

Philip Koppel received his M.A. in Social Studies Education from The Ohio State University in 1980 and an Education Administration degree from Ashland University in 1993. Koppel served 20 years in the Gahanna-Jefferson Schools as a teacher, Lincoln Lions football coach and eventually principal of Middle School East. His retirement in 1995 didn't last long for he returned to teaching with New Albany Schools. Koppel has received many awards throughout his career. Banner years for Koppel were 1987 and 1988 when he received the *UPI Ohio Coach of the Year*, *Central District Coach of the Year*, *Ohio Capital Conference Coach of the Year*, the *Woody Hayes Award*, *The Columbus Dispatch Lou Berliner Award*, GLHS student body "*Most Dedicated Teacher*" award, and the Gahanna Rotary "*Service Above Self*" award. Even though he has taught for many years at several schools, Koppel's fondest memories are of Gahanna Lincoln; it is his home. His wife, Carol, and he live in Gahanna. Their three sons graduated from Gahanna Lincoln High School. Koppel has been a Gahanna Lincoln Hall of Fame Board Director since 1977 and continues to be active in the community.

If character counts in education, the students at Lincoln High School had an outstanding role model and mentor in **Dick Wells**. Dick "Wellsy" Wells, a high school custodian from 1965-1985, held many roles and responsibilities. Not only did he oversee a crew that maintained the facility in exemplary fashion, he also took the time and initiative to set an expectation of behavior, school spirit, and citizenship that was legendary. Wells recruited students as "Wellsy workers" who gained far more than they gave through his counsel and high expectations. Wells is respected by all who know him and he continues to give to his community through his volunteer services at St. Matthew Church.

Congratulations to our 2006 Cornerstone Award Honorees!

GJEF is truly excited to introduce this year's Cornerstone Award Honorees—an annual recognition of *builders of excellence*. Cornerstone recipients who are nominated must have been associated with the school district for a minimum of ten years as an employee or in other official support roles. Persons can be nominated or inducted posthumously. For more information, please contact Dale Foor, coordinator of community services, at 471-7065.

The GJEF Board would like to express our sincere appreciation for the generous donation from the Roush Foundation (\$1,000), an anonymous donor (\$2,000), and the Gahanna Area Fund (\$1,000) in honor of the Cornerstone recipients.

We would also like to thank Steve Krier of Jostens for donating the Cornerstone Awards.