

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNERSVILLE MAN – AREA 9 HOOSIER LIFETIME AWARD WINNER

George Gettinger received the 2011 Hoosier Lifetime Award at the Senior Expo on May 19th held at the Lamplight Inn at the Leland in Richmond in celebration of Older Americans Month – *Older Americans: Connecting the Community*. This award recognizes an individual 60 years of age and older for his/her lifetime of service to the community and for helping improve the quality of life for others. It is the highest honor bestowed on an older individual by the Area 9 In-Home and Community Services Agency, a service of Indiana University East.

Nominations for the Hoosier Lifetime Award were received throughout the Area 9 Agency's five county region (Fayette, Franklin, Rush, Union and Wayne). A committee appointed from the Area 9 Council on Aging reviewed the nominations and selected the individual to be honored. Other nominees included Marilyn Adams, Lillian Mikesell and Lora Metz of Richmond; Margurite Clark of Cambridge City; Clemadine Davis and Donald Heller of Rushville; Albert Garcia of Brookville; Joseph Glowacki of Connersville; Joan Mathews and Omega Sawyer of Liberty; and Katherine Sheets of Fountain City.

Very active in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fayette County, George has held various board positions. He chaperones and motivates kids through interaction at various activities and strives to let the youth know they are important and someone cares.

He serves on the Board of Directors of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans where he assists in raising money for member churches and local charitable organizations. He has also served in various leadership roles with St. Paul's Church Council.

George served as a firefighter with the Connersville Fire Department for 32 years including a term as Fire Chief, and earned a proclamation from the mayor in 1991. In 1995 he was honored with the Chamber of Commerce Award for Service to Community.

He co-founded the Fayette County Community Pride picnic where, for 12 years food, games, bingo, karaoke and other entertainment was provided for the citizens of Fayette County including a "free day" at the park pool.

As a member of YAC (Youth Activities Committee), George assisted in finding and promoting activities for youth at little or no cost. He also coached 7th-12th grade girls' softball.

A concern for refugees led George to co-organize a 4-T Youth Organization in a refugee village in Cam Lo Providence, South Vietnam. He taught English, how to grow crops and anything that would help raise their standard of living, receiving a citation from the Vietnamese government.

"George is a leader in the community for children," said Barry Welsh who nominated him, "and is very deserving of recognition for his service to the community, the area, the state, and this country."