

Proclamation



George and Mary Lou Orthey

Whereas: George Orthey made his first autoharp for Mary Lou Orthey in April 1983, and in so doing, launched their ship, "Autoharp Synergism," on a lifetime journey. George has made over 600 custom autoharps since that first Dulci-Harp, and through Mary Lou's publishing of Autoharp Quarterly® magazine has encouraged a new generation of autoharp luthiers, and,

Whereas: Mary Lou and George have attended countless music festivals where they have actively promoted autoharp music through jams, workshops, presentations, displays, performances, publications, and support of autoharp competitions, and,

Whereas: Since 1991, the Ortheys have given unselfishly of their time, energy, and resources to direct and host the annual Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering, heralding players from around the world to celebrate the autoharp at the largest autoharp event in the world, and,

Whereas: George and Mary Lou have honored past grand masters of the autoharp by bringing to the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering stage second generation players named Carter, Stoneman, and Snow, thereby completing a historical and traditional backdrop for modern players through music and stories of the early autoharp pioneers,

Therefore, let it be resolved that George and Mary Lou Orthey be inducted with highest commendations as the 1998 contemporary members of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the Fourth Day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight.