotics Detective, Directed Patrol/SWAT Officer, Gang Task Force Officer, Field Operations Sergeant, Detective Sergeant Vice/Narcotics, and Detective Sergeant Investigative Services, retiring as a Lieutenant in 2023. Robert now serves as a Court Deputy with the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Lourdes University and a master's in organizational management from Ashford University. He has completed advanced training in supervision and command from Northwestern University. A Woodward Alumni and Friends board member, Robert, and his wife, Linda, have two daughters, Kayla and Toni, a son, Sam and a beautiful granddaughter.

Sandra Murphy, 1994

Class of 1994 graduate Sandra "Sandy" Murphy was honored by the Hall of Fame as a scholarship recipient in her senior year. Now in her 27th year of teaching, Sandy has always aspired to teach in the Woodward feeder pattern. She earned her bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Toledo in 1998 and a Master of Education in 2003. Sandy began teaching kindergarten at Glenwood Elementary and later held positions at Lincoln Academy for Boys, McKinley Elementary, and Leverette Elementary. She currently teaches first grade at Ottawa River Elementary. Sandy also serves as a Toledo Federation of Teachers Union representative and has been recognized as a Toledo Public Schools Employee of the Month. She credits her Woodward experience—including clubs, activities, and mentorship from educators and administrators—for guiding her teaching journey and shaping her ability to build positive relationships with students.

Redus Thomas, 2000

Command Sergeant Major Redus Thomas decided to join the United States Army while still a student at Woodward, enlisting in the Army Reserve as a high school junior under the Alternative Training Program. He attended Basic Training that March, returned to Woodward to finish his senior year, and after graduation, completed Advanced Individual Training before being assigned to the 389th Engineer Battalion in Decorah, IA. Redus has served his country in various roles and built a career in US Army recruiting, beginning at the Highland Recruiting Station in Highland, IN, and advancing to Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Medical Recruiting Battalion in Fort Knox, KY. His decorated service includes a Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), the Recruiter Gold Badge with 3 sapphire stars, the Army's Recruiter Ring, and the Glen E. Morrell Award for recruiting excellence. He has completed multiple military training programs, including the Sergeants Major Academy, and holds a bachelor's in Social and Criminal Justice from Ashford University and a master's in criminal justice, Homeland Security Administration from Tiffin University. Redus is married to his high school sweetheart, Jessica (Forrille) Thomas '99; they have two daughters, Kylah and Lilyona.

Nominations for 2027

Please nominate deserving individuals for
induction in 2027.

Visit our webpage:

www.woodwardhalloffame.org, and select:

Nominations or email: nominations@woodwardhalloffame.org

Woodward Hall of Fame Banquet Announced for April 18th, 2026

Venue: The Toledo Club, 235 14th St.,

Downtown Toledo

The agenda for the evening is:

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. Cocktails & Appetizers

Credit Card only for bar & soft drink.

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner

7:45 - 9:15 p.m. Formal Program

9:15 - 11:00 p.m. Social Hour

The Toledo Club 235 14th Street

**...is a historic, beautiful club. It is handicapped accessible,
and a smoke-free environment as governed by the State of
Ohio. Free, secured parking is provided for guests.**

**No valet parking. The elevators will take you to the Belvedere
Room on the 4th floor. Proper Business Casual Attire. Bar &
Beverage Service: Credit Cards only, no cash.**

Message from the Chairman

Dear Alumni, Friends and Staff of Woodward high School, this year is the 43rd Annual Woodward High School Hall of Fame Dinner. Please mark your calendar and make your reservation for Saturday April 18th, 2026, at the beautiful Toledo Club 235 14th Street. A fabulous meal, and program are planned. We look forward to seeing you there at our banquet.

Your continued support of the Woodward Alumni Hall of Fame Association is greatly appreciated. Your kind donations have allowed the Hall of Fame to award almost \$600,000 in scholarships. We need your help in continuing our mission to help our youngest alumni further their education in these trying times. Please keep us in mind when you make your charitable contributions.

Our dedicated committee works very hard, working with Woodward throughout the year. If you would like to join the Hall of Fame Association speak to one of our committee members or contact us through the our website woodwardhalloffame.org. If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame contact our nominations chairperson Marisa McLeod @nominations.woodwardhalloffame@gmail.com or our website woodwardhalloffame.org.

