

# East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Nomination

EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

[www.d131.org/alumni](http://www.d131.org/alumni)  
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Applications Submitted to: East Aurora Alumni Association

*Few schools can boast of a history as rich, diverse and celebrated as East Aurora High School. The phrase often repeated in the halls of East Aurora High School has been: Once a Tomcat, always a Tomcat. It reflects the pride of alumni, and their lifelong bond with their school.*

*East Aurora High School alumni have used their educational experience as a springboard to great things. Tomcats have earned the Medal of Honor, served in Congress and the Illinois legislature, played in the NFL and NBA, advised the President of the United States and performed at the world's greatest concert halls.*

*The goal of East Aurora Distinguished Alumni program is to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates, preserve the high school's history, and inspire all current and future Tomcats.*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORS**

The East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Honor will be awarded to graduates who have had a significant positive impact after high school.

The East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to graduates of East Aurora High School who have made an international, national or regional impact after their high school career in areas including, but not limited to: academics, the arts, athletics, business, community service, literature, public service, science or service to our country.

Distinguished Alumni will be representatives of the proud traditions, values, community and ideals of East Aurora School District 131.

All alumni, beginning with the first graduating class in 1867, are eligible for consideration.

## **RECOGNITION FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Honor (or their representatives), will:

- Receive two complimentary tickets to the Distinguished Alumni Banquet.
- Have their name and accomplishments included on a plaque to be displayed at East Aurora High School, as well as on the District's website.
- Receive a duplicate of the Distinguished Alumni plaque.

## **CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY OF HONOREES**

The Selection Committee will choose no more than three post-1940 graduates for the Distinguished Alumni honor each year. The Selection Committee will choose no more than two pre-1940 graduates each year.

There will be no more than five total Distinguished Alumni selected each year.

Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Honor must:

- Be a graduate of East Aurora High School. Proof of graduation may be required. For students who did not complete high school due to exceptional circumstances (such as serving in the Armed Forces), the graduation requirement may be waived.
- Have graduated at least 15 years earlier. For instance, a 2000 graduate would not be eligible for a Distinguished Alumni Honor until 2015.
- Have accomplishments or service recognized as outstanding through awards, honors or other methods of distinction.

## **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will consist of six members, appointed by the Alumni Association President or a designee for a three-year term. All members should be current or former students or employees of East Aurora School District 131. When choosing the Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee, the President will attempt to find members that represent a diverse range of voices, age groups and backgrounds in the community.

When making Distinguished Alumni selections, the Committee will not be influenced by personal friendships, relationships or connections to any applicants. Members of the committee cannot nominate themselves for the Distinguished Alumni honor. Members cannot vote for or against themselves if they are nominated. Members of the Selection Committee who are also nominated must recuse themselves from the selection process while they are being considered.

Members of the Selection Committee who have made a nomination may be an advocate for that nominee.

## **PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF HONOREES**

### **When?**

Nominations are accepted at any time. On June 1, all submitted applications will be gathered for review. Any nominations received after that date will be considered for the following year.

Within one month of selection, the committee will notify each recipient (or their representative) of their selection. If the recipient or their representative cannot be reached, their name will be put back into the nominees for future consideration.

Once a name is submitted, qualified nominations are kept on file for five years.

### **How?**

All forms must be as complete as possible to enhance the nominee's chances of acceptance. The nominee's credentials should be as specific as possible. The committee will determine the inductees based primarily on information in the nomination packet, although the Selection Committee can conduct independent research and/or interviews.

Supporting documentation is strongly encouraged. Please include additional information, articles, resumes, news stories, etc., with the nomination.

Each Distinguished Alumni Honoree must receive a consensus of support from the selection committee.

