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Seven named to foundation's Hall of Fame The class of 2009

By [Jennifer Heaslip](#)

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Seven longtime educators and advocates of learning have been named to the Henderson County Education Foundation's Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame honors those who have made significant contributions to local education; who have been retired at least five years or are deceased; and who served as either a teacher/administrator, as support personnel or other contributor.

This year's class consists of Mary Louise Corn, Patsy Farmer Jones, Mary Frances McAbee, Frederick E. and Katharine Hazeltine Taylor, Leland Hale Zollinger and Mary R. Garrison.

They will be honored at the seventh annual Carolina First/Henderson County Education Foundation Hall of Fame awards ceremony at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at the Hendersonville Country Club. A press conference will be held at 5 p.m.

The Volunteer of the Year award will be presented to Tom Davis and the Collegiate Scholar of the Year award will be given to Appalachian State University student Julie Ann Walker.

The keynote speaker will be Ruth Birge, former Times-News publisher and another longtime supporter of local education.

Reservations are required for the awards ceremony and banquet, with a \$25 donation requested to cover the cost of the dinner. For information or reservations, contact the HCEF at 698-8884 or 696-6688. Visit the Foundation's Web site at <http://hcef.info/> for more information or a nomination form.

This year's class will bring the Hall of Fame to 60 members inducted since its creation in 2002. The first class was selected in 2003.

Nominations for each Hall of Fame class are due Sept. 30. Inductees are nominated by the public and then chosen by the Foundation's selection committee.

Mary Louise Corn

Corn served local schools for 33 years as a math teacher and administrator and now as a second-term School Board member. She was the principal of West Henderson High from 1996-2002 and taught math at Rugby Middle from 1974-90. She chaired the middle school task force for the 1993 city-county school districts merger. She is described as firm and fair; every child's advocate.

Mary R. Garrison

Garrison is a dedicated promoter and supporter of education and Historic Johnson Farm festivals, animals, history and dynamic learning. She was the HCEF interim executive director from 1993-94. She has also been a community columnist since



1984, calling for greater school funding. She is described as an articulate and unswerving advocate of public education.

Patsy Farmer Jones

Jones taught at Hendersonville Elementary from 1978-2001, illuminating children about history. Her career spanned 33 years and five states. She led classes' award-winning multimedia projects, such as apple-themed quilts. Jones also spearheads several scholarships. She scouted year-round schedule and advised the N.C. Museum of History on its Civil War exhibit. Jones is described as being goal-oriented, a superb encourager, and tough, witty and smart.

Mary Frances McAbee

McAbbe taught language arts and social studies for 36 years at Flat Rock Junior High from 1960-96. She espoused rural work ethic and dressing for success. She motivated students of all levels. McAbbe is described as patient and loving as she challenged students to question and learn.

Frederick and Katharine Taylor

The Taylors are both devoted to Historic Johnson Farm, its historic novel and artifact inventory. Frederick, now deceased, was Fletcher Elementary principal from 1970-88 and Johnson Farm volunteer publicist. Katharine was Hillandale Elementary's media specialist from 1975-92, as well as a Green River Library founder. They are described as willing to help people in any way.

Leland Hale Zollinger

Zollinger was the county school district's secondary school supervisor, then secondary education director, from 1971-92. He pioneered the statewide math curriculum, exam statistical analysis and computerization. Zollinger is described as a people person who knew everyone's name, gave congratulatory hugs and entertained students at home. He is also described as caring, loving and serving.

Volunteer of the Year Tom Davis

Davis was the catalyst for the Sparks Memorial Scholarship Fund. He is a Foundation board member and investment committee chairman. Davis also helps put on the Foundation's fall Golf Classic.

Collegiate Scholar of the Year Julie Ann Walker

Walker is a sophomore at Appalachian State University majoring in elementary education with a minor in dance theater. She is a Hendersonville High alumnus and scholar-athlete.

Keynote speaker Ruth Birge

Birge was publisher of the Times-News for six years until retiring at the end of 2008 after 22 years in the business. She is active in many local civic organizations and was honored this year with the Duke Energy Citizenship and Community Service Award.

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