

## INDUCTEE

### EDWIN L. "DUBBS" ROUSH

Graduated . . . . 1940  
Married . . . . Mary Lou Harold  
Children. . . . Wendy, Susan, Lawrence, Daniel, Sylvia  
Resides. . . . Westerville, Ohio

Prior to graduating from Gahanna Lincoln High School in 1940, Edwin Roush spent his early years on the family farm where he was born just outside Gahanna. "Dubbs" was a family awarded nickname.

Edwin enrolled at Otterbein College in 1940, but World War II interrupted his education; and, in 1943, he enlisted in the Navy. He served three years in the Solomon Islands before coming back to Otterbein. Upon returning, "Dubbs," as quarterback and team captain, he led the Otterbein Cardinal's to their first and only Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) football championship. In 1947, having married his college sweetheart, he graduated from Otterbein in 1947 with an education degree and a family to support.

Mr. Roush played professional football for the Patterson (NJ) Panthers a year before returning to Columbus to teach English and coach track at North High School for a year. Finally he returned "home" to Lincoln High School as head football coach and in 1950 his team won the Franklin County championship. Looking for a business venture in 1951, Mr. Roush and his friend opened Arn and Roush Hardware in uptown Westerville; but he became sole owner of Roush Hardware in 1953. Then in 1960, Mr. Roush purchased 7 acres of farmland on the northwest corner of Schrock Road and State Street. Though criticized for moving his store so far from Main Street, Roush's addition of evening hours and his particular entrepreneurship won him "considerable respect and recognition among customers and businessmen alike for (his) modern and aggressive approach to merchandising." In 1962 the additions began--more hardware space, Honda motorcycles, then a natural addition of the RoushHonda car dealership in 1974. Next there was the adjacent Roush Sporting Goods and a second Roush Hardware in Dublin in 1979. When Mr. Roush retired in 1991, he sold his businesses, not to the highest bidder, but to his employees through an ESOP plan, again giving back to his community both with moral support and financial assistance.

In 1955 he was one of the founding members of the Otterbein College athletic boosters, the Otterbein "O" Club and in 1981 was a leader in establishing the "O" Club Foundation. He continues to serve on its executive committee. He has been an Otterbein College alumni trustee since 1968. He has been a major financial contributor to growth projects at Otterbein--in 1996 the primary financial backer for Roush Hall, and a substantial contributor to the 2002 Clements Fitness and Recreation Center where he is a founding trustee. Mr. Roush, through the Westerville Noon Rotary, helped establish the annual "Fish Fry" fundraiser. He has been active in charities of his own St. Paul's Catholic Church and the Catholic Diocese.

Recognition has come to Edwin "Dubbs" Roush in many ways: 1967 Otterbein "O" Club's Outstanding Service Award, a lifetime appointment to the trustees of Otterbein College in 1968, a 1982 honorary Doctorate of Business Administration, a 1988 Distinguished Alumni Award, the 2000 Grand Marshal of the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Westerville Independence Day Parade, and many others.

In 2000, to continue their 50-year legacy of charitable financial giving, Mr. And Mrs. Roush established the Roush Family Fund, and affiliated it with the Columbus Foundation, to insure the fund's longevity.

A longtime friend summarizes best: "Although one is likely to find Mr. Roush to be a modest, quiet man, the sum of his efforts has powerfully impacted his community for the better. His loyalty to his family, friends, customers and community, his optimism and sense of confidence, his habit of seeing the possibilities instead of what is present, his willingness and ability to create innovative solutions and opportunities where others have only seen obstacles, his generosity in sharing his wealth, and his humbleness in noting that he is only giving back what the community made possible for him inspire all who know him."