

Honorary Citizens of Okinawa City

沖縄市名誉市民

沖縄市では、地域の発展に貢献し、その功績が顕著で市民から深く尊敬される方に対して、沖縄市名誉市民の称号を贈りその栄誉を称えています。最初の名誉市民として2014年、市制施行40周年の記念の年に4名の方が顕彰され、東京オリンピックが開催された2021年に1名が顕彰され、5名になりました。

Okinawa City honors those who have contributed to the development of the region, and whose achievements are remarkable and deeply respected by the citizens, with the title of Honorary Citizen of Okinawa City. In 2014, on the commemorative year of the 40th anniversary of the city's establishment, four people were awarded as Honorary Citizens for the first time. In addition, one person was honored in 2021, the year when the Tokyo Olympics were held, making the total number of five Honorary Citizens of Okinawa City.

Oyama Chojo (deceased)



沖縄市発展の基礎を築く

大山 朝常

おおやま ちょうじょう(故人)

1901(明治34)年12月25日—1999(平成11)年11月24日
旧越来村山里生まれ

December 25, 1901–November 24, 1999
Born in Yamazato district of the former Goeku Village

県立農学校、県師範学校卒。戦前は、本島北部の小学校で教師を務めたほか、越来青年学校の校長も務めました。

終戦直後、避難民であふれる「胡差市」の室川小学校校長に就任し、戦後教育のスタートに尽力。その後、沖縄社会大衆党の結成に参画し、1954年には立法院議員に当選して政治の世界へ。1958年、コザ市長に当選。米軍政権下の基地の街の首長として、米国施政権下の市政を運営し、美里村とコザ市が合併して沖縄市が誕生した1974年までその重職にありました。この間、米軍のオフリミッツ問題、全国的なうねりとなった祖国復帰運動、コザ暴動などと、揺れ続ける社会の中で米軍と市民との間に立ち「基地依存経済からの脱却」を訴え続けました。

1992年、沖縄市の発展、地方自治、福祉活動に尽くした功績で琉球新報賞が贈られた他、1997年には米兵による少女乱暴事件を機に『沖縄独立宣言』を出版し、注目を集めました。

Graduated from the Prefectural Agricultural School and the Prefectural Normal School (Shihan Gakko). He served as a teacher at an elementary school in the northern region of Okinawa Island and also as the principal of Goeku Youth School (Seinen Gakko) before the war. Immediately after the war, he was appointed as the principal of Murokawa Elementary School in Koza, a city filled with refugees and where he committed himself to the start of post-war public education. Later, he participated in the formation of the Okinawa Social Mass Party and entered the world of politics in 1954, with his election as a member of the Legislature of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands. In 1958, he was elected as the Mayor of Okinawa City. As Mayor of a "base town" under the US military administration, he headed the municipal government under the US administration and held that important position until 1974, when Misato Village and Koza City merged to form Okinawa City. During his tenure of office, he continued to advocate for "the breakaway from a base-dependent economy," standing between the US military and local citizens at a socially uncertain time marked by off-limits issues surrounding the US military, the growing sentiment towards the reversion of Okinawa to Japan which rippled nationwide, and the eruption of the Koza Riot. In 1992, he received the Ryukyu Shimpo Award for his contributions and achievements in the advancement of Okinawa City, the local autonomy, and welfare activities. In 1997, he published his book, "Okinawa Dokuritsu Sengen (Okinawa Declaration of Independence)" which garnered much attention in the wake of the rape of a local school girl by US military personnel.

Nakamura Tetsujiro (deceased)



沖縄市誕生に多大な貢献

中村 哲二郎

なかむら てつじろう(故人)

1914(大正3)年2月1日—2009(平成21)年9月11日
旧美里村知花生まれ

February 1, 1914–September 11, 2009
Born in Chibana district of the former Misato Village

美里尋常高等小学校、県立農林学校を経て美里村役場に勤務。1932年から20年間にわたり、地域農業の振興と技術改善、指導に尽力され、1954年には美里村助役に就任、1959年からの7年間は中頭巡回裁判所書記官を務めました。1966年に美里村長に当選し2期8年間、泡瀬内海埋立跡の都市計画事業の実施、美里地区土地区画整理事業計画の推進など、美里村の都市環境基盤整備や経済振興に貢献しました。中でも1971年に2回にわたって実施された米軍による毒ガス移送計画問題では、村民の生命財産を守る立場から、当時の屋良行政主席をはじめ米軍、県首脳とともに平和的問題解決に尽力。コザ市と美里村の合併では、懇談会などを開催し村民の合意づくりに力を注ぎ、1974年の沖縄市誕生に果たした業績は高く評価されています。

