

CCRI CONGRATULATES

Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN

President, Community College of Rhode Island



Pawtucket Hall of Fame's
**Person of the
Year Award**

PAWTUCKET HALL of FAME

2025

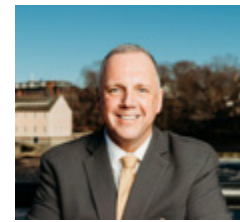
33rd Annual
Dinner and Induction Ceremony

Pawtucket Armory Arts Center
172 Exchange Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

 Community College of
Rhode Island

Welcome one and all.





Welcome to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame Awards! As Mayor, I am always impressed by the individuals who work tirelessly to make our community a better place. Tonight, we are honored to induct the 2025 award winners.

The late Jacqueline M. Walsh dedicated her life to educating the youth in our community. With over 30 years of experience as a classroom teacher in Pawtucket, Jacqueline was a passionate advocate for her students, touching the lives of so many. As a result of her devotion to her profession as well as her unique attributes as a teacher and administrator, it was only fitting that she be best known for her crowning achievement—the creation of the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for Performing and Visual Arts.

Dan Sullivan, Jr., the current Executive Chairman of Collette, a company we are proud to have in Pawtucket, exemplifies civic leadership. After becoming CEO in 1990, Dan transformed the travel industry through innovation and collaboration. Beyond his business acumen, Dan is an exceptional community partner, investing in the community and advocating for economic development.

Lifelong educator and visionary business leader Donald L. Stafford has devoted himself to advancing technology in education. As a two-time graduate of Brown University, Donald has championed expanded access to STEM education for at-risk youth. He serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when one uses their talent to uplift their community.

Renowned throughout the state for “Bob’s Big Adventures,” Pawtucket native Robert “Bob” Venturini serves as a fantastic ambassador for both our city and state. With over three decades of experience in local broadcasting, Bob has highlighted the beauty and uniqueness of Rhode Island. He is also dedicated to community service, supporting various local non-profits with his time and talents.

The late Gretchen Dow Simpson is celebrated for her extensive contributions to the arts and culture landscape in Pawtucket. Her work earned national recognition, appearing on the cover of the New Yorker magazine 58 times. Despite her national accomplishments, she was always willing to lend her support to Pawtucket community projects, and she is especially well-known for her iconic I-95 mural, commissioned as part of Governor Lincoln Chafee’s Highways Beautification Project. Her artwork showcases the best of Pawtucket and continues to inspire artists across our state with its timeless quality.

Historical inductee James C. Potter was an inventor, engineer, and civic leader. After emigrating from Scotland to the United States, he founded a textile company in Pawtucket that employed 1,000 workers. James was a consummate inventor, creating products that played a significant role in defining Pawtucket’s industrial growth. He was also dedicated to public service, helping to develop Slater Park into the largest green space in our city, which we all enjoy today.

Our 2025 Person of the Year is Dr. Rosemary Costigan, president of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). A proud graduate of Pawtucket West High School, Rosemary uses her personal and professional experiences to inspire greatness in others. As the first alumna to become president of the institution, Rosemary has guided CCRI to achieve a 10-year reaccreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education. She has been recognized for her excellence in educational leadership and her commitment to community prosperity.

I want to express my gratitude to chairperson Patricia Zacks and the entire Hall of Fame Committee for hosting this annual celebration of these remarkable individuals. Thank you to all the sponsors for their generous contributions. Enjoy the evening!

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor, City of Pawtucket

Coastal1 Credit Union was founded on the principle of “people helping people.” That’s why we’re proud to support **The Pawtucket Hall Of Fame!**

Because we believe that supporting our community is the smarter way to bank.

Congratulations, Dr. Rosemary A. Costigan,
recipient of “Person of the Year Award”

2025 Hall of Fame Inductees:

Dan Sullivan, Donald Stanford, Robert “Bob” Venturini,
Gretchen Dow Simpson, Jacqueline M. Walsh, and James C. Potter



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From the Chairperson



Tonight we celebrate the induction of 6 new members into the 2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame as well as recognizing a person the Pawtucket Hall of Fame committee has selected to receive this year's "Person of the Year Award". The Pawtucket Hall of Fame has been well served over the years by a volunteer committee of local community members who have dedicated their time and energy to organize this annual event, now in its 33rd year. The Pawtucket Hall of Fame awards first took place in 1986 as part of the Centennial Celebration event created by (then) Mayor Henry Kinch, as a fitting way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pawtucket as a city. During that event, 25 people were selected that evening and honored for their contributions that had instilled a sense of pride in the community. These honorees were praised as local heroes, for they were educators, industrialists, business people, sports figures, Olympic gold medal winners, poets, television personalities and producers - all people we could proudly call our own. Their names have been honorably and proudly placed in the lobby of Pawtucket City Hall for all visitors to see. And while 25 people were recognized for that one night in 1986, as the years went by there were others that followed, certainly worthy to receive this honor. In 1992 under the direction and charge of the late Raymond Dalton, Sr., Pawtucket Hall of Fame was 'resurrected' and became an annual celebration worthy to stand on its own. It would recognize those special individuals 'whose contributions in any line of endeavor had added to the heritage of the City of Pawtucket'. This year's class of inductees have rightfully satisfied this requirement in their own respective ways. As a group, their life experiences are diverse, but each share the threat of passion and selfless determination to make a difference in their community. This year we present you with a group of people who have left their mark in a variety of ways while 'shining a positive light' on our city. We present you with this year's 2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame inductees: **Daniel J. Sullivan, Jr.**, a visionary business leader, respected philanthropist, and dedicated community advocate. The late **Gretchen Dow Simpson**, acclaimed Rhode Island painter internationally recognized for her minimalist architectural imagery. **Donald L. Stanford**, accomplished business leader, education advocate, and committed community leader. **Robert P. "Bob" Venturini**, a dedicated community advocate whose charitable work and cable broadcasts have brought pride to Pawtucket and Rhode Island. The late **Jacqueline M. Walsh**, passionate education advocate and namesake of Pawtucket's Arts High School, inspiring creativity and opportunity for local youth. And historical inductee **James Potter** (inventor). In addition to these inductions, this year's recipient of the "Person of the Year Award" is presented to **Dr. Rosemary Costigan**. A lifelong Pawtucket resident and Shea High School graduate, she began her journey at CCRI, earning an associate degree in nursing before rising to become the college's sixth—and first alumna—president in 2025.

