

# The BRIDGE



*4-H History:  
Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Now.*

Vol. 12, No. 1

February, 2023

## In this issue:

- ✿ Editor's Note: **National 4-H Hall of Fame Celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.**
- ✿ **Origin of the National 4-H Hall of Fame**, By Betty Gottler, NAE4-HYDP Archivist
- ✿ **Twentieth Anniversary of the National 4-H Hall of Fame**, Betty Gottler, NAE4-HYDP Archivist
- ✿ **Hands to Larger Service: Tullis Inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame**, By Katie Nichols, Specialist, Communications & Marketing Department, Communications & Marketing, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University
- ✿ [\*Tell Us Your 4-H History Story\*](#)

## The National 4-H Hall of Fame

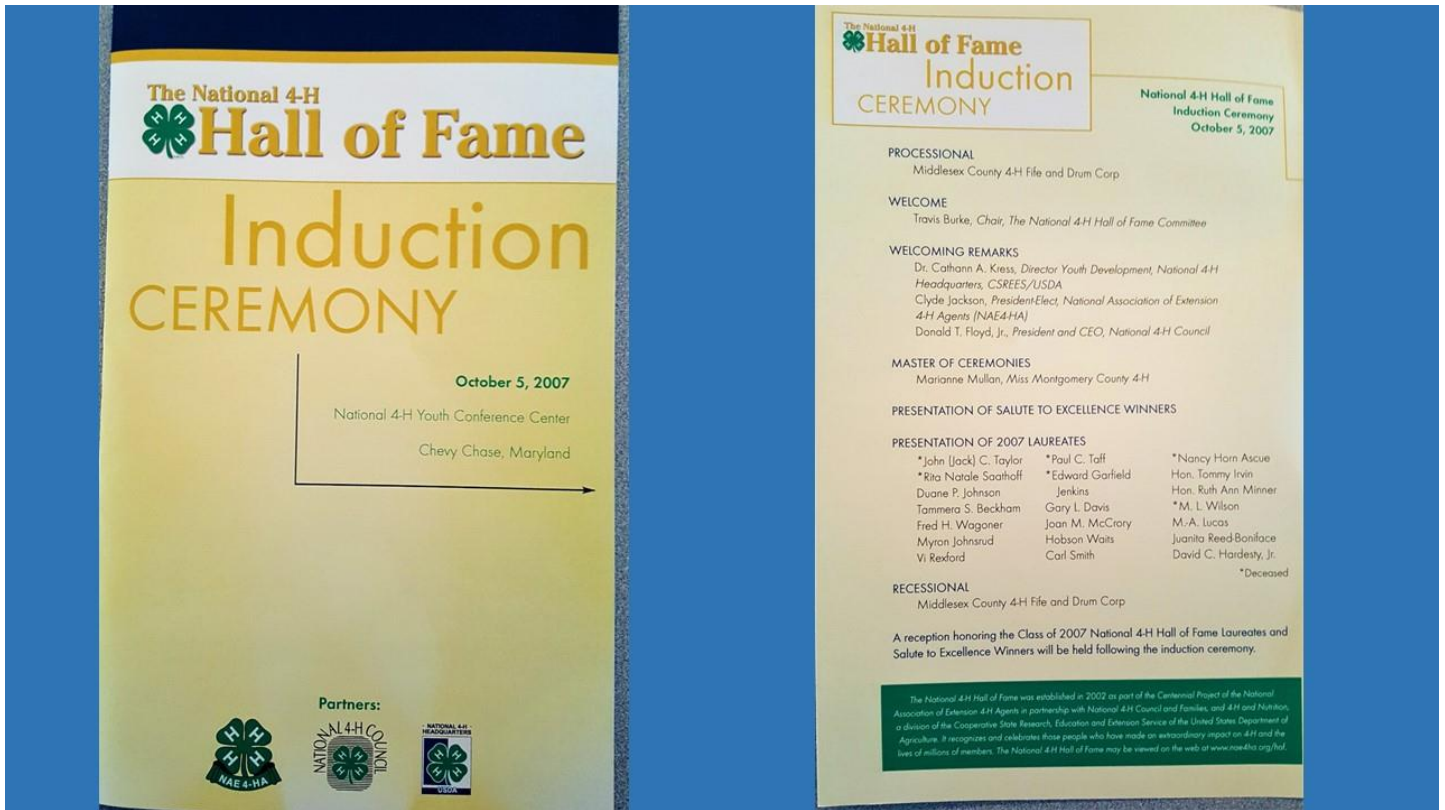
### Editor's Note:

