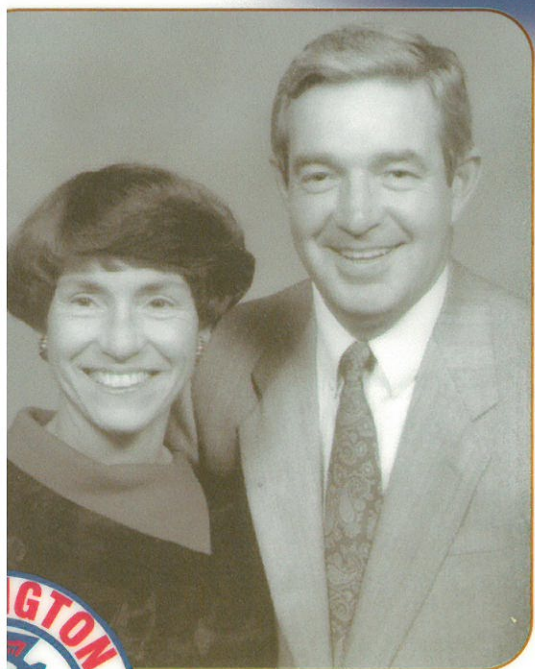


Dr. Bill and Margie DeKock

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 1993



Much of the credit for the founding of Patrons of the Performing Arts goes to Margie DeKock who, after hearing an impressive athletic booster club report, urged the formation of a similar group for the performing arts at Washington High School. By October of 1983, organizational plans for the Patrons of the Performing Arts were well under way. Margie became the group's first president and spent no time enlisting her husband in the numerous behind-the-scene jobs of helping draft by-laws, securing non-profit status, and helping sell memberships for that first humble year. The group was small, but the enthusiasm was high.

During its first year and a half, PPA contributed \$6,200 to the performing arts programs at Washington High School and began an endowment fund to meet future needs and ensure the group's longevity of support. Membership grew rapidly. PPA assisted with the first Five Seasons Band Festival, produced the hilarious faculty performances of *Greater Tuna* and sponsored a

benefit performance of *Barefoot in the Park* on the Theater Cedar Rapids stage. When the Bratwurst Festival was losing money, Margie renamed it Frankfurter Festival and adopted it as another PPA fundraiser. PPA members even donned Momentum outfits and performed in MuDaCo in the spring of 1985.

Margie and Bill served on the PPA Board of Directors for eight more years as past-president, secretary, treasurer, choir representatives, and hosting the annual membership picnic at their home until 1990. They continue today to give strong financial support of PPA, even though their youngest of three children graduated from Washington in 1990.

