



The Cleveland
Heritage Medal
2022



Since 2016, the Cleveland Heritage Medal has been bestowed upon 24 individuals whose talents have been as varied as their backgrounds. The honor—Greater Cleveland's highest civilian award—recognizes selfless contributions that enhance and strengthen the fabric of our community.

The inaugural class of 2016—Morton L. Mandel; the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr.; Sandra Pianalto; Richard W. Pogue; and Senator George V. Voinovich—set the standard for this prestigious recognition, modeled after the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Class of 2022 is no less impressive, nominated and selected by diverse, distinguished committees utilizing an established process that focuses on merit, longevity and notable results.

Alex B. Johnson, Milton S. Maltz and Joan E. Southgate have incredible stories. Each has achieved the highest levels of success in their careers and callings.

A transformational college president who made education more accessible to all.

A broadcast icon who's made an indelible impact, for generations to come, with his philanthropy.

A passionate educator/social activist whose footprints left imprints on the hearts of our community.

They uphold the tradition and high standards the award embodies, and the spirit of leadership that has been a part of Cleveland's 226-year history.

What a profound honor it is to celebrate these three individuals. They continue to enrich us with their presence, their influence and their unabashed passion for the region they call home.

Please join us as we pay tribute.

Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE
President and CEO
The MetroHealth System

Beth Mooney
Former Chairman and CEO
KeyCorp

Robyn Minter Smyers
Partner
Thompson Hine



Committee



2022 Cleveland Heritage
Medal Chairs

Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE
President and CEO
The MetroHealth System

Beth Mooney
Former Chairman and CEO
KeyCorp

Robyn Minter Smyers
Partner
Thompson Hine

2022 Selection Committee

Micki Byrnes
WKYC-TV3

Eric W. Kaler, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve
University

Keith Libman
Bober Markey Fedorovich

April Miller Boise
Intel

Scott Mueller
Dealer Tire

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Deborah Read
Thompson Hine

Tony Richardson
Gund Foundation

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Esperanza Inc.

Baiju Shah
Greater Cleveland Partnership

Eddie Taylor
Taylor Oswald

Gareth Vaughan
The Albert M. Higley Company

Vanessa Whiting, Esq.
A.E.S. Management
Corporation

2022 Nominating Committee
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Cohen Rosenthal & Kramer

Dana Capers
Fifth Third Bank

Diana Centeno-Gomez
NASA Glenn Research Center

Kelly Falcone-Hall
Western Reserve Historical
Society

Ira Kaplan
Benesch

Lillian Kuri
The Cleveland Foundation

Kevin Martin
ideastream

Elizabeth McIntyre
Crain's Cleveland Business

Erika Rudin-Luria
Jewish Federation of
Cleveland

Timothy Tramble
Saint Luke's Foundation

Lorna Wisham
FirstEnergy Foundation



Criteria and Award Description

No city can thrive without them. They are the dedicated community leaders committed to creating and sustaining a city of true greatness—one that provides opportunities for businesses to prosper, for new ideas to flourish, for cultural richness to thrive and for residents to enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

During its 226 years, Cleveland has been a city blessed with accomplished leaders from civic, business, philanthropic and government spheres. Their contributions have created the lasting heritage that makes Cleveland the city it is today.

This year's recipients of the Cleveland Heritage Medal are true representatives of that legacy of leadership. Their impact on the city and region has far exceeded that which would be expected of them in their positions of influence. These honorees were nominated and

selected for this award by two committees, made up of dozens of dedicated community and corporate leaders.

But for these extraordinary individuals, the magnificent story and history of Cleveland would not be what it is today.

They have demonstrated leadership in civic, philanthropic or corporate spheres, or have made an impact in another private or public endeavor. Their community impact reflects **service to others** marked by compassion and selflessness. They espouse **teamwork** as necessary to making a difference in our community, actively encouraging the contributions of others.

The individuals we honor with the Cleveland Heritage Medal have also demonstrated **courage and respect** as they take on difficult

yet consequential initiatives for the good of Cleveland and its residents. These exceptional leaders are committed to fostering a community of **inclusion and diversity**, where differences are celebrated and all have the opportunity to participate. They are people of the highest character, serving as **role models** for others in the community.

Without them, the story of Cleveland could not be told.

Outstanding leaders are the foundation of a city's heritage. With this honor, we celebrate the individuals who are creating today the great Cleveland of tomorrow.



Making of the Medal



Commissioned to design the Cleveland Heritage Medal, the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA)—one of the nation’s top art and design schools—created a competition among its graphic design upperclassmen. They were asked to envision a medal that represented the city’s rich heritage.

MetroHealth President and CEO Akram Boutros, M.D., FACHE, judged the competition.