The **National 4-H Hall of Fame Celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022**. You've probably heard of the National 4-H Hall of Fame. A few of you may actually BE in the National 4-H Hall of Fame! Some of you may have attended one or more of the ceremonies when a family member or friend was inducted into the Hall. Each ceremony had a printed program. Unfortunately, the earliest of these programs have been lost. They were similar to the 2007 ceremony's program included below, part of Dan Tabler's personal collection. Most of the ceremonies were held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD, although sometimes the actual room at the Center changed. So, there you were, sitting in the Center's darkened auditorium listening to the inductees' speeches and wondering just how long it would be before you could go and enjoy some of that Popcorn Shrimp that Council always served at the end of the ceremony! The year 2002, of course, was the year 4-H celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A national "100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of 4-H" celebration was held across the country, in various ways, events, and locations. The national celebration was kicked off by an event held at the USDA in Washington, D.C. Originally scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2002, it had to be postponed to the following week, Tuesday, October 15, 2002, taking place in the USDA Whitten Building Patio. NAE4-HYDP's contribution to the national celebration was to hold the first National 4-H Hall of Fame. The "Father" of the National 4-H Hall of Fame was

*The official Newsletter of the National 4-H History Preservation Team*

Dan Tabler. According to Dan, the first N4-HHoF ceremony was held “**in the (National) 4-H Center auditorium on a Friday evening. We inducted 100 people that night. As I recall, the auditorium was nearly full. The second, and possibly the third, ceremony were held in a smaller room (at the Center) that could have been the Ohio Room.**”<sup>1</sup> Those of you who are good at math already know that 2022, therefore, marked the Hall’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! However, do you know the story of how and why it came to be? Our first article in this issue is all about the Hall’s beginnings, then we’ll attend the 2022 Hall induction ceremony and follow that by spending some time with one of the newest Laureates.

If you want some Popcorn Shrimp, however, I’m afraid you’ll have to get that on your own. We are, after all, all about the past and who wants to eat old shrimp?



Reference:

<sup>1</sup>Tabler, Dan, in an email message sent to the Editor on January 21, 2023, in Editor’s personal collection.



## Origin of the National 4-H Hall of Fame

Adapted by Betty Gottler, NAE4-HYDP Archivist

from “The National 4-H Hall of Fame” by Dan Tabler in 4-H Stories from the Heart<sup>1</sup>

It was all Dan Tabler’s idea, so it is best to let him tell the story! In the book 4-H Stories from the Heart, Dan wrote:



*The idea for the National 4-H Hall of Fame came to me in the early 70s while driving home from a regional staff meeting in Morgantown, WV. A news item on the radio about a sports hall of fame triggered an epiphany: hall of fame to “celebrate those who have made a significant impact on 4-H.”*

*As Public Relation and Information chair in 1977, followed by two years as Northeast Regional Director, I had the opportunity to “sell” my hall of fame idea. Unfortunately, the typical response was. “That’s a nice idea.” As a 4-H’er, I had learned the value of persistence and over the next 25 years kept the dream alive.*

*In 1999, with the 4-H centennial on the horizon, I again proposed the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Apparently, my idea had been ahead of its time, but with the 4-H centennial approaching in 2002 the timing was finally right.*

