

# LEONARD HURST

## FRANK SULLIVAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Leonard F. Hurst, Jr. was born on March 7, 1919 in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating from high school in 1938, Leonard found himself in the midst of the Great Depression. Jobless, he enlisted in the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), a program for unemployed youth. After two years, with his military draft number soon up, Leonard enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a Sergeant during the Second World War.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Sergeant Hurst was assigned to an Air Depot Group and shipped to Australia to work at a rear echelon airplane repair base for planes shot up in combat. After the war ended, Leonard and his outfit found themselves in the Philippines.

Going home, Leonard took advantage of the GI bill and enrolled at Denver University. He graduated in 1941 with a degree in Sociology. In his senior year, Leonard met a newly enrolled Australian girl named June Williams. After six months, they decided to marry and spent three years in Australia. Leonard became somewhat of a celebrity, sharing his love for square dancing with the Australians. They started their family while in Australia to include Charles, April and Walter. After returning to Denver, Leonard worked at Ideal Cement Company until his retirement.

Both June and Leonard Hurst were political animals. Because of their passion and dedication to the Democratic Party, Leonard and June often hosted "Say it with Flowers" garden parties and fund raisers in their back yard. They hosted Gary Hart during his presidential run; U.S. Senate candidates Floyd Haskell, Tim Wirth, and, again, Gary Hart as well as Ken Salazar; U.S. Congresswomen Pat Schroeder and Diana DeGette; Governors Dick Lamm, Roy Romer and Bill Ritter, and many other Democratic candidates too numerous to list. Leonard has been a Precinct Committee Person since 1974 and was also a District Captain. Even at 92, he rarely misses a Democratic event. June was the Secretary of the Democratic Party of Denver. June Hurst passed away on March 1st 2005 and we are honored that Leonard will accept this award for the both of them.

Leonard Hurst turned 90 years old on March 21, 2009 and Governor Bill Ritter declared it "Leonard Hurst, Jr. Day." It was one of the proudest moments of his life. Thank you, Leonard and June Hurst, for your dedication, patronage, and support over these many years and for sharing your back yard with so many Democrats.



*Frank Sullivan was born and raised in Fall River, Massachusetts, where his mother was a hairdresser and his father tended bar. Though his father died young, he left his teenage son an immigrant's legacy—an abiding understanding that political involvement is the most important aspect of American citizenship; the recognition that noble political goals are collective; and the knowledge that the vote is the surest guarantee of liberty. Raised by his paternal grandmother, Frank learned to respect family and to look past his own streets, valuing diversity. Though it meant paying his own way, Frank chose to attend college, earning a Bachelor's degree in Science. In 1960, he married a beautiful French-Portuguese pianist named Sylvia Mithers, and earned a Master's degree in Chemistry from Boston College. By 1963, he'd earned a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Physiology, an Assistant Professorship at Providence College, and had a son. They moved to Alaska in 1966, when the Air Force funded his cold-weather experiments. In 1968, they adopted a daughter and moved to Colorado. By 1973, the family had deep Park Hill roots, so when his Army laboratory moved to San Antonio, Frank left Federal employment. He taught for the next 27 years at Front Range Community College. Liberated from the Hatch Act, Frank could finally practice partisan politics, becoming the zealous populist he remains today—a reluctant leader who makes sure his fellow Democrats remember that their best expression is in service of the people for whom the American Dream is yet a hope. Frank was awarded the Democratic Party of Denver's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. Since he is not yet finished achieving, we are proud to brand this award with his name forever more.*



# Honorary Proclamation



**BILL RITTER, JR.**  
GOVERNOR

*LEONARD HURST, JR. DAY*  
*March 21, 2009*

*WHEREAS, Leonard F. Hurst, Jr. was born on March 7, 1919, in Nashville, Tennessee, before moving to Colorado and graduating from Denver's West High School in 1938; and*

*WHEREAS, after graduating high school, Leonard volunteered for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), serving in the organization for two years; and*

*WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, Leonard enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a Sergeant during World War II, and at the war's end used the G.I. Bill to enroll at the University of Denver (DU), graduating with a degree in Sociology in 1949; and*

*WHEREAS, while attending DU, Leonard met June Williams, an Australian whom he would marry and start a family with in 1950; and*

*WHEREAS, Leonard's love for square dancing and his enthusiasm for spreading the hobby led him to accompany his wife upon her return to Australia and teach Australians the joys of square dancing; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes Leonard for his long time good-will and longevity in our state, and thanks him for his service to our country in both the CCC and the military;*

*Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2009,*

*LEONARD HURST, JR. DAY*

*in the State of Colorado*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twentieth day of March, 2009*

*Bill Ritter Jr.*