その後、市民文化財調査審議会委員や市国民健康保険運営協議会委員などを歴任し、沖縄市に多大な貢献を残しています。

After graduating from Misato Jinjo Koto (ordinary and higher) Elementary School and the Prefectural Agricultural School, he worked at the Misato Village Office. For two decades from 1932, he devoted himself to the promotion, technical improvement, and guidance in regional agriculture. In 1954, he was appointed Deputy Mayor of Misato Village, and from 1959, he served as a clerk for the Nakagami Circuit Court for seven years. In 1966, he was elected Mayor of Misato Village and served two terms for a total of eight years. During this time, he contributed to the improvement of the urban environment infrastructure and promoted the economic development of Misato Village, including the implementation of a city planning project at the Awase inland sea reclamation site, and promoted the plans for the Misato District land readjustment project. Notably, when issues arose surrounding the transportation of poisonous gases which was carried out twice by the US forces in 1971, he worked together with then chief executive Yara, the US forces, and prefectural leaders to find a peaceful solution from the standpoint of protecting the lives and properties of the villagers. By hosting social gatherings and other events, he focused on building a consensus among the villagers in the merger of Koza City and Misato Village, and his achievements in the birth of Okinawa have been highly praised.

Later, he served as a member of a civic council for cultural properties research, and as a member of the City's National Health Insurance Management Council, and contributed greatly to Okinawa City.

Shimabukuro Masao (deceased)



沖縄市初の人間国宝

島袋 正雄

しまぶくろ まさお(故人)

1922(大正11)年9月25日—2018(平成30)年4月24日
東村出身

September 25, 1922–April 24, 2018
Originally from Higashi Village

1951年に野村流師範の宮平三榮氏に入門、1960年に教師免許、1968年に師範免許を受けるなど伝統技法の修得に努めるとともに、1967年の国立劇場開場記念「第1回琉球芸能公演」をはじめ、国立劇場主催公演など数多くの舞台活動を積極的に展開。1998年には野村流古典音楽をカセットテープ12巻に収録し刊行しました。

この間、1972年に沖縄県指定無形文化財「沖縄伝統舞踊」(歌・三線)保持者、1986年に国の重要無形文化財「組踊」保持者、1999年沖縄県指定無形文化財「沖縄伝統音楽野村流」保持者、2000年に国の重要無形文化財「琉球古典音楽」保持者(人間国宝)に認定されるなど、氏の技芸は高く評価されています。また1974年から1984年まで野村流音楽協会会長を務め、1988年からは同協会相談役として、後継者の養成にも尽力し、これらの功績により1992年に沖縄県文化功労賞を、1996年に文部大臣より地域文化功労者表彰を受けました。

In 1951, he began his studies under Miyahira Sanei, a master from Nomura Ryu school of music, earning his teaching license in 1960, and master's license in 1968, and worked to further learn and hone traditional techniques. Starting with "The 1st Ryukyu Performing Arts Performance" commemorating the opening of the National Theatre in 1967, he was actively involved in other notable performances hosted by the National Theatre. In 1998, he also contributed to the recording and release of 12 volumes of Nomura Ryu classical music recorded on cassette tapes.

During these years, his skills were highly regarded as he was designated as a holder of intangible cultural property by the Okinawa Prefecture in "Traditional Okinawan Dance" (song and Sanshin) in 1972; acknowledged as a holder of important intangible cultural property of Japan in "Kumiodori" in 1986; a holder of intangible cultural property designated by the Okinawa Prefecture in "Nomura Ryu Okinawan Traditional Music" in 1999; and in 2000, recognized as a nationally important intangible cultural property (a living national treasure) in "Classical Ryukyuan Music".

In addition, from 1974 to 1984, he served as the chairman of the Nomura Ryu Music Association, and since 1988, as an advisor to the Association, he devoted himself to training successors. For his achievements, he was rewarded the Okinawa Prefecture Cultural Achievement Award in 1992, and he received the Regional Cultural Achievement Award from the Minister of Education in 1996.

