

INDUCTEE

Wilbur "Wib" C. Strait

Graduated 1958
Married Judy Brooks
Children. Tammy, Tina, Mindy, Barbi
Resides. Blacklick, Ohio

In high school Wib Strait immersed himself in every activity possible and he excelled in every way. Whether it was athletics (all county football), scholarship (National Honor Society), leadership (student council) or community (Model Legislature), he found his niche. He was a part of it all. It is no wonder that his classmates named him "Best all Round;" there was no *one* thing they could recognize him for. In 1991 he was again recognized for high school honors by his induction into the GLHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

After high school graduation he went right to work in the building business. Again he put his whole being into his "job," the life's work he had chosen for his own. He learned well and in 1977 Wib purchased the business that his father had had limited ownership in before his death, Strait and Lamp Lumber. It was a small and struggling business but through hard work and keen business sense, Wib developed the Strait and Lamp Group, including 5th Avenue Lumber, Linworth Lumber, Dublin Mill Works, Lumber Craft Trust, S&L Contractor, and at one time Marion Lumber, an Indianapolis lumber yard.

Over the years, this thriving business has employed as many as 200 and true to his nature, Wib has exhibited his personal involvement and leadership as he has served the industry in The Ohio Lumbermen's Insurance Trust, The Do It Best Corporation Board of Directors, The BIA of Central Ohio, The Ohio Construction Supplies Association, National Lumber & Building Materials Association, and Mid American Lumbermen's Association. In 2008 Wib Strait was a BIA Hall of Fame Honoree. Wib's success in business has afforded him the opportunity to give back and he has been very generous to Gahanna and the central Ohio community with regular contributions to Nationwide Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association and Peace Lutheran Church, including backing *and building* the church's shelter house.

Wib Strait's generosity includes ongoing contributions to the Gahanna-Jefferson Public School and the Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation. He has been a financial sponsor of the Gahanna Relays for most of the past 50 years. In January 2007 with plans underway for the two million dollar renovation of the Gahanna Football/Track facility, a seemingly insurmountable project, Wib Strait was the first to participate with a substantial contribution following a spirited "skull session" luncheon with Wib, Coach Ed Rarey and GLHS Athletic Director Justin Sanford. The momentum was begun.

Mr. Sanford said, "Through the generous donation made by Mr. Wib Strait and the rich heritage of the Strait family in Gahanna, we were honored to present this community, alumni and student-athletes-to-come, the Wilbur C. Strait Sr. Field—named [in August 2007] in honor of Mr. Wib Strait's father, a 1938 alumnus of GLHS. It is [through] the character, love of his community and generosity of Mr. Strait that we were able to achieve the progress toward this project."

Lifelong residents of Gahanna, Wib and his wife Judy, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008, are the proud parents of four daughters, thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their Blacklick home often abounds with family and friends.