



AUGUST 23, 2023





Established in 1993 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Greater Omaha Chamber, the Omaha Business Hall of Fame recognizes the important role business leaders play in the growth and development of Omaha.

Youth, education, business and outstanding leaders make up the emblem of the Omaha Business Hall of Fame, designed by Omaha artist John Thein. The symbol incorporates the flame, representing energy; the circle, a sign of continuing life and the profile of a person, symbolizing individual initiative and enterprise.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame exhibit is located at The Durham Museum.

Mission

Preserve the role of individual business achievement in Omaha's history.

Recognize outstanding contributors to the business history of the Greater Omaha area who have advanced the excellence of the region, through either sustained superior performance or through a specific achievement.

Recognize the importance of business and free enterprise to the development, future growth and overall quality of life of this community.

Contribute to the overall business image of the Greater Omaha area.

Provide funding, through an annual gala, for projects that contribute to the economic development of Omaha and opportunities for young professionals.



MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Jacob Duncan, *guitar*

Jennifer Novak Haar, *piano*

WELCOME & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Heath Mello, *President & CEO*

Greater Omaha Chamber

Stephen Bruckner, *Partner*

Fraser Stryker PC LLP

Dave Anderson, *Managing Partner*

KPMG LLP

Joe Sullivan, *SVP, Business Banking Market Leader*

U.S. Bank

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Maryanne Stevens, *Chair*

Mickey Anderson

Dave Anderson

Stephen Bruckner

Kate Dodge

Jamie Gutierrez

Veta Jeffery

Karen Linder

Joe Sullivan

Carmen Tapio

Willy Theisen

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ron Carson

Gregory S. Cutchall

David Karnes

Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.

Mary Ann O'Brien



Ron Carson



Ron Carson
Founder & CEO
Carson Wealth

Ron Carson is founder and CEO of \$20B firm, Carson Group, which serves financial advisors and investors through its businesses including Carson Wealth, Carson Coaching, and Carson Partners.

As one of the most celebrated and respected thought leaders in the industry, Ron has become a sought-after innovator and visionary for elevating the standard for financial advice. He was one of only two independent advisors inducted into Barron's inaugural Hall of Fame, was recognized as an InvestmentNews Innovator, and acknowledged as an Inc. 5000 CEO. This feat named Carson Group to Inc.'s annual list of America's Fastest Growing Private companies, as well as one of the fastest-growing companies in the Midwest, five times.

The firm celebrates 40 years in business in 2023. Throughout the past four decades, Ron has always believed in fulfilling a deep-seated purpose to be the most trusted for financial advice and to provide families and individuals with straightforward guidance when planning their financial futures. This mission has attracted the attention of thousands of advisors hungry for a recipe for success in improving their own businesses, finding their freedom, and better serving their clients.

Expanding his impact beyond his role as founder/CEO, Ron is actively involved in charitable giving and his personal mission is to "do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people." He and his wife, Jeanie, co-founded the Dreamweaver Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling end-of-life dreams for seniors with terminal illnesses. He also founded the American Charitable Foundation – an organization established for a more efficient disposition of charitable assets. He has served as a past President of the Child Saving Institute, and in the past few years, has focused on making a global impact through partnerships with charity: water, Global Coralition, No Hungry Children.

Gregory S. Cutchall



Gregory S. Cutchall
Founder & CEO
Cutchall Management Company

Greg Cutchall was a legend who inspired all those who had the privilege of knowing him and will always be remembered as larger than life with a passion for connecting people through his restaurants.

Born in Tuscon, AZ on May 26, 1952, he graduated from Palo Verde High School in 1970, then enlisted in the US Naval Reserve in 1971. That same year, he began his restaurant career at Kentucky Fried Chicken as a manager, catering manager, marketing director and Vice President before leveraging a buy out of 12 locations when he became President/CEO and 20% partner in 1986. Greg sold these in 1989 and formed Cutchall Management Company with one Julio's in Lincoln, NE.

