



REV. MSGR. NELSON H. BAKER
"FATHER BAKER"
SOLA CLASS OF 1876

Nelson Baker, a successful Buffalo merchant, entered Our Lady of Angels Seminary at Niagara University at the age of 28. He was ordained on March 19, 1876, by Bishop Stephen Vincent Ryan, C.M., and

returned to Niagara the day after to celebrate his first Mass. He then began a ministry dedicated to the poor and less fortunate of society, building and maintaining numerous facilities to care for unwed mothers, abandoned infants, orphans, wayward and working boys, the poor, and the aged. Hundreds of thousands of children were cared for through his efforts. He established Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity in Lackawanna, N.Y., and raised the funds for construction of Our Lady of Victory Basilica there. At the time of his death in 1936, at age 95, he was the oldest living alumnus of Niagara University.

Although he attained the title of monsignor, the name "Father Baker" was commonly used and was well known throughout Western New York.

In 1987, the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of the Saints in Rome approved the introduction of Msgr. Baker's cause for sainthood, giving him the title "Servant of God." He is one of three alumni of the seminary who have been proposed for sainthood.



JERRY BISGROVE
CLASS OF 1968

A businessman and philanthropist, Auburn, N.Y., native Jerry Bisgrove joined his father's trucking company, Red Star Express Lines, after receiving his bachelor's degree in economics in 1968. He eventually purchased the

company, turning it into a highly profitable enterprise, which he sold in 1987. After moving to Arizona in 1991, he developed the Stardust Cos. to manage his land-development business, another immensely successful venture. The Stardust Foundation was started to support his many charitable interests.

A leader in providing affordable workforce housing, Bisgrove was the primary catalyst behind the formation of the Habitat for Humanity South Ranch Community in Phoenix. The development emerged as one of the most successful communities in the nation, referred to as a "blueprint for the American dream." He has also provided charitable support for projects concerned with scientific research, education, healthcare and challenged children and families.

Inspired by his Niagara experience and the example of the late Father Joseph G. Dunne, C.M., an NU administrator whom he regarded as a friend, mentor and chief motivator, Bisgrove became one of the university's chief benefactors. The building where the College of Business Administration is located bears his name.



2ND LT. JOHN PAUL BOBO, USMC
CLASS OF 1965

Niagara Falls native John Paul Bobo received his bachelor's degree in history in June of 1965 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps the following December. He was killed in action in Vietnam on March 30, 1967, while trying to repulse an enemy attack on

his platoon. Although his right leg had been severed below the knee by an enemy mortar shell, Lt. Bobo refused to be evacuated, insisting on being placed in a firing position to cover the movement of his men to a better position. The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest citation, was awarded to him posthumously in 1968 in recognition of his heroic action. The accompanying citation reads: "With a web belt around his leg serving as a tourniquet and with his leg jammed into the dirt to curtail the bleeding, he remained in this position and delivered devastating fire into the ranks of the enemy attempting to overrun the Marines. Lieutenant Bobo was mortally wounded while firing his weapon into the main point of the enemy attack, but his valiant spirit inspired his men to heroic efforts and his tenacious stand enabled the command group to gain a protective position, where it repulsed the enemy onslaught."

In 1985, the U.S. Navy named a supply ship after Lt. Bobo. In 1990, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary of graduation, members of his class financed improvements to the university's baseball field, naming it in memory of Marine 2nd Lt. John Paul Bobo, '65.



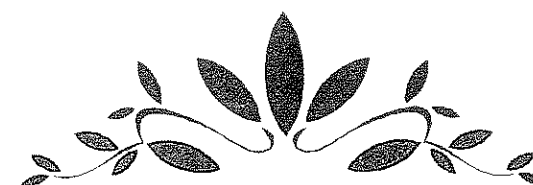
ROBERT B. WEGMAN
CLASS OF 1941

One of the nation's most influential and respected leaders in the supermarket industry, Robert B. Wegman joined the family business full time after graduation from high school in 1937. While working in the business office, he attended the Rochester division of Niagara

University, earning his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1941. At the age of 29, he became a store manager and, following the death of his uncle in 1950, became president of the company at the age of 31.