The winning design by Euclid native Jessica Sandy is emblazoned with three iconic Cleveland landmarks—the Veterans Memorial Bridge, Terminal Tower and Lake Erie. Its more subtle elements include five stars, which also adorn the city’s seal and symbolize each of the five times Cleveland was named an All-American City by the National Civic League. The five stars also represent the five characteristics of the Cleveland Heritage Medal recipients:

Service to others

Teamwork

Courage and respect

Inclusion and diversity

Being a role model



Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2022
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Alex B. Johnson, Ph.D.

“It’s been my desire, throughout my experiences as a faculty member and as an administrator, to help individuals understand the value of education. You don’t have to come from an affluent environment. I’m the perfect example. An education can be powerful for your family and also for the community where you reside, and you can become essentially anything you want to become as a result.”

During Dr. Alex Johnson’s tenure as Cuyahoga Community College’s fourth president (2013-2022), Tri-C’s graduation rate increased dramatically, exceeding national averages. Financial giving to support student scholarship grew exponentially. The college created numerous centers of excellence. And it developed Access Centers, which provide affordable or no-cost community-based educational and workforce programming.

Hailed “an inspired and innovative leader,” Dr. Johnson helped the college earn many distinctions, including twice being awarded the coveted Aspen Prize by the Aspen Institute. (Tri-C was the only Ohio community college on the institute’s recently released Top 150 list.) He also compassionately guided the college through the COVID-19 pandemic, economic struggles, and social anxieties of the past decade.

Prior to leading Tri-C, Dr. Johnson was president of the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh (2008-2013); chancellor

of Delgado Community College in New Orleans (2003-2008); and president of Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus (1993-2003).

In "Change the Lapel Pin," the first of two books he's authored on the topic of "personalized leadership," Dr. Johnson writes, "I have relied on my youth and early adulthood to partially guide me through my nearly 40 years in higher education—including time as a faculty member, administrator and ... college president."

Early Influences

Dr. Johnson is mindful and appreciative of how his early life experiences shaped the man and leader he would become. He spent most of his young life in the small town of Concord, N.C., in the segregated South, raised as much by his grandmother and aunts as his young mother.

"Any time I get an opportunity to honor those women who were integral to my development, I try to pay tribute," he says. He is

grateful, too, to pastors, his church community, teachers, and the many others who contributed not only to his rewarding career, but also to his fulfilling family and community life.

His path toward education may have unknowingly begun when he was just 8 years old.

"In the community where I grew up, teachers lived in the neighborhoods," Dr. Johnson says "Inside the classroom, they provided us with this phenomenal opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding, but outside the classroom, they served as role models for what you could aspire to become. ... I had a teacher in the third grade by the name of Mrs. Pearson. ... One day, Mrs. Pearson showed up at my home and asked my mom why I hadn't been coming to school. ... She knew my family wasn't a cotton-picking family. ... The reason I had not been at school was because I had worn my shoes out and my mom, unlike some other parents, would not let me go to school barefoot."

When Mrs. Pearson offered to buy young Alex some shoes, his mother proudly but graciously turned her down. So “every day without fail, Mrs. Pearson would come by my house, give me assignments and pick up my work ... and she did that for a good two weeks until my mom earned enough money to buy me a new pair of shoes. ... In addition to serving as a role model, both in and out of the classroom, Mrs. Pearson demonstrated the power and the value of teaching and the impact that it can have.”

Dr. Johnson lived in Harlem briefly as an infant and again for six years, from age 9-15, when his mother married and moved the family back to the city for better job opportunities. There, he was deeply affected both by the rich cultural centers of the city “committed to celebrating Black heritage” and, in a whole different way, the 1964 police shooting of 15-year-old James Powell and the riots that followed.

“The experiences I encountered during the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s added impetus to my leadership approach,” he writes in “Change the Lapel Pin.” He reflects that despite the Brown vs. Board of Education directive for states to act with “all deliberate speed” to end segregation, he “continued to enroll in schools and worship at a church that were built for Black folk only.” He “attended a segregated movie theater, where Blacks sat in the balcony. And [his] family still shopped at a department store where [they] were not permitted to try on the clothes before purchasing them.”

His mother and stepfather supported his decision at age 16 to return to North Carolina to take care of his grandmother—where (not coincidentally) he could more easily learn to drive. He was one of three Black students (along with Jimmy Reed and his sister, Sue Ann) in the high school of approximately 1,200 pupils.

“In the Jim Crow era, there were separate facilities ... for Black folk and white folk. And the ones for white folk were always superior. ... They call it ‘separate but equal,’ but it was never equal. I went to a separate school ... where we received handed-down books from the white schools. ... But the important thing about that environment is that I gained knowledge from those handed-down books,” says Dr. Johnson. “I made friends and I learned how to engage physically and exercise in that little Lincoln Street pool and those segregated recreational facilities. And in my (segregated) church, I learned about spirituality ... a way to gain understanding about my life. ... I joined the world of ideas from those small holdings.”

