

Alumni Award

Dick and Ann Colson Cassell

Class of 1964

It is a pleasure to honor Ann and Dick Cassell with this 2014 Alumni Award for outstanding dedication and service to Ohio Wesleyan.

Graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1964, Dick was an economics major, while Ann, also from the Class of 1964, majored in home economics and secondary education. Both were members of Greek organizations: Dick a Phi Kappa Psi and Ann a Kappa Kappa Gamma. Dick was also an outstanding athlete, playing basketball, golf, and soccer. He was second-team All-Ohio Conference when Bishops soccer won the NCAA regional soccer championship.

From 1966 to 1972, Dick served his country as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross. He flew more than 400 missions in Vietnam and Laos. Ann worked for DuPont in the marketing division of the textile fabrics department, and as a military spouse, she was president of the Officers Wives Club and served as coordinator of Family Services, whose mission was to assist new arrivals in their transition to military life. She also coordinated a variety of fundraising events for non-military charities.

In 1972, the couple relocated to Georgia as Dick began his new career as a Delta Airlines pilot. He logged more than 23,000 hours in 11 different aircraft. He was Instructor Pilot and Check Airman. On September 11, 2001, he was instrumental in the diversion and safe return of all international flights and their passengers and crews to their U.S. destinations.

In Georgia, Ann continued with her volunteer work as president of the PTO and in Girl Scout activities. A member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood (PEO) for more than 50 years, Ann has served the organization at both the local and state level as they work to promote educational opportunities for women.

When not flying, Dick also was volunteering, both for Ohio Wesleyan and other organizations. He and Ann have served OWU in coordinating Atlanta alumni events. They also chaired their 30th and co-chaired their 50th class reunions and were members of the Associates. Dick was co-founder and president of the Peachtree City Youth Soccer Association, president of the Youth Basketball Association, and co-founder of the Fayette County Lightning Soccer Club. He was Volunteer of the Year with the Fayette County YMCA and honored with the Outstanding Citizen Award for service to the youth of Peachtree City. Additionally, Dick and Ann are proud parents of Matthew and OWU alumna, Kristen Cassell Jewell '93.

In 2010, the Cassells spearheaded a project to memorialize those from Ohio Wesleyan who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Although World War I and II service was commemorated on plaques in the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, a third plaque listing those from Korea and Vietnam was completed with the help of University archivists. The Fallen Heroes Memorial outside Beeghly Library includes the American Eagle, a sculpture commissioned by the Cassells and created by Idaho sculptor Michael Curtis for the memorial. The memorial is a permanent place to honor and reflect upon those who have died in service to our country, our freedom, and our beliefs.

Today, we join Dick and Ann's reunioning classmates in saluting and thanking them for their service to Ohio Wesleyan University and as valued members of the Ohio Wesleyan family.

May 17, 2014

