

Keystone State Games, Inc.

Hall of Fame Induction



Tuesday, May 17, 2016

at the Capitol Complex

Harrisburg, PA

11:00am	Reception	Room 60EW
12:15pm	Mr. John Wetterau KSG Board President	Introduction
12:20pm	Secretary K. Murphy Department of Health	Active Living
12:25pm	Mr. Larry Richardson State Alliance of YMCA's	Walkable Communities
12:30pm	Secretary T. Osborne Department of Aging	Senior Fitness
12:35pm	Mr. Dave Hogg York County	KSG Host City
12:38pm	Mr. John Wetterau	Hall of Fame Induction
	Mr. Owen J Costello CEO 1983 - 2014	Hall of Fame Honoree
	Mr. Ronald Lench, Esquire Board Member since 1981	Hall of Fame Honoree
	Representative Joseph R. Pitts "Father of the Games"	Hall of Fame Honoree
	Mr. (Coach) John Reese Founding Board President	Hall of Fame Honoree
	Mr. Harold Rosenn, Esquire Founding Board Member	Hall of Fame Honoree
	Governor Richard Thornburgh Governor of PA 1979 - 1987	Hall of Fame Honoree
12:58pm	Mr. James Costello 2016 Games Kickoff	KSG Executive Director
1:10pm	WalkWorks Initiative	Capitol Walking Route

I would like to take a moment to thank
all of those in attendance today:

The Inductees, their families, and
friends, honored guests from the
Department of Health, Department of
Aging, York County Convention and
Visitors Bureau, General Assembly
Members and the Coalition of YMCAs.

A special thanks to KSG Board
President, Mr. John Wetterau, and all of
the KSG Board Members for celebrating
our rich history and to Kickoff the
35th Annual Keystone State Games!

James J. Costello
Keystone State Games, Inc.
Executive Director

**Come celebrate with us the life of Owen J Costello
with a great day of golf, food, spirits & laughter!**

2nd Annual - Owen J Costello



Memorial Golf Tournament

**Sunday July 10, 2016 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club,
Mountain Top, PA • Info at www.keystonegames.com**

PURPOSE OF EVENT

Fund an annual scholarship program to a deserving senior(s) within the WBASD. Owen was a member of the WBASD school board for 16 years.

Create a memorial honoring Owen's commitment to recreation, athletics, and community at the newly named Owen J. Costello Way at the Coal Street Park Complex.

Assist and support the amateur athletes that compete in the annual Keystone Games Festival of Sports which Owen was CEO of for 32 years.



Executive Summary

History of the Keystone State Games:

The Keystone State Games was created as a result of a resolution by Representative Joseph R. Pitts (Chester County) and approved by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1980. Keystone State Games Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, was formed in 1983 with the help of former Governor Richard Thornburgh.

Since its inception Keystone State Games, Inc. has attracted over 500,000 participants of various age groups into our events. Our primary focus is for the athletes, their families, and all of the volunteers to have a memorable sporting event experience like no other throughout Pennsylvania.

Keystone State Games, Inc. Mission

The mission of the Keystone State Games is to promote physical fitness, sports activity, and sportsmanship as a health improvement and disease prevention strategy for all Pennsylvanians and other participants and to create an expanded, coordinated and citizen-sponsored program of amateur athletic competition.

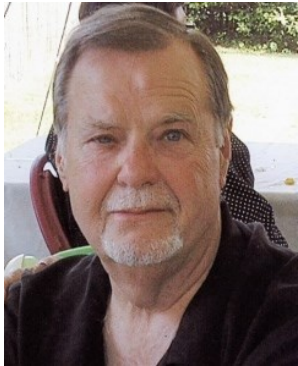
Keystone State Games Festival of Sports & PA Senior Games

Keystone State Games Festival of Sports & Pennsylvania Senior Games, modeled after the Olympic Games, are PA's largest annually held multi-sport competitions providing Pennsylvania's amateur athletes an opportunity to compete against athletes from throughout the Commonwealth in a festival atmosphere that promotes all of the positive aspects of amateur sports. The 2016 Games are being held in the Greater York County from July 27 - 31, 2016.