On behalf of the Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee, we welcome you to recognize and honor our Pawtucket Hall of Fame 2025 inductees. Enjoy the evening!

Patricia S. Zacks, PHOF '11
Chairperson
Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee



Event Program

Cocktail Reception

Opening Remarks

2024 Pawtucket Hall of Fame Inductee

Robert Andrade

Greetings from the City

Mayor Donald R. Grebien

Welcoming Remarks

Patricia S. Zacks (PHOF '11)

Chairperson

Dinner

Presentation of Awards & Remarks By Awards Recipients

Master of Ceremonies

Barbara Morse

WJAR NBC 10

Presentation of Awards

"Find the good and praise it"Alex Haley



Original Charter Inductees

1986

John Bowab
Ernest Calverley**
Allen H. Chatterton, Jr.**
Robert E. Doyle**
William F. Farley
Fred M. Goulart
David Hartman
Stephen Hassenfeld**

Dr. Percy Hodgson**
Galway Kinnell**
Armand LaMontagne**
Raymond C. Larsen**
Wilfred "Lefty" Lefebvre**
Irving R. Levine**
Eleanor M. McMahon**
Bernard Mondor**
Chester "Chet" Nichols**

Leslie Pawson**
Gerald Philbin**
George Ramsbottom**
A. Henry "Hank" Soar**
Janet Moreau Stone**
Matthew "Max" Surkont**
Sister Miriam Thomas Kelly**
Jack White**

Inductees

1992

Honorable Francis B. Condon**
Francis R. Dietz**
Frederick R. Glassman**
Alan G. Hassenfeld**
Mayor Lawrence A. McCarthy**
Michael Pappas**
Michael Tamburro

1993

Philip H. Couhig**
Raymond S. Dalton, Sr.**
George Patrick Duffy, Sr.**
Dr. Donat L. Savoie**
Rene Viau**

1994

Elizabeth "Betty" (Jackson) Johnson**
Theresa Landry**
Edward "Ted" McConnon**
Raymond Storin**

1995

Michael Corrente
Armand J. Ferland**
Robert "Cy" Killian**
Ernest B. Marot**

1996

Richard Allyn Carleton, MD**
Nelson Eddy**

1997

Edward W. "Ned" Barlow**
Ann Hogan

1998

Dr. Robert "Bob" Billington
Anthony "Gig" Pariseau**
Roland "Rollie" Pariseau**
James Lucas Wheaton IV**

1999

Constance "Connie" Fournier**
Mayor Robert E. Metivier
Charles "Chuck" Sczuroske, Jr.

2000

Phillip A. Ayoub
Thomas Joseph Duffy**

James E. Gilligan**
Joseph C. Sadlier**

Rear Adm. R. Dennis Sirois (USCG)

2001

William Nesbitt, Jr.**

2002

Abraham "Cappy" Asermely**
William "Billy" Hulme**
Captain Conrad E. LaGueux**
Patrick McCabe**
Louis Yip

2003

Mary Frances "Fran" Campbell**
Joseph J. MarcAurele

2004

Morris Nathanson**
Martin L. Tarpy**

2005

Frederick M. McKinnon**
Gerald F. Quinn**

2006

Samuel J. Kanakry, Sr. **
Dr. John Nazarian

2007

J. William Busald**
Rev. Aaron F. Usher, Jr.**

2008

Albert N. Cartier**
Hon. John F. McBurney, Jr.**

Bruce D. McCrae
Michael Reeder

2009

James E. Brennan**
Keith E. Carney
Charles "Ted" Dolan**

2010

Cheryl N. Babiec
Michael D. Cassidy
William A. Catelli, Jr.
Christopher R. Gauthier**
Charles E. Shea, Jr.**
Charles F. Thurley**

2011

Joan C. Doyle & Stanley P. Lachut, Jr.
Raymond M. Gannon**
Gordon M. Gould**
Chief George L. Kelley, III
Patricia S. Zacks

2012

Paul Audette**
Jean Stizpeck**
Janice McHale**
John "Red" Pollard**

2013

No Inductees

2014

Joan Crawley
Kathleen Magill**
Miriam Plitt
Elizabeth Higginson Weeden**

2015

Elaine Coderre
Dr. John Cunningham**
Dr. Richard Kazarian
Mary Siniak**
Paul J. Wildenhain**

2016

Melvin G. Alperin
Nino Calabro**
Dino DeLuca**
Mayor James E. Doyle**
David Gwizdowski
Attorney General Peter Kilmartin
John Martins**
Anna McLaughlin



Inductees

2017

Jean "Janina" Babiec**
Edwin Darling**
Dr. Ellen R. Jolly**
Kevin Lima
Robert K. Neill, Sr.**
Ron St. Pierre**

2018

Joseph A. Asermely
Andrew R. Avakian
Dr. Christine Courtois
Dawn P. Goff
Thomas P. Gibling**
Major General Leonard Holland**
The Hon. Joseph A. Keough, Sr.**
Paul C. Mowrey
Raymond F. Murray**
Robert Perlow
Mary Tetzner

2019

Dr. Joseph J. Box, DDS**
Joseph T. Fleming
Larry Holloway
Thomas A. Holleran**
Raymond McGee
Arthur M. Plitt**
Susan L. Reed
Neil D. Steinberg
Darius L. Goff**
Lyman B. Goff**

2020

No Inductees

2021

No Inductees

2022

Dr. Michael Fine
James R. Hoyt, Jr.
Roberta Noiseux
Kenneth Noiseux**
John "Jack" Partridge
David M. Rosser **

2023

Gail Ahlers
Phyllis Van Orden Nathanson
Beth Roberge
Rick Roth
Patricia DeDora-St. Germain**

