

About Watson Skinner

Watson Skinner served on Allentown Council between 1974 and 1990, including terms as president. He became the mayor's assistant for economic development, which paved the way for the creation of the Allentown Economic Development Corporation. He was the first person to hold the position of executive vice president of the Allentown Economic Development Corporation. He hosted a weekly radio program and the local cable television programs Community Spotlight and Ideas Under Fire. He served as chairman of many community organizations, including Rotary, CADA, and the Allentown Reinvestment Committee. Watson proudly served on the board of St. Luke's Hospital. After moving on from City Council Watson's love of Allentown never diminished and he remained ever involved in community development and volunteerism until his death in 2012. "I have a very strong love affair with Allentown and its citizens. I don't try to explain it. It's there," Watson Skinner shared during a speech in November of 1987.

Watson began a long, successful teaching career at Coplay High School and finished his career at South Mountain in the Allentown School District, retiring after 32 years as a math/science teacher and guidance counselor.

About The Watson Skinner Memorial Award

This award will be awarded annually to a member of the Allentown community that represents the dedication to continuous community improvement over a significant period of one's lifetime, as Watson Skinner dedicated his life's work to the City of Allentown and its citizens. The award recipient will be chosen from a list of nominees compiled from input from city and community leaders and Watson's family. The annual award will be presented at an Allentown City Council Meeting.

A nominee must have demonstrated significant and outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life in the Allentown community. Nominees should have demonstrated persistence in the face of adversity in attempting to meet community goals. Special consideration will be given to nominees that have served in multiple volunteer capacities. A nominee may have served the community with distinction in her/his professional capacity, in addition to one's volunteer service.