His guidance counselor, Mr. Misenheimer, encouraged the non-college-seeking lad to explore the state’s historically Black colleges and universities. He ultimately attended Winston-Salem State University from 1967 to 1971, during a time of social upheaval and activism and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Our sorrow escalated into outrage,” he remembers.

He returned to New York City to teach in early childhood centers and pursued his graduate studies at Lehman College and Penn State University, continuing to benefit from the counsel and advocacy of treasured mentors along the way. One piece of advice he passes on: “It’s harder to be nice than clever.”

Hope for Education and Equality

Dr. Johnson believes government, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals can do more to sustain education and improve diversity and inclusiveness in our Greater Cleveland community and nation.

“Higher education can have a greater social impact on communities, particularly diverse communities,” says Dr. Johnson. “We have to be more accountable in ensuring that an education remains affordable. We have to have the necessary courses and programs to promote economic growth and neighborhood development, and we must provide our core neighborhoods with opportunities at their doorsteps.

“Government has a role in making sure that people have resources like affordable health care ... food ... housing support, and things of that sort.” But he believes “individuals have a responsibility and must begin recognizing their own implicit biases and their subconscious biases and do something to eradicate them.

“I also believe that companies have responsibility. ... They have to really diversify their hiring. ... They need to understand how to enrich their customer base with people from diverse backgrounds and understand their needs are different ... and they have to invest in communities of color.”

Dr. Johnson admits winning is important to him. “I’m very competitive. That’s my Achilles’ heel. I want to help students become successful and ... make the world a better place. ... I’m working on a few things that hopefully will bring resolutions to some of our challenges, most notable around health disparities in the

Black community. ... If you don’t feel safe and secure, if you don’t have proper nutrition, if you don’t have a home where you feel comfortable ... all of those can lead to poor health outcomes. That’s my passion right now.”

A proud father of two, he also looks forward to spending a lot more time with his family, especially his new wife, Marcia, adult children, and “two beautiful grandbabies, Rory and Ruby.”



2022
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Milton Selwyn Maltz

“If you really care about your community, you’re not going to let people suffer. You’re going to help them. You’re going to contribute to their welfare.”

Milt Maltz’s fantastically storied broadcast career began with a booming “FEE-FI-FO-FUM, I smell the blood of an Englishman!”

WBEZ was looking for child actors for a production of “Jack in the Beanstalk.” The young Maltz not only got the part, he continued to work at the station through high school, grabbing every opportunity he could to learn all sides of the business. He was as enthralled with the technology and business of broadcasting as he was with on-air acting and disc jockeying.

He credits his seventh-grade teacher, Mrs. Clausen, who, after hearing him read a passage from “Moby Dick,” coaxed him to audition for the new radio station in downtown Chicago. She even paid his round-trip fare on the “L.”

“When you are in the broadcast world, there are three elements you need to have,” he explains. “There’s the technical side, how the transmitter works and what it needs ... then you’ve got to be

able to have programming that people want to hear ... and finally, guess what the next one is? On-the-air performance. Most of the people who were entering the broadcast business in those earlier days didn't have all three. ... Most just wanted to make a buck." Mr. Maltz's love for broadcast oozes out whenever he shares one of his "crazy" stories. (Many are in his book, "A Passion for Broadcasting.")

Once he got a taste of the business, Mr. Maltz was hooked, often holding down more than one broadcast job at a time. He strayed from broadcast only once in his life. As a Navy reservist, he was asked to serve at the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., during the Korean War. His work in cryptology there would later lead to his interest in espionage and ultimately the creation of the International Spy Museum decades later.

Radio Days

Mr. Maltz acquired his first radio station before he turned 25 so he could run things the way he knew they should be run. (His last

general manager forbade him to play back-to-back songs by Black artists.) Mr. Maltz continued to buy, improve and sell radio and television stations for the remainder of his career. He founded Malrite Communications Group in 1956, brought it public in 1988 and sold it in 1998. His strategy was to buy floundering stations at a low price and quickly figure out how to fix them. Sometimes, it was the signal, sometimes the programming, and sometimes the talent.

Ask him about Cleveland's WMMS (100.7 FM) and WHK (1420 AM) and he'll regale you with stories of their peerless turnarounds. "Both stations were disasters," he recalls. "I felt that rock-and-roll was becoming more and more a major factor in American music. ... So I went over and met with the president of CSU (Cleveland State University), and I said, 'Would you mind if I pull out of the 19,000 kids coming here, a few who really understand rock-and-roll music?'"

And then Mr. Maltz helped create radio personalities for the students with names like Kid Leo, Matt the Cat and Ed "Flash"

Ferenc. Branding Cleveland as the “Rock ’n’ Roll Capital of the World” and the station as “Home of the Buzzard,” WMMS posted record numbers and played a key role in establishing rock legends like David Bowie and Bruce Springsteen. And no doubt, the FM station—along with Mr. Maltz’s lobbying in New York—helped secure the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame and Museum’s place in Cleveland.

