

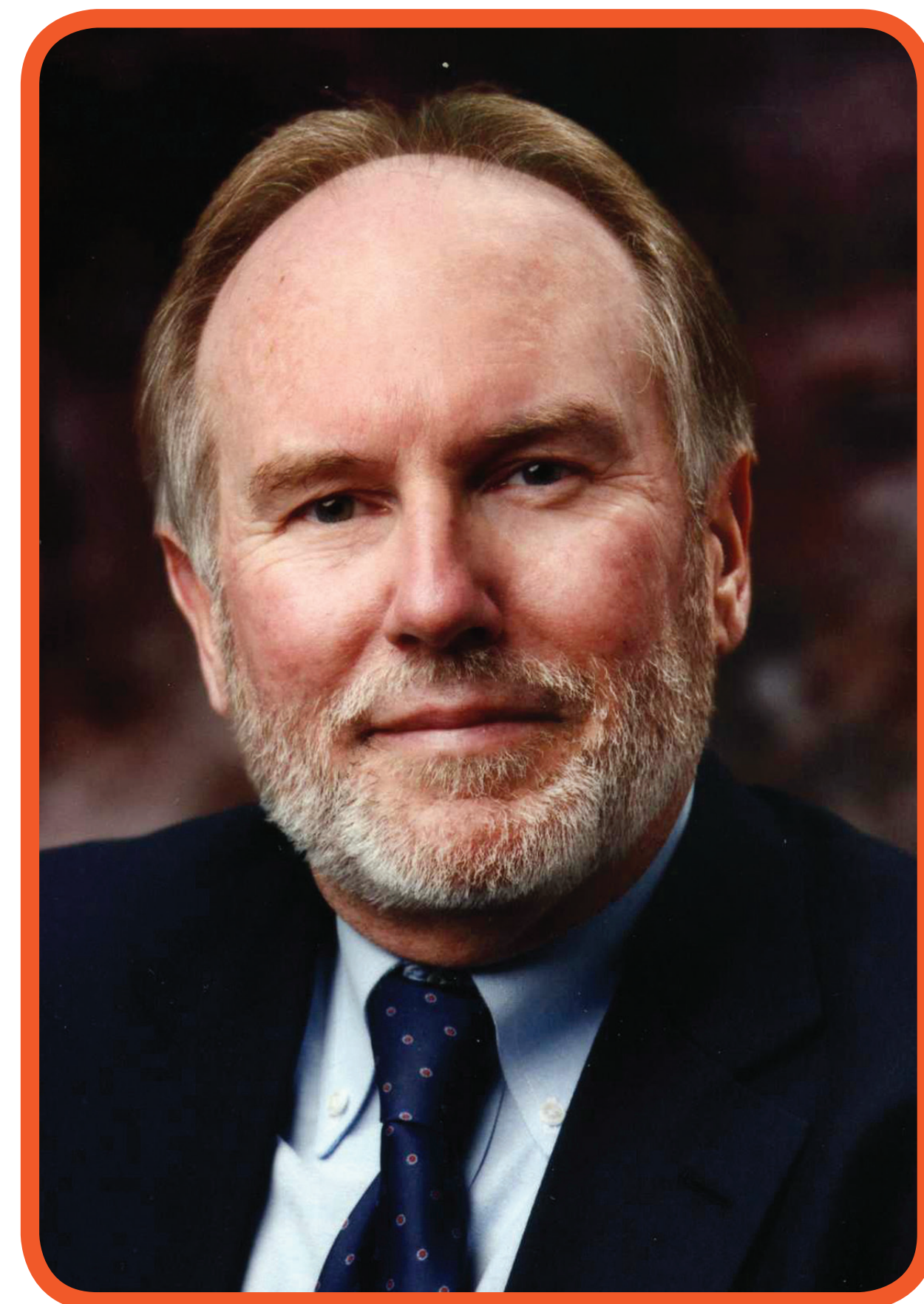


***Meet the July 21, 2018 WaterFire Orb Lighter:***

## **John P. Gallagher, M.D.**

At each WaterFire lighting someone from the community is asked to light the WaterFire Orb. We consider the theme of the event and find the perfect orb lighter to go along with that theme. It's our way of honoring that person and celebrating their contributions to the entire community. With today's theme of "Magical Moments," WaterFire can't think of many things more magical than bringing a baby into the world! Meet Tonight's orb lighter, Dr. John P. Gallagher.

Dr. Gallagher earned his medical degree from Rutgers Medical School in Piscataway, N.J. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Connecticut, Farmington and New Britain General Hospital (Connecticut). 31 years ago, Sharon was fortunate to have the young physician make this his home town. The move was to fulfill his public health service commitment at the then-newly formed Primary Health Network. At that time, there were many patients who had difficulty obtaining prenatal care, a void "Dr. G" rapidly filled. Within six years, he was delivering up to half the babies born in the Shenango Valley! At his peak, 400 newborns per year were delivered into the world by Dr. Gallagher. When reminiscing about his patients and newborns, it's easy to hear in his voice both the joy this profession has brought him and how perfectly suited he was for this particular specialty. While continuing to practice women's gynecological health care, in September of 2017 Dr. Gallagher retired from obstetrics following the delivery of his 5,919th baby.



While maintaining an extremely busy Ob/Gyn practice, Dr. Gallagher became very involved in outreach organizations soon after arriving in Sharon. In the community, he has been active as a volunteer and member of the boards of the Prince of Peace Center and the American Cancer Society. Professionally, at Sharon Regional Medical Center Dr. Gallagher served as Medical Staff President and completed several terms as Obstetric Section Chief. Over the past 15 years, he has been very active in the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) where he is a past president of the Mercer County Medical Society and former chair of the PAMED Political Action Committee (PAMPAC). Today he is active at the state level as a Board Trustee and the Board Chair and is passionately tackling the opioid crisis as Chairman of the PAMED Opioid Task Force. Dr. Gallagher spends much of his time educating and advocating for opioid awareness and treatment not only in Mercer County, but statewide. He is a member of several pharmaceutical companies speaker's bureaus and has received awards and honors from medical, political, civic and business organizations, notably PAMED's Alexander Award for Outstanding Achievement in Political Advocacy.

Dr. Gallagher is also a tremendous supporter of the arts. He and his wife, Therese, are often seen at arts and cultural events both within and beyond the region. The Gallaghers were among the first to volunteer for WaterFire, both in customer service roles and the entire merchandise area when WaterFire was first brought to town. Their participation contributed greatly into making WaterFire the success it is today. The Gallaghers raised their two now-grown children, Sean Patrick and MaryTherese in Sharon. They are now celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, Pádhraic John!

Thank You, Dr. Gallagher, for choosing to make Sharon your home, for delivering all of these babies into our world, for the care you have given and continue to provide the women in our area, for tackling the opioid crisis head-on, for your willingness to give so much time to make our area and state a better and safer place for all of us, and for being a staunch supporter of the arts! You have truly contributed to making many lives, many families, many experiences, and our community a bit more magical!

***WaterFire Sharon is honored to have Dr. John Gallagher light the Orb tonight!***

**ART**

**MUSIC**

**DANCE**

**PERFORMANCES**

**FOOD**