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Unatego Announces Fifth Class for Hall of Distinction

The Unatego Hall of Distinction Committee has selected two alumni to be honored for induction this year. This year's inductees include a World War II Army Air Corps veteran from the Otego High School's class of 1943 and a 1959 Otego graduate who recently retired as a distinguished educational leader.

The Unatego Hall of Distinction honors graduates of Unatego, or from the previous districts of Unadilla Central and Otego Central, who have distinguished themselves through recognition, honor and distinction during their lives.

The selections were announced on Friday, June 22 at the High School Graduation Ceremonies. The actual induction ceremony honoring the newest members will take place later in the year.

Charles White Herring, Jr.

Mr. Herring graduated from the Otego Central School in 1943 and soon thereafter enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps where he served with distinction as a gunner on a B-29 in the Pacific theater. Following his discharge at the end of the war, he attended Cornell University and graduated in 1950 with a degree in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. He returned to Otego after college and owned and operated the Herring Lumber Company for the next 30 years. He was also a prolific volunteer in the community, serving as a member of the Otego Volunteer Fire Department, Masonic Lodge, and the Unatego Board of Education.

Joseph F. Bard

Joseph (Joe) Bard, a 1959 graduate of Otego Central, recently retired after 20 years as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools, capping a distinguished career of more than fifty years in public service. Following his graduation from Hartwick College in 1963, Mr. Bard went on to teach at Unatego, in Connecticut, and Kentucky. He served as a college administrator in Iowa and an investigator for the New York State Department of Human Rights, as well as serving in the United States Army. He was Chairman of the National Rural Education Advocacy Council for ten years, a member of the Harrisburg, Pa. Board of Education, and for six years, was the Commissioner of Basic Education and Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education in the state of Pennsylvania.