

NATIONAL ROCKHOUND & LAPIDARY HALL OF FAME

Francis Musser

1923 2017

Inducted 2014

Lapidary



After serving in World War II, Francis Musser attended college in California where he soon joined the local gem and mineral club. In 1960 he received a used dental machine and taught himself to carve gemstones.

He spent 50+ years showing his work and demonstrating carving at shows as far north as Seattle, south to Los Angeles and east to Nevada, Utah and Arizona. He served as a lapidary judge numerous times at California Federation shows and taught many others the art of carving gemstones.

In commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1976, Francis carved a jade replica of the Liberty Bell. He entered it in competition at the CFMS show and won the first place trophy!

Photos of his carvings have appeared in numerous publications including Rock and Gem over the years. He donated a large portion of his mineral, gem and carving collection to the Indian Valley Museum, Taylorsville, CA.

In 2004 Francis was asked by an official from Natal, Brazil to travel to Brazil and put on a workshop for people who wanted to learn to carve gemstones. He accepted and spent three weeks teaching and visiting mines in the nearby area.