

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, April 2015.

Tom Patton

Tom Patton was born on a farm in Trail, Ohio. Patton entered the Dover School System and graduated in 1944.

After high school, Patton took a job as a janitor at the Tuscarawas County YMCA. Encouraged to go to college, Patton attended Miami University in Miami, Ohio.

Degree in hand, Patton returned to the YMCA, but this time as its Physical Director. In 1966, he became the Director of the YMCA, starting a legacy of inspiration.

The YMCA grew under Patton's direction, creating new programming and producing great athletes, as well as growing in membership.

Patton became known for his great work at the YMCA, especially in its swimming program. In 1971, Patton oversaw the construction of a new building for the organization. He retired from his position in 1989 but continued his work in the community becoming involved with the Reeves Foundation, Community Hospice, the Salvation Army and Kent State University – Tuscarawas Branch.

Tom Patton is recognized for his ability to inspire generations of athletes, some of whom went on to achieve greatness in and out of their sport.