For over 50 years, Greg owned hundreds of restaurants and franchises. Starting with Kentucky Fried Chicken in 1971 and then over 44 restaurants in five states at the time of his passing, JAMS American Grill, First Watch Daytime Café, Paradise Bakery, Domino's, Lettuce Express, SpudNutz, Kasai Japanese Steakhouse, Sonic, Mouth of the South, Lo-Lo's, River City Star, Dam Bar, CaterOmaha, Salty Señorita, and Oklahoma Joes.

The annual CMC Charity Golf Tournament benefitted 12 different non-profit organizations and generated over \$40,000 in donations to them respectively.

Married for 19 years to Molly McQueen-Cutchall, Greg was the proud father of three children: Cory 1978, Cydney 1982, Chase 2002 and five grandchildren: Colt, Camden, Carson, Cecelia and Cierra.

Greg Cutchall passed away on May 16, 2022 surrounded by his family. Cutchall Management Company honors Greg's legacy by continuing the work he loved so much.

David Karnes



David Karnes

President & CEO

The Fairmont Group Inc., Of Counsel
& Kutak Rock LLP

David Karnes (1948-2020) was President and CEO of The Fairmont Group Inc., a private business and public policy consulting firm, and was Of Counsel to Kutak Rock LLP, serving as the director of its Governmental Affairs practice. Dave joined Kutak following his tenure as a U.S. Senator. He was previously a White House Fellow, and later worked in various executive positions at the Treasury Department.

Dave also served on the boards of several publicly-traded companies and closely-held entities. He actively participated in and guided his clients through the operation, ownership, and development of retail shopping centers, apartments, office buildings, hotels, and other properties throughout Omaha and the country, relishing complex transactions designed to reward the business owner and the greater community.

Dave was appointed by the President to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations and to the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, and was selected to serve on the President's Advisory Committee on Commercial Space Transportation.

He derived great pleasure from serving his community, and the causes closest to his heart were in Omaha, where he proudly served in a variety of roles, including as Co-Founder of Kicks for a Cure and Liz's Legacy, and leadership roles at the Omaha Airport Authority, Boys Town, UNO Athletics, the Buffet Cancer Center, Scottish Rite Foundation, Omaha Children's Museum, AK-SAR-BEN Foundation, University of Nebraska Foundation, and Dundee Presbyterian Church, to name a few.

Omaha has greatly benefitted from Dave Karnes' vision and leadership.

Dave received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Nebraska. He was married first to the late Elizabeth Lueder Karnes, and second to Kristine Dorn Karnes, and had six daughters: Korey, Kalen, Kara, Laurel, Kate and Alexandra. He was also the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren.

Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.



Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.

Founder

Business Ethic Alliance, Robert B.
Daugherty Chair in Business Ethics &
Society – Creighton University

Beverly Kracher, Ph.D., Robert B. Daugherty Endowed Chair in Business Ethics & Society at Creighton University, is the Founder of the Business Ethics Alliance whose purpose is to promote an environment in Greater Omaha where the discussion and practice of business ethics is encouraged and expected.

The Alliance's community-based platform for business ethics education is unique. It is a partnership between the business community, the Better Business Bureau, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and Creighton University. Bev drove the Alliance to be the most comprehensive and CEO-engaged business ethics networking group in the nation. Through this tone-at-the-top, Omaha sends the message that we values honor, integrity, and fair deals as we run profitable businesses that grow the economy.

Bev has brought business ethics to life through products, workshops, and keynotes across Omaha and the nation. She has worked internationally in countries including China, England, Uganda, and Singapore. Bev is published in academic journals, has written for practitioner publications, and co-authored the *Ethinary*, a common-sensical ethics dictionary.

As a professor for over 30 years, Bev has affected thousands of students with her positive and practical business ethics message. Students leave her class knowing that ethics is front of mind for savvy business leaders.

Bev volunteers across the community and currently serves on boards and advisory committees, including Firstar, Durham Museum, Better Business Bureau, Financial Hope Collaborative, and Omaha Children's Hospital Ethics Committee. She has received numerous awards for her community service.

Bev's partner, Jerry, owns an interior plantscaping firm, Plant Pros of Omaha, of which she has been vice-president for more than 25 years.