### **To submit an application:**

Scan and email to: [EATomcatAlumni@gmail.com](mailto:EATomcatAlumni@gmail.com)

## **East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Nomination Form**

*Please print in black or blue ink*

### **Information about person who is being nominated as Distinguished Alumni:**

Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation from East Aurora High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Living or deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

Field of distinction: \_\_\_\_\_

Current position/occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Nominee address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Nominee phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

\*Nominee email: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in high school: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* If applicable*

### **Information about person who is submitting nomination:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Second person whom the committee can contact for information about nominee:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Nomination Form**

*Please answer the following question, either below or on a separate sheet:*

**Why should this person be selected as an East Aurora Distinguished Alumni?**

*When responding to this question, your answer might include some of the following information, if applicable and available:*

- *How has this person made a significant positive impact in their field?*
- *When, or during what time, did this person's post-high school accomplishments occur?*
- *Has this person been recognized for their outstanding work? If so, when and how?*
- *What activities is this person involved in now? (if applicable)*

*Please attach any supplemental information (resume, newspaper articles, etc.) that might help the committee when making their decision. The committee will rely on these materials when making selections for Distinguished Alumni.*

## **Recipients of the East Aurora Distinguished Alumni Award**

Mabel O'Donnell, children's author (Class of 1909)  
Slade Cutter, college football star, war hero who received four Navy Crosses (1929)  
Charlotte Reid, U.S. Representative, TV star (1930)  
Chalmers Sherwin, pioneered discovery of neutrino (1933)  
Francis Allen, Chairman of U.S. Committee on Poverty and Justice (1937)  
Dr. Oliver Crawford, surgeon and founder of Volunteers in Medicine (1937)  
Robert Mitchler, State Senator, National Director of Navy League (1937)  
Donald Buhrmann, commercial artist and watercolor painter (1938)  
Dr. Archer Gordon, helped popularize modern CPR training for citizens (1938)  
Elmer Renner, World War II hero and community volunteer (1938)  
Dr. Edward Fauth, founder of prestigious engineering firm (1939)  
Kaye Groot Mason, owner of Check-Lab health company (1942)  
Lyle Gramley, governor of Federal Reserve Board (1943)  
Lt. Vincent Thompson, president and CEO of Republic Bank (1944)  
Dr. Richard Foth, Chief of Staff, Rush-Copley Medical Center (1948)  
Grover Schlitz, world-renowned classical musician (1948)  
Daniel D. Dolan, owner of prominent real estate company (1949)  
Donald Glossop, lead automotive engineer for Ford Motor Co. (1951)  
Ronald Simcox, superintendent of Hinsdale School District 181 (1952)  
Calvin Morris, college professor, owner of consulting company (1953)  
James Compton, president of Chicago Urban League (1954)  
Donald Kieso, world-renowned accountant (1954)  
James Abrahamson, college professor and author (1955)  
A. George Fuller, director of organization to help students (1955)  
William Settles, professor, author and lecturer (1955)  
Robert McCue Sr., owner of Thomas Pump Co. (1956)  
Patricia Reid Lindner, Illinois State Representative (1957)  
Sue Ling Gin, founder of Flying Food Group (1959)  
Ronald L. Ream, holder of 73 chewing gum patents (1959)  
Robert J. O'Connor, attorney and Aurora alderman (1962)  
Dr. John LaCart, noted orthopedic surgeon (1965)  
Dr. Aaron Stills, renowned professor at Howard University (1965)  
Patrick Rogers, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Aurora (1965)  
Stephanie Weber, suicide prevention advocate (1965)  
William Lorenz, Emmy winning television production engineer (1966)  
Richard Schindel, East High teacher and DECA coordinator (1966)  
Dr. Isa Patterson Williams, university professor and refugee advocate (1967)  
Karen Hart, teacher and administrator at East Aurora (1969)  
Timothy Oelker, Aurora Fire Department Chief (1969)  
Maureen McDonough Gillette, dean of College of Education at University of Chicago (1971)  
Dr. John Sarwark, respected orthopedic surgeon (1972)  
Dr. Kevin Aister, leading osteopathic emergency physician (1973)  
Dr. John Avendano, president of Kankakee Community College (1980)  
Dr. Narda Coronado, owner of prominent dental practice (1981)  
Penny Deligiannis, international humanitarian (1983)  
Paul Meisch, commanding officer in U.S. Navy (1983)  
Linda Chapa LaVia, Illinois State Representative (1984)  
Richard Irvin, attorney and Aurora alderman (1988)  
Dennis Lane, acclaimed military pilot (1958)  
Miguel Saltijeral, military veteran; entrepreneur (1986)

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