An innovator, Wegman developed the superstore and the concept of one-stop shopping. He also played a leading role in development of the Universal Product Code, one of the most fundamental changes in supermarket technology. After being named president, he introduced a number of employee benefits, including higher salaries. In 1998, and every year since, Wegmans Food Markets Inc. has been included on Fortune Magazine's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For." In 2005, it ranked No. 1 on the list.

Wegman was named chairman of the company in 1969, and was eventually succeeded by his son, Danny. When Robert died in 2006 at the age of 87, Wegmans Food Markets had grown from its humble beginnings to number 70 stores in five states, with sales of nearly \$4 billion.



Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction



Recognized for
Vincentian Ideals
Outstanding Accomplishments
Impact on Society

Alumni Chapel
Sept. 27, 2007



REV. LT. THOMAS M.
CONWAY, USN
SOLA CLASS OF 1934

Rev. Lt. Thomas M. Conway was serving as Navy chaplain aboard the USS Indianapolis when the heavy cruiser was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine just after midnight on July 31, 1945. Nearly 900

of the 1,196 crewmen survived the attack, but were left floating in the waters between Guam and the Layte Gulf, most wearing only their life jackets and life belts. When the survivors were spotted four days later, only 316 were still alive. Father Conway was among the dead, becoming the last Catholic chaplain to die in World War II.

For three days before exhaustion resulted in his own drowning, the 37-year-old priest swam among the survivors, praying with them, hearing their confessions and administering the last rites. Those eventually rescued credited him with providing the spiritual strength and hope that allowed them to survive.

A native of Waterbury, Conn., Father Conway enrolled at Niagara University in 1928 after earlier collegiate studies in Hartford, Conn. He received his bachelor's degree in 1930, entering Our Lady of Angels Seminary a year later. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Buffalo on May 26, 1934. Over the next eight years, he served in five Buffalo parishes before enlisting in the Navy in 1942. He served on the USS Medusa for several months before being assigned to the ill-fated USS Indianapolis on Aug. 25, 1944.

A memorial to Father Conway stands in the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park.



GEN. WILLIAM J. "WILD BILL"
DONOVAN, USA
CLASS OF 1903

"What a man! We have lost the last hero."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower is reported to have used those words upon learning of the death of William J.

"Wild Bill" Donovan. A

World War I Army veteran who attained the rank of

major general, Donovan died Feb. 8, 1959, as the only American to have received the nation's four highest awards, The Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the National Security Medal.

A native of Buffalo, Donovan entered Niagara University in 1899. A scholar and athlete who served as captain of the football team, he left Niagara after three years to transfer to Columbia University, where he obtained a law degree. Called to service during World War I with the famed 69th "Fighting Irish" Regiment, he was wounded in the leg by machine-gun fire during the Argonne offensive. Refusing to be evacuated, he continued to direct his men in battle, ultimately receiving The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, for his heroic actions.

Prior to World War II, he served as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's special emissary to Europe. During the war, he organized and directed the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. Following the war, he was an assistant to the chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. Later, he was named ambassador to Thailand, serving from 1953 to 1954.

Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, he is memorialized in his home town, where the state office building bears his name.



ROBERT J. DWYER
CLASS OF 1965

Robert J. Dwyer was a first-generation college student when he came to Niagara University from Syracuse in 1961. Graduating with a degree in history four years later, he embarked on an eminently successful career in the securities industry, eventually retiring in 1999 as

executive vice president and national sales director for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Elected a trustee of the university in 1991, Dwyer became the second layperson to chair the board of trustees in 2002. He was elected to a four-year term as chair in 2004. He subsequently accepted the additional responsibility of national chair of the university's largest-ever capital campaign, "The Promise of Niagara," and helped launch the \$80-million drive in May of 2007.