For WHK, Mr. Maltz pursued a different tactic. He brought in “big-time trouble” Gary Dee as its first shock jock, which garnered a whole different kind of excitement—including what might have been an ugly and expensive confrontation with Jerry Lewis after an on-air bashing of the comedic actor’s Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon. Mr. Maltz managed to dodge a lawsuit with a little creativity and fast action. He flew Jerry Lewis into Cleveland to confront Gary Dee during a live program and placed a large public apology in The Plain Dealer, magically turning bad press into good.

“So the AM had really a tremendous comeback and the FM became a different station,” says Mr. Maltz, who went on to buy WOIO-TV Channel 19 in Cleveland as well as stations in Los Angeles, Houston and New York. Working in nearly every area of broadcast from the start of his career, he created, directed and produced “The Fight for Freedom,” a series of radio dramas reflecting the struggle for the creation of the State of Israel.

A recipient of the National Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame, Mr. Maltz created the NAB Task Force for Free TV, serviced on its Political Action Committee and was a director of the Radio Advertising Bureau and vice chairman of the Independent Television Association.

Tzedakah Tradition

Milton Maltz was the only child of the only Jewish couple in his neighborhood of South Bend, Indiana. During his first week of first grade, he was verbally and physically assaulted by a group of boys



during recess. When he finally was able to break away, he had almost no clothes left on his body. He ran 10 city blocks back to his home, where his mother assured him that he wouldn't be returning to that school. Mr. Maltz endured other discrimination throughout his life, including being denied a job he earned because the company had a policy against hiring Jews.

His father operated a small store in South Bend that ultimately went bankrupt. That's when his family moved to Chicago.

At a very early age, he learned about *tzedakah*—a Hebrew term for the deep religious obligation to do what is right and just through charity and social justice. His mother routinely went out of her way to help others. When, as a youth, he asked her how a Black man got that way, she replied, "Milton, they are born that way. Isn't he beautiful?" Mr. Maltz is indebted to his mother and father for their influence on his moral character.

He met his “amazing and supportive” life partner during his college years, and they wed in 1951. A former elementary schoolteacher and a Hebrew scholar, Tamar refers to the city as her “beloved Cleveland.” Milt and Tamar approach business, philanthropic and life endeavors as a team, and in consult with their three children. In 1997, they founded the Maltz Family Foundation to focus on their major charitable interests.

The Maltz Family Foundation made a \$20 million gift to the Cleveland Orchestra to create the Center for Future Audiences, funding the orchestra’s Under 18’s Free Program, and contributed \$10 million to the Cleveland Museum of Art to create Gallery One, the transformational interactive experience bringing technology, art, and museum visitors together. They’ve also given generously to support the Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at The Temple-Tifereth Israel on the Case Western Reserve University campus, as well as The Anti-Defamation League, Bellefaire Jewish Children’s Bureau, Cleveland Arts Prize, Cleveland Foundation,

Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University, Jewish Family Service Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, among others.

In 2005, the Maltz Family Foundation established the Maltz Museum in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Centennial Initiative and The Temple-Tifereth Israel with research support from the Western Reserve Historical Society. Initially named the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, the dynamic educational institution was rebranded this year as the Maltz Museum with the tag “Respect for All Humanity.”

“Cleveland has so much in the way of culture, of music, of art,” says Mr. Maltz. “We love the community. We could have been in New York. We could have been in Los Angeles. We chose to stay here and care here.”



2022
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Joan Evelyn Southgate

“Remember your own strength and share that or teach it to whatever group you’re leading.”

Joan Southgate has served Cleveland as a social worker, child advocate, vocational teacher, poet, novelist and activist. Today, at age 94, she remains a courageous community leader and an impassioned warrior for diversity. She is witty, charming, unapologetically curious, an eager listener, resolutely hopeful and — her family would add — eccentric ... in the best possible sense.

She has four children and nine grandchildren. “My family has it all,” she says, “Christian, Jew and Muslim; tall and short; gay and straight; fat and thin; rich and poor; Black, white and Latino ... a just-right exhibit of American diversity.”

Ms. Southgate remembers being the “only Black child in the class throughout elementary school,” but she never thought of race as a “thing.” She “knew as a little girl who [she] was ... smart, top of her class, fun, cute, dimples like Shirley Temple.” She read a lot and was inspired by strong women’s friendship like Eleanor Roosevelt and

Mary McLeod Bethune, “who started a college for colored ladies simply because it was something that should be done.”

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., Ms. Southgate graduated cum laude from Syracuse University in 1952 and then earned her master’s degree in social work in 1954 from what is now Case Western Reserve University. She fell in love with her “sort of quiet, quite handsome” husband, Robert, “probably because he carried an open book as an extension of his left arm.” He was a librarian and scholar of Black history and Black literature.

