

CANTON MCKINLEY

HALL OF
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



DOUBLETREE HOTEL
September 25, Two Thousand Twenty Five

HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



PROGRAM

I. Invocation

*Dajeun Dickerson, Senior
McKinley High School*

II. Dinner

III. Welcome

R.J. Van Almen, Committee Chair

VI. Opening Remarks

*Jeff Talbert, Superintendent
Canton City Schools*

V. Distinguished Alumni Presentation

*Dajeun Dickerson, Senior
McKinley High School*

VI. Closing Remarks

*Scott Russ, President
Canton City Schools, Board of Education*



HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

It is with immense pride that the Canton City School District introduces the inaugural class of the Canton McKinley Hall of Distinguished Alumni. This evening, we celebrate twelve exceptional graduates whose careers in public service, education, sports, entertainment, the military, and community leadership exemplify our district's core values of excellence, leadership, and community-building. Each honoree has not only achieved great success in their respective fields but has also served as a powerful role model for our students and the entire Canton community.

We also honor a special Heritage Class, recognizing trailblazing alumni posthumously, whose legacies continue to inspire. This inaugural class sets a lasting tradition, celebrating the Bulldog pride that is defined by hard work, resilience, innovation, and service. Where Champions are Made and Success is Tradition is more than just our motto—it's the spirit that defines this inaugural class. Go Pups!

Jeffery Talbert, Superintendent ~ Canton City Schools

Welcome Distinguished Alumni and guests. Tonight's ceremony promises to be filled with some amazing success stories. It is with great honor that we recognize these individuals who went on to do some remarkable things after graduating from Canton McKinley High School. This ceremony is something that is long overdue. I want to thank all of you for joining us tonight in honoring these individuals.

Scott Russ, Board of Education President ~ Canton City Schools



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2025



CHEF

Stephan Baity



FIRE CHIEF

K. Akbar Bennett



EDUCATOR

Kim Crenshaw



CEO OF ABCD

Will Dent



EDUCATOR

Manuel Halkias



O'JAYS MEMBER

Eddie Levert



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2025



MAKE-UP ARTIST

Leah Loukas



NFL COACH

Josh McDaniels



EDUCATOR

Stephanie Patrick



CANTON MAYOR

William Sherer II



ARMY VETERAN

Robin Valdez



O'JAYS MEMBER

Walter Williams

HERITAGE CLASS

James Allardice - Emmy-Winning Writer

Mother Angelica - EWTN Founder

Marian Crenshaw - Canton Educator

Walter Clarence Crenshaw JR. - Canton Educator

Frank Devol - Renowned Bandleader

Ralph Hay - Canton Bulldogs Owner

Dick Kempthorn - Football All-American

Rueben Klamer - Inventor of The Game of Life

Paul Martin - Youth Advocate

Marion Motley - Pro Football Hall of Famer

John Scali - Former US Ambassador

Harry Steel - Olympic Gold Medal Winner

Blanche Thebom - Operatic Mezzo-Soprano

Ira Turpin - Judge. Legal Trailblazer

Nick Weatherspoon - NBA Standout





Congratulations, and thank you for setting a lasting example of distinction and service. With deep respect and heartfelt appreciation, we honor the inaugural class of the Canton McKinley High School Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Your exceptional accomplishments reflect the values of hard work, resilience, and steadfast dedication—principles that lie at the heart of our school's legacy.

Each honor, accolade, and achievement you have earned stands as a powerful reflection of your commitment to excellence in your chosen fields. More than personal success, your contributions have left a lasting imprint on your communities and continue to inspire generations of students, educators, and peers.

Your lives and careers embody what it means to lead with purpose and integrity. It is with immense pride that we recognize you not only as Distinguished Alumni, but as enduring representatives of the Bulldog spirit.

Congratulations, and thank you for exemplifying the highest standards of character and achievement.

R.J. Van Almen, Committee Chair

CPEA Proudly Congratulates
The 2025 Distinguished Alumni



Your remarkable achievements & contributions
to your fields are inspiring.

CONGRATULATIONS INDUCTEES

*Stephan Baity ~ K. Akbar Bennett ~ Kim Crenshaw
Will Dent ~ Manuel Halkias ~ Eddie Levert
Leah Loukas ~ Josh McDaniels ~ Stephanie Patrick
William Sherer II ~ Robin Valdez ~ Walter Williams*

The Canton City Schools ~ Board of Education