



# *What is the Co-op Hall of Fame?*

Established in 1974 by the National Cooperative Business Association, the Cooperative Hall of Fame honors those distinguished individuals whose contributions to cooperative business have been genuinely heroic. Inductees are limited to a prestigious group carefully selected to preserve the nature of this distinction.

The stories of those heroes who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame can be seen at [www.heroes.coop](http://www.heroes.coop).

The administration of the Cooperative Hall of Fame is entrusted to the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF). Nominations are received annually from the cooperative community and reviewed by a screening committee and a selection committee appointed

by the chair of the CDF Board of Directors, each composed of current leaders from the various sectors of the U.S. cooperative movement. The nominees selected are presented to the board of directors of the National Cooperative Business Association for approval and induction into the Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Cooperative Hall of Fame induction ceremony is also a major fundraising event for the Foundation. It is fitting that the occasion that bestows this high honor on individuals who have selflessly given of their lives to promote cooperatives is also a vehicle to raise funds to perpetuate their work and their life-long commitment to the cooperative community.



# No single path

The stories of those on the Cooperative Hall of Fame roster demonstrate that there is no single path to induction in the Cooperative Hall of Fame. The roster – present and future – is a place for individuals with widely differing experiences and from all cooperative sectors:

- Some are volunteers, while others are public officials or leaders of cooperative organizations
- Some are honored at the end of their careers or posthumously, while others are honored at the mid-points of their careers with years of service and accomplishment ahead of them
- Some are working locally or regionally and others are working nationally or internationally

What they all have in common is a belief in the cooperative idea and a track record of accomplishments that have benefited the cooperative community. Individually and collectively, they have enhanced and advanced cooperative enterprises, empowered people through their association with cooperatives, and contributed to the broader acceptance of the cooperative model in the United States and around the world. We are honored to have them as members of the Cooperative Hall of Fame.



# How do I nominate a hero?

Nominations to the Cooperative Hall of Fame may be submitted by organizations or individuals. If the nominee is selected for induction into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, the nominator will be the primary point of contact for CDF with respect to fundraising and logistics related to the individual's induction.

## PARTS OF A NOMINATION

### *Nomination Form*

The form is available on the Cooperative Hall of Fame Website, [www.heroes.coop/nominations](http://www.heroes.coop/nominations).

### *Narrative*

Nominators must provide a narrative that describes the candidate's major contributions and activities relating to the selection criteria. The narrative should not exceed 10 typed pages double spaced.

### *Letters of Endorsement*

Include not fewer than three and not more than 10 letters of endorsement that address one or more of the selection criteria. If more than 10 letters of endorsement are received, CDF will ask the sponsor to choose which 10 letters of endorsement to include in the nomination package. Letters of endorsement received after the deadline will not be considered that year.

## SELECTION CATEGORIES

- Agriculture & Farm Credit
- Consumer Goods & Services
- Credit Unions
- Education
- General
- Health Care
- Housing
- Insurance
- Law
- Legislative
- Retailer-Owned
- Rural Utilities
- Worker-Owned
- Other

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominees selected for induction are current or past leaders in the cooperative movement.

They are selected for their heroic contributions to cooperatives and are evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

### *Statesmanship*

Demonstrated statesmanship, innovation, personal commitment, leadership, and vision beyond the professional competence and requirements of the position for which he/she was employed within the co-op sector. If the inductee served as a volunteer, he/she must have demonstrated the same leadership qualities.

### *Lasting Achievement*

Achieved identifiable and lasting changes to improve and promote cooperatives

### *Co-op Advancement*

Inspired and persuaded others to act to advance the cooperative system

### *Recognition*

Recognized for work relating to cooperatives at one or more of these levels – local, regional, national, or international

*My hero has been chosen, now what?*

Inductees selected for inclusion in the Cooperative Hall of Fame will be recognized at a banquet in their honor held in Washington, DC in the Spring.

*If an individual is not selected for induction in the year they are first nominated, their nomination will be held in the selection pool and they will be considered for the next two years. After three years, the individual is ineligible for consideration for one year. After sitting out of the pool for that year, an individual can be re-nominated.*

## HONORING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Once an individual has been selected for induction, the nominator will work with a committee to assist with fundraising and logistics. Some of the duties of the committee are:

- Writing and/or approving a biography of the inductee
- Coordinating with the inductee for travel, guest attendance, speech, etc.
- Soliciting congratulatory ads for the inductee for the commemorative program
- Coordinating with the videographer to write the script for the induction video
- Collecting photos and videos from the inductee's life for the induction video

*CDF will work with the committees, provide direction, and be available all through the process.*



*I'm ready to nominate*

Nominations and letters should be emailed to:

info@cdf.coop

Cooperative Hall of Fame Selection Committee  
Cooperative Development Foundation  
1775 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Be sure to visit the Cooperative Hall of Fame website

[www.heroes.coop](http://www.heroes.coop)