Ms. Southgate is best and widely known for her trek across Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Canada in 2002–2003, along the path of the Underground Railroad. She was 73 years old. Her sojourn captivated the media, enlightening thousands. It didn’t hurt that her cat, Nelson Mandela, became a neighborhood and media darling, pretending to walk with Ms. Southgate when people were watching and cameras were rolling.

Ms. Southgate’s motivation for the walk was a calling “from an ancestor’s whisper to me, wondering how can I honor the strong enslaved builders of this country. A desire to remember and praise the fugitive families in flight. And the people and organizations who aided them.”

Once she started, she couldn’t stop thinking about the families who walked off toward freedom with small children — “no street signs, no real path, no real roads ... hiding and frightened the whole time. ... Not only white citizens wanted to stop them ... there were hired slave catchers ... men with guns and power.”

In her book, “In Their Path: A Grandmother’s 519-Mile Underground Railroad Walk,” she reflects: “It was my dead mother’s voice that put my feet in the path for a 519-mile Underground Railroad walk in praise of the courage, creativity and strength of the unknown, unnamed slave ancestors and all of the fellow enslaved, free Blacks, free whites and Native Americans who helped their escape to freedom.”



She credits her parents, husband, siblings and children for fueling her creativity, curiosity and ambition. “Always, in all ways, for me, the story of the Underground Railroad is about families. And I thrill at my own children’s embrace of their mother’s kooky idea,” she says.

Training for the journey, both mentally and physically, took 14 months. She had zealous support from old friends and colleagues, except young neighbor Kevin who worried about possible threats from angry strangers “who did not understand what a little old Black woman was doing on their streets and highways.”

She traveled safely, staying at strangers’ homes (her “safe houses”). An important piece of “In Their Path” was the curriculum-based teaching Ms. Southgate did along the way. She encouraged students to ask questions—and they didn’t disappoint. She recalls one young Black girl asking, “If you could choose just one thing to change for the slaves, what would it be?” Ms. Southgate turned the question

back to the young girl who courageously replied to wild applause, “Someway they wouldn’t-a-been treated so bad.”

When signing her book, Ms. Southgate writes, “Sankofa,” a word from the Twi language of Ghana meaning “go back to fetch it”—a reminder to use the wisdom you learned in the past to build for the future through realization of self and spirit. The full proverb: It is not taboo to return and fetch it when you forget.

To raise money for her next big project, Ms. Southgate—at the age of 80—walked another 250 miles from Harriet Tubman’s terminus in St. Catharines, Ontario, to Cleveland’s Station Hope, which was an Episcopalian church on the near West Side.

When she’d heard about the planned destruction of the Cozad-Bates House, the only pre-Civil War home still standing in University Circle, Ms. Southgate got busy. She founded a nonprofit called Restore Cleveland Hope (“Hope” being the code name given to Cleveland by

Underground Railroad organizers) and led an arduous grassroots effort that resulted in the building’s restoration and new purpose. The Cozad-Bates House Interpretive Center, as it is now called, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a Cleveland Landmark.

In March of this year, the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom accepted the Cozad-Bates House Interpretive Center into its network. Owned and managed by University Circle Inc. (after University Hospitals donated the building to the Circle in 2006), Cozad-Bates houses exhibits, tours and conversations about slavery, voter suppression, human rights and relevant constitutional amendments in its Gund Foundation, Cleveland Foundation and Key Bank Community rooms. Concerts are performed on the front porch.

Restore Cleveland Hope’s mission today is to continue teaching and talking about the antislavery movement, as well as to increase



opportunities for collaboration among the Glenville, Little Italy, Hessler Road and Fairfax neighborhoods.

Cleveland Public Theatre produced a play about Ms. Southgate's walk, and Ms. Southgate herself was involved in a three-part program called "Let's Talk About Freedom," which was featured on WVIZ-TV. She is the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 2022 Community Service Award and the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Neighborhood Leadership Award. She also has served on the advisory board of Fab House of Cleveland and was keynote speaker at Case Western Reserve University's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, among other distinctions.



2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2021 Honoree
Richard J. Bogomolny

"The leadership of arts and culture is underestimated. The New York Times gives us credit for being 'America's most exciting orchestra,' yet we are the smallest city in the world to have a world-renowned orchestra. We have wonderful museums, theaters, restaurants, parks ... a low cost of living. We are the envy of so many cities."



2021 Honoree
Margot James Copeland

“What do you learn in physics? You learn to solve problems. You learn to ask why, why, why. You learn to be analytical and you develop critical-thinking skills. Those skills transfer well into any position. And I think that’s the value I bring to assignments I take on—whether the assignment is in the community, in a corporate leadership role or in the board room.”



2021 Honoree
Beth E. Mooney

"Making time for your community is as important as your career. It's not one at the expense of the other. I think 2020 taught us how dependent we are on each other, and I'm hoping we will emerge from it with a joint sense of commitment, a joint sense of our shared future."