Keystone State Games Board of Directors

Mr. John W. Wetterau, President
Mr. Joe Swartz, Vice President
Garry S. Taroli, Esq., Treasurer
Congressman Joseph R. Pitts
Ronald G. Lench, Esq.
Mrs. Joanne Horn

Mr. John G. Reese, Emeritus
Harold Rosenn, Esq., Emeritus
Ms. Clarisse Sulyok
Mr. Steve Bohn
Charles R. Gerow, Esq., Emeritus
The Honorable Robert J. Flick



Mr. Owen J. Costello
Keystone State Games
CEO 1983—2014

Owen Costello served as President / CEO of Keystone State Games, Inc. for 34 years. He was hired as the Executive Director in March 1983, only five months before the start of the 2nd Keystone State Games in State College.

Owen graduated from Elizabethtown High School in 1964. Upon his graduation, he moved to Wilkes-Barre and attended W-B Business School and Wilkes University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

A graduate of Wilkes University, he served as Executive Director for the Wilkes-Barre Recreation Board from 1974 to 1982. He was the catalyst behind the City's Farmers Market, St. Patrick's Day Parade and Old Fashion 4th of July Celebration. Owen served as a School Board Director for 16 years for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Governor Robert P. Casey appointed Owen to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports in June 1988 and he was re-appointed by Governor Thomas Ridge. In 1990, Owen was inducted into the Luzerne County of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievements in sports administration, and he was named the recipient of the John B. Kelly, Jr. Memorial for Outstanding Citizen Award for generously giving time to the community.

His years of service and vision of the Games have provided over 500,000 amateur athletes and countless family members and fans over three decades with an amateur sporting experience unmatched by any other.



Governor Richard Thornburgh
Pennsylvania Governor
1979—1987

Elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1978 and re-elected in 1982, Mr. Thornburgh was the first Republican ever to serve two successive terms in that office. He served as Chair of the Republican Governors Association and was named by his fellow governors as one of the nation's most effective big-state governors in a 1986 Newsweek poll.

During his service as Governor, Mr. Thornburgh balanced state budgets for eight consecutive years, reduced both personal and business tax rates, cut the state's record-high indebtedness and left a surplus of \$350 million. Under his leadership, 15,000 unnecessary positions were eliminated from a swollen state bureaucracy and widely recognized economic development, education and welfare reform programs were implemented. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate, among the ten highest in the nation when he was elected, was among the ten lowest when he left office.

During the initial years of his role as governor, House Resolution 235 was introduced by Representative Pitts of Chester County, legislating for a state games initiative. Governor Thornburgh appointed a controlling board and founded the Keystone State Games program as a private, non-profit organization, and announced in the spring of 1982 that the first Games would be held at Penn State University.

Original debates from committees involved in the development of the Keystone State Games wanted the event to be exclusive to elite amateur athletes - a stepping stone to the Olympic stage. Governor Thornburgh insisted that the Games be for all of Pennsylvania's amateur athletes. Governor Thornburgh saw the benefit of providing everyone with the opportunities of sport participation as a health improvement strategy.



Mr. Harold Rosenn, Esquire Founding Board Member

Harold Rosenn has been a community leader throughout his life. He resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and has been an attorney with the firm Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald since its inception in 1954. He remains actively involved with numerous community entities and is a well-known icon in Wilkes-Barre and surrounding areas.

He is a graduate of Michigan University in 1939 and its law school in 1941. He will tell you that he is Michigan's Biggest Fan! Harold was in the United States Air Force from 1942 – 1945 and was a Captain in the 8th Air Force in England.

Harold has been involved with numerous professional communities throughout his career. Harold was an original board member of the Keystone State Games from its inception in 1981.

Originally, Harold was asked by Governor Thornburgh to suggest a candidate from northeastern Pennsylvania for the board of directors. He recommended John Reese, who was the wrestling coach at Wilkes University, and a man of impeccable reputation throughout the country. Shortly thereafter, at John's advice, the board hired Owen Costello, of Wilkes-Barre, as the Executive Director.