“Once A Polar Bear, Always A Polar Bear”

Cordially yours,

Rebecca Brocus, Chairperson, Woodward Hall of Fame



50/50 Scholarship Raffle

Support the Scholarship Program by buying 50/50 raffle tickets. Priced at \$5 each or five (5) for \$20, tickets can be purchased at the dinner or via mail by completing the enclosed order form. The winning ticket will be drawn at the induction event on April 18th, 2026. Winner need not be present to win. For tickets contact Barney Tompkins at (419) 464-1187.

Become a Patron Sponsor

Support our Scholarship Program by becoming a Patron Sponsor. For 2026 donations, please make your check payable to: Woodward Alumni Hall of Fame Assoc., and mail to: Amy Bostwick, Woodward Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 2768, Toledo, OH 43606. Deadline for this year's donations to be received and acknowledged in the program by March 30th 2026

Past Inductees Wear Your Medallion!

*Former Inductees show your support
attend the Induction banquet and
show your Polar bear pride by wearing
your Medallion*

Tattler Mailing List

We would like to begin sending the Tattlers electronically to those of you who would appreciate receiving it in that format. It would be a great help to save funds in printing and mailing and it's more environmentally sound.

To join this paperless program,
please visit our website
www.woodwardhalloffame.org

Website: woodwardhalloffame.org or Facebook: Woodward Hall of Fame

Our History

The Woodward High School Alumni Hall of Fame dates back to 1980, when a Alumni Dance was organized to raise money for Woodward's Athletic Department. The dances, held at the Lucas County Recreation Center and the Zenobia Shrine, were social successes, but generated little revenue for the Athletic Department.

In 1982, Bob Leonard, Woodward's Assistant Principal of Activities, suggested starting a Woodward Hall of Fame in conjunction with the dance. A new committee was formed to organize the event. Diana Attie (1956), Stanley Czerminski (1970), Daniel Duvendack (Teacher), Marie Doering Ersig (Teacher), Bob Leonard (Asst. Principal), William Rosenberg (1933), Seymour Rothman (1932), Norman Sobecki (1946), Ted Szelagowski (1938), and James Wilusz (1947) were those who made the Hall of Fame a reality. It was decided that the Hall of Fame inductees would be selected from all fields - Arts, Science, Law, Education, Entertainment, and Athletics. Graduates of Woodward, faculty members, and friends of Woodward who supported the school, would be eligible for induction.

The first Hall of Fame Association induction event was held on April 22, 1983, at the Zenobia Shrine, and included a dance with snacks. The affair later moved to Yorkshire Banquet Hall, where a buffet dinner was served. Soon, the event evolved to include a served dinner at the suggestion of Sylvester "Sonny" Smith (1951). Various venues have hosted the Hall of Fame Induction over the years. The dance was eventually eliminated.

In 1986, Dave Yenrick, an assistant principal, suggested that the Hall of Fame Association's mission should include the awarding of scholarships to deserving Woodward seniors. The source of the scholarship money has been derived from patron donations, silent auctions, and raffles. The first Scholarship was awarded in 1988. In more recent years, scholarship applicants and their parents have been invited to the dinner, where they are introduced.

The Woodward High School Alumni Hall of Fame Association is one of the oldest in the Toledo Public School System, and the Hall of Fame dinner and induction has become a prestigious affair of which all Woodward graduates can be proud. Two-hundred thirty-three individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, and over \$460,000 in scholarship money has been awarded to 246 Woodward students. Plaques displaying photos of all inductees, names of scholarship recipients, and patron donors are proudly displayed at WHS.

The Calvin M. Woodward Alma Mater

The tune of the Ala Mater comes from "Annie Lisle" is the name of an 1857 ballad by Boston, Massachusetts songwriter H. S. Thompson. The song is also the basis for Cornell University's Alma Mater. The words for our Alma Mater were written by Mr. Edward Sorton, Woodward's choral director at the time and adopted for use in 1950's.

Annie Lisle, is a maudlin 1850s ballad written by a Boston musician named H.S. Thompson about the decline and death of a virtuous maiden ("Earthly music cannot waken . . . lovely Annie Lisle").

Alma Mater Woodward High School, Colors White and Blue. Polar Bear we claim as mascot, Proud we are of you. Lift our colors to the heavens, Let them wave on high. Hail to thee, our Alma Mater, Hail to Woodward High!

The Woodward High School Fight Song

The fight song was originally written for junior high level. The original name is Delmar and is supposed to be played at much slower pace song then we play it for our fight song. Jerry Belik rewrote the song for our music department as it is today.