*The goal for the 2002 Centennial Class was to induct 100 laureates, one for each year of 4-H’s existence. Every state was invited to nominate three “favorite sons and daughters” with a promise of having at least one nominee inducted. The three national partners (NAE4-HYDP, National 4-H Council, USDA/NIFA 4-H Youth) each nominated ten people. The intent from the beginning was to create a National 4-H Hall of Fame that included all members of the 4-H family: 4-H Volunteers, 4-H faculty and staff at all levels, major donors; all of whom had made a significant impact on 4-H from the club to the national level.*

*The Hall of Fame committee selected the Centennial Class. Beginning with the Class of 2003, a separate 16-person selection committee was appointed to serve a two-year term. In an effort to provide continuity and avoid “gate keeping,” half of the committee is replaced each year with new members. There is no set number of laureates selected each year.*

During the induction ceremony, each Laureate tells their 4-H story; describing the impact 4-H has had on their life. That was Dan’s idea, too. He says, “I was the MC the second year. At the last minute, instead of reading the script, I asked the laureates to tell their own stories. That went very well and we continue to have the laureates tell their own story. The information the laureates shared was heartwarming and led to the idea for the book “4-H Stories.”<sup>2</sup> “Heartwarming” is an understatement! Few members of the audience ever leave the room with dry eyes. You can read the Laureates’ stories at: <http://www.4-h-hof.com/>

The 20th National 4-H Hall of Fame ceremony was held at the Kellogg Center, Gallaudet University, Washington DC on October 7, 2022. To date 455 laureates have been inducted including Dan Tabler in 2010. [To read more about Dan, visit him in the N4-HHoF \(http://www.4-h-hof.com/dtabler.html#\)](http://www.4-h-hof.com/dtabler.html#).

Donations to support the National 4-H Hall of Fame and/or to honor a laureate can be made on-line to National 4-H Council (<https://4-h.org/>) or by check, mailed to National 4-H Council Contributions, P O Box 69364, Baltimore MD 21264-9364. Put National 4-H Hall of Fame on the “for” line of the check.

---

Reference:

<sup>1</sup>Tabler, Dan, “The National 4-H Hall of Fame”, in NAE4-HA, [4-H Stories from the Heart](#) (iUniverse, 2011), p. 37

<sup>2</sup>Tabler, Dan, in an email message sent to the Editor on January 21, 2023, in Editor’s personal collection.



## **Twentieth Anniversary of the National 4-H Hall of Fame**

Betty Gottler, NAE4-HYDP Archivist

The Twentieth Anniversary of the National 4-H Hall of Fame was held at the Kellogg Center, Gallaudet University, Washington DC, on October 7, 2022. To date, 455 laureates have been inducted. This year 16 notable 4-H benefactors were included. This is the Class of 2022:

*The official Newsletter of the National 4-H History Preservation Team*





Photo by Dan Tabler

Standing on the far left is Jennifer Sirangelo, President and Chief Executive Officer, National 4-H Council. Standing on the far right is Dr. Shannon Horrillo, Director of the Division of Youth & 4-H, USDA/NIFA. To the left of Horrillo is Craig Presar, President-Elect, NAE4-HYDP

Members of the class are:

Seated (L to R):

- Dr. Carol A. Benesh (Youth and 4-H, NIFA/USDA)
- Dr. Judy McLean Groff (North Carolina)
- Bruce L. Berlage (Maryland)

Standing (L to R):

- Arch Smith, Georgia 4-H Leader, representing Percy Hunter Stone (Georgia)
- Sarlene B. Seals, PhD (Louisiana)
- Ina Metzger Linville, PhD (Missouri)
- Dr. Jean M. Woloshuk (West Virginia)
- Eddie Leon Tullis (Alabama)
- Deryl Waldren representing Mildred O. Waldren (Kansas)
- Jeffrey C. Holland (NAE4-HYDP)
- Dr. Norman D. Long (Indiana)
- Karen Hatch Gagne (NAE4-HYDP)
- Joel E. Anderson, Jr., PhD (Arkansas)
- Roy Gordon representing Harvey Lee Gordon (Mississippi)
- Sarah Jackson Gregory (Virginia)
- H. Thomas Davis (New York)

The Class of 2022 represented volunteers, donors, pioneers in 4-H, educators, and 4-H staff within the Land-Grant System. The ceremony was live streamed through generous support of donors. The stirring words of the laureates can be seen under [The National 4-H Hall of Fame 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](https://youtu.be/m4W-nVfkTQE) (<https://youtu.be/m4W-nVfkTQE>) on the YouTube channel.

