

# HALL of FAME

# 2024 HONOREE

## Gil Rollins

started playing trombone in the 6th grade at Milan Middle School, under the direction of Mr. Robert Hodge. Mr. Rollins continued playing trombone in Milan High School and upon graduation, enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin as a Music Education Major. While student teaching, he met his soon to be wife, Leah Jean Moss. Gil began his career as the band director at Huntingdon High School in 1986. Within six years, and much perseverance, he took a struggling band program and doubled its size, increased school and community support, and won numerous awards. Under Mr. Rollins direction, the Huntingdon High School Band won the Fish Fry Parade, Strawberry Festival Parade, received numerous Superior ratings at WTSBOA Concert Festival, Excellent and Superior Ratings for students at Solo and Ensemble, and numerous students were selected into All-West and All-State. His hard work culminated in 1991 when the Huntingdon High School Band won the Tennessee State Division 1 Marching Band Championship.

In the fall of 1992, Gil was named head band director at Gibson County High School, turning that program around as well. The Gibson County High School Band won numerous superior ratings at the WTSBOA Concert Festival and had a majority of the band participate in Solo and Ensemble and receive Superior ratings. Several students were selected to the All-West and All-State Bands, and the marching band won two Division 2 State Championships in a row.

Upon receiving a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from UT Martin and his 30 and above Masters in Educational Leadership from Freed-Hardeman University, Mr. Rollins took a leadership role at Gibson County Special School District Central Office in 1995. After a few years in administration, Mr. Rollins decided to go back into the band room in 1999 at Gibson County High School where the band won the Division 2 State Championship, again. In 2001, he accepted an administrative position at Trenton Special School District Central Office, where he served the schools of Trenton for 5 years.

In 2006, Gil found that he was missing the students and making music, so he accepted the job as Head Band Director at Peabody High School. Under his direction, Peabody placed higher than they ever had at the Division 2 State Championship and received all Superior Ratings at the WTSBOA Concert Festival. Mr. Rollins then took the Head Band Director job at Northside High School Band in 2007 and at Northeast Middle School in 2008. During his time at Northeast Middle, Gil focused on creating a strong feeder program for Northside High School.

In 2014, Mr. Rollins retired from teaching to return to administration. He served as the Transportation Director of Milan Special School District and then as Transportation Director of Trenton Special School District, where he stayed until his retirement in 2023. During this time, Gil was able to watch his two girls grow and he and his wife, Leah Jean supported them in the band program. Since his retirement, Gil and Leah Jean enjoy traveling to visit their two daughters.

Over Gil's illustrious career, he had 15 students that went on to major in music or become music educators. Several students are very active in WTSBOA and now have bands and band students that have been successful throughout the years. These students are carrying on his legacy to love music and to pour one's heart and soul into every student, while giving them the tools to succeed in music, as well as in life. These students have gone on to produce music educators of their own...continuing Mr. Rollins legacy.



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**Bradley J. Turner**

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**Deborah Webb McCoy**

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**Leigh Boyce**  
**Michael T. Congiardo**  
**Samuel Frank Congiardo II**  
**Mike Krepper**  
**James E. Robertson, Sr.**

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**John D. Easley**

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19

**James Melvin "Jimmie" Lunceford**

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18

**Captain Charles Harrison**

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17

**Lanny Byrd**  
**Karen Henning**  
**Jeffrey Lawrence**

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**Emerson Able, Jr.**  
**David Ryan**  
**David Wood**

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**Betty Eubank**  
**Ron Turner**  
**Daryle "Sammy" Vinson**

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14

**Tommie Arendale**  
**Leeburn Harris**  
**John Jones**  
**Nancy Mathesen**  
**Jackie Thomas**

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13

**James Godsey**  
**Chester McKinney**  
**Karla Philipp**  
**Greg Stover**

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12

**Donald Anthony**  
**Tony Burriss**  
**Charles F. Clark**  
**A.E. McClain**  
**Marion A Reithel**  
**Art Theil**

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**Lynn Alexander McNatt**  
**T.W. Swayzee**

**HALL OF FAME**  
PREVIOUS INDUCTEES