Bev is a Nebraska farm story success. Growing up in rural Sarpy County, she is a first-generation college student. A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bev earned her Ph.D. in philosophy.

Mary Ann O'Brien



Mary Ann O'Brien

Founder & CEO

OBI Creative

A nationally recognized branding and marketing thought leader, Mary Ann O'Brien has been entrusted by some of the most successful brands in the world to help steer their strategic direction, evolve their brand positioning, and guide their marketing and communication efforts.

As founder and CEO of OBI Creative, her business acumen and incomparable ability to deliver strong results gives clients the confidence needed to make the strategic decisions required to grow. A pioneer in modern marketing, O'Brien and her award-winning team, work with some of the most admired brands in the world.

She has led national and global strategic initiatives for Intel, Microsoft, Sony, Lenovo, Gateway, Nomi Health, Iowa DOT, Stericycle, ViewSonic, Creighton Heider College of Business, Advanced Auto Parts, and Miller Electric among many others.

Her insatiable drive to find new and better ways to market and grow business is matched only by her reverence for understanding the needs of the customer. She authored the O'Brien Voice of the Customer™ and Voice of the Employee™ studies, which have repeatedly served as the foundation for incredible business success stories. Passionate about the power of businesses to transform communities for the better, O'Brien regularly serves on community boards where she enthusiastically shares her passion and expertise. She is a champion for women, diversity and ethical growth, and considers winning an Integrity Award from the Better Business Bureau as one of the defining moments of her career.

Mary Ann is a devoted mother, entrepreneur, and published author of the Forbes' book, "Ask and Deliver: Discover the Heart of Your Business by Listening to the Voice of Your Customers." She and her husband, Jason Ramirez, and daughter, CeCe Elkjer, and bonus daughter, Gabby English, enjoy time together in Okoboji with family, sharing laughs with great friends, and traveling.

*Welcome to
the Omaha Business
Hall of Fame!*

*Congratulations Ron, Greg, David,
Beverly & Mary Ann!*

- Joe Moglia

(2010 Honoree)

Congratulations

2023 OMAHA BUSINESS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



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MEMBERS *of the* OMAHA BUSINESS *Hall of Fame*

1993

Rose Blumkin
Warren Buffett
John A. Creighton
Robert Daugherty
Peter Kiewit
V.J. Skutt

1994

Charles W. Durham
Samuel M. Greenberg
Charles M. "Mike" Harper
Herman Kountze
Allan G. Lozier

1995

Abe Baker
Leo A. Daly Jr.
Joseph Hopkins Millard
John J. Mulhall
Walter Scott Jr.

1996

Mildred Brown
Ike Friedman
John R. Lauritzen
Joseph Cullen Root
Willis A. Strauss

1997

Harold W. Andersen
George Brandeis
William F. Fitzgerald
Harry G. Watanabe
Clarence L. Werner

1998

N.P. "Phil" Dodge
Vinod Gupta
George Joslyn
Lester Simon
Roy A. Smith

1999

Milton R. Abrahams
Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss
Fred H. Hawkins
William A. Paxton Sr.
Charles D. Peebler Jr.
Michael B. Yanney

2000

Eugene C. Eppley
John C. Kenefick
Byron Reed
J. Joe Ricketts
Phillip G. Schrager
Harley D. Schrager

2001

Perry E. "Bill" Esping
John Gottschalk
Wayne L. Ryan, Ph.D.
Maurice M. "Maury" Udes
John A. Wiebe

2002

John D. Diesing
Howard L. Hawks
Joseph Kirshenbaum
Harlan J. Noddle
Amos T. and Alberta F. Pearl
John W. Weekly

2003

C.R. "Bob" Bell
Father Edward Flanagan
Stanley J. How
Kenneth E. Stinson
J. Wendell Thomas
Benjamin Wiesman

2004

Hal Daub
Bruce R. Lauritzen
Lee G. Simmons
David L. Sokol
Robert H. Storz

2005

Jack W. Baker
Charles F. Heider
Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock
Harry A. Koch Jr.
Robert J. Kutak
John P. Nelson

