

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTERVILLE MAN – AREA 9 HOOSIER LIFETIME AWARD WINNER

James I. Howell of Centerville received the 2010 Hoosier Lifetime Award at the Senior Expo on May 20th held at the Leland Residence in Richmond in celebration of Older Americans Month – Age Strong! Live Long! 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 Robert G. Barnard of Liberty, Barbara Bell of Brownsville, Eileen Nichols of Connersville, Barbara Robbins of Rushville, and John Bryant, Martha Jones, John Kutter, Betty Mark, and Norma Russell, all from Richmond

Jim has lived in Centerville most of his life having served the community as teacher, guidance director and principal.

Jim has always loved working with children. He helped plan and build the Little League diamonds, served as president and coached both minor and major league teams. He has served as 4-H leader, a member of the Fair Board and serves on the 4-H Sale Committee.

As principal of Centerville Senior High School he has had important influence on the lives of Centerville's children. He has set the educational and moral atmosphere of the school for over 20 years and has always held the interest and the welfare of the students first in his mind. Professionally, he was a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and served on various state committees. He is respected by both his staff and other principals in the area.

A 47-year member of the Lions Club, in 1975 he was inducted into the Lions Silver Anniversary Basketball Hall of Fame. He has served as past president of the Lions Club, several years a co-chairman of the Children's Christmas Party, Education Committee, Committee for Exchange Students and the annual fish fry.

He has served as past chairman for the Danny Thomas Bike-A-Thon for Children at St. Jude's Hospital and was instrumental in establishing the Centerville Senior Center, served on the Reid Hospital Foundation Board and is currently on the Wayne Co. Board of Health.

"When someone has a problem, Jim is there to help, advise and encourage them," said Philip Stevenson who nominated Jim for the award. "His leadership ability and caring way have left their mark on many in our community."