

## 2020 ISD 88 Hall of Fame Bios

Henry Somsen – Class of 1926

A 1926 graduate of New Ulm High School, Henry, Heine to his friends, was involved in the arts and athletics. After graduation, he attended the University of Minnesota, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1930 and his law degree in 1932. During WWII, Henry enlisted as a Private in the US Air Force and attained Captain's rank by the time of his honorable discharge. After service, he served three years as Secretary to Senator Joe Ball of Minnesota. Henry returned to New Ulm to the family law firm, established in 1894, where he was an attorney at Somsen, Schade & Franta, PLC for over 50 years. An avid outdoorsman and environmentalist, Henry served on the Minnesota Council of Parks and was one of the seven founding members of the Minnesota Parks Foundation in 1967. Somsen Slough west of New Ulm is named in his honor. In New Ulm, he founded the New Ulm Area Foundation, was president of the Community Concert Association for almost 40 years, served on the New Ulm Industries Group and the Union Hospital Board, and many more. The legacy of Heine's 98 years of life lives on in New Ulm today.