

South Bend Tribune

Thursday, September 30, 2010

LOCAL/BUSINESS

8 to be added to Community Hall of Fame

■ Other awards at fall banquet to recognize work of organizations, individuals.

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend Community Hall of Fame will induct eight new members this year.

The annual banquet and induction ceremony will take place on Nov. 10 at Century Center. This year's inductees will be:

■ **J. Chester Allen Sr.** The longtime attorney, who died in 1980, was a pioneer in the early efforts to end segregation in all aspects of community life, including a 19-year struggle to desegregate the South Bend Natatorium. He was the first African-American from the South Bend area to serve as a state representative; the first to serve on the South Bend Common Council; and the first to serve on the local school board.

■ **Charles "Boxcar" Black.** A lifelong resident of the LaSalle Park neighborhood, Black spent 33 years working with youth in LaSalle Park, at Clay High School and at Harrison Elementary School. He felt his purpose in life was to help children grow spiritually, socially, economically, educationally and culturally. After his death on Jan. 14, 2001, the LaSalle Park Recreation Center was renamed in his honor.

■ **James Coppens.** Coppens, who died Aug. 11, was one of the most influential people in the local theater scene during his 30-year association with the South Bend Civic Theatre. He helped it grow from its

How to get tickets

■ General admission tickets for the annual South Bend Community Hall of Fame banquet Nov. 10 at the Century Center are available for \$50. Patron tickets are \$100 and include acknowledgment in the program.

■ To purchase tickets or for more information, call the South Bend Alumni Association office at 574-283-8153.

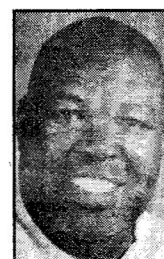
former 77-seat Firehouse Theater to its \$4 million state-of-the-art facility on North Main Street, and from six shows a year to 16.

■ **Ervin Derda.** A fighter pilot in World War II, Derda returned to his native South Bend after the war to launch a successful business career. He has made his mark on the community through his service to many political and community organizations, most notably Logan Center. He has been instrumental in the growth of Logan, the creation of Logan Industries and the Logan Foundation. He served as chairman in 1987 of the International Summer Special Olympics, held at the University of Notre Dame.

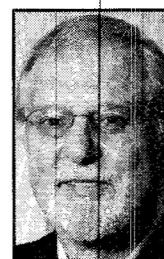
■ **Fred Kahn.** Public service is part of Kahn's family heritage. He has helped shape South Bend's character through his service on the Century Center Board of Managers, St. Joseph County Hotel-Motel Tax Board, both the St. Joseph County and South Bend park boards, the Firefly Festival Board, Fischhoff National Music Competition board, Michiana Arts and Sciences Council and Michigan City



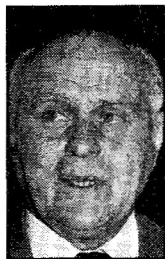
Allen



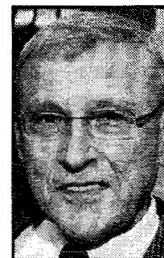
Black



Coppens



Derda



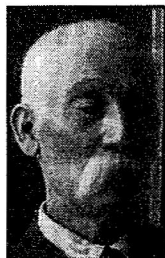
Kahn



King



Miller



Weiss

Yacht Club.

■ **Nancy King.** For more than 20 years, King has worked with the YWCA to help women and children escape from domestic violence. She served as president of the YW's board during its campaign to build a new facility on South Bend's south side. She is vice president of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, president of Bridges Out of Poverty, and member of the South Bend Redevelopment Commission. She also is a former member South Bend Community School Corp. board of trustees.

■ **Robert L. Miller Sr.** A former Superior Court judge, Miller has built on his history as a Navy veteran to remain active in various veteran causes over the years. The Purple Heart recipient has most recently created Miller's Vets to help homeless veterans get back on their feet. He has put them back in uni-

form and trained them to participate in parades and community events. He is working to establish a special homeless center for veterans and to provide free military honors and burial sites for indigent veterans.

■ **Enoch Weiss.** Weiss is this year's historical honoree. He is believed to be the only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from South Bend. He was cited in 1870 for valor against the Apache Indians in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona Territory. Born in 1848 in Kosciusko County, Weiss moved to South Bend in the 1850s. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1864 at the age of 16. He participated in numerous battles and was part of Sherman's March to the Sea and the Siege of Savannah. Following the Civil War, he re-enlisted and fought in the Indian wars. He later returned to South Bend, married and raised a family. He died in

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Business

1917 and is buried with his wife in City Cemetery.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, several awards will be given to individuals or organizations.

The University of Notre Dame will receive the Corporation Award for support of education in the community, while the Children's Dispensary will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award for its programs serving children with special needs. The Dispensary celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2009.

The Fed Challenge Team from St. Joseph's High School will receive a Distinguished Achievement Award for its championship finish in the national Fed Challenge competition. Another Distinguished Achievement Award will be given to Steve Smith, retired high school swimming coach who has won numerous triathlete competitions here and abroad.

The Ideal Baldoni Distinguished Public Service Award will be given this year to Sean Coleman, the county treasurer. In addition to his work in the treasurer's office and on various public boards, Coleman organizes an annual fundraising event for multiple sclerosis, an ailment that claimed the life of his wife.

Tickets for the annual banquet will go on sale Sept. 27. Patron tickets are \$100 and include acknowledgment in the program. General admission tickets are \$50. Various sponsorship opportunities, which include a display acknowledgment in the program, also are available.

For more information, call the South Bend Alumni Association office at 574-283-8153.