

Boerne ISD adds four 'Best Alumni' honorees

BOERNE – The Boerne ISD has announced the “Boerne’s Best Distinguished Alumni” Class of 2024 honorees: Dr. C. Clifford Wendler, Class of 1935, Erin Meyer-Charneux, Class of 1990; Jeff Fincke, Class of 1972; and Mike Fincke, Class of 1974, with the Benefactor Award being presented to Dr. Thomas Price, former district superintendent.

This is the fifth class of “Boerne’s Best” inductees, with the first being enshrined in the class of 2020. Boerne’s Best inductees are individuals who have graduated from Boerne ISD at least 10 years ago or later, have achievements that set them above and beyond the standard in their profession, and

“Boerne’s Best Distinguished Alumni” Class of 2024 honorees



Charneux



Fincke



Price



Wendler



Fincke

have achievements that set them above and beyond the standard in community service.

“This year’s Boerne’s Best class is absolutely extraordinary,” Stan Leech, Boerne ISD athletic director and Boerne’s Best

chair, said. “This year’s inductees represent the best that BISD has to offer. The contributions from this immensely talented group are second to none. We are very excited to welcome these legendary alumni

to Boerne’s Best.”

The Class of 2024 will be inducted at a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. April 26 at The Club

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HONOREES

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of Cordillera Ranch.

Dr. C. Clifford Wendler

Dr. Wendler's family roots are traced back to the early 1850's, when the pioneer Wendler and Luckenbach families settled in the area. Dr. Wendler served in the U.S. Army for 5 1/2 years during World War II and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After the war, he returned to IBM in Dallas and later joined the management staff of Texas Instruments. He took a leave of absence to obtain a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

After receiving his doctorate, he became a professor at the SMU School of Business in Dallas.

Wendler retired and spent much of his time painting and was an accomplished artist. He was a lifetime member of St. Helena's Episcopal Church and enjoyed his church activities.

He was founder, chairman of the board, and president of the Boerne Cemetery Foundation.

He devoted many years to the restoration and improvement of the Boerne Cemetery, as well as obtaining a stable financial base for perpetual care of the cemetery.

Wendler is a 1935 graduate of Boerne High School. He died on April 22, 2015, at the age of 97.

Erin Meyer-Charneux

Meyer-Charneux is an artist, speaker, and author. She was born and raised in Boerne and is a naturalized Belgian who has lived in Brussels for over 25 years.

Meyer-Charneux is the author of "D-Day Lessons For Today: How to Create Your Future History" and is currently developing the book, "Coming to BE: A journey of self-discovery in a surreal little land."

The D-Day piece is a

visual reflection on creative problem solving, innovation, and personal development inspired from history. Meyer-Charneux created an interactive exhibit of D-Day Lessons for Today for over 3,000 students and teachers in Normandy, France, during the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

As a public speaker, has delivered speeches to The Council of Europe Youth Department, The International School of Brussels, and The U.S. National WWII Museum.

A 1990 graduate of Boerne High School, Meyer-Charneux was a cheerleader all four years, including head varsity cheerleader her senior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the senior class president.

Jeff Fincke

Fincke is a descendant of one of the early families of Kendall County. He has served Kendall County for over 55 years both as a volunteer and an employee.

Fincke has served Kendall County as a member of the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years, including 28 years as chief, as well as Kendall County EMS administrator for 42 years, including roles as emergency management coordinator and fire marshal.

Fincke was instrumental in beginning the annual EMS Christmas breakfast, a tradition that lasted for 24 years. Fincke spent 33 years with the Castle Hills Fire Department, with most of that experience as captain.

He served as a strike team leader with the South Texas Regional Advisory Council on Trama, where he responded to dangerous storms and fire events, including Hurricane Dolly and Hurricane Ike. During Hurricane Katrina, Fincke received evacuees from Louisiana at the shelter in Boerne.

Fincke, a 1972 graduate of Boerne High School, was a four-year letterman for the Greyhounds football team, including serving as a captain during his senior year. He was in the last senior class to attend the old Boerne High School, which today is Boerne Middle School North, and was in the first class to graduate from the new Boerne High School.

Mike Fincke

Fincke, like his brother Jeff, is a descendant of one of the early families of Kendall County. Fincke has lived a life of service, including 35 years with the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department as a captain, assistant chief, chief, and president, as well as 38 years as a professional firefighter for Castle Hills as lieutenant and then assistant chief. Upon his retirement from Castle Hills, Fincke served as Kendall County Commissioner Precinct 1.

Fincke was instrumental in beginning the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry, as well as serving on the Berges Fest board of directors, including several years as president. He also was an early member of the Centurions Club and played a large role in beginning the Boerne 4th of July fireworks show.

He has been a strong supporter of the Boerne ISD athletic program, even serving as a volunteer statistician and spotter for the Greyhounds football team.

Fincke, a 1974 graduate of Boerne High School, was a four-year letterman with the Greyhounds Football Team.

Dr. Thomas Price

Former Boerne ISD Superintendent Dr. Thomas Price is this year's Benefactor Award recipient.

Price currently serves as Superintendent Emeritus and will retire at the end of the school year after seven years of service to the BISD community and 37 years in public education, including 17 years as

a superintendent.

During Price's tenure, the district grew by nearly 3,000 students to almost 11,000. He oversaw the opening of three new campuses, as well as the passage of the 2022 bond that will result in Viola Wilson Elementary School opening in 2024, along with additions at both high schools, renovations at other campuses, and other facility updates needed for a fast growth district.

Under Price's leadership, Boerne ISD was academically rated an "A" three times by the Texas Education Agency, received an "A" by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas in six consecutive years, earned the Texas State Comptroller's Transparency Star, was named the Best Small School District in Texas by the H-E-B Excellence in Education Foundation, as well as named a Top Workplace by the San Antonio Express-News.

In addition, Dr. Price was named Regional Superintendent of the Year during his tenure in BISD.



Adoption
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with her human friends.
Athena is probably
besides Pickles. She
and even tolerates a
family who loves to
We can't say enough

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