

OFHS



WALL OF FAME
Inducted May 2000



JAMES L. TOMLIN

James L. Tomlin was born in Green Bay in 1932. He graduated from Oconto Falls High School in 1950. Jim served in the United States Navy from 1950-53 during the Korean War. Upon returning from his service duty, Jim enrolled at the UW Green Bay where he was a Speech and Broadcast major. In 1955, he married the former Marjorie Meyer of Oconto, and transferred to UW Madison for his final two years.

With over 40 years in broadcasting, Jim was a virtual television pioneer in our region. Over the years he held significant positions with several area television stations, including periods in Marquette, MI and St. Petersburg, FL. After having spent 18 years in Florida, Jim returned to his beloved Wisconsin in 1984 and became the General Manager of TV-26 in Green Bay. He was largely responsible for the growth of TV-26 from a struggling independent, twice on the verge of insolvency, to become an NBC affiliate and the number one rated station in Green Bay. He was a member of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, served on the board of directors, and was inducted into the WBA Hall of Fame in 1998.

Jim was always an active member in his community. He was a Charter Member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club in Green Bay, two years directed the Annual Sports Show at the Brown County arena, and was a Charter Member of the Marquette Ambassadors Club. During his 'Florida' years, Jim's involvement centered on his family. He was a coach and umpire in Little League, President of the Athletic Boosters at his children's high school, and present at every one of their games, meets or events. After returning to Wisconsin, Jim represented TV-26 in many organizations such as the Easter Seals, Boys and Girls Clubs, United Way, Whitetail Deer, and Walleye for Tomorrow Associations.

Jim was, as always, a caring, loyal, trusted friend and mentor. His sense of humor, love of life, and willingness to become involved in the lives of others defined who he was. While he loved his career in broadcasting, Jim's real 'business' was loving and caring for his family and friends, and making everyone he met feel important and special.

Jim Tomlin died on July 19, 1997. He is survived by his wife Marge of 42 years, his four children and ten grandchildren.