

West Tech graduate's personal story of courage and determination has also been the focus of honors from the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame as well as the subject of a documentary.

On September 26, 2015, the West Tech Alumni Association will induct five alumni into the school's Hall of Fame. These former students' distinguished achievements have served the greater good of society and exemplified the educational ideals sustained by the high school in its 83 year history from 1912 to 1995.

Among these highly inspirational individual stories, the accomplishments of the late Paul Leimkuehler, a 1938 graduate, should be of notable interest in this period of the Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Leimkuehler served in World War II, losing a limb above the knee.

Prior to his entering the service, he was a champion speed skater. His determination and courage, evidenced in combat, would also be the guiding force as he strove to renew his love of winter sports regardless of the disability. He would go on to create an outrigger ski system to continue to compete as the first U.S. amputee skier. This would also lead him to found a local Northeast Ohio company to assist amputees with regaining their confidence and function with other prosthetic devices.

The company, now managed by succeeding generations of his family, has expanded to more than 15 locations throughout the region.

A documentary film production of Leimkuehler's life has also been in development by his family. A short version of it has garnered awards.

Additional references include the company website at www.leimkuehlerinc.com and the film project at www.freshtracksfilm.com.

The West Tech Alumni Association organization website is www.westtech.org and provides details on its mission and history. The Association holds a Hall of Fame induction ceremony yearly as well as supporting educational goals through the granting of scholarships to deserving students.

A museum has been established at the former site of the school and it spotlights the history, heritage and impact of one of the most influential educational sites in the state of Ohio.