2024

Robert Andrade
Merry Caswell
Pamela Hughes
William D. Mulholland
Lou Schwechheimer, Jr.**

2025

Gretchen Dow Simpson**
Daniel Sullivan
Donald Stanford
Bob Venturini
Jacqueline M. Walsh**

In Memoriam

2025

Dr. Joseph J. Box, DDS
Alan Hassenfeld
Armand LaMontagne
Kenneth Noiseux
Gerald Philbin

***Departed, but forever in our thoughts*

***Departed, but forever in our thoughts*



Historical Inductees

1997 Governor Joseph Jenks III	2006 Minerva A. Sanders	2014 Elizabeth Higginson Weeden
1998 Samuel Slater	2007 Sam Patch	2017 Edwin Darling
1999 Davide Wilkinson	2008 Joseph Jenks, Jr.	2018 Dr. Ellen R. Jolly
1999 Mrs. Martha J. (Wheaton) Chase	2009 Kurt G. Langborg	2019 Thomas P. Giblin
2000 Mayor Frederic C. Sayles	2010 Samuel S. Collyer	2019 Darius Goff
2000 Reverend David Benedict	2010 Mary A. Jenks, M.D.	2019 Darius L. Goff, Jr. & Lyman B. Goff
2001 Henrietta I. Drummond, R.N.	2011 Captain Levi Tower	2022 Hannah Wilkinson Slater
2002 William Meiklejohn	2012 Lt. Colonel Henry	2023 Martha Jencks Chase
2003 Peter Palagi, Sr.	2012 Harrison Young	2024 Vivian Marshall
2004 Parker-Luther Company	2013 No Inductees	2025 James C. Potter
2005 John F. (Jack) McGee		

Person(s) of the Year

2014 Senator Donna Nesselbush	2017 Mayor Donald R. Grebien	2022 Elizabeth D. Moreira
2015 Jim Gillen**	2018 Adrienne Marchetti	2023 Alison Bologna
2016 Terry Nau	2019 Donna Houle	2024 Gabe Amo
	2020 Leslie Moore	2025 Dr. Rosemary Costigan

***Departed, but forever in our thoughts*



2025 Person of the Year Dr. Rosemary A. Costigan



The Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee is proud to honor Dr. Rosemary Costigan as its 2025 Person of the Year. Established in 2014, this award is distinct from induction into the Hall of Fame and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Pawtucket over the past year.

A lifelong Pawtucket resident, Dr. Costigan graduated from Pawtucket West High School (now Shea High School). She earned an associate degree in nursing from the Community College of Rhode Island (then Rhode Island Junior College), becoming the first CCRI alumna to be named president of the institution. Her education remained rooted in Rhode Island. After CCRI, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Rhode Island College and both a master's and Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rhode Island. On June 18, 2025, the Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education voted unanimously to appoint her CCRI's sixth president. She is also only the second woman to hold this role in the college's history.

Dr. Costigan began her career at CCRI as a nursing faculty member, teaching and mentoring students for more than 15 years before serving as Department Chair. She later became Assistant Dean of Nursing Education and Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). As VPAA, she launched the college's first Academic Master Plan, expanded online learning, promoted faculty development, and implemented Guided Pathways to help students graduate.

Appointed Interim President in September 2023, Dr. Costigan quickly proved her ability to lead Rhode Island's largest public institution of higher education. Under her leadership, CCRI achieved a 10-year reaccreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education, joined the Achieving the Dream network to strengthen equity and outcomes, and secured the largest private donation in its history—a \$2 million gift to redesign developmental education. She also introduced accelerated terms, expanded early college access, and advanced new work-based learning initiatives.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Costigan's rise to CCRI's highest office embodies the opportunity and upward mobility that Pawtucket public schools and CCRI have long provided. Her story is a triumph and an inspiration to the students she now leads. Beyond CCRI, she serves on the Board of Trustees for Davies Career & Technical High School and has worked as a peer evaluator for NECHE and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Her accomplishments have been widely recognized. She was inducted into the CCRI Society of Knights in 2016, named one of Providence Business News' Business Women of the Year in 2024, and received the Rosemary Wood Nursing Leadership Award and the Academic Excellence Award from the Hospital Association of Rhode Island.

A mother of five and grandmother of eight, Dr. Costigan continues to call Pawtucket her home. Her journey—from Shea High School student to CCRI alumna to sixth president of the Community College of Rhode Island—makes her a role model for Pawtucket's young people and a most deserving recipient of the 2025 Person of the Year Award.



2025 Historical Inductee James C. Potter (1855-1925)



The Pawtucket Hall of Fame proudly honors James Charles Potter, an engineer, inventor, industrialist, and civic leader whose vision and achievements helped define Pawtucket's industrial rise in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, on May 1, 1855, Potter was educated at the Mechanics' Institutes and gained early experience as an engineer with H.J.H. King & Company, the Anchor Line Steamship Company, and the Vale of Clyde Engineering Works. He also served in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Rifles. In 1874, he emigrated to the United States to join his father in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he worked for the Whitehead & Atherton Machine Company. Over 13 years, he advanced from designer to manager, gaining the expertise that would later shape his career in Pawtucket.

In 1887, Potter moved to Pawtucket and co-founded the Potter & Atherton Machine Company. Starting with 20 employees, the firm expanded to 250 within six years. In 1893, he organized the Howard & Bullough American Machine Company, which employed more than 1,000 workers producing textile machinery. Later, with John Johnston, he established the Potter & Johnston Machine Company, incorporated in 1899. Occupying a sprawling plant on Newport Avenue, the company specialized in advanced automatic turning and chucking machines and exported worldwide, employing more than 350 people at its height.

Potter was also a prolific inventor. He received patents for a stripping mechanism for carding machines (1885), a turret lathe (1905), and an automatic turret lathe (1919). These innovations contributed to Pawtucket's reputation as a hub of industrial ingenuity.

