

Harold A. Ward, III  
2007 WPHS Alumni Circle of Distinction

Harold Ward's ties to Winter Park are as old as the city itself. His great-grandfather, Charles Hezekiah Ward, was a pioneer in the citrus industry with groves on the shores of Lake Sylvan. His grandfather, H. A. (Harley) Ward, raised his large family in the tin-roofed, cracker-style house later moved and restored at the Genius Preserve and today is used by Rollins College's department of environmental studies.

His maternal grandfather worked building Henry Flagler's railroad to Miami. After operating general stores in Fort Pierce and Oakland, he moved his family to Orlando.

Harold attended the old Winter Park Elementary at Lyman and Park Avenues. After graduating from Winter Park High School at age 16, he went to the University of Chicago. Within two years he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and entered the University of Chicago's prestigious law school, where he was managing editor of the Law Review.

Following law school, Harold clerked for Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, and then joined the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon's Office of the General Counsel to the Secretary of the Air Force.

In 1959, Harold returned to Winter Park with his bride, Mary Elizabeth Lewis (Libby), with whom he raised three children. Harold joined the law firm, known today as Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman. Harold is now one of the most respected lawyers in the state.

In addition to his impeccable professional record, Harold's civic contributions to Winter Park over the last 50 years are nearly unmatched. His long-standing relationship with Rollins College includes four terms as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and in 1998 Rollins presented him with the coveted Declaration of Honor.

Harold has been on the boards of Winter Park Memorial Hospital, the United Way and the American Heart Association, as well as president of the Winter Park Rotary Club. He has been active at both the local and national levels of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park. In 1971 and 1972, Harold became the only two-term president of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and in 1999 he received the Chamber's "Citizen of the Year" award.

Harold is currently trustee and president of the Charles Hosmer Morse and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundations