

Four individuals and one team will enter the Barnesville Hall of Honor during an open house and banquet Friday, October 5, 5:00 p.m., at the Barnesville High School old gym.

This year's honorees are Gerald Nygard, LaVerne Swenson (posthumous nomination), LeRoy Meyer, Pam (Olsgaard) Nielsen, and the 1998-99 BHS boys basketball team.

Cake and cookies will be served, and there is no charge for the event.

Ticket reservations can be made by calling the high school office at 354-2228, or the elementary office at 354-2300.

The Hall of Honor award program coincides with homecoming week at BHS, October 1-5. The honorees will be introduced during halftime of the homecoming football game on Friday evening, October 5.

Created in 2005, this prestigious award recognizes Barnesville High School graduates, community members and faculty for their exceptional achievements. Honorees are nominated because they have demonstrated notable achievements, or provided significant contributions in one or more of the qualifying areas of academics, administration, athletics, arts and community. The honorees also demonstrate honesty, integrity and strength of character.

The Hall of Honor is an event sponsored by the Barnesville Area Community Fund School Foundation. As a pocket of the Community Fund, the School Foundation is proud to support the Barnesville school district by awarding grants for school programs and student activities, as well as recognize the contributions of BHS alumni, faculty and community members who make a difference by touching the lives of others.

Gerald Nygard  
(Posthumous nomination)

Gerald Nygard was an exceptional teacher for 30 years in the subjects of business, keyboarding and accounting. He prepared many of his students for college and the workforce. He was very proud of the fact that his eight children went through the Barnesville school system.

Jerry coached several BHS sports, but his favorite was golf. He built a quality golf program at Barnesville,

teaching the skills and fundamentals of the game in preparing his players to be competitive at each match. Just as important, if not more so, he instilled a lifetime love of the game.

There were many days when Jerry came early and stayed late to build the golf program and help his players work on their skills, always leading by example. Jerry was proud of his two sons, Jerry Jr. and David, and the golfers he coached, with a special place in his heart for some of his golfers. One was Jim Bergeson, who won a state high school championship and a Big Ten championship while at the University of Minnesota. Another was Mike Montplaisir, who was also a state champion.

Jerry had many teams and players who went on to state competition. He was known for being an excellent chipper and putter. A highlight was a hole-in-one on number eight at Willow Creek.

Jerry stayed active in the community. He was a fixture at Willow Creek Golf Course the entire season, working countless hours to improve the course and keep it afloat. He was a dedicated member of the Lions and Jaycees. A hunting and fishing enthusiast, Jerry taught gun safety courses for many years.

Jerry died June 25, 2003.

LaVerne Swenson  
(Posthumous nomination)

LaVerne Swenson was a 1962 Barnesville High School graduate. After two years in military services and a year teaching math at Hope, N.D., he came home to be a math teacher and coach for nearly 30 years.

While attending BHS, LaVerne demonstrated he was a solid student, athlete and musician. He went on to earn degrees in business and education at what was then Moorhead State College.

LaVerne was an advocate for all students and regularly offered extra help with their assignments. He introduced many students to algebra, geometry, trigonometry and seventh-grade math. He was also a successful coach for girls basketball and seventh-grade football for many years.

As an individual and role model, LaVerne was devoted to his family and active in his church and community his entire life.

LaVerne lived a good life and richly deserves to be recognized for his positive influences on so many young lives during his lifetime.

LaVerne died May 28, 2013.

Pam (Olsgaard) Nielsen

Pam Nielsen is 1982 Graduate of Barnesville High School and a member of the the 1982 women's track team, which was coached by Gayle Solum and took second place at the state tournament.

Pam and her husband, Mark, have four children and one grandchild: son Joshua and fiancée Emily; daughter Danielle, her husband, Jesse, and two-year-old Theodore; son Benjamin and his wife, Taylor; and son Samuel.

While attending Concordia College, Pam was an All-American track athlete. She specialized in the 400-meter run, and ran cross country to stay in shape for the spring season. She was also inducted into the Concordia Athletics Hall of Fame.

Pam initially thought she was going to be a math/computer science major, but after developing a relationship with Christ, she changed to religion/psychology. After graduating, she received training in youth ministry from Tent Makers, where she met Mark, who was from California.

Pam had eight weeks of intensive training to become a youth director and was placed in a church for two years. She and Mark then married and moved to Minnesota. He is a forensic scientist and she became a custom framer and coach.

After having children, Pam decided to become a stay-at-home mom while doing framing and home-schooling their children. After they all graduated, Pam went back to work framing, and has been driving bus the last few years. She and Mark just opened their home for rent with "Airbnb," which is an alternative to hotels for travelers.

"I was speechless!" Pam said of her induction. "When I found out Gayle Solum nominated me, I thought, 'of course she did.' She just really invested in us and didn't let us settle as athletes. I appreciated that and carried it with me to college."

