



**2022 JOHN SCHOENKNECHT SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION  
AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Recipients of the Schoenknecht "Spirit of Preservation" award must have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the preservation of more than one historically significant building, structure, or site, or have contributed in a tangible and exemplary manner to further historic preservation in Waukesha.

Nominations should be submitted to Charlie Griffith in the City of Waukesha Planning Department, 201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188. Nominations may also be submitted by e-mail to [cgriffith@waukesha-wi.gov](mailto:cgriffith@waukesha-wi.gov).

**All nominations are due no later than Monday, April 4th, 2022.** The Landmarks Commission will review nominations at the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.

Nominee Lorayne McKengie Ritt

Address -

Submitter Marilyn D. Hagerstrand

Submitter Contact Info (mail or phone): 262 542 7049

Please provide a brief explanation of the merits of the project:

## LORAYNE MCKENZIE RITT

Lorayne McKenzie Ritt is my nominee for the John Schoenknecht award.

Lorayne was a Waukesha County native that graduated both from the Waukesha High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She taught English at Whitewater High School, Waukesha South High School and the Waukesha County Technical College. In addition, Lorayne received her Master's Degree as a reading specialist from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

She married Steve Ritt and raised two children, Steve Jr. and Julie. In 1984, she began writing for the Waukesha Freeman Newspaper, chronicling events and recounting the area's history in her columns. Lorayne once mentioned that she felt she had a responsibility to remind people of local history.

During the fifteen years she worked for the Freeman, Lorayne had 3 books published which included her most well-liked columns. They were "*Close To Home* in 1988, *Close To Home Book Two* in 1990 and *Vintage Waukesha* " in 1996.

In 1999, Lorayne was hired by The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel to write a weekly Column titled 'Close To Home.' She had a wide following in Waukesha County, as her columns proved to be extremely popular. Lorayne was considered by the newspaper "to have great knowledge of Waukesha's history."

On August 24, 2017, Lorayne passed away. Lorayne's contributions to the city through her writings will continue to make our city a better place to live, as her books and columns will be always available at the Waukesha Public Library and the Waukesha County Museum. Lorayne's dedication to Waukesha's history will be forever persevered in her writings.