



Photo by Wayne Norwood

The first 20 inductees were enshrined in the newly-created Mt. Airy Hall of Fame during "A Night to Remember" held March 21. The only three living inductees are shown here (left to right): Travis Norwood, Norman Etzler and C. Oscar Baker.

New Mt. Airy Hall Of Fame honors inductees; Illiano named Outstanding Person of the Year

By NAN BROWN
Messenger Staff

The Historical Society of Mount Airy inducted 20 charter members into the Mt. Airy Hall of Fame. The theme, "A Night to Remember," lived up to its name.

Over 240 people were on hand, many were family members of the inductees. The celebration took place on the evening of March 21 at American Legion Gold Star Post 191.

Travis Norwood, president of the Historical Society and curator and archivist of the Mount Airy Museum, took the podium to welcome everyone and mentioned that Mt. Airy is the first municipality in Maryland to have a hall of fame. He indicated, "We are quite proud of that, and I hope that this will go on for a long, long time."

David Greenwalt, who was instrumental in the concept of a hall of fame for the town, remarked, "Today is the 106th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Mt. Airy, and this may be the most distinguished gathering in its history." He added, "Tonight we open the doors to our Hall of Fame and open its doors to the first 20 to be enshrined."

The 20 inductees include 4 women and 16 men, three of whom are living. The 20 were chosen from nominations submitted by residents of the community in

such areas as business, community service, education, historical, political, humanitarian and sports/recreation.

Before the inductions began, Greenwalt announced Mt. Airy's Outstanding Person of the Year. He introduced finalists, Frank Illiano, Andrew Mason, Frank and Althea Miller, Wayne Norwood, and Henry Runkles.

The suspense grew as Greenwalt unwrapped the package containing the plaque bearing the name of the winner, Frank Illiano, the owner of New York J&P Pizza. Illiano has been involved in community service for several years, during which he has assisted numerous youth leagues, has raised thousands of dollars for the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company, and also donated the town's Christmas tree.

After the applause for Illiano abated, Ahalt began the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The 20 charter members were announced as follows:

Howard S. "Happy" Albright (3/2/11-7/2/86) - He moved to Mt. Airy in 1946 and opened Hipsley-Albright Furniture and Appliances. He was president of the Mt. Airy Lions Club in 1949-50, and he and his wife were charter members of the Carroll County Association for Retarded Citizens. His widow, Louise

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Albright, accepted the award on his behalf.

C. Oscar Baker (born 6/24/22) - He is one of the three living inductees. He was the president of the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company (MAVFC) from 1952 until 1955 and has served for nearly 60 years as a volunteer fireman and is a member of their state hall of fame. He was Mt. Airy's Outstanding Person of the Year in 1996.

Herman S. Beck, Sr. (9/20/1891-5/26/66) - He moved to Mt. Airy in 1919 where he ran a hatchery business. He shipped baby chickens all over the country making Mt. Airy known as "Baby Chick Town of the USA." He served from 1926 until 1953 as the first chief of the MAVFC having been instrumental in its formation. His plaque was accepted by his son Charles Beck.

L. Pearce Bowlus (11/7/07-9/15/81) - After moving to Mt. Airy in 1929, he was editor of *The Community Reporter* for 28 years. He became an attorney in 1939 and served as the town's only lawyer for 25 years. He served on the Carroll County Board of Education for 15 years, was on the board of directors of several financial institutions, and was president of the Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce. His award was accepted by his daughter.

Lindsay L. Browning (4/4/1898-3/26/82) - Born in the area, he was the owner and operator of Browning's Grocery from 1933-1965. He took great pride in Mt. Airy, instituting a Friday night drawing to promote the town as well as taking part in the Christmas lighting and decoration of the downtown area. He was a charter member of the Mt. Airy Kiwanis Club and of the MAVFC, serving as its president from 1940-1944. During World War II he was the town's civil defense warden. He had the largest contingent of family on hand for the occasion, some 30 members, and his eldest son, C. Robert Browning, accepted the honor.

Henry Bussard (9/5/1794-3/1/1881) - He is credited as being the founder of Mt. Airy and donated the land for Ridge Presbyterian Church which was built in 1846 and is now known as Pine Grove Chapel, the town's oldest structure. The growth of the town was enhanced by his sale of land for a spur of the B&O Railroad. His award was accepted by Bonnie Winkler, his great-great-granddaughter.

Eugenia W. "Jean" Culwell (5/29/18-8/21/88) - She and her husband moved to Mt. Airy in 1949. She was a den mother in the town's first Cub Scout pack which

which she helped to establish. She also served twice as president of the Mt. Airy Garden Club (1957-1959 and 1970-1973). Her son, Paul Culwell, accepted her induction award.

Lewis C. Dixon (3/19/22-7/27/99) - During his tenure as Mt. Airy's 17th Mayor, the town experienced an increase

Airy through her work in the church and community. She was honored in 1994 at the centennial banquet as being the town's oldest citizen. Her award was accepted by her nephew, Deacon Calvin Carter.

Norman E. Etzler (born 6/10/10) - He is another of the *(continued on page 16)*



Staff photo by Nan Brown

Local businessman Frank Illiano was named Mt. Airy's Outstanding Person of the Year for 1999 at the Historical Society's Hall of Fame Banquet held March 21.

in population and had its sewer system implemented. He was a three-time president of the Kiwanis Club and was responsible for the concept of the Mt. Airy Community Telephone Directory, the club's largest annual fundraiser. He owned Mt. Airy Hardware with his son and was credited with organizing the Downtown Business Association now known as the Greater Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce. Lew's widow Beverly accepted the induction honor.

Byron S. Dorsey (3/19/1852-1/28/32) - He was born in the area and served from 1894-98 as the town's first mayor and from 1900-1904 as its third mayor. He established the B.S. Dorsey Company in 1882, a farm implement and general supply store. His award was accepted by his grandchildren, Richard Murdoch and Ann Herrelko.

Grafton I. "Nick" Dorsey (7/18/1872-12/31/49) - Born in the area, he was the son of Civil War hero Thomas Dorsey. His blacksmith shop was on Ridge Road. He built a general merchandise store around 1906 and is believed to be the first African-American to own businesses on the Carroll County side of town. Dorseytown is named in his honor.

Rose Dorsey