Equally dedicated to public service, Potter became chairman of the Pawtucket Park Commission in 1917, shaping the growth of Slater Park, the city's largest green space. That year, he donated the Potter Casino, a two-story recreational facility that served canoeists, skaters, and visitors, with an upstairs rest hall for community use. The building became a beloved feature of the park and remains one of his most visible civic gifts. His name also endures through the Potter-Burns Elementary School, formerly J.C. Potter Elementary, and other notable buildings along Newport Avenue.

Potter's personal life was marked by devotion to family. In 1879, he married Charlotte Holland in Baltimore, Maryland. The couple had six children: Wallace and Clara, born in Lowell; and Charlotte, Elizabeth, James, and Mary, born in Pawtucket. Remembered for his energy, intellect, and steady leadership, Potter exemplified both his Scottish heritage and the industrious spirit of his adopted city.

James C. Potter passed away on October 30, 1925, leaving behind a legacy of innovation, civic generosity, and community building. The companies he founded sustained Pawtucket's economy for decades, and the Potter & Johnston plant later became the headquarters of Hasbro Industries, linking his contributions to both the city's industrial and cultural life.

A builder, inventor, and civic-minded leader, James C. Potter helped shape modern Pawtucket. His legacy endures in its schools, parks, industries, and institutions, making him a most deserving inductee into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame.



2025 Posthumous Inductee Gretchen Dow Simpson



It is with great pleasure that we honor the late Gretchen Dow Simpson in her induction into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame — a fitting tribute to a remarkable artist, mentor, and creative force whose presence here in Rhode Island enriched our cultural landscape.

Gretchen was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1939 and earned her artistic foundation at the Rhode Island School of Design. Early in her career she embraced photography and design before discovering the painter's journey she would fully inhabit.

Her work first gained wider recognition when she began creating covers for *The New Yorker*—over the course of 21 years she produced 58 covers, bringing her clean-lined, light-filled vision of New England architecture into millions of homes. Her paintings are at once reverent and spare — saluting the clapboard houses, stairwells, and spacious interiors of the region with a “photographer's eye,” as she described it.

In 1993, Gretchen joined the iconic —Absolut ad campaign with “Absolut Dow Simpson,” a playful yet polished piece that brought her distinctive aesthetic to a new audience. It was a reminder that her work could bridge fine art and popular culture without losing its elegant identity.

Perhaps most meaningful to this community is the fact that Gretchen made her studio in the City of Pawtucket— first at 453 Cottage Street for several years – and then purchasing 75 Montgomery Street with friend and colleague Mimo Gordon Riley. It was a memorable experience for some of our Pawtucket children when Gretchen, Mimo and Marianne Purviance worked with Don Chabot and the students from the Curvin McCabe School for several weeks creating a beautiful mural in the school. The ending treat was to have these same students visit the artists' studios located across the street from the school and the students got to learn about who these artists were that had been giving them instruction. In 2012 she extended her artistic vision into the public realm with a striking 1,400-square-foot mural along I-95 in Pawtucket: six windows painted in her signature style, transforming an ordinary overpass into a portal of light and geometry.

Beyond her output, Gretchen was a generous presence — mentor, board member, and supporter of Rhode Island's arts institutions. Her calm precision in painting belied a vivacious spirit: she loved dancing, travel, and finding connections between architecture and the deeply human stories those structures hold. Today her painting “Hope” acquired through the Pawtucket Arts Festival in 2004 can be found in the Mayor's reception area of Pawtucket City Hall.

We celebrate not just her body of work, but her commitment to the region that helped shape her—and that she helped shape in return. Gretchen's art had clarity, stillness, and light; her legacy has community, inspiration, and place, and the impact she had in Pawtucket will always remain “Absolut Dow Simpson.” We proudly welcome Gretchen into this year's Pawtucket Hall of Fame.



2025 Posthumous Inductee Jacqueline M. Walsh



Jacqueline M. Walsh was a visionary educator, passionate arts advocate, and beloved community leader whose legacy continues to shine brightly in Pawtucket and beyond. As the namesake of the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts, she championed a bold idea: that every student deserves a space to explore their creativity, cultivate their talents, and be seen for who they truly are.

Born in Pawtucket on September 25 to Hazel and Joe Walsh, Jacqueline—affectionately known as “Jackie” to friends and colleagues—was deeply rooted in the community she would dedicate her life to serving. She attended St. Leo’s School and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy before pursuing higher education. Walsh earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master’s Degree in Education from Rhode Island College, later completing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Connecticut. This strong academic foundation prepared her to lead with vision and purpose.

Walsh began her professional career in 1969 as a classroom teacher in the Pawtucket School Department. Over the course of 32 years, she steadily rose through the ranks—serving as an enrichment teacher, principal, Director of Elementary Education, Assistant Superintendent, and ultimately Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. In every role, she championed excellence in teaching, strengthened curriculum development, and inspired innovation in both elementary and secondary education.

Her tireless service was formally recognized in 2001 when the Rhode Island Senate passed a joint resolution honoring her 32 years of dedication to the children of Pawtucket. Colleagues remember her as a tireless advocate for students, a thoughtful mentor to teachers, and a leader whose intelligence and compassion instilled confidence throughout the district.

Even after retiring from the Pawtucket schools, Dr. Walsh’s passion for education did not wane. She continued her influence as an assistant professor at Providence College, where she mentored aspiring teachers and instilled in them both professional skill and a deep commitment to public service. Her legacy extended well beyond the classroom, shaping the next generation of educators.

Perhaps the most enduring tribute to her life’s work is the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts, an audition-based public high school in Pawtucket named in her honor. Dedicated to nurturing young talent, the school embodies Walsh’s lifelong belief in the power of enrichment programs to inspire students and unlock their potential. Her name, and the values she stood for, will live on in every student who passes through its doors.

Outside of her professional life, Jackie was a vibrant and multifaceted individual. She enjoyed playing tennis, cheering on the Boston Red Sox, and making trips to Newport’s International Tennis Hall of Fame. She was also devoted to her beloved dog, Pebbles. Friends and family remember her warm humor, loyalty, and the joy she found in simple pleasures. She will forever be remembered not only for what she accomplished—but for how she made people feel: seen, heard, and inspired. We are proud to induct Jacqueline M. Walsh into this year’s Pawtucket Hall of Fame.



