

*Erie County Chamber of Commerce  
Notable Citizens of Erie County*

In addition to the five individuals being inducted into the Gallery of Achievers today, the Chamber recognizes and applauds the life's work of three other worthy individuals and designates them as *Notable Citizens of Erie County*.

**Elmer J. Smith**

Elmer Smith starred as an outfielder in major league baseball for ten seasons. During his tenure he played for the Washington Senators, Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Cincinnati Reds, but for the majority of his career (six seasons) he was a member of the Cleveland Indians. Smith helped the Tribe win the World Series beating the Brooklyn Dodgers in seven games. In Game 5 of the Series Smith hit a bases-loaded home run – the first grand slam in World Series history. In 1923 Smith won another World Series this time with the New York Yankees and with an emerging superstar, Babe Ruth. Smith's accomplishments are documented in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, and his grand slam in the 1920 World Series has become part of baseball lore.

**Robert L. Denig**

Robert Denig served in the United States Marine Corps for forty (40) years achieving the rank of brigadier general before his retirement in 1946. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1906, Denig joined the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant. He saw action in the Cuban Insurrection, World War I (Chateau Thierry, Soissons and Belleau Woods) and the Nicaraguan Revolution. During World War II Denig was named the Marine Corps Director of Public Information, as such his correspondents reported on the United States' efforts in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. In recognition of his leadership and integrity, the Marine Corps named its *Combat Correspondence Performance Award* after him. Denig's numerous decorations include: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, two Purple Hearts, Legion of Merit, and a Legion of Honor and a Croix de Guerre (awarded by France).

**Dandridge M. Cole**

After graduating from high school in 1939, Cole attended Princeton University majoring in Physics. At the time, Princeton was one of only a handful of universities in the world developing theories on interplanetary travel. While at Princeton, Cole met and conducted research for Albert Einstein. In 1943, Cole left Princeton to join the U.S. Army. He became part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division and his first combat action was in pushing back the Bulge created by the Germans' Ardennes Offensive. In 1946 Cole returned to Princeton and completed his Bachelor's degree studies. Three years later he added a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, again in Physics. Cole was hired by the Glenn L. Martin Company (later to become Lockheed Martin) and assigned to its aerospace division. He became an important member of the firm's engineering team that designed and built the Titan II rocket which took NASA's Gemini astronauts into space. Cole died in 1965 at the age of forty-four (44) failing to witness the goal he set for himself in 1953 – "*the United States will land a man on the moon by 1970.*"

**A special thank you to Mr. Doug Crooks and staff at North Point Educational Service Center.**

*Erie County Chamber of Commerce*

*Gallery of Achievers*

*Induction Ceremony*

*Class of 2016*



*Tuesday, May 3, 2016  
Plum Brook Country Club  
Sandusky, Ohio*





### **Purpose**

The Gallery of Achievers was established by the Erie County Chamber of Commerce in 2001 to recognize individuals who have achieved high distinction within their chosen field of endeavor. The members of the Gallery have had a significant impact on society and their hard work, determination and zeal serve as an example for all.

### **Welcome**

**William Lally**

Past Chairman of the Board  
Erie County Chamber of Commerce

### **Invocation**

**David Biechele**

Vacationland Realty

### **Presentation of Awards**

**Pamela Smith, President**

**Gary Borchardt, Chairman of the Board**

Erie County Chamber of Commerce

### **Closing Remarks**

**Pamela Smith, President**

Erie County Chamber of Commerce

## **Gallery of Achievers Class of 2016**

**Thom Darden**

Sandusky High School, Class of 1968  
Athletics / Business

**Albert J. Fresch**

Sandusky High School, Class of 1944  
Business/Community Service

**Scott Gast**

Margaretta High School, Class of 2002  
Music/Performing Arts

**Norbert A. Lange**

Sandusky High School, Class of 1910  
Education/Community Service

**Joe Pulizzi**

St. Mary's Central Catholic, Class of 1991  
Business