

**Past First Citizens**

- 1939 Richard Eugene Fuller
- 1940 Dr. Wendell Fifield
- 1941 William O. McKay
- 1942 Kenneth Colman
- 1943 Phil Johnson
- 1944 Children's Orthopedic Hospital
- 1945 W. Walter Williams
- 1946 Royal Brougham
- 1947 John H. Reid
- 1948 Ernest Skeel
- 1949 Dr. Raymond Allen
- 1950 Thomas M. Pelly
- 1951 George Gunn, Jr.
- 1952 Henry Broderick
- 1953 Frank E. Holman
- 1954 William M. Allen
- 1955 Deitrich Schmitz
- 1956 Rev. A.A. Lemieux
- 1957 Gordon N. Scott
- 1958 Nat S. Rogers
- 1959 Mrs. A. Scott Bullitt
- 1960 Michael Dederer
- 1961 Ben E. Ehrlichman
- 1962 Joseph E. Gandy
- 1963 George F. Kachlein, Jr.
- 1964 H.W. McCurdy
- 1965 Edward E. Carlson
- 1966 Milton Katims
- 1967 Mrs. Henry B. Owen
- 1968 James R. Ellis
- 1969 William B. Woods
- 1970 Norton Clapp
- 1971 Glynn Ross
- 1972 John D. Ehrlichman
- 1973 Dr. Dixy Lee Ray
- 1974 Ned and Kayla Skinner
- 1975 Dr. Wm. B. Hutchinson
- 1976 Rabbi Raphael Levine
- 1977 W.J. "Jerry" Pennington
- 1978 John M. Fluke
- 1979 Gordon H. Sweaney
- 1980 James M. Ryan
- 1981 C.M. "Mike" Berry
- 1982 Dr. Dale E. Turner
- 1983 T.A. Wilson
- 1984 Victor Rosellini
- 1985 Fredric A. Danz
- 1986 Robert W. Graham
- 1987 John W. Ellis
- 1988 Samuel Stroum
- 1989 R.C. "Torchy" Torrance
- 1990 The Rev. Wm. J. Sullivan, S.J.
- 1991 Buster and Nancy Alvord
- 1992 Lester R. Sauvage, M.D.
- 1993 Constance W. Rice, Ph.D.
- 1994 Phil M. Smart, Sr.
- 1995 Mary Gates & Family
- 1996 Stanley O. McNaughton
- 1997 Walter B. Williams
- 1998 Jack A. Benaroya
- 1999 Paul Brainerd
- 2000 The Bullitt Family
- 2001 Herb M. Bridge
- 2002 Scott and Laurie Oki
- 2003 Dan and Nancy Evans
- 2004 The McCaw Family
- 2005 Jeffrey and Susan Brotman
- 2006 Dale Chihuly
- 2007 James and Sherry Raisbeck
- 2008 Paul G. Allen
- 2009 Gerard Schwarz
- 2010 Hon. Slade Gorton
- 2011 Jamie and Karen Moyer
- 2012 Rotary International Dist. 5030



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....Dec. 13, 2012  
 FOR INFORMATION  
 Val Towler, Director of Member & Community Relations, 425.974-1011  
 .....or Roni Strupat, Event Chair, 206.999-8108  
 Online ..... [seattlefirstcitizen.org](http://seattlefirstcitizen.org)  
 Lenny Wilkens Foundation ..... [lennywilkensfoundation.org](http://lennywilkensfoundation.org)

**“Remarkable, Inspiring, Giving Soul”  
 to be Honored as 75th First Citizen**

BELLEVUE, Wash. (Dec. 13, 2012) – A legendary athlete who has been called a “world citizen,” and a dedicated advocate for generations of children will be honored as the 2013 Seattle-King County First Citizen. **Lenny Wilkens**, widely respected as “a quintessential role model,” and the only individual with three inductions into the Basketball Hall of Fame, will be the 75<sup>th</sup> recipient of the prestigious award.



Wilkens, who formed the foundation in 1998 that bears his name, will be honored at a civic banquet next spring. The not-for-profit event is presented by SEATTLE *KingCounty* REALTORS®.

Lenny Wilkens “is a remarkable, inspiring, giving soul who has helped assure that thousands of kids have the healthcare they need, warm clothing in the winter, books to stimulate their minds, and healthy ways to eat on a tight budget,” said Ben Danielson MD, medical director, Odessa Brown Children's Clinic.

That clinic is the primary beneficiary of proceeds from foundation fund-raising. Wilkens first visited the clinic, located in the heart of Seattle’s Central District, when he was player-coach of the Seattle SuperSonics. He was immediately impressed by the founder’s dedication to quality healthcare for children. That visit prompted his first donation -- a \$10,000 check from his All Star award – and the creation of his foundation. Since then, the Wilkens family has embraced various organizations that provide healthcare and education for children regardless of financial needs.

Calling Lenny Wilkens “one of the finest people I have ever known,” KOMO TV weathercaster Steve Pool also described him as “the quintessential role model in this community, exemplifying achievement, integrity and public service.” Pool also referred to Wilkens as one of his dearest friends, “a status that I will always treasure.”