2025 Inductee Donald L. Stanford



Donald L. Stanford has built an extraordinary career marked by innovation, leadership, and community commitment—all while remaining deeply rooted in his hometown of Pawtucket. His professional accomplishments and personal integrity reflect the very best of what this city represents.

A graduate of Brown University, Mr. Stanford earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in 1972 and his master’s degree in computer science and applied mathematics in 1977. In 1979, he joined the founding team of GTECH Corporation (now IGT Global Solutions) as Manager of Software Development. Over the next three decades, he played a central role in transforming the small Rhode Island startup into a global leader in lottery and gaming systems, serving as Vice President of Advanced Development and later as Chief Technology Officer. Under his leadership, GTECH systems expanded to operate on six continents and in over one hundred jurisdictions.

In addition to his corporate achievements, Mr. Stanford devoted more than two decades to education as an Adjunct Professor of the Practice of Computer Science at Brown University. There, he was known for his ability to bridge theory and practice, making complex topics accessible and relevant. He enjoyed mentoring newcomers to computing, highlighting both how technology works and its significance. His thoughtful and engaging teaching style earned him lasting respect from students and colleagues alike.

Beyond academia, Mr. Stanford has lent his expertise to numerous boards and community initiatives, including Rhode Island’s Science and Technology Advisory Council and efforts to expand access to quality education through public charter schools. He has received many professional and civic honors, including the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement, the NAACP’s Honorable Thurgood Marshall Award, and Brown University’s Distinguished Graduate Award.

While his career has been global in scope, Mr. Stanford has always remained close to Pawtucket. Colleagues often recall that even at the height of his corporate responsibilities, he made time to meet with students, local entrepreneurs, and civic leaders—sharing both guidance and encouragement. He has spoken often of his desire to “give back to the community that gave me my start.”

Mr. Stanford and his wife, Jane, have made their home in Pawtucket for many years. He takes great pride in his family — especially his daughters, Amanda and Julia, and his grandchildren, with whom he enjoys spending time exploring technology, science, and the simple pleasures of home life.

The Pawtucket Hall of Fame is proud to recognize Donald L. Stanford for his outstanding professional accomplishments, his lifelong dedication to education and mentorship, and his enduring commitment to the city he calls home. His achievements continue to inspire future generations of Pawtucket residents to dream big, work hard, and stay grounded in their community. We are proud to welcome Donald L. Stanford into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame.



2025 Inductee Daniel J. Sullivan, Jr.



It is with great pleasure and pride that we honor Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. as an inductee into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame. A native and lifelong champion of our city, Dan embodies the values of innovation, generosity, and community spirit that make Pawtucket special.

Dan's story is rooted in Pawtucket. From the earliest days of his career at Collette—joining in 1973 and becoming CEO in 1990—he helped build what began as a regional tour operator into a global industry leader, all while keeping the company anchored here at home. His leadership is marked by innovation and integrity, and his success is a testament to what excellence can look like in a community-minded setting.

But Dan's influence goes far beyond business growth. He has infused service and philanthropy into everything he touches. Under his stewardship, Collette not only succeeded commercially—but also made a real difference in people's lives, supporting hunger relief, education, and empowering youth. Locally, his commitment to Pawtucket is no less profound. He has served on boards, invested time and resources, and consistently said that his work is "an investment in the community."

For Pawtucket, Dan has been more than a business leader — he has been a partner in our city's story. He understands that a thriving city is about more than economic metrics. It's about people, culture and opportunity. Through the work of The Pawtucket Foundation and other initiatives, his vision, his energy, and his heart have helped strengthen the fabric of this place we call home.

What sets Dan apart is not just his successes, but the way he carries himself: approachable, grounded, and consistently focused on others. He leads by example—whether it's rolling up his sleeves, getting on the phone, traveling with his team, or staying close to the ground with real people in real communities.

Today we celebrate Dan Sullivan Jr. for all he has done—transforming industry, fueling community revitalization, and serving Pawtucket with heart and purpose. His story reminds us that thinking globally and acting locally are not mutually exclusive — they can, and should, go hand in hand. As he takes his place in the Hall of Fame, we honor not just his achievements, but his unwavering commitment to this city and its people.

Congratulations, Dan—thank you for making Pawtucket stronger, kinder, and more vibrant. We're proud to call you one of our own. We welcome you into this year's Pawtucket Hall of Fame!



2025 Inductee Robert P. "Bob" Venturini



Robert P. "Bob" Venturini has long been one of Pawtucket's most familiar voices and most generous community supporters. A lifelong Rhode Islander, Bob grew up with a passion for storytelling, connecting with his neighbors, and shining a spotlight on our state's unique character. Tonight we recognize his decades of service in media, mentorship, nonprofit support and civic life.

From the earliest days of his career, Bob understood that broadcasting was about more than just speaking into a microphone — it was about giving people a voice. Over a span of more than thirty years he created and hosted programs such as *An Hour with Bob* and *Bob's Big Adventures*, producing well over 2,000 episodes that dove into Rhode Island's talent, culture and character. In each segment he invited locals to share their stories, turning ordinary folks into on-air stars and reminding us how rich our community is.

Bob's involvement in Pawtucket goes well beyond the studio. He has coached Little League teams, volunteered for holiday telethons that distributed more than 300,000 toys to children in need, and lent his time and energy to countless nonprofits. One neighbor remembers Bob standing in the bleachers at a weekend game, stopping mid-play to congratulate a youngster on a great hit — not because it was required, but because he simply cared.

In his role as mentor, Bob opened doors for young media professionals — offering a first job, sharing a tip, or simply giving encouragement to someone who dared to pick up a camera. He frequently remarked that if one of his guests inspired just one viewer to tell their own story, then the work was worth it. Once, at a holiday charity event, Bob donned a Santa hat and handed out toys himself, taking the time to ask each child their name, their favorite color, and what they hoped for in the coming year. That moment — personal, unassuming, warm — captured everything people love about him.

