

### **Peter G. Sortino-2013**

Peter G. Sortino is the 2013 inductee for the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame. Many of you may never have heard his name, but he has been a tireless advocate for Missourians' quality of life for many years, most notably in the St. Louis region. In 1999, Peter led the effort to pass enabling legislation in the Illinois and Missouri General Assemblies to create metropolitan parks and recreation districts in each state. His leadership led to the overwhelming bi-state approval on Proposition C, the first of its kind - and the resulting creation of the Great Rivers Greenway District, the legacy of the "St. Louis 2004" vision of the Danforth Foundation. 2004. Mr. Sortino served as President of that initiative. In the spring of 2011, Mr. Sortino again aligned himself with a new vision: "Framing a Modern Masterpiece City ArchRiver 2015." Working with Civic Progress, this legislation was passed in 2012 Missouri General Assembly, and will go to the voters in St. Louis County and St. Louis City. If passed, this 3/16 cent tax will generate an estimated \$38 million annually for GRG, the Arch Grounds redevelopment, regional parks and for municipalities in the area. The 2012 legislation also includes a provision for Jackson County to pursue the MetroGreen initiative. Mr. Sortino's efforts have allowed the St. Louis region to leave a legacy for the future that sets it apart, creating a community that attracts and retains young people, visitors and businesses who want to be part of an active and vibrant lifestyle.