



# Hall of Honor Inductees

## 2019

## ***Ruby Bennett***

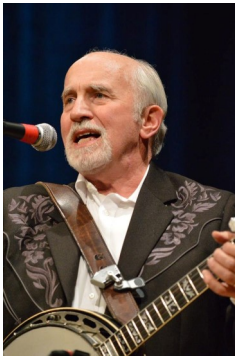
Ruby grew up in North Carolina listening to “country and hillbilly” music.( that’s what it was called back then) Ruby says: After supper we would gather around the fireplace and my grandfather, dad, and my uncles would pick and sing. My dad Ervin Lewis played the banjo with the Carolina Boys here in Michigan. My uncle Ralph Lewis played with Bill Monroe in the 70’s and went on to play bluegrass until he passed away at 89 years old. Ruby’s son Steven Bennett still follows in the family tradition in bluegrass music as does my grandson Kermit Burke III (Bub). People say I am “Bluegrass to the Bone” and I guess I am.

I got to know many of the bluegrass bands when I owned a restaurant in Ecorse Michigan for many



**Ruby with Russell Moore**

years. Some of the bluegrass bands would stop, eat, and fellowship on their way through town on the way to their next show.



## ***Greg Cahill***

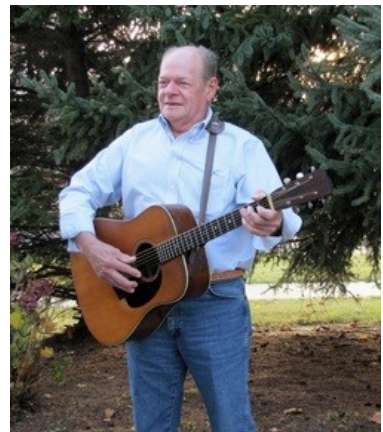
Greg is well known nationally and internationally as the leader of Special Consensus, a Grammy nominated band he has lead since 1973. Greg has worked continuously for bluegrass in the International Bluegrass Music Association, the Foundation for Bluegrass Music and other organizations.

He is being honored in Southeast Michigan for his work promoting bluegrass in the schools in our area. Greg and Special Consensus presented 92 assemblies in various schools between 1985 and 1997. Other national touring groups later followed his example in our area.

## ***David Conley, Sr.***

David is a well know musician who is currently a member of Out of the Blue. He comes from a musical family and has played guitar for over 60 years. He was a founding member of the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association and a member of their board of directors.

David has lead guitar workshops at area festivals over the years.



## Duane Estep

Duane has played bluegrass for most of his life, in various configurations. These include the The Detroit Bluegrass Band, Metro Grass, and Jericho Road. He is currently a member of New County Grass and Kim Robins and 40 Years Late.

Duane plans to play and sing until he takes his last breath!



## George Kilbreath

George was an early contributor to our music, playing with Ralph Paige and Dick Dieterle in the County Line Boys beginning in 1969. He is now 86 and sits in with the RFD Boys at the Ark in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## The RFD Boys

The RFD Boys are celebrating their 50th year together and, always with a steady local gig, have become an Ann Arbor institution. They performed together for the first time on December 11, 1969; the venue was Mr. Flood's Party and the band quickly developed a following. After a brief but eventful stint at LUMS restaurant, they moved downtown to the Pretzel Bell restaurant where they played to a packed house 50 weekends per year for 13 years.

When the "P-Bell" closed in 1985, they



## Jimmy Kittle

Bands which have played Michigan festivals remember Jimmy at a sound board in Michigan for 27 years. Jimmy worked with Ralph Paige for many years. Jimmy remembers 17 years at the Charlotte festival, 22 at Milan and 5 of his benefit Pickin' on CF. He was a presence at Whispering Winds, too. He spent five years traveling with Michigan band Detour Bluegrass.



moved to Ann Arbor's revered folk venue, the Ark, where they have played regularly for the past 34 years and were recently declared the official house band.

## **Southeast Michigan Bluegrass Music Association**

The Association was founded in August 2014 after a luncheon meeting of interested people. Attendees were Bobby & Patsy Ann Hutch (Boggs), Mark Gaynier, Wendy and Freda Smith, Bill and Pam Warren, and Jerry and Ada Yates. We have been spreading the word about bluegrass in Southeast Michigan since that time. Find more information at: [smbbluegrass.org](http://smbbluegrass.org).

### **SMBMA Hall of Honor**

The Hall was established in 2016 to honor those who have made significant contributions to bluegrass music in Southeast Michigan.

#### **Class of 2016**

Michael Adams  
John Bayerl  
David Blakney  
Bobby Hutch  
Tom Laing  
Gordon L. Lamb  
Larry McDaniel  
Virgie McClearn  
Nick Mladjan  
John Morris  
Jim & Fay Wilder  
Jerry & Ada Yates

#### **Class of 2017**

Gary & Maggie Bilby  
Burke Cole  
Dana Cupp, Sr.  
Leroy Drumm  
Fred Ellis  
Pete Goble  
Cayce & Ruth Kiger  
Mitchel Manns  
Roy & Fay McGinnis  
Freddie Newby

#### **2017 Continued**

Cranford (Ford) Nix  
Ralph Paige  
Virgil Shouse  
Bill & Pam Warren  
Robert White

#### **Class of 2018**

Bob Campbell  
Jimmy Campbell  
Roy Cobb  
Dana Cupp, Jr.  
Richard "Dick" Dieterle  
Tim Ellis  
Jimmy Thompson.

#### **Class of 2019**

Ruby Bennett  
Greg Cahill  
David Conley, Sr.  
Duane Estep  
George Kilbreath  
Jimmy Kittle  
The RFD boys