Ueyonabaru Hirokazu



5大会連続パラリンピック出場

上与那原 寛和

うえよなばる ひろかず

1971(昭和46)年5月22日—
沖縄市出身・在住

May 22, 1971–
Originally from and Still Living in Okinawa City

2000年に交通事故に遭い、頸椎を損傷して四肢麻痺となりました。リハビリの一環として車いすマラソンに参加し、2003年にぎのわん車いすマラソン大会に初出場。2006年に大分国際車いすマラソンのハーフマラソン部門で優勝、大会新記録を樹立して以降、多くの大会に参加し、数々の記録を打ち立てます。

2008年の長野車いすマラソン大会ではハーフマラソンの日本記録を更新。北京パラリンピックでは、マラソンで銀メダルを獲得。帰国後、県民栄賞賞を受賞しました。さらに、2012年ロンドンパラリンピックの800mで7位入賞、2016年リオデジャネイロパラリンピックの400mで6位、1500mで4位入賞を果たしました。2019年のドバイ2019世界パラ陸上競技選手権大会では、1500mで2位、400mで4位を獲得。2021年の東京パラリンピックでは400m、1500mで銅メダルを獲得しました。

次世代を担う若者の目標であり、世界的なアスリートとして活躍しています。

He suffered injuries in his cervical vertebrae in a traffic accident in 2000, which left him quadriplegic. As part of his rehabilitation, he participated in the Ginowan Wheelchair Marathon in 2003 for the first time. He won the Oita International Wheelchair Marathon in 2006 in the half-marathon division and set a new race record. Since then, he has participated in many races and has set numerous records.

At the Nagano Wheelchair Marathon in 2008, he set a new national record in the half-marathon division. At the Beijing Paralympics, he won a silver medal in the marathon competition. Upon returning to Japan, he was awarded the Prefectural Honor Award. In 2012, he finished 7th in the 800m race at the London Paralympic Games, came in 6th in the 400m race, and 4th in the 1500m race at the Rio de Janeiro Paralympics in 2016. At the Dubai 2019 World Para Athletics Championships, he won 2nd place in the 1500m race and 4th place in the 400m race. At the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2021, he won bronze medals in the 400m and 1500m races.

He is a world-class athlete and a role model for the youths who will lead the next generation.

Kiyuna Ryo



東京五輪で県民初の金メダル

喜友名 諒

きゆな りょう

1990(平成2)年7月12日—
沖縄市出身・在住

July 12, 1990–
Originally from and Still Living in Okinawa City

空手を始めたのは5歳。中学生の時に師匠となる佐久本嗣男氏(劉衛流龍鳳会)の演武を見て衝撃を受け、道場に通い練習を重ね、高校、大学でも空手部に所属し多くの大会に出場。世界空手連盟が主催する国際大会の空手形で2012年9月1日から2020年1月24日まで19勝。14、16、18年の世界選手権3連覇。2つの記録はギネスブックにも認定されています。2019年には空手アジア選手権4連覇も果たしました。

2021年の東京五輪では新種目として追加された空手男子「形」の決勝で、気迫の演武で目標としていた「五輪金メダル」を獲得。県民初の五輪金メダリストとなりました。同年、スポーツ分野で功績があった人に贈られる「紫綬褒章」を受章。鋭い突きや蹴りを繰り出す力強い演武が持ち味で、日本の空手形の第一人者として活躍。全日本選手権では史上初の10連覇を果たした他、世界選手権で4連覇するなど国内外で圧倒的な実力と存在感を示しましたが、2023年1月に引退を表明しました。

He began learning karate at the age of five, and in junior high school, he was greatly inspired by a performance by Sakumoto Tsuguo (Ryuei Ryu, Ryuhou Kai), who would later become his master. He trained tirelessly at the dojo, joined the karate clubs in high school and university, and participated in numerous tournaments. He had 19 wins in international karate competitions hosted by the World Karate Federation from September 1, 2012, to January 24, 2020.

He also won three consecutive world championships in the years 2014, 2016, and 2018. Both of these achievements are certified in the Guinness Book of Records. In 2019, he won his fourth consecutive win at the Karate Asian Championships.

At the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021, his spirited performance in the finals of the karate Men's Kata placed him in first place, winning an Olympic gold medal which had been his longtime goal. He became the first Olympic gold medalist from Okinawa Prefecture. In the same year, he was awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon, which honors those who have made great achievements in the field of sports.

He is known for his powerful performances with sharp Tsuki and Keri, or thrusts and kicks, and is a leading figure in karate's kata in Japan. In addition to the unprecedented 10 consecutive wins at the All-Japan Championships, he has four World titles through his four consecutive wins in the World Karate Championships. He showed the nation and the world his overwhelming strength, ability, and presence, but in January 2023, he announced his retirement.