A signature event of the Lenny Wilkens Foundation is its annual Celebrity Classic Weekend consisting of a dinner auction and golf tournament. “Coming together as a community to make sure that our young people have a bright future is the highlight of every year,” Wilkens remarked in a comment about the 2012 event, which marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

-more-

In addition to the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, the Lenny Wilkens Foundation provides financial support for neurocognitive testing, currently at all Seattle public middle and high schools. The program involves evaluating, diagnosing and managing concussions so young athletes can recover safely and return to sports.

Commenting on the selection of Wilkens and his 40-year legacy of making a difference for children, Catherine Irby Arnold, vice president at Union Bank, said the 2013 First Citizen is "truly an example of how passion and purpose align for community benefit."

Arnold praised Wilkens' longtime devotion to unburdening young people's minds from aches and pains so they are free to focus on learning. "We are lucky to have him as a member of our community and I know Lenny is proud to be a recipient of the First Citizen Award," added Arnold, who serves as board president of the Lenny Wilkens Foundation.

Danielson also commented on Wilkens' extensive commitment to worthy causes. "Lenny Wilkens has been changing the lives of young kids for over four decades. He reminds all of us, through his tireless actions and his inspiring words, that we are all woven into the same fabric of society, and true citizenship means assuring that every child has the chance to laugh, learn, grow and thrive."

Apart from fundraising events, Wilkens and his family advocate for the well being of children through numerous public appearances. Maintaining a busy, year-round schedule, he hosts corporate team-building workshops, works the sidelines of athletic events, lends his presence at charity fundraisers, and acts as adviser and mentor to NBA and Olympics athletes. He also serves as a college hoops analyst with regular appearances on ROOT Sports.

"Lenny Wilkens is a world citizen who is well grounded in love for his wife, family, close friends and the community. He cares very deeply about the less fortunate in our community, especially children. That is why he founded the Lenny Wilkens Foundation," recalled George Northcroft, another member of the foundation board. "Through the foundation Lenny has demonstrated his unique commitment to public service by generously investing his time, expertise and treasure for the health and well being of Seattle's children," added Northcroft, the regional administrator for the U.S. General Services Administration's Northwest/Arctic Region.

Wilkens and his wife Marilyn live in Medina and are the parents of three adult children and grandparents of seven. A native of Brooklyn, he enjoyed a 15-year playing career in the NBA, including four seasons as player and player-coach with the Seattle SuperSonics (1969-1972). He coaching career also included nine more years with Seattle (1977-1985).

Wilkens ranks among the all-time leaders in assists, free throws and games played. A nine-time NBA All-Star player, he was named Most Valuable Player in the 1971 All-Star Game. His Hall of Fame inductions include as a player (1989), coach (1998) and assistant coach of the 1992 USA Olympic basketball team. That Olympic team, dubbed the "Dream Team," was the first American Olympic team to feature active NBA players.

The civic event honoring Lenny Wilkens is tentatively scheduled for June 5 in Seattle. Tickets for the First Citizen banquet and information on sponsorship are available at [Seattle First Citizen](#).

#### **About the [Lenny Wilkens Foundation](#)**

The Lenny Wilkens Foundation was founded on the belief young people, regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay, should have access to care that ensures their physical well-being as well as the mental and emotional strength to persevere in the face of any challenge. Based in Kirkland, it funds organizations that deliver healthcare and education services to young people while honoring their dignity and sense of self-respect. In the past decade, the foundation has raised more than \$3.5 million to support causes in the Pacific Northwest.

#### **About the [Odessa Brown Children's Clinic](#)**

Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, a community clinic of Seattle Children's Hospital that was established in 1970, is "dedicated to promoting quality pediatric care, family advocacy, health collaboration, mentoring and education in a culturally relevant context." Its services include basic medical care, health and lifestyle education, dental care, and mental healthcare.

**About the [First Citizen Award and Banquet](#)**

Since its inception in 1939, the First Citizen Award continues to celebrate community leadership, volunteerism and public service. Past recipients hail from humanitarian organizations, charitable, health and educational institutions, arts groups, environmental causes and various civic endeavors.

The Seattle-King County First Citizen Award and civic banquet, believed to be this region's oldest such recognition, has no fund-raising expectation, but instead is designed solely as a not-for-profit celebration of community involvement.

Recent past recipients include former Seattle Mariner Jamie Moyer and his wife Karen (2011), U.S. Senator Slade Gorton (2010), retiring Seattle Symphony conductor Gerard Schwartz (2009), and Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen (2008).

**About the [SEATTLE KingCounty REALTORS®](#)**

The SEATTLE *KingCounty* REALTORS® is a nonprofit professional trade association whose goals include promoting business practices that reflect a strict code of ethics and supporting policies that preserve and expand real property rights and housing affordability. Based in Bellevue, SKCR has nearly 5,000 members and is one of 1,400 local associations of the National Association of REALTORS®. The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics.

###

*Note to editors:* For photos, please contact Cheri Brennan, Alliance Communications (Bellevue WA), 425.957-0654.

Also, a gallery of team photos from the 2012 Celebrity Classic is posted on the Foundation website. High resolution images may be viewed/downloaded at:

[http://www.davesizer.com/2012\\_wilkens\\_golf.html](http://www.davesizer.com/2012_wilkens_golf.html)