

The following was presented by Board member, Jon Mason, at the Hall of Distinction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society on May 1, 2022.

Phyllis J. (Angel) Karling

It is my honor today to present to you the name of Phyllis J. (Angel) Karling for induction to our Hall of Distinction.

Phyllis was born and raised in Dover, Ohio and graduated from Dover High School in 1959. She was a member of the Dover High School marching band and also the orchestra.

It is her achievements as Executive Director of the Tuscarawas Country Senior Center that brings her to us today.

She became involved in the Senior Center as a board member and bookkeeper. The senior center was at that time housed in the former Swartz Building on Third Street in Dover and the major activity conducted there was bingo.

After only a few years the position of Executive Director came open and Phyllis was asked to fill that position. She realized the need for a different facility to better serve the seniors and her first step was to visit other centers throughout the state to see what all they offered and to examine their facilities.

With that information she began to formulate her plans for a new and better facility. A former co-worker said, "If you had to choose one word to describe Phyllis it would be "visionary".

And that she was. She pictured a place large enough to hold weddings, receptions, and banquets and she set her sights on fulfilling that goal. With the approval of the other board members she was able to convince the community of the expanded services that could be provided by the Senior Center with additional funding. The community overwhelmingly passed a levy increasing their support.

Next Phyllis was able to secure a suitable building site and the building we are in now became a reality. She then began an ambitious Vehicle procurement program to further aid seniors.

An article in the Times Reporter best described the facility. The location was the result of the generosity of one man-Myron Phillips and the banquet hall is named in his honor. The facility has a Happy Days Café, a dining room that seats up to 300 people, a computer room, an arts and crafts room, and another

room for Bible studies. There are kitchen facilities. An exercise room with rehabilitation equipment is located in the basement.

All this because one person had the vision and the tenacity to make it happen-
Phyllis Karling.

I can think of no one who is a better example of a person who enriched the lives of so many people not only in Dover, but in the entire county.

It is my honor to present Phyllis Karling for induction into the Dover Historical Society's Hall of Distinction.

Thank you.