*Of all the schools, beneath the sky,
Old Woodward High I claim as mine.
Her warriors bold, in heat or cold,
Will always brave and Loyal be.
Now hit that line and smash that foe,
A touchdown sure we ask today.
A winning team, with lots of steam,
We cheer for you, Old Woodward High*

Go Bears!

Our Polar Bear Mascot

In the fall of 1929 Charles C. LaRue became principal of Woodward High School. The new school had opened in the fall of 1928. Apparently, the school had not chosen a mascot during its first year. Principal LaRue was tasked with selecting a mascot.

There are two stories that are commonly believed to explain how the Polar Bear became Woodward's mascot. The first is that the Polar Bear was chosen because the new school was located in the North end of Toledo. The second is that Mr. LaRue chose the Polar Bear because it was the mascot of his alma mater Ohio Northern University. In the winter of 1960 Woodward obtained its first Polar Bear statue and that was placed in front of the school. The name "Polaris" appears under the picture of the Polar Bear in the 1961 edition of the Saga (page 4).

On September 10, 1973 one driver was trying to overtake another in a race. At 6:15 he lost control of his car and smashed into WHS's Polar Bear.

A new Polar Bear appeared in front of Woodward High School during the 1975/1976 school year. Science teacher Ray Attie designed and built the new mascot statue with the help of Jed's Tool Shop, Kuhlman Corporation, and Auburndale Moving Company, along with the Woodward Booster Club who helped finance the project.

A school contest was held to name this polar bear and was won by Dale Vanderhorst, class of 1977, with the winning name "Polaris."

Woodward Hall of Fame Web Page

Yes we have a website :woodwardhalloffame.org

On the website you will find:

- Videos
- The Alma Mater and the Fight Song
- A tribute to our Veterans who gave their all
- School News
- Hall of Fame Inductees and their Bios
- A list of Scholarship recipients
- Woodward History
- History of Our Polar Bear mascot
- Photos of past Hall Of Fame Inductions
- Donation Button and Information about volunteering with the Hall of Fame

Don't Delay—Make Your Reservations Today!!

Hall of Fame Induction Dinner, Saturday, April 18th, 2026 Patron Donation – 50/50 Raffle Tickets

Venue: The Toledo Club, 235 14th St., Toledo

Name _____ Phone No. _____

INDUCTION DINNER TICKETS RESERVATIONS DEADLINE MARCH 30th 2026

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date: On Saturday, April 18th, 2026; **Time:** 5:00 p.m.; **Location:** The Toledo Club, 235 14th St., Toledo

A limited number of tickets will be sold so make your reservations early! Sorry, there will be **NO** ticket sales (walk-ins) at the door. For WHS Graduates, please give class year. Specify entrée choice of: **Chicken Piccata**, Prime Rib, or Vegetable Lasagna for each person listed below. Children up to age 12: chicken fingers. Credit cards needed for bar and soft drinks.
NO CASH.

(PLEASE PRINT) Name	If a WHS Graduate Graduation Year Maiden Name (if applicable)	Entrées: chicken, shrimp, vegetarian, or kids' meal

Induction Dinner Tickets: Adults \$60 (each) \$ _____ Children (12 & under) @ \$15 (each) \$ _____

To make a donation to support the WHS Hall of Fame Scholarship Program, please fill in the information below exactly

as you want it to appear in print. Return by March 30th to be acknowledged in the 2026 souvenir program. Donations received after March 30th will be acknowledged in the 2027 program.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Your Name _____ In Honor of _____ or In Memory of _____

_____ \$1-\$99 Patron _____ \$100-\$249 Cub Patron _____ \$250-\$499 White Patron _____ \$500-\$999 Blue Patron _____ \$1000 Polar Bear Patron

_____ Over \$1000 Special Patron (Specify Amount) (Name will be inscribed on the Hall of Fame Scholarship Board.)

Please send me _____ 50/50 raffle tickets. (Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.) Total Check Amount \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: **Woodward Alumni Hall of Fame Association**

For additional information, please contact...

For Donations: Amy Bostwick at 419-270-0454 or donations.woodwardhalloffame@gmail.com

For Reservations: Tom & Deb Radwanski at 419-536-0247 or e-mail: thomasradwanski@yahoo.com

Donations and reservation payment can be made by PAYPAL at woodwardhalloffame.org