

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wall Selected as LCC Citee



Parsons, KS- Each year Labette Community College (LCC) and the LCC Alumni Association recognize an individual for a lifetime of outstanding service to his or her community and/or to the college through the presentation of the Cardinal Citation Award. A distinguished panel of community members reviews nominations and recommends a Citee.

This year's Cardinal Citation Award recipient is Gary Wall. This is the highest honor that is bestowed to an individual for lifetime achievement by LCC.

Gary was born and raised in Parsons, KS to Robert W. "Bob" Wall and Mildred (Hargis) Wall.

Gary attended Garfield School, McKinley School, West Junior High School and graduated

from Parsons High School in 1957. He is a 1959 graduate of Parsons Junior College (PJC), which is now known as Labette Community College.

After graduating from PJC, Gary went on to Kansas State College of Pittsburg where he majored in Marketing and graduated in 1962. He was active in college as a member Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. Gary continued his education and earned a Certificate in Mortuary Science from the University of Kansas in 1963.

Next, Gary and his business partner at the time, Jack D. Burris, started Burris-Wall Funeral Home, which was incorporated in fall of 1965 and opened for business in January of 1966. The funeral home changed the name to Carson-Wall Funeral Home in the late 1980's. The business has been exclusively owned by the Wall family since 1991, and other funeral home locations in Erie, St. Paul and Girard have been added. Gary has been active in the Kansas Funeral Directors Association for many years and served as president from 2009-10.

Gary has attended the First Baptist Church of Parsons his entire life and has been a member since 1948. He has served on the board of American Baptist Churches of Central Region three separate times and was president in 1980.

In addition to being active in church, Gary serves in many capacities in the community. In fact, Gary is one of the most active and civic-minded individuals around. He holds the longest continuous membership in the Parsons Rotary Club. He joined in December 1965, became club president in 1970-71, and is still a member today. In addition, he is one of the founding board members of the Parsons Area Community Foundation and maintains membership on that board. Gary's passion for healthcare is displayed through his continued dedication to the Labette Health Foundation. He has served on their board for over 20 years and is a former president.

Gary's support of education spans several educational institutions throughout the state. He served two terms on U.S.D. 503 Board of Education and was president of board. He is a life trustee of Ottawa University Board of Trustees in Ottawa, Kansas. He is also a senior trustee of the Pittsburg State University Foundation, a life member of the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association and served as national president of the association from 1977-78. Gary is also a member of the Labette Community College Foundation board and served on the steering committee for the Pathways to the Future capital campaign.

Gary married Shirley Selanders on December 27, 1970. She taught kindergarten at Washington School in Parsons from 1965 to 1973. Gary and Shirley enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Their daughter Katherine Eitel and husband Layton live in Kansas City, Missouri, and have two children, Ashley and Austin. Katherine earned bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Kansas. Their other daughter Emily Brown and her husband Justin reside in Parsons with their three children: Brady, Cade and Allison. Emily graduated from Ottawa University and earned a master's degree from Rockhurst College. Emily is an occupational therapist at Labette Health. Justin is on staff at the funeral home. The Walls' son Ned and wife Darcie also live in Parsons with their son, Owen. They are expecting a daughter in May. Ned graduated from Labette Community College and Pittsburg State University. Ned is also on staff at the funeral home.

Gary is very proud of the fact that many Wall family members have attended and/or graduated from LCC. Among them are his son Ned Wall, his father Robert W. Wall, and his sisters, aunts, uncle, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.

Gary will be honored at the Cardinal Citee Reception prior to commencement on Friday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m. at the Commercial Bank Community Room. The public is invited to attend. For more information about the Cardinal Citee Award please contact Lindi Forbes at (620) 820-1212 or lindif@labette.edu.