Three members of the Class of 2022 are highlighted below.

*The official Newsletter of the National 4-H History Preservation Team*

**Mildred O. Warren** was a Kansas 4-H volunteer leader, serving 72 consecutive years until her death in April 2021. Mildred served as the Community, and/or county, 4-H Club Leader and taught many projects. She positively influenced/mentored over 600 4-H members in positive youth and adult partnerships as she facilitated thousands of meetings and activities. While never a 4-H'er herself, she treasured the value of 4-H donating generously.

**P.H. (Percy Hunter) Stone** served as the first Negro State 4-H Club Leader in Georgia and later became State Agent for Negro Extension Work. Stone was born in Franklin County, Virginia in 1893 and later received his college degree at Hampton Institute in Virginia. In 1919, he began his career as County Agent in Clarke County, Georgia. After becoming State Leader in 1923, he noted that “the lack of scholarships or similar inducements...discourages further participation in club work and is largely responsible for the few (African American) boys and girls remaining in clubs long than two years.” He developed sponsorship for exhibits, project production and livestock. In the 1940s, the Dublin 4-H Center was constructed to offer 4-H camping and other 4-H opportunities for African-American 4-H members. In 1956 Stone became administrative assistant to the USDA Federal Extension office in Washington DC. He is a true 4-H Pioneer.

**Eddie Leon Tullis** became involved with 4-H when the 4 daughters he shares with his wife of 65 years, Mary Jane, joined their local 4-H Club. Both Eddie and Mary Jane went on to serve as 4-H club leaders at the local and county levels. Each of the girls participated in activities at the local, county and state level and the tradition continues through today with the involvement of his great-grandchildren in their local 4-H clubs. A deep commitment to young people and their future success pushed Eddie to seek opportunities for 4-H on the reservation. His leadership role with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians allowed him to play a foundational role in bringing 4-H to his community.



The following article was posted to the Alabama Extension website on October 10, 2022. It is included here, slightly altered, with permission. To read the original article, visit: [Alabama 4-H \(https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/4h/hands-to-larger-service-tullis-inducted-into-national-4-h-hall-of-fame/\)](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/4h/hands-to-larger-service-tullis-inducted-into-national-4-h-hall-of-fame/)

### **Hands to Larger Service: Tullis Inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame**

By Katie Nichols, Specialist, Communications & Marketing Department, Communications & Marketing, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University



Eddie Tullis in front of his wall of awards. Previous to being inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame, he was recognized by two sitting presidents and has been honored by Native American tribes across the country.

Photo by: Janet Guynn



AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala.—Eddie Tullis has dedicated his life to bettering the lives of those around him. Known for his steadfast work as a philanthropist, Tullis is a respected, outspoken leader for the programs and young people served by Alabama 4-H. For his incredible contributions of time, talent and resources to 4-H, Tullis was honored with an induction into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

“I didn’t get involved in 4-H for an award,” Tullis said. “But I am really thankful for this opportunity and appreciative that my fellow 4-H advocates thought my efforts were worthy of recognition.”

### Induction into National 4-H Hall of Fame

Tullis was honored in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Oct. 7 alongside 16 other honorees from across the nation. The ceremony took place at Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University Swindells Auditorium, and representatives of Alabama 4-H and the Tullis family were proud to participate in the ceremony and festivities.

Molly Gregg, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Assistant Director over 4-H programs, said it was wonderful to see Tullis receive this national honor surrounded by his family.

“There were 21 family members present including his four daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren,” she said. “Several Tribal Council members attended as well. Their presence was a testament to his living legacy to his family and his tribe. It was a magical moment for us all, and this honor is so deserved.”