For Bob, Pawtucket is home: the place where he raised his family, built his career, and invested his time. Whether walking Main Street, chatting with shop owners or stopping by the local coffee shop, he's always been visible and genuine. His passion for revitalizing the area along the Blackstone River and helping boost the city's profile has helped reinforce the pride so many of us feel for this place.

Today we honor Bob not just for what he's done — though the list is long — but for who he is: a storyteller, a cheerleader for others, a citizen who believes that a stronger community starts with one neighbor helping the next. We're pleased to induct Robert P. Venturini into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame. Thank you, Bob, for helping us hear the stories of our city — and for helping us create the next chapter together. For all you have done, we proudly welcome you into this year's Pawtucket Hall of Fame!



Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee

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Thank You!

The Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee extends its sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to submit a nomination. Through their thoughtful efforts, they not only honor the accomplishments of their nominees, but also bring great pride to the City of Pawtucket.

The Committee also extends its heartfelt thanks to The City of Pawtucket, to those individuals who wrote letters of support on behalf of a nominee, to everyone joining us this evening to honor and celebrate the newest inductees, and to all of our Hall of Famers whose exceptional accomplishments have significantly added to the heritage and quality of life in our great city.

The Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee wishes to thank all of our advertisers, sponsors and following businesses for the contributions in making our event a success:

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How to Nominate a Person to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame

The Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee was established in 1986 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pawtucket as a city. The purpose of the Pawtucket Hall of Fame is to honor the contributions of those individuals whose efforts - in any line of endeavor - have added to the heritage of the City of Pawtucket.

Eligibility to the Hall of Fame

Nominees do not have to be native born to Pawtucket but must have had some significant impact on the city as a whole. This award is given to those selected nominees who have gone 'above & beyond' in their community service activities and/or who have been vehicles that shine a positive light upon the city.

A person is eligible for election to the City of Pawtucket Hall of Fame if that person meets any or all of the following criteria:

- Born in the City of Pawtucket
- Whose reputation was made while a resident of the City of Pawtucket
- Who has made the City of Pawtucket the home of their business AND
- Who has made a lasting impact on the quality of life of the citizens of the City of Pawtucket.

To Nominate a person to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame:

A Pawtucket Hall of Fame nomination form, which can be found on the Pawtucket Hall of Fame website: www.pawtuckethalloffame.org, and a letter of nomination must be sent to the Chairperson listing the nominee's name, and should include a statement explaining why this person is being nominated. A minimum of two additional letters of support from other individuals will be required to accept this nomination. These letters of support or any other materials that will support this nomination may be mailed separately, but must be received by the deadline to be included in the nomination submission.

When the committee meets to review and consider candidates, the person who made the initial nomination will be allowed to come before the committee to speak and answer any questions the Pawtucket Hall of Fame Committee may have.

Deadline for Nomination: Friday, May 15, 2026

The Pawtucket Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1986 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pawtucket as a City. The purpose of the Pawtucket Hall of Fame is to honor the contributions of those individuals whose efforts have added to the heritage of the City of Pawtucket.

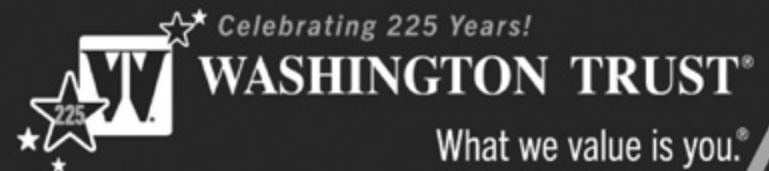


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Congratulations, Donald Stanford!



We are so proud of your induction into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame! Your legacy of hard work and leadership continues to inspire those around you. We are delighted to celebrate this accomplishment with you.

*Love,
Jane, Amanda, Julia, Brian, Stanford,
Lincoln, Hudson, Cooper, and Joey*

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Bank of America is proud to support Pawtucket Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all of the honorees on your well-deserved recognition.

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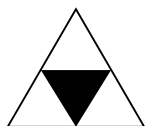
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enriched our heritage and the quality of life in the City of
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Pawtucket Hall of Fame Class of
2025 Inductees and Person of
the Year!

- Wendy Jencks (RIJC'73)



State Representative Karen Alzate Pawtucket/Central Falls

Congratulations to the 2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame Inductees!



The Brightest Star

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Mimo, Nancy, Ruth
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- * Donald Stanford
- * Robert "Bob" Venturini
- * Gretchen Dow Simpson
- * Jacqueline M. Walsh
- * James C. Potter
- * Dr. Rosemary A. Costigan

Their dedication, leadership,
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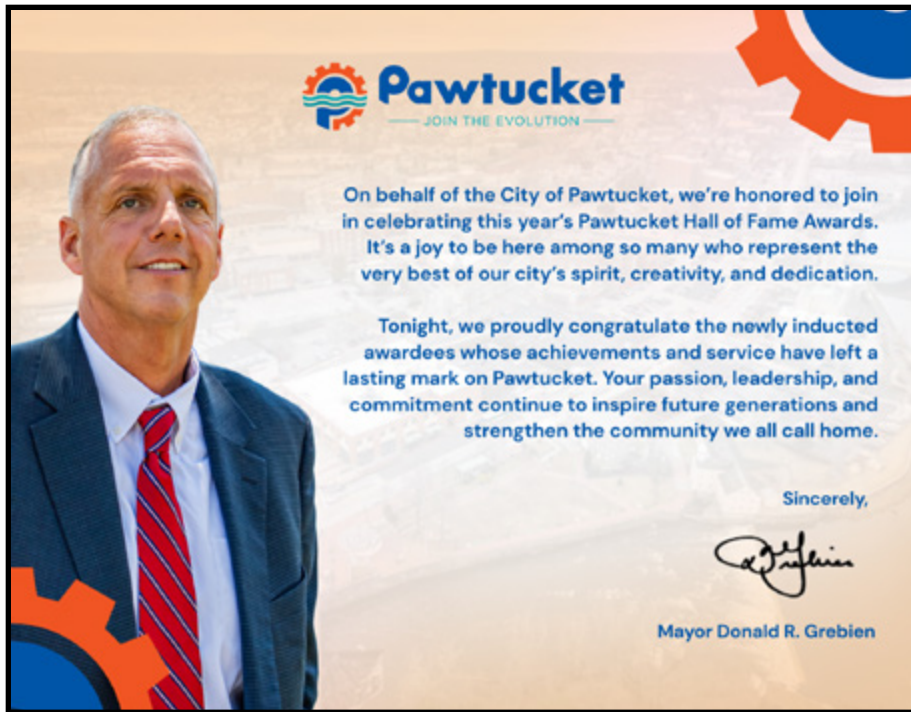
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&
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Thank you all for your
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Jacqueline M. Walsh (Posthumous Award)

James C. Potter (Historical Inductee)

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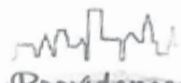
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*Congratulations to the
2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame inductees!*

Congrats!

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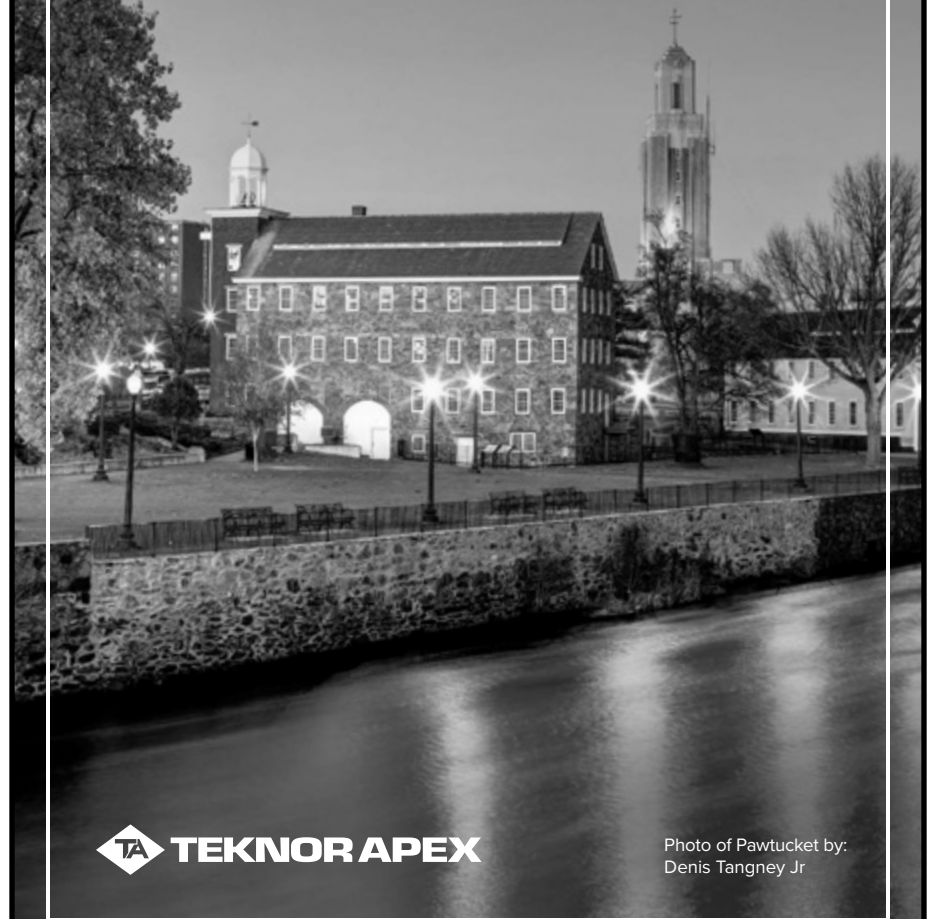
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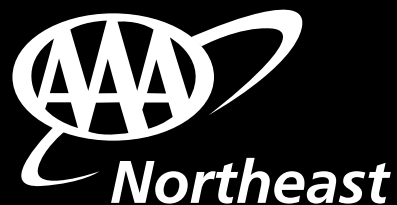
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Inductees***

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**Congratulations to the 2025
Pawtucket Hall of Fame Inductees**

*You embody the spirit of Pawtucket.
Thanks to the Hall of Fame Committee for helping us honor you.*

ADAM GREENMAN
Democrat for Pawtucket Mayor



*Thank you to the
2025 Honorees for
your outstanding
contributions to our
community, and
congratulations to the
Pawtucket
Hall of Fame
Board of Directors
on a job well done.*



Senator Lori Urso
District 8
Pawtucket

“
Congratulations
”
to the
outstanding Pawtucket
citizens being recognized
tonight for their
contributions to the city!



from

Lieutenant
Governor
**Sabina
Matos**

**Congratulations,
Don!**

Jon M. Anderson

*In Honor
of
Jackie Walsh*

Jon M. Anderson



Serving our community — and you — is our purpose.

Congratulations to all the 2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame Inductees.