2021 Honoree
Margaret W. Wong

"I'd like to think my story has a lot of room for growth. The country is realizing freedom like we've never seen before. But foreign-born students still need all the help they can get. They need to learn how to change laws and build great companies. I'd like to be part of their foundation."



2020 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2020 Honoree
Jeanette Grasselli
Brown

"If I can help others by participating in and leading organizations ... not only pushing my own achievements a little higher, but helping my community grow ... I want to do that. I genuinely care about our city and about all the great people and institutions here."



2020 Honoree
Bracy E. Lewis

"I really want my legacy to be one of caring. I hope I've done as much as I possibly could do for those who are less fortunate than I am."



2020 Honoree
A. Malachi Mixon III

“When you volunteer, you meet a lot of interesting people and you learn new things. You can get into the tentacles of the city and feel like you’re contributing to society, giving people a hand up. I was blessed to be able to do these things.”



2019
Cleveland Heritage
Medal Honorees



2019 Honoree
Thomas W. Adler

“What happened to me is what I think most young people need: I was mentored. I had the best of the best mentors and it’s made all the difference.”



2019 Honoree
Art J. Falco

“It’s all about learning as much as you can and continuing to grow. Complacency is not an option. We have to continually improve.”



2019 Honoree
Robert P. Madison, FAIA

“Positive changes have come about in Cleveland because of the ability of Clevelanders to accept the fact that America is a place for immigrants of all colors. Racial integration in a society is important, and Cleveland has done that very well.”



2019 Honoree
Barbara S. Robinson

“The arts enrich life. They contribute to the enhancement of education, to job development, to community building, to growth in tourism. But they also develop personal values. They encourage your participation in civic discourse. They widen your circle of thought and activity. They turn what you think of as yourself into ‘us.’”