Harold wrote that his service on the Keystone State Games board, since the inception of the program, has been most rewarding, both in serving with other volunteers throughout the state, and above all, working to keep the program healthy so that it can continue to serve so many of our people, young and old, throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Governor Thornburgh wrote that Harold was the driving force behind the Keystone State Games, which was one of my favorite projects.



Mr. Ronald Lench, Esquire Board Member since 1982 Inception

Ron Lench is a native of western Pennsylvania and has been living in the Harrisburg area since 1969. He is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pittsburgh Law School.

He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for two terms representing a portion of Beaver County from 1965 through 1968. He then retired from the General Assembly and moved to Harrisburg. He was Executive Assistant to the House Majority Leader for two years before joining Governor Shapp's cabinet in 1971. For the next eight years he served in the positions of Secretary of Administration, Legislative Secretary, and the final four and one-half years as Secretary of General Services.

Ron has been a Keystone State Games Board Member since the inception of the games in 1982.

In fact, he was a member of the Selection Committee which retained the late Owen Costello to be the first Executive Director in 1983.

The other Committee members were current Congressman Joe Pitts, Coach Reese and Secretary of Administration/Budget Robert Wilburn.

And Ron remains an active Board member today.



Representative Joseph R. Pitts Legislative Father of the Keystone Games

Joe Pitts represents the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, a diverse district stretching from the western Philadelphia suburbs further west into the Pennsylvania “Dutch” Country. Joe Pitts’ life and career have been wide-ranging as well: he has worked as a teacher, a small business owner, an Air Force officer, and a legislator. In addition to Pennsylvania, he has lived in Kentucky, the Philippines, and the various places the Air Force sent him.

Joe Pitts served for 24 years in Harrisburg, eventually chairing the House Appropriations Committee—a position he attained specifically because of his reputation for honesty and fair dealing. In that position, he worked with governors and colleagues in both parties to balance eight state budgets in a row, even during the recession of 1990-1991—without a federal bailout.

On May 28, 1980, Representative Joseph Pitts first introduced House Resolution 235 in the legislature to establish a state games. The resolution began, WHEREAS, Thousands of young Pennsylvanians, not presently involved in physical fitness and sports programs, would be eager to engage in competitive sports if the opportunity were made available.

This core value to provide the citizens of Pennsylvania with fitness opportunities through amateur sports developed into the Keystone State Games. Representative Pitts has earned the name of “legislative Father of the Keystone State Games.”



Mr. “Coach” John Reese Founding KSG Board President

John G. Reese, Wilkes University's former Athletic Director for 34 years (1958-1992) and Head Wrestling Coach for 42 years (1953-1995), was chosen as this year's recipient of the President's Medal.

Coach Reese is one of the winningest coaches in NCAA wrestling history with 515 wins. Under his leadership, the wrestling program gained national attention with 40 winning seasons, 14 MAC titles, the 1974 Division III National Championship and a nationally ranked Division I program. During his tenure, Reese coached 10 individual national champions, 61 MAC champions, and 46 All-Americans. In 1976, he moved Wilkes wrestling from Division III and MAC into Division I and the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association. Although it was the smallest Division I program in the country, under Reese's leadership Wilkes produced 87 EIWA place-winners, including eight champions, the 1976 Outstanding Wrestler Jim Weisenfluh and five Division I All-Americans.

He was also responsible for creating the Wilkes Open, "The Rose Bowl of Wrestling" which is held annually during the Christmas holiday. During his tenure as Athletic Director, Wilkes experienced significant growth in both men's and women's varsity sports teams and the construction of the Marts Center was completed. He has been inducted into ten sports Halls of Fame including the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Coach Reese was the founding President / Chairman of the Keystone State Games Board of Directors. He helped develop the current structure of the organization as a 501C(3) non-profit corporation and introduced Owen Costello to the Selection Committee as the founding Executive Director.