

Script Excerpt

Awards Presented at the Gwinnett Chamber 62nd Annual Dinner

Jim Maran, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce President and CEO:

Ambassador of the Year Award - Martin Birkbeck

Earlier this week, Chamber Ambassador Service awards were presented to Al Brown and Martin Birkbeck for their outstanding commitment, dedication and service to the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to these awards, I'm pleased to announce that Martin Birkbeck was also named the 2009, Gwinnett Chamber's Ambassador of the Year. Let's give him a big round of applause.

Public Service Award #1 - Jay Eun

Our first public service award winner's journey in life began in 1954, in South Korea.

His family immigrated to Atlanta in 1977 while Jay Eun was still serving his tour of duty in the Korean Army. Two years later he followed his family to Atlanta. Since arriving in Georgia, Jay has been actively involved in numerous business ventures and community organizations.

From managing the first Korean Restaurant in the Southeastern United States, to his successful fashion jewelry and accessory import and distribution business, in addition to his investments in real estate and the banking business, Jay has certainly left his mark on the business landscape.

He currently serves as the president of the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta, is an Elder of the Korean Community Presbyterian Church in Duluth, is a member of the Chamber's Executive Board and was the first president of the Korean American Foundation - Atlanta Chapter.

He is the recipient of the Republic of Korea's Prime Minister Award. Was named one of the 25 most influential Asian Americans in Georgia by the *Asian Times* and Home Depot, as well as being named the 2009 Outstanding Georgia Citizen by Secretary of State Karen Handel.

The secret to Jay's success and leadership is that while being strongly engaged throughout the Korean community, he has also developed a positive reputation for his leadership and involvement in mainstream America.

As involved as he may be, Jay is continuously seeking ways to help his family and community step forward into the ever changing domestic and international arenas of the world. Jay Eun... Please come forward.

Public Service Award #2 - Berney Kirkland

They say that supporting every great school superintendent is a great Chief of Staff!

Our next public service award winner is someone who has worked diligently both behind the scenes and in the public arena to improve Gwinnett County Public Schools.

In part, because of her efforts in supporting our great school board and leadership team, we have a school system that was named one of the top five districts in the nation last year.

Beginning her career in 1974, Berney Kirkland was one of the state's pioneers in educational public relations.

She served as president of the Georgia School- Public Relations Association and was named the winner of its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

She began working for Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1987 when enrollment was less than 56,000 students and has risen to Chief of Staff for Superintendent Wilbanks and a system that today, serves more than 160,000 students.

She is very active in her church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lilburn, is a member of the United Way's Women's Legacy and has played critical roles in the formation of Gwinnett Student Leadership and the Gwinnett County Public Schools' Foundation.

She is a graduate of the Chamber's Leadