

O F H S



WALL OF FAME

Inducted October 02, 2010



LELAND "PENNY" NICHOLAS

Leland "Penny" Nicholas was born May 21, 1931, in Abrams to Wesley and Bernice Nicholas. Along with his four sisters, he lived in the family's garage while their home was being built. He attended Abrams State Grade School and graduated from O.F.H.S. with the class of 1949 where he participated in F.F.A., Aeronautics Club, and Athletics where he lettered in football and basketball. His nickname "Penny" was memorably coined while on the football team and on the basketball court he was reputed as a sparkplug player. Upon graduation he continued his education attending vocational schools in Green Bay and Milwaukee, completing the Master Barber program.

Penny's life has exemplified hard work and service to country, family, and community. As a young man he served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Moale from 1952-1953, holding the unique position as the ship's only barber. After active military duty, Penny returned to Oconto Falls to build his barber business. In 1957 he married his wife, Lois and together they raised five children: Jilayne, Lynette, Carlyn, Perron, and Torren. His growing family is currently blessed with eight grandsons. A true family man and tireless provider, Penny is committed to his wife and his children, providing a loving, stable, Christian home while encouraging continuing education, fairness, and service to others. Penny retired after 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

Penny has always lived by a core belief of giving to the community. He was instrumental in developing the West Side Beach during his tenure on the city council where he served as Alderman and President. As an active member of Grace Lutheran Church he served on the church council, and participated in the ecumenical and church choirs. Penny's community involvement also includes being a charter member of the River Island Golf Club, Chairman of the N.E.W. Credit Union Board of Directors; membership and leadership with the Masonic Lodge; Commander, Vice Commander, and Adjutant offices with the American Legion; a member of Friends of the Arts; and the Oconto Falls Senior Center Board of Directors where he humbly led a renovation project generating countless volunteer labor hours while exceeding fundraising expectations.

Penny enjoys sharing a good joke, square dance club, Bible study, hunting, and is known for his wine making skills. He continues to find joy in spending time with his family and serving the community.