2018 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



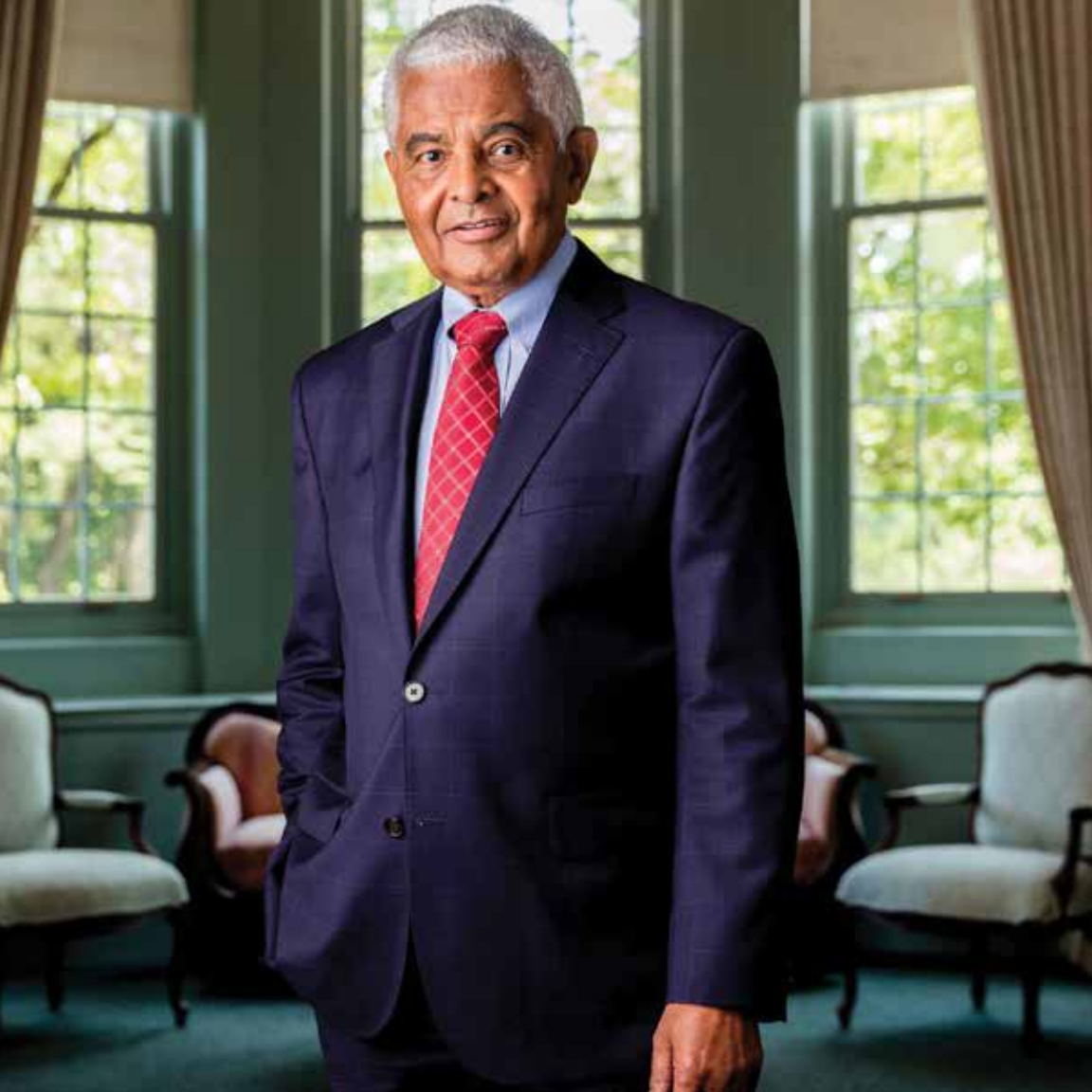
2018 Honoree
Toby Cosgrove, MD

"I never really thought of myself as a leader in Cleveland when I started as CEO. I concentrated hard on the institution and how the institution could benefit the community."



2018 Honoree
Robert D. Gries

“The ancient Jewish prophet, Hillel, said it all in two sentences: ‘If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?’”



2018 Honoree
Steven A. Minter

“You have to think about what it is you’re interested in doing and where you want to try to make a difference, where you want to have some impact in the long run. And you have to step forward to figure out what more you can do to really make a difference.”



2018 Honoree
Jerry Sue Thornton, PhD

“In Cleveland, if you raise your hand, you’ve just volunteered. You can be a part of this wonderful community without having to have lived here your entire life. You’re rewarded for wanting to be involved and wanting to use your talents by being allowed to use them. There’s a place at the table.”



2017
Cleveland Heritage
Medal Honorees



2017 Honoree
Carole F. Hoover

“God has blessed me to open some doors that I never thought I’d open, meet people who I never thought I’d meet. I owe whatever I can give to other people, opening any doors of opportunity for others that I can open.”



