



Congratulations to the 2006 GJEF Cornerstone Honorees (L-R) Naomi Fodor, Phil Koppel, Connie Reed holding Honoree Burt Reed's photo, and Richard Wells.

CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREES

The Gahanna-Jefferson Education Foundation (GJEF) officially recognizes the second Cornerstone Award Honorees Naomi Fodor, Phil Koppel, Burt Reed (posthumously), and Richard Wells. GJEF established the Cornerstone Awards in 2005 to acknowledge the contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves as builders of excellence. "The district's tradition of excellence established over the years is due to the collective efforts of many dedicated educators and community leaders who have unselfishly committed their professional and civic talents in support of G-J students," said Dale Foor, coordinator of community services for the district. Here is a brief biography of the recipients:

Naomi Fodor received her M.A. at The Ohio State University in 1952 and served the Gahanna-Jefferson School District for 41 years as a fifth-grade teacher. Both at Jefferson Elementary and Lincoln Elementary, Fodor was part of new staff that opened these schools and helped drive the movement for better elementary curriculum. A curriculum specialist, Fodor assisted teachers in and around Gahanna with planning and worked with Franklin County. Former Lincoln Elementary Principal Ed Rarey described Mrs. Fodor as excellence personified. Her dedication is revealed best through her own words, "The reward for a teacher is planning with the children, developing work habits and social skills, grasping new concepts, and creating an eagerness for learning that will help them to be successful with whatever ability they have."

Burt Reed was a twenty-four year veteran of the Gahanna-Jefferson School District as a junior high and middle school English teacher. Inscribed on a plaque displayed in the "Reeding" Corner at Middle School East's library are these words, "*A Great Teacher, A Caring Friend, A Loving Husband, He was all these things and more. Blessed are those whose lives he touched.*" These words are not only a memorial to Reed, but speak to his educational legacy in the district and community. Reed worked at the Gahanna Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library prior to teaching at Lincoln Junior High. In 1975, he was part of the original staff that opened Middle School East teaching seventh-grade English until his death of cancer in 1988. Reed's teaching career, which was devoted to English education and enriching students' lives, was recognized at the state level when he earned *Ohio Middle School Teacher of the Year*. Annually, an R. Burton Reed English Award is given to a Middle School East seventh-grader who exhibits enthusiasm and potential in the field of language arts.