



**Mitchell McLaughlin**  
*Distinguished Citizen, Wyoming County*

*Mitch McLaughlin is Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for Five Star Bank. As CIO, he is responsible for the company's technology strategies, information systems, telecommunications, bank operations, security and facilities. He provides the technology vision and support to the business owners within the organization.*

*Born 1958 in Carthage, New York outside Watertown, his family relocated several times for his father's career, before settling in Warsaw in 1971. A graduate of Warsaw Central School, he earned his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Potsdam State College, where he met his wife Debbie.*

*Mitch began his banking career as a management trainee for Financial Institutions, Inc. (Wyoming County Bank) 31 years ago. He is a graduate of the School for Bank Administration in Madison, WI, the Graduate School of Bank Operations and Technology at Vanderbilt University, the Bank Management School at Duke University Fuqua School of Business, and the ABA School of Bank Investments.*

*He is the Chairman of the Board and campaign cabinet of the Wyoming County United Way, the Vice Chairman of the NY Bankers Services Corporation, and a member and past president of the Warsaw Kiwanis. He was named United Way Volunteer of the Year in 2011.*

*His commitment to the community is delivered through participation in various events that partner with agencies and schools to expose youth to the business of banking. Through the Five Star Bank volunteer program he is able to assist the broader community with participation in Habitat for Humanity, Days of Caring, and constructing playgrounds for needy families.*

*A Warsaw resident, Mitch and his wife Debbie will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary this August. They are the proud parents of two children, Courtney and Cameron.*



## **David Bellavia**

*Distinguished Citizen, Orleans County*

*A native of Lyndonville, author and advocate David Bellavia attended Franklin Pierce College and the University at Buffalo before joining the Army. He served for six years after his 1999 enlistment and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant.*

*A highly decorated combat veteran of the Iraq War, he was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah in November 2004. A recipient of the Bronze Star and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, David was also nominated for the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, two of our nation's highest awards for valor. In 2005, he was inducted into the New York Veterans Hall of Fame.*

*David has written about his combat experiences in the critically acclaimed and bestselling book "House to House: an Epic Memoir of War" (Free Press; 2007). David recently signed a deal with Oscar-winning Hollywood producer Rich Middlemas to recount his team's story as a major motion picture due out in late 2013. He also wrote the screenplay for the feature film "Tie that Binds," which is in production today. David is now working on his second book.*

*Since his return from active military service, David co-founded and remains Vice Chairman of Vets for Freedom, an organization devoted to achieving bipartisan support for national security. Vets for Freedom now has more than 250,000 members - veterans who have fought in the War on Terror. He is also a founder of the Warrior Legacy Foundation, a soldier's charity which helps veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

*A tireless advocate, David never misses an opportunity to urge business owners to consider filling job openings with veterans.*

*David has appeared as an expert commentator on Fox News, CNN, and other major national news outlets, providing commentary on the Middle East, terrorism, foreign policy, and veterans affairs. He was an honored guest for President Bush's 2006 State of the Union address and often works in the United States Congress to help pass laws that assist and honor veterans.*

*A member of Lyndonville's Yates Baptist Church, David and his wife Deanna currently reside in Batavia with their three children; Evan, 12; Aiden, 5; and 2-year old Vivienne.*



**Ken Kaufman & Michelle Farina**  
*Distinguished Citizens, Niagara County*

*Michele and Ken make a powerful team, utilizing their musical talents and organizational skills to accomplish extensive charitable and community service work. Ken and Michelle strongly believe in using their musical gifts to make major impacts to answer great needs. For Ken, this is an application of the 12 points of "The Scout Law", and for Michelle, it's her strong desire as a Christian to answer the needs of others.*

*Together they have used the power of music in several successful charitable fundraisers. They have organized and performed in special events to raise more than \$80,000 in funds for a range of causes, including disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Hurricane Tomas in Haiti, and Lockport's House of Hope which serves young women in Niagara County.*

*As the leaders of the highly celebrated vocal group "The Angels", Ken and Michelle have given their musical talents as a major focal point for events to help organizations such as Upstate New York Transplant Services and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Additionally, they will perform during the Opening Ceremony at this June's New York State Special Olympics Games at SUNY Buffalo.*

