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Coles, Salvatore among seven new members of WNY Business Hall of Fame

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Seven figures who played key roles in the history of the Buffalo region — including two from the present day — are the newest members of the Western New York Business Hall of Fame.

The hall's second group of inductees was announced this morning by [John Tebeau](#), publisher and president of Buffalo Business First.

The Western New York Business Hall of Fame was created last year to recognize outstanding business leaders and innovators who have or had strong ties to the eight-county region. Honorees are commemorated in a permanent exhibit at the Buffalo History Museum.

The hall's sponsors are Evans Bank, Freed Maxick CPAs, Hodgson Russ LLP, Walsh Duffield Cos. Inc., the Buffalo History Museum and Buffalo Business First.

An initial class of 15 honorees was inducted last November. The seven honorees named today bring the membership to 22.

[Robert Coles](#) and Russell Salvatore are the two living members of the Western New York Business Hall of Fame's class of 2018. They and five deceased honorees will be inducted at **[a Nov. 15 ceremony at the Buffalo History Museum.](#)**

These are the newcomers:

Lucille Ball (1911-1989), Jamestown native who became a comedian, Emmy-winning actress and the first woman to run a major television studio, Desilu Productions.

Lawrence Bell (1894-1956), founder of Bell Aircraft Corp.; developer of America's first jet-powered aircraft; co-winner of the Collier Trophy for his pioneering role in supersonic flight.

Robert Coles (1929-), architect and activist; won national awards from the American Institute of Architects; chaired a mid-1960s panel advocating a University at Buffalo downtown campus.

Glenn Curtiss (1878-1930), pioneer designer of motorcycles and aircraft; founder of the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Co., which became Curtiss-Wright Corp.

Herbert Hauptman (1917-2011), mathematician who won the 1985 Nobel Prize in chemistry; president of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.

William Moog Jr. (1915-1997), founder of the Moog Valve Co., which became Moog Inc.; inventor of the electrohydraulic servovalve, a flight-control device for jets and missiles.

Russell Salvatore (1933-), restaurateur and philanthropist; founder of Salvatore's Italian Gardens and Russell's Steaks, Chops & More.

The stated goal of the Western New York Business Hall of Fame is to honor the entrepreneurs, executives, inventors and visionaries who have had an indelible impact on the growth of Buffalo and the surrounding region over the past two centuries.

The 2017 and 2018 honorees were selected by a committee of local historians, business leaders and journalists after public nominations were solicited. Additional members will be inducted on an annual basis.

The following are the 15 charter members who were named to the Western New York Business Hall of Fame last year:

John Albright (1848-1931), owner of local coal, steel and hydroelectric companies; patron of what is now the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Louise Blanchard Bethune (1856-1913), first American woman to be a professional architect; designer of the Hotel Lafayette.

Willis Carrier (1876-1950), inventor of air conditioning at Buffalo Forge Co.; founder of Carrier Corp.

Joseph Dart (1799-1879), developer of the world's first steam-powered grain elevator.

Wilson Greatbatch (1919-2011), inventor of the implantable pacemaker and the lithium battery; founder of Greatbatch Inc.

Jeremy Jacobs (1940-), chairman of Delaware North; owner of the Boston Bruins; chairman of the University at Buffalo Council.

John Oishei (1886-1968), creator of the automotive wiper blade; founder of Trico Products Corp.

Roswell Park (1852-1914), founder of what is now the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center; University at Buffalo surgery professor.

Robert Rich Jr. (1941-), chairman of Rich Products Corp.; owner of the Buffalo Bisons; chairman of the Cleveland Clinic.

Robert Rich Sr. (1913-2006), inventor of non-dairy whipped topping; founder of Rich Products Corp.

Jacob Schoellkopf (1819-1899), founder of the first company to generate electricity from Niagara Falls; owner of local tanneries and mills.

Mary Burnett Talbert (1866-1923), co-founder of the group that is now the NAACP; president of the National Association of Colored Women.

Samuel Wilkeson (1781-1848), leader in developing the Buffalo harbor and establishing it as the Erie Canal's terminus.

Robert Wilmers (1934-2017), chairman and CEO of M&T Bank Corp.; former chairman of Empire State Development Corp.

Ralph Wilson Jr. (1918-2014), founder of the Buffalo Bills and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

G. Scott Thomas

Projects Editor

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