LeRoy Meyer

After graduating from BHS in 1949, LeRoy Meyer studied aviation engineering at the Wahpeton State

School of Science. With the onset of the Korean War in 1950, LeRoy joined the Marines, serving four years and graduating from the aviation electrician school. He served in a helicopter squadron before being called back to the aviation school as an instructor for math, physics and basic electricity.

LeRoy was discharged from the service in 1954 and attended NDSU, where he received BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering. He was also a student teacher while doing post-graduate studies.

In 1959, while in a summer program for young professors to get industrial experience, LeRoy developed a device for putting time information on film for use at the Nevada Test Range for the Sanida National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was also the basis for his master's thesis.

LeRoy was accepted into the PhD program at the University of New Mexico, where he also taught. His area of research focused on radiation effects on electronics using linear accelerators, pulsed x-ray machines and nuclear reactors. LeRoy graduated in 1965 with a doctorate in electrical engineering and a minor in solid state physics.

He then went to work for EG&G Inc., a U.S. national defense contractor doing work for the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Defense and commercial companies. He was a group leader for the Electronic Engineering Reliability group. During that time he worked on many projects, including a study of grounding schemes and noise minimization techniques specific to nuclear weapon effects test instrumentation, and for correlation studies of very low frequency atmospheric and the auroras.

LeRoy was also program manager for the final safety analysis report involving atmospheric data for the Detroit Edison Fermi 2 and Consumers Power Midland nuclear plants.

When EG&G became the managing contractor for the Idaho National Laboratory, LeRoy transferred to Idaho Falls, Idaho, and worked on research projects for the nuclear fuels program, nuclear plant aging and nuclear waste management. He also taught at the University of Idaho, and in 2009 received the Outstanding Affiliate

Faculty award.

LeRoy retired after 33 years at EG&G and the Idaho National Laboratory. He stays busy through volunteer work with the AARP tax aid program, gardening and the American Legion ceremonial team.

The 1998-99 Boys Basketball Team

The Trojan boys basketball team closed the regular season with a 20-2 record under Coach Todd Henrickson.

The 1997-98 team, which went 7-18, was competitive in every game but could not seem to find a way to win. But they pulled together to beat a state-ranked team in Norman County West in the quarter-final game of the Sub-Section Tournament that year.

Coach Todd Henrickson said that win "seemed to jump-start us for the following year. It was a driven team with incredible team chemistry. Every player accepted and understood their role and played extremely well within it."

Henrickson said the team practices were extremely competitive. "There were many drills I had used in previous years that I could not use during this particular season because they would become so physical and I did not want to risk injury."

The games that eluded them in the previous season, were now becoming wins as the team developed mental toughness.

"If we were in a close game, and there were many, I always felt someone was going to make a big play or hit a big shot," Henrickson said. "We were also very balanced. We had a strong inside game, shot the ball very well, and attacked the basket well. We were able to hurt teams in many different ways. It was tough to key on one player as we had several that were very capable. They were also a tough, aggressive defensive team. They were disciplined and very unselfish. This made us a very difficult team to stop. They wanted to win and they did not seem to care about the individual stats."

In an exciting post-season, the team took the Section 6A title with a 65-56 victory over Sebeke.

In the opening of state quarterfinals, the Trojans met the Bulldogs from Carlton and played their hearts out. Tied 47-47 with mere seconds left on the clock, the

Bulldogs took a shot at the buzzer that went in and ended the game and the season for the Trojans.

Four members of that team, Brady Carlsrud, Jay Jerger, Josh Larson and KC Solum, recalled some of the many great moments during the 1998-99 season.

Carlsrud, who was named Conference Co-MVP, said his best memory from that season was how well they played together.

"The toughness we showed collectively as team, made the group of guys very enjoyable to play with. And then there was Coach kicking his cowboy boot against the bleachers and getting ejected in Breckenridge. Looking back, that was comical."

"In choosing favorite memories, I would say winning the HOL, the district and being part of a successful season with friends," Jerger said.

"What I remember most about this team is that everyone had a very defined role and that role aligned to his individual strengths as an athlete or leader," Larson said. "Each player was passionate about sports, was happy with their individual role, and worked to perfect their craft in organized practices and in non-organized settings before and after school. Coach Henrickson continually challenged us and held us accountable for our actions and results. This team did whatever it took to win games and was able to win games in a variety of ways that didn't always rely on the same strategy or individual. The Barnesville community rallied behind us and the journey from the start of the season to the state tournament was a ton of fun!"

"My favorite memories of the 1998-1999 Trojan Basketball season were the playoff games at Concordia College," Solum said. "I grew up watching the District 23 games and I always wanted to be a part of it as a player. The atmosphere at Memorial Auditorium during those playoff games were like no other and winning a sub-section championship on that court is something I will never forget."