*Additionally, Michelle and Ken serve as the Directors of Music for two Catholic Parishes; St. Rose of Lima and St. Mark's in Buffalo.*

*Ken, an Eagle Scout since 1963, attended the Eastman School of Music. He began a successful business, Adsongs, as a jingle writer and producer in 1975. He produces most of the television and radio jingle campaigns throughout WNY. A three time inductee of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, Ken has been the organist for the Buffalo Sabres since 1996.*

*Michelle has worked for BlueCross BlueShield of WNY in Government Programs for the past 13 years. She finds great fulfillment in guiding the Medicare population, conducting home visits, and helping individuals through what can sometimes be a difficult process with their Healthcare. She is a member and volunteer for The Dale Association of Lockport. Michelle has sung and directed music in the Catholic Diocese for over 20 years.*

*Ken and Michelle are married and reside in Lockport. They have 4 accomplished children and 5 grandchildren.*



## **Betty Lapp**

*Distinguished Citizen, Genesee County*

*Although her parents hail from Batavia, Betty Lapp was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. She met future husband and Genesee County local Dean Lapp in college, and the pair settled in Alexander before moving to Batavia.*

*Degrees in nursing from Niagara University and the University of Rochester helped to lay the foundation for her lifelong profession. As registered nurse, Betty served on the staff of Parma Community General Hospital, Toledo Hospital, and the Genesee County Health Department.*

*In 1974 she began a 30-year career with Genesee Community College, serving first as an instructor, then Professor of Nursing, and ultimately as the Director of the Nursing Program, a post from which she retired in 2005.*

*Currently Betty describes herself as a 'professional volunteer'. That's a role she takes seriously as the current Board Chairperson of both United Memorial Medical Center and the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (formerly BOCES). Her community service extends back to her arrival in Genesee County, first as a volunteer with Regional Action Phone, Family Counseling Services, PTA and Cub Scouts.*

*Her profession has led to numerous leadership positions on local boards, including service with the Lake Plains Community Care Network, WNY Rural Area Health Education Center, Genesee County Department of Health, Genesee County Mental Health Services, and the Genesee Valley School Boards Association.*

*Her notable service to the community has earned her several awards, including the 2000 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. In 2008 Betty was named Geneseean of the Year by the County Chamber of Commerce. Most recently the Genesee Valley School Boards Association recognized Betty with the 2012 Al Hawk Award for Outstanding School Board Service.*

*Batavia residents Betty and Dean have a son, Eric,*



## **James Culbertson**

*Distinguished Citizen, Livingston County*

*Jim Culbertson is a 5-term elected Livingston County Clerk, a position he has held since his 1994 retirement after 26 years with Eastman Kodak. As County Clerk, Jim Culbertson has effectively managed an \$8 million annual business that includes the land records office and the two County Motor Vehicle Offices located in Geneseo and Dansville. He has been recognized as a true leader and is the past President of the NYS Association of County Clerks. Jim also serves as the Livingston County Commissioner of Jurors and has served as the 2nd Vice President of the NYS Association of the Commissioner of Jurors.*

*A life-long resident of Livingston County, from 1982-1994 he served 3 terms as Supervisor for the Town of Sparta and on the Livingston County Board of Supervisors. During that time he was Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors and chaired the County Finance Committee.*

*Jim's activity in community affairs includes terms as President of the Dansville Economic Development Corporation, Chairman of the American Red Cross Clara Barton Chapter #1 Dansville, President of the South Sparta Cemetery Association, member and past President of the Dansville Rotary Club, member on the Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and Board Member of GCC – Dansville Campus.*

*A member of Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, he is also a member and Past Vice President of the Dansville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. An avid supporter of the United Way, Jim served as 2009-2010 Campaign Chairman of the Livingston County fundraising effort.*

*Jim's dedication to the community has not gone unnoticed by his peers. A recipient of the 2006 Dansville Citizen of the Year Award, he is also the recipient of 2007 Red Cross Founders Award, 2009 Recipient of Clerk of the Year Award from New York State County Clerk's Association, and 2010 Recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.*

*Jim lives in the Town of Sparta with his wife Linda. They are proud parents of three daughters, with one grandson, 5 granddaughters, and one great granddaughter.*