

The following was presented by Board President, Greg Bair, at the Hall of Distinction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Jon and Bonnie Mason first met in the 7th grade, and graduated from Dover High School in 1962. Jon and Bonnie both were chosen by their senior class to represent the ideals of citizenship, leadership, character, and service. It was a special award, entitled "I Dare You". After high school, Jon and Bonnie continued to date one another.

Bonnie Burson graduated from Akron City-Isabelle Firestone School of Nursing in 1965 while Jon Mason was continuing his education at Kent State - Tuscarawas campus where he was one of the first students to be on that campus when it opened. He made his way to the main KSU campus where he graduated in Industrial Mechanical Technology in 1967. Both started their working careers; Bonnie as a nurse at Akron City Hospital and Jon at Goodyear Automation- Apollo and Cleveland Power Coating.

They married on a hot day, September 3, 1966 and went together to Marion, Ohio where Jon worked at Canton-Yale and Town. They spent about a year in Marion while starting a family with the birth of their son, Jeffrey Paul, coming into the world in 1967. Both Jon and Bonnie wanted to be closer to their families for support back in Dover, so they packed up and headed home.

Back in Dover, Jon would find himself at Marlite Division as a Plant Engineer for 6 years and then the Great Plains Bag Company for 4 years; Bonnie worked nights at Union Hospital as a nurse while raising their growing family now including Deborah Jo in 1971 and Ryan Charles in 1973.

Jon always wanted to have his own business like his father, Paul. So in September, 1976 he and Bonnie put their money together and purchased a franchise of Manpower, Canton, Ohio.

In 2006, Jon sold his franchise back to Manpower and Mancan Inc. was established. Today the Mancan Staffing Company is in 5 states with 39 offices servicing companies in need of staffing support.

Jon also dabbled in real estate in Naples, Florida in 1991. He constructed 5 homes, one being the home of the previous Governor of Florida, Rick Scott.

If you know Jon Mason, you know that he has a true love for antique cars. He has participated in numerous car shows all around the area and out of state highlighting his wonderful collection of antique cars.

Jon and Bonnie continue to be active in their community from their St. Johns United Church of Christ family to the Dover Historical Society and the Reeves Museum.

They have donated to the City of Hope and especially to the American Cancer Society and the Aultman Cancer Research Hospital since cancer has touched their lives personally.

They have also donated money to improve the playing fields of New Philadelphia, Dover, and Strasburg athletic teams.

Jon, with the love and support of Bonnie has been a man who has lived his life to its fullest and has gone through his life by the seat of his pants. They continue to love every minute of it.

It is my sincere pleasure to present the Hall of Distinction's two new inductees, Jon and Bonnie Mason.