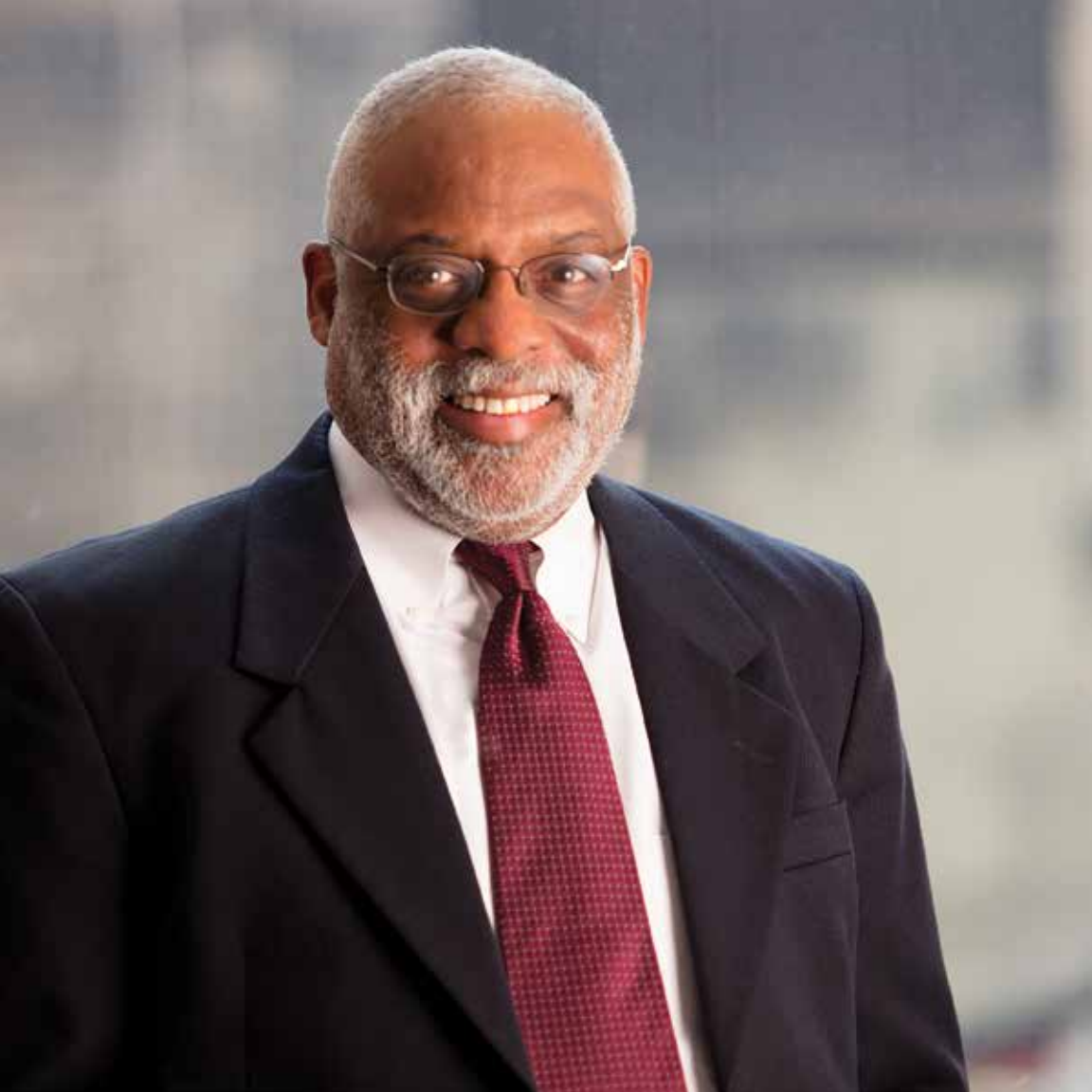
2017 Honoree
Samuel H. Miller

“In order to be a leader, you have to be a servant first. Learning to be a good servant gives you a foundation for great leadership.”



2017 Honoree
Albert B. Ratner

“There’s a Jewish tradition that you stand on the shoulders of giants. It’s what comes before you that allows you to take the next step. Part of life is learning the lessons of the people who came before you and adding what you can.”



2017 Honoree
Michael R. White

“What creates a heritage is neighborhood commitment, respect for people, being willing to challenge the status quo, being willing to risk what you’ve developed and an abiding belief in the people of Cleveland.”



2016 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2016 Honoree
Morton L. "Mort" Mandel

"Think of the world as a million candles. If God made a million candles since the beginning of time, and there have been about 200,000 candles lit, there's still an awful lot of darkness. I've lit a few candles myself, and I'm going to go on and light as many candles as I can."



2016 Honoree
Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr.

“Some of the greatest assignments we receive in life as a servant are the leadership responsibilities thrust upon us that we were not seeking. If you do what you have to do and you do it well, you will be given more than you can handle. Service is what is greatness. You can get fame from other means.”



2016 Honoree
Sandra Pianalto

“I didn’t take on any assignment or agree to be a part of an organization or cause where they just wanted to use my name and my position. I’m a person who if I commit to doing something, I am all in. I’m not an ‘in name only’ type of individual. The only way you can be all in is if you are passionate about the cause and about the impact the organization can make.”



2016 Honoree
Richard W. "Dick" Pogue

"The key to getting things done in this community is number one, know the facts. If you know the facts and are willing to work hard and are collaborative, you're going to get things done."



2016 Honoree
The Honorable
George V. Voinovich

“My parents were first-generation Americans who struggled hard. They underscored that as citizens of the United States, we had an obligation to give back to our community.”

On behalf of the Cleveland Museum of Art
Board of Trustees and Staff,
we congratulate our
Board of Trustees member

Milton Maltz
as a recipient of the
Cleveland Heritage Medal.



We thank

Alex Johnson, Milton Maltz and Joan Southgate
for the indelible impact each has made
on our community.

Your engagement, empathy and support have
lifted spirits and inspired new hope.
Congratulations on this richly deserved award.



KeyBank congratulates
2022 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees,
Dr. Alex B. Johnson,
Joan E. Southgate and Milton S. Maltz.

We're proud of what you've accomplished.

Your efforts make a difference and have a positive
effect on us all.

Your work and dedication inspire us.
Honoring you is our honor.



Menorah Park congratulates and appreciates
Milton Maltz for a life of service to our
community. His leadership and dedication
toward making the world a better place
for all of us at all stages of life have made
a profound difference throughout Greater
Cleveland and beyond!



EXCELLENCE IN CARING®

Congratulations, honorees, and thanks
for your many contributions to the
City of Cleveland!



On behalf of the International Spy Museum's
Board of Directors and staff, we congratulate
our Founder and Chairman of the Board,
Milton S. Maltz, on this distinguished honor.

Thank you for your vision, leadership, and service
in the Cleveland community, our nation's capital,
and beyond.



Congratulations, Dr. Alex Johnson,
and all Cleveland Heritage Medal honorees.
Your leadership, collaboration, and service
have changed lives and advanced Northeast
Ohio in countless ways.

Thank you.



“We rise by lifting others.”

A fitting thought as we honor three amazing
civic leaders who have done so much for
Northeast Ohio. Their commitment and their
courage has changed lives and helped move
this region forward.

This honor is so well-deserved!

— Micki Byrnes, WKYC Studios



Congratulations, Alex B. Johnson, Ph.D.,
Milton S. Maltz, and Joan E. Southgate.

You have all inspired others to step up and make a
difference in our community.

Your actions and accomplishments have made a
difference for Cleveland.

PNC is proud to congratulate you as recipients of
the Cleveland Heritage Medal.



The Cleveland Orchestra applauds and
celebrates our valued Trustee
Milton S. Maltz. His dedication to
improving Cleveland and the world through
the arts, human rights, and scientific research
makes him a role model for all.



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Committee photo, Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree Portraits