That's Progress
on Purpose



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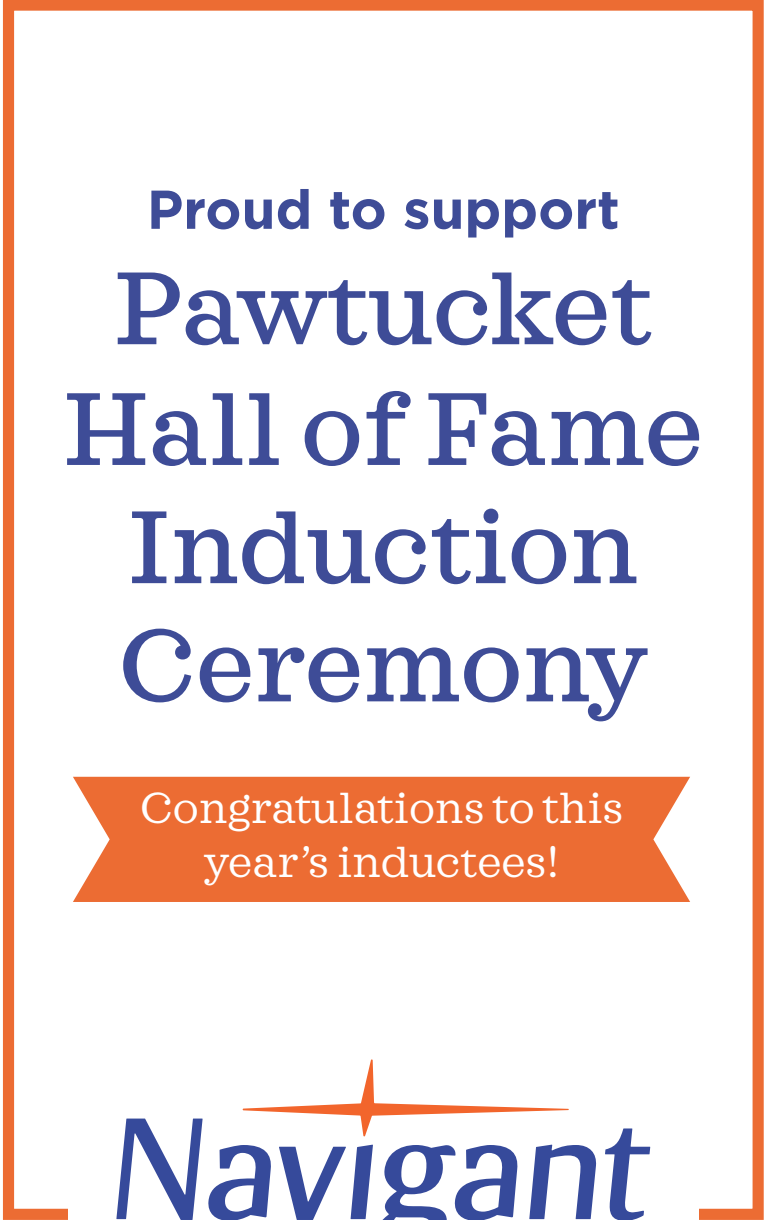


175 Main Street,
Pawtucket, RI
02860

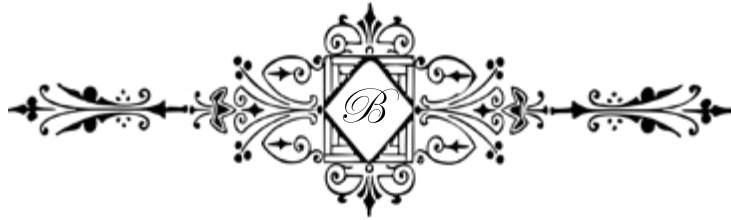


Proud to support
**Pawtucket
Hall of Fame
Induction
Ceremony**

Congratulations to this
year's inductees!


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OUR SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE 2025 PAWTUCKET HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES AND PERSON OF THE YEAR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO
ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY!



Bob and Sandy Benson



Patricia S. Zacks
766 Hope Street • Providence, RI 02906

Patricia S. Zacks, PHOF '11

GOOD LUCK TO ALL INDUCTEES &
PERSON OF THE YEAR



FROM FORMER
CITY COUNCILMAN

ALBERT J. VITALI, JR.



State of Rhode Island

SENATOR
ROBERT BRITTO

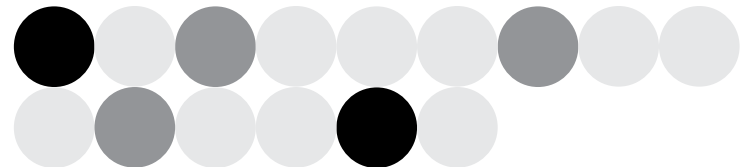
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East Providence, RI 02916

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From all of us at Brightstar
Congratulations to Don
Stanford on your Hall of
Fame induction!



BRIGHTSTAR

THANK YOU

PAWTUCKET
HALL *of* FAME

Honoring the legacy of
GRETCHEN DOW SIMPSON
whose artwork, friendships,
and creative spirit live on
in the city she loved.



SLATER
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75 S. Union St, Pawtucket, RI 02860



Congratulations to all those who
endeavor to make Pawtucket proud!



*The Pawtucket Foundation congratulates our Chairman
Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. and the 2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame
Inductees!*



*Your commitment and contributions of time, talent, and
treasure has played a large role to make Pawtucket the great
city that it is!*



LIUNA Vice President and New England Regional Manager
Donato A. Bianco, Jr.
along with the Trustees and staff of the New England Laborers' Tri-Funds
congratulate this year's honorees

2025 Pawtucket Hall of Fame

These deserving recipients have worked tirelessly improving and
enhancing the community.
We are honored to be a part of this wonderful event.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations to:

Dr. Rosemary A. Costigan

Gretchen Dow Simpson*

Donald L. Stanford

Daniel J. Sullivan, Jr

Robert P. "Bob" Venturini

Jacqueline M. Walsh*

*indicates posthumous induction

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LIUNA!
Feel the Power



**Congratulations to
Pawtucket's 2025 Hall of
Fame Honorees.**



State of Rhode Island

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Congratulations to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame inductees and Person of the Year!
The YMCA of Pawtucket thanks you for your dedication to our community.

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Congratulations

to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame inductees on
your remarkable accomplishments and
lasting contributions to the city.



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NESSELBUSH**

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Have a good gathering.
As always, an exemplary
group of inductees.

Best, Chris (PHOF '18)

Christine A. Courtois, PhD, ABPP
Licensed Psychologist
Lewes, DE

The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame

salutes

All The Pawtucket Hall of Fame Honorees

and especially our own

BOB VENTURINI

Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame Class of 2023

and

Director, Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame

CONGRATULATIONS!

Creating designs that inspire!



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"It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things." - Leonardo da Vinci

Congratulations to all the Inductees and Person of the Year!!!

Congratulations

TO THE 2025 PAWTUCKET HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

We celebrate this year's distinguished honorees.
Together, their impact enriches Pawtucket,
Rhode Island, and beyond.



Collette proudly honors our **Executive Chairman, Dan Sullivan, Jr.** – a visionary business leader, philanthropist, and community advocate – on his induction into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame.

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