Tullis with family supporters following the National 4-H Hall of Fame ceremony. Twenty-one members of his family were able to share the occasion. Photo by: Seth Tuttle



Tullis with representatives from Alabama 4-H and the Alabama 4-H Foundation. Front: Betty Gottler (L) and Tasha Worden (R). Back row from left: Kristy Abrams, Molly Gregg, Eddie Tullis and Seth Tuttle. Photo by: Edie Baker

### Life and 4-H Involvement

Tullis is a native of Mobile, Alabama and proudly serves as a member of the Alabama 4-H Foundation Board. In addition to 4-H, he has also dedicated his life to the betterment of Native Americans. He remains a national leader in Indian Country and continues to tout the benefits of 4-H to members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

“4-H has been a wonderful avenue for communication with my daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren,” Tullis said. “Once your family gets involved, it is something you can all do together—no matter how busy life gets.”

### Providing Ways to Participate in 4-H

Tullis has always had a soft spot for showing cattle—and his love started at an early age. Paul Pinyan serves as chairman of the Alabama 4-H Foundation board and is Executive Director of the Alabama Farmers Federation. He said Tullis’ connection to youth in agriculture began at an early age when he exhibited a champion heifer at the Chicago World’s Fair.

“Eddie appreciates the opportunities he received through programs like 4-H, and he continues to give back to future generations through service to students at the local, state and national levels,” Pinyan said.

## **Growing the Future**

Gregg said Tullis encourages her to be a better person because he believes and lives Alabama 4-H's mission: Grow the future through young people.

"His life is an example for others to follow," Gregg said. "His life experiences impact his hopes for the future and propel his decisions. His quiet reserve and inner strength have served not only his community, but they have made a lasting impact in our state and nation."

Pinyan has first-hand experience with Tullis' commitment to 4-H. He said Tullis is always eager to offer wisdom, support and encouragement.

"Eddie will tell you that the happiest people in the world are those who help others. That's certainly true of Eddie," Pinyan said. "From volunteering for the United States Navy and working to improve education for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, to national leadership on behalf of American Indians and helping youth through the Alabama 4-H Foundation, Eddie's legacy is one of service."

Seth Tuttle, Alabama 4-H Foundation development officer, said Tullis is a servant leader who always puts others first.

"The time he spends with others makes you feel proud to be in his presence," Tuttle said. "He truly cares about young people and his community. He has made this world a better place."

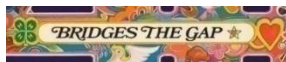
Tullis said he has had the good fortune of living a long life. In that time, he has reaped the rewards of watching 4-H youth make a difference.

"4-H is a contribution to the community," Tullis said. "It is the most effective way to teach young people critical life skills—working together, respect for fellow man and caring for your neighbor. 4-H programs also provide leadership that is sometimes not available at home. It really makes a difference."

**Learn more about the programs offered through Alabama 4-H** by visiting [www.Alabama4H.com](http://www.Alabama4H.com). The Alabama 4-H Foundation is a strong supporter of the Alabama 4-H programs in each county. Learn more about the support the 4-H Foundation provides by visiting [www.Alabama4HFoundation.org](http://www.Alabama4HFoundation.org).



Photo by: Janet Guynn



## Tell Us Your 4-H History Story

Share your photos and stories of the history YOU made in 4-H!

We know you've made 4-H History. So, tell us about it! The world wants to know YOUR 4-H history!  
Send your articles to: [Editor@4-HHistory.com](mailto:Editor@4-HHistory.com)

Submissions longer than 500 words must include a 500-words or less summary. The in-depth articles will be posted to our web-site and linked to the summary that will appear in the newsletter.

*Thanks for reading The BRIDGE. Look for our next issue May15, 2023!*



*The BRIDGE Editorial Board:*

*Sue Benedetti, Gwen ElSawi, Tom Tate, Rick Moses, Jane Jopling, Bonita Williams, Betty Gottler, Ron Drum*