

# UPPER OHIO VALLEY HALL OF FAME

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Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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## **Connelly named Hall of Fame's 2002 Distinguished American**

EAST LIVERPOOL – In recognition of his entrepreneurial spirit, humanitarian contributions and leadership abilities, Jim Connelly has been selected at the Lou Holtz/Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame's "Distinguished American" for 2002.

The award, established in 2000, recognizes successful individuals not from the Upper Ohio Valley who have, however, demonstrated acts of goodwill to the area. In being named a "Distinguished American," Connelly joins past recipients, Glenn A. McCusker, CEO of Viking Components, and television personality Regis Philbin.

Upon making the presentation of the Distinguished American plaque to Connelly, Coach Lou Holtz said, "You've been a true friend, not just of the Hall of Fame -- not just to the people of the Ohio Valley and the students. Anytime there is a humanitarian cause Jim is there to help, and I can tell you things that he has done on behalf of other people, and he's done them unselfishly. He's done them unselfishly and at a great price financially to him, but he has expected absolutely nothing in return because that is the type of person he is."

Frank Dawson, president of the Hall of Fame, noted that Connelly has been an ardent supporter of the Hall of Fame, sponsoring golf teams in the annual celebrity golf outing and contributing an annual scholarship on behalf of his late mother, Clare Connelly, in memory of Coach Holtz' mother, Anne Tychonievich Holtz, who died in November 1999. Connelly's mother died in July 2001.

Dawson added that Connelly joined the Hall of Fame's Board of Trustees in 2000 and has spent countless hours in East Liverpool not only involved with Hall of Fame matters, but also with other groups within the city including the Tri-State Promoters Cultural and Creative Society.

"It is because of his faithfulness and loyalty to this community of which he is an adopted member and a group of friends with whom he has become extremely close that we present our third 'Distinguished American' award to Jim Connelly," Dawson said in making the presentation.

Connelly, a native of Turtle Creek, Pa., serves as chairman of Integrated Communications Services, which he and his son, Jeff, co-founded and own. The company, which provides services nationwide, is headquartered in Farmington Hills, Mich. Connelly also is active in the real estate investment market.

After graduating from high school, he completed a two-year military service, becoming a Signal Corp specialist. Upon returning to civilian life and between recessions and strikes at the factories, he relocated to California and secured a position as a room clerk at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. His performance soon caught the eye of the hotel owner, and Connelly began accelerating up the ladder of success. He became the general manager of the \$100 million hotel, a position he held for 10 years. During this time, he earned the trust and friendship of entertainers, captains of industry and political figures.

During his rise to the top and exploring several new business opportunities, Connelly was invited by the chairman of Shearson Lehman to join the Wall Street firm. He was the first non-college graduate accepted into the firm's management program and graduated from the New York Institute of Finance in the top 10 percent of his class. He was one of the highest performing investment bankers for the next five years.

Because of his experience and innate ability to lead people, Connelly founded and is president of International Leadership, an educational forum available to officers of companies desiring to become more successful leaders. This process includes individual coaching and team counseling in the areas of personal leadership skills such as goal setting, time management, building a plan of action and self-motivation. At the request of President Ronald Reagan, Connelly facilitated Leadership Goal Setting for the California Governor's conference and the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities held at Stanford University. Connelly was the keynote speaker for the Volunteers of America Midas Touch program for gifted inner-city children, sponsored by TRW and the Los Angeles Rotary Club. Additionally, he served as a consultant to the board of Hughes Aircraft for many years and as the director of the Marina City Club. He also was president of the Cal-Neva Hotel and Casino.

In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, he has served a great part of the last 16 years caring for a dear friend, Donna Jones, who suffered a severe head injury 17 years ago as a result of a snowmobile accident. Despite the medical community's prognoses that there was little hope for her to have an independent life, Connelly was determined to give his friend every opportunity to regain as much independence as possible. He put together a team of special people dedicated to bringing quality to her life, and she does live a full and independently. The success of the story is documented in a book written by Connelly entitled, *One More Sunset* ([www.onemoresunset.com](http://www.onemoresunset.com)), a compelling story of survival through commitment, trust and love.

Connelly has made a career of helping people. He is a contributor to the University of Notre Dame and resides with his wife, Kate and daughter, Katy Clare, at the edge of the Notre Dame campus.