

2003 Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Robert C. Anderson, Ed.D.



(Attended 1950-1963) Robert Anderson was raised in Cheswick, Pennsylvania. He was an active member of Springdale High School's famed "Mellowmen" before graduating and moving on to college at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Anderson also received degrees from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Anderson joined the Air Force and served for twenty years to retire as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his service, he worked with the U.S. Special Operations Command, the National League of Families of American Prisoners Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, and is a veteran of Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He received numerous commendations including six Air Force Meritorious Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, and the Air Force Association Humanitarian Award. Through his career as a social worker, his job was, and continues to be, one that brings relief to stressed individuals, victims of disaster, and comfort for the dying. Anderson has worked with victims of international terrorism during the Ramstein Air Base air show disaster, Hurricane Andrew, Operation Restore Hope in Egypt, Somalia, and Kenya, and consulted with colleagues who responded to the US Air crash outside of Pittsburgh, and the Oklahoma City federal building bombing. President Bush acknowledged him as a "Quiet Hero" for his work with victims of international terrorism. Currently, Anderson is the Director of Behavioral Medicine and Bioethics at Intermountain Health Care's Utah Valley Family Practice Residency Program in Provo, Utah.

Susan Sestini Baker, M.D.



(Attended 1952-1965) Baker was an active student at Springdale High School, participating in National Honor Society and on the Oriole staff. She went on to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School with high honors, Temple University School of Medicine, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She took her love of medicine to serve as a medical officer in South Africa and Botswana. It was here that she opened a clinic to treat the neediest of the third world population. After returning to the U.S., Baker developed a successful practice in Boston, directed the Nutrition Support Program at Harvard University, co-directed the Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Program at the Medical University of South Carolina, and served as Medical Director for the Children's Hospital of Buffalo. She has been the recipient of the Hood Foundation awards and a United States Department of Agriculture Nutrition Research Grant among other honors. Through her work at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, Baker became an acknowledged expert in children's nutrition. She achieved a life-long goal of her research in children's nutrition by writing a best selling book on the subject in 1988; since then she has authored four books on nutrition and contributed to eighteen others. Baker has acted as a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics for many years. She has completed presentations and appearances to speak on various aspects of children's nutrition and has written numerous reports, reviews, and abstracts for medical and nutrition journals. Currently, Baker serves as the Professor of Pediatrics at the State University of New York.

Constance Dubart Craven, Ph.D.



(Attended 1954-1957) Constance Craven was raised in Springdale, graduating from Springdale High School in 1957. She went on to receive degrees from Clarion State University, The Pennsylvania State University, Indiana University, and the University of Pittsburgh, earning her doctorate in philosophy, counselor education, and educational administration. She returned to her alma mater to begin a 41-year career in education as a high school biology teacher, then counselor. During this time, she passed along her love of life and science to her students. She instituted programs and after-school activities which helped students appreciate the world around them. Craven took her career further by becoming one of the first female administrators in the county and the district's first female high school administrator when she became Assistant High School Principal. From there, Craven went on to serve as High School Principal and, for the last 11 years of her career, Assistant Superintendent. Over the years, she was asked to serve on numerous committees throughout the district, county, and state, including evaluating education programs in other school districts. In addition, she presented programs at state and national conferences. Craven has given numerous personal hours to the community to improve the quality of education in the Allegheny Valley School District. She has volunteered her services by writing and coordinating educational programs, chaperoning student trips, and educating others about science. She remains active in education at the college level as a professor at two local Universities.

Kenneth R. Melani, M.D.

(Attended 1968-1971) Kenneth Melani attended school for thirteen years in the Allegheny Valley School District. An active student at Springdale High School, Melani went on to attend Washington and Jefferson College and receive his



Doctorate of Medicine from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. Melani began his career as a practicing physician in internal medicine in 1982, while also establishing himself in the area of medical academia as an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, teaching medical students and fellows. One of his most significant community contributions was the time he served as a practicing physician in the Cheswick/Springdale area.

Melani spent numerous personal hours visiting the homes of sick residents to provide needed support and medical services. Over the years, Melani has established himself as one of the top physician executives in the nation. He serves on many health care and community boards and remains an active speaker at national health care seminars. His participation with the Caring Program for Children, HealthPlace Centers, and the PALS program has made a direct impact on the citizens of this community and throughout Pennsylvania. Melani serves on the Board of seven affiliations and is a member of nine others.

Currently, he is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the nation's eleventh largest health insurance company. He continues to dedicate significant amounts of time to the advancement of children with special needs through fundraising, program development, and volunteer services.