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## **2025 Aspen Hall of Fame Inductees Announced**

*Bob & Ruth Wade, Paul Andersen, Erin Fernandez-Ely*

Four individuals who have made indelible contributions to the Aspen community have been selected by the Aspen Hall of Fame Board of Directors for induction into the 2025 Aspen Hall of Fame. They will be formally inducted at the annual Aspen Hall of Fame Banquet at the Hotel Jerome on April 13, 2025. The banquet features dinner and wine and an awards ceremony highlighted by video profiles of each inductee.

“We received a record number of nominations from the community this year and we are thrilled to honor these five individuals who have contributed so much to our community over the years and who have made such a lasting impact,” said Aspen Hall of Fame Co-Presidents Pat Bingham and Walker Moriarty. “We think you will agree that these are the people who make Aspen special.”



Ruth and Bob Wade

**Bob and Ruth Wade** - Bob and Ruth Wade have been the mainstay of Aspen's active outdoor community for nearly 50 years. They have created and steadfastly supported some of Aspen's most beloved and anticipated outdoor events including the Golden Leaf Half Marathon, America's Uphill and Ski for the Pass. In addition, Bob and Ruth Wade have immersed themselves in local nonprofits including the Independence Pass Foundation and the Chris Klug Foundation. They have inspired young and old to challenge themselves in the great outdoors with their support and involvement in the Aspen School District's Outdoor Education program and by hosting an amateur citizens Nordic racing series on countless kilometers of groomed Nordic tracks that they have played a great role in creating.



Paul Andersen

**Paul Andersen** - Paul Andersen, the author of eighteen books and hundreds of news and feature articles, has been a professional writer for 47 years. He was a reporter, editor and regular columnist with the Aspen Times for 40 years. Prior to that, he was editor of the Crested Butte Chronicle and reporter for the Gunnison Country Times. In addition to an award-winning writing career, Andersen co-created “Nature & Society,” an executive seminar at the Aspen Institute that immersed participants in wilderness while exploring philosophical, literary, ecological and historical perspectives on man and nature. This led, in 2013, to his founding Huts For Vets, a non-profit that offers US military veterans healing opportunities at the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Huts. Andersen first skied Aspen in 1966, and he has an enduring passion for exploring the Elk Range on foot, skis and mountain bike.



Erin Fernandez-Ely

**Erin Fernandez-Ely** - Erin Fernandez Ely arrived in Aspen in 1978 after working as a prosecutor of white collar crime in Florida. She soon joined local attorney and County Commissioner Dwight Shellman's legal team. Ely was appointed Pitkin County Judge in the year 2000 and during her two decades in that role she pioneered cutting-edge alliances with professionals in mental health, substance abuse, law enforcement and the judicial system approaching criminal defendants in a more humanistic manner by offering them alternatives rather than sentencing them to jail where resources are scarce. Earning the informal title as the "people's judge," among the most impactful programs that Judge Ely instituted in her courtroom in Aspen were requiring mental health counseling and monitored abstinence of alcohol and drugs for misdemeanor offenders as a condition of bail creating the opportunity for rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

A highlight of the induction ceremony and banquet at the Hotel Jerome is the video profile of each inductee that premieres at the event. These life stories are archived on the Aspen Hall of Fame Website at [www.aspenhalloffame.org](http://www.aspenhalloffame.org) and at

the Aspen Historical Society and Pitkin County Library.

### **About the Aspen Hall of Fame**

Since its founding in 1986/87, the Aspen Hall of Fame has honored more than 100 community members for their lasting contributions. Its mission is to recognize and honor individuals who have embraced the spirit of Aspen with their significant and lasting impact on the community by demonstrating excellence and leadership in areas including civic activities, culture, sports and philanthropy, and who inspire the next generation to follow in their footsteps.

The Aspen Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization, dependent upon donations for its continued existence. Donations keep the annual banquet affordable for all who wish to attend and support the making of the documentary videos. Community sponsors include the Thrift Shop, City of Aspen, Aspen Historical Society, and Aspen Rotary Club.

Invitations to the 2025 Aspen Hall of Fame banquet will be mailed in late February/early March 2025. The public may sign up to be on the mailing list to receive an invitation or make a donation at [aspenhalloffame.org](https://www.aspenhalloffame.org).

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