2006

Edward Creighton
Richard K. Davidson
William A. Fitzgerald
Michael R. McCarthy
Alan D. Simon
Frederick J. Simon
Stephen H. Simon
Gilbert C. Swanson
W. Clarke Swanson

2007

Chip Davis
Kathleen C. Dodge
N.P. Dodge Jr.
Henry Doorly
Richard D. Holland
A.F. Jacobson

2008

Tal Anderson
Clifton B. Batchelder
Anne Stuart Batchelder
Edward H. Harriman
William McBain Kizer
Edward Fred Owen
Arthur B. Pittman, D.V.M.

2009

Robert D. Bates
Deryl F. Hamann
Frank L. Hayes
Clarence L. Landen
Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
Michael Simmonds
Pamela Watanabe-Gerdes

2010

Erastus A. Benson
Pennie Z. Davis
Samuel D. Mercer
Joseph H. Moglia
Theodore "Ted" M. Seldin
Janice D. Stoney

2011

Richard R. Bell
Dan Gordman
George F. Haddix
John P. Schlegel S.J.
Wallace Roger Weitz
Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

2012

Michael G. Fahey
Robert Gregg "Bob" Hoig
Paul and Lori Hogan
Jun and Ree Kaneko
Linda Hoepfner Lovgren
D.J. Witherspoon

2013

Mogens C. Bay
Marshall E. Faith
Susan M. Jacques, G.G., F.G.A.
William M. "Willy" Thelsen
James R. Young

2014

Irvin Blumkin
Louis Blumkin
Ronald Blumkin
John K. Boyer
Paul C. Jensen
Aldo J. Tesi

2017

William A. Cutler
John S. Dinsdale
Stan Olsen
Robert A. Reed
Lee H. Sapp
William D. Sapp

2018

Irving R. Dana Jr.
Gary Gates
Fred Hopka Hawkins Jr.
Kenneth Michael Hawkins
John J. Koraleski
Steven S. Martin

2019

Todd A. Becker
Leo Bozell
Edson L. Bridges II
Jim Clifton
Morris Jacobs
Jane Miller
PJ Morgan

2018

Larry Courtneage
Bruce E. Grewcock
Dianne Seeman Lozier
Dan O'Neill
Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM

2019

Daniel J. Bishop
Gail DeBoer
John W. Estabrook
Jeff Kavich
Larry Kavich
Lazier Kavich
Gale L. Wickersham
Amea Zetzman

2021

Ronald B. Gartlan
James Linder, MD
Karen A. Linder
Rodrigo Lopez
Robert G. Lueder (1922 - 2013)
Paul Smith

2022

Don Eckles
Linda Eckles
John F. Lund
Jay Noddle
Carmen Tapio

2023

Ron Carson
Gregory S. Cutchall (1952 - 2022)
David Karnes (1948 - 2020)
Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.
Mary Ann O'Brien

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Learn more at www.kpmg.com/us



U.S. Bancorp, with approximately 70,000 employees and \$587 billion in assets as of March 31, 2022, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association. In Nebraska, there are 34 U.S. Bank offices in 10 cities. Of those, 17 are located in the Omaha metro area. The Minneapolis-based company serves millions of customers locally, nationally, and globally through a diversified mix of businesses: Consumer and Business Banking; Payment Services; Corporate & Commercial Banking; and Wealth Management and Investment Services. The company has been recognized for its approach to digital innovation, social responsibility, and customer service, including being named one of the 2022 World's Most Ethical Companies and Fortune's most admired superregional bank.

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“ *My dear friend, Mary Ann,
you have spent your life putting
together a great business, you deserve
to become a member of the
Omaha Business Hall of Fame!* ”

- Joe Moglia

(2010 Honoree)

Congratulations!



The recognition is well deserved.



BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, TODAY.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame Gala is proud to support the Greater Omaha Chamber's Young Professionals program, providing professional development, networking and community engagement opportunities to develop, recognize and retain the next generation of Omaha's trailblazers.

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