

# Wall of Inspiration

## 2020 Inductees

The purpose of the Wall of Inspiration is to recognize students from BHS who have gone on to make a significant contribution to their field and/or a difference in their community. Our goal is to inspire current students by the example of these individuals. It is our hope that the achievements and recognition of a few will inspire Burlington High School students to strive for excellence.

### Sgt. Leroy C. Anderson Class of 1937



After receiving a draft notice for World War II, Sgt. Leroy "Roy" C. Anderson volunteered for Signal Corps and was assigned to the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion in 1941 sending him to Manila Bay, Philippines ten days before it was bombed by the Japanese. For two months, Roy's tank units guarded various riverbanks, beaches, bridges, and roadways north of Manila. On Feb. 3, 1942, during the Battle of the Points and Pockets, Roy volunteered to take his tank behind enemy lines to clear out Japanese machine gunner nests. He wiped out at least four before his tank was knocked out, earning him the Distinguished Service Cross, which is second only to the Medal of Honor. In April 1942, Sgt. Anderson became a Prisoner of War and was forced into the Bataan Death March enduring indescribable atrocities for two years. In October 1944, he loaded aboard the cargo ship, Arisan Maru, along with 1,800 other prisoners, in a space that could only hold 400 men. This unmarked POW ship was torpedoed by an American submarine. He was not among the nine survivors. The Anderson-Murphy VFW Post in Burlington was renamed in his honor.

### Tom Gilding Class of 1970



Tom Gilding is a teacher, writer, playwright, actor, musician, and radio general manager. After earning a BA in Teaching History and English along with a Reading Specialist Certification at UW – Whitewater, he started his 39-year teaching career at Denison Middle School before returning to Burlington High School. He coached and advised a variety of sports and clubs and was named Wisconsin CESA #2 Middle School Teacher of the Year, Kohl Scholarship founding member and State Finalist, and earned the *Milwaukee Journal* Wordsmith Writing Award. He also served terms as president of the Lake Geneva Teachers Association, the Burlington Educators Association, and the Southern Lakes United Educators. He has expertly brought Mark Twain to life in presentations for over 30 years throughout Wisconsin. In addition, Tom has authored many children's books of Twain's stories, as well as educational materials for Write Source Educational Publishing House. Tom was also a founding member, writer, and director of original children's plays and musicals for *Gilding the Stage*, a children's community theater. Since 2009, he has been the key voice and visionary behind the "Great Rock, Real Variety" at 89.1 WBSD.

### Martha (Schmaling) Gilmer Class of 1974



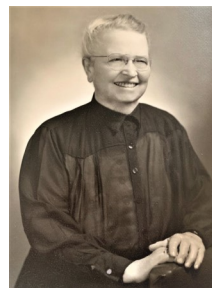
Martha Gilmer graduated from Northwestern University Illinois in 1978 with a degree in Artistic Administration. She rose to Chicago Symphony Orchestra Vice President of Artistic Planning and Audience Development, where she worked closely with music directors, planned many successful programs, engaged guest conductors and artists, and formulated the orchestra's artistic profile. She was instrumental for the following: programming international orchestra tours, dynamic annual festivals with famous artists, preconcert presentations such as *Classic Encounters*, and other educational programs. She also was the Executive Producer for the live documentary series, *Beyond the Score*. In June 2012, Martha's position at the CSO was endowed as The Richard and Mary L. Gray Chair – Vice President of Artistic Planning and Audience Development, a first in the music world according to *Musical America*. Currently, Martha is the Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra where she is reinvigorating the orchestra's programming with the appointment of musical director, Rafael Payare, an annual January festival, world-class guest artists, guest conductors and the building of a permanent outdoor performance venue making San Diego a major symphonic destination. Ms. Gilmer is also a well-known writer and lecturer on music, culture, and community.

### Dr. Manuel Hernandez Class of 1991



Dr. Manuel "Manny" Hernandez started at BHS as a freshman not knowing a single word of English, but graduated in 1991 with honors and as vice president of the National Honor Society. He was then a cum laude graduate for Nursing and Pre-Med at UW – Milwaukee before completing his Doctor of Medicine degree in 2002 at the Medical College of Wisconsin and emergency medicine residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Michigan. Family brought him to Milwaukee where he is part owner of Emergency Medicine Specialists who provide emergency services to most of Milwaukee. Notably, Dr. Hernandez is also an Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) provider instructor for the American College of Surgeons and a Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) provider for American Heart Association. Manny also volunteers at the Bread of Healing Clinic, which provides some free healthcare for simple ailments. His group also provides gifts for children and care packages for homeless ER patients. In addition, they visit nursing homes where they participate in craft fairs and grade schools where they talk to students about the medical field.

### Nettie E. Karcher Class of 1910



In 1915, Nettie E. Karcher graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School and became the first female attorney in Racine County when she opened her own law practice in Burlington. She also served on Burlington's grade school board for 32 years and on the high school board for five years. In addition, she was an ardent BHS sports fan who would even drive students to out-of-town games before the advent of school buses and in 1950, she was presented a lifetime pass to all BHS activities. Nettie was also a charter member of the Burlington Business and Professional Women's Organization and a member of the Eastern Star. In 1960, she was chosen as the V.F.W. "Citizen of the Year." In 1966, the Racine County Bar Association honored Nettie for her 50 years of service as an attorney. In 2000, Burlington's middle school was renamed as Nettie E. Karcher Middle School due to her legacy of being a respected leader in Burlington and a role model for women.