Longtime supporters of the university and its Vincentian mission, Dwyer and his wife, Connie, a Niagara Falls native, became the principal benefactors of the Dwyer Ice Arena, which bears their name. In 1990, Bob Dwyer received the

honorary degree of doctor of commercial science. He and his wife received the NU Alumni Award that same year. In 2000, they were made affiliates of the Congregation of the Mission, the formal name of the Vincentian Community of priests and brothers, who sponsor the university. Both Bob and Connie received the Founders Award at the annual President's Dinner in 2006, and Connie received the university's Caritas Medal in 2007 in recognition of her charitable work. A number of charitable, health and social programs are supported by the Dwyer Family Foundation. Maureen, the youngest of their three daughters, is a 1993 graduate of NU.



JAMES V. GLYNN
CLASS OF 1957

Niagara Falls native James V. Glynn began working for the Maid of the Mist Corp. when he was 16, using the money he earned to finance his education at Niagara University. He remained with the company after earning a degree in business in 1957

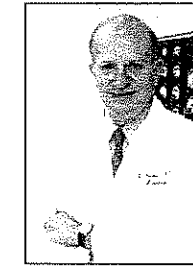
and, 14 years later, bought the company, turning it into a world-class attraction that has thrilled millions of visitors from around the globe.

Glynn played important roles in the development of Niagara Falls tourism; in supporting educational, cultural and health-care organizations; in the governance of Niagara University; and in various charitable causes, especially those directed toward the poor.

Elected a trustee in 1981, Glynn served for 21 years as a member of the university's governing board. In 1999, he was the first layperson elected as chair. In that role, he pressed for renovation of the university's major classroom building and championed construction of a six-unit student apartment complex that dramatically upgraded campus housing. He also introduced term limits to the board and helped to establish the Binational Education Partnership Fund, a joint initiative between Niagara University and Niagara College in Ontario. It is designed to boost educational tourism opportunities and cross border-economic development

Glynn, who was granted the title chair emeritus at the end of his term in 2002, received numerous honors from religious, civic, educational and professional organizations and institutions, including his alma mater, which awarded him an honorary degree in 1985. He also received the Alumni Award that same year. Glynn and his wife, Mary,

received the Caritas Medal in 1983 and were made affiliates of the Congregation of the Mission in 1986. Two years later, they were presented with the President's Medal, NU's highest honor. Glynn was also recognized as an outstanding alumnus of the College of Business Administration in 1990 on the occasion of the college's 60th anniversary. Two of the Glynn's five children, Christopher ('85) and Patricia ('89), graduated from NU. Chris became a trustee of the university in 2005.



DR. LAWRENCE D. JACOBS
CLASS OF 1961

Recognized as an internationally acclaimed researcher, Dr. Lawrence D. Jacobs was the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health-sponsored clinical trial that led to FDA approval of the first treatment

proven to slow the progression of multiple sclerosis. The breakthrough impacted the lives of 350,000 individuals in North America, offering a better quality of life to those living with the relapsing form of the disabling disease.

The author of more than 200 publications on neurology and an invited lecturer at medical institutions and professional meetings throughout the world, Jacobs died at the relatively young age of 63 in 2001. At the time, he was chair of the department of neurology of the State University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and director of the Jacobs Neurological Institute and the Baird Multiple Sclerosis Research Center at Kaleida Health's Buffalo General Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Buffalo, he received a bachelor's degree in natural sciences, with honors, in 1961. He went on from Niagara University to earn a medical degree from St. Louis University.

Jacobs received numerous awards and honors over his lifetime, including the highest peer-generated award from the State University of New York in recognition of his MS research and the international impact of his work. Niagara University honored him on three occasions, awarding him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 1988, the Dean's Award from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2001, and the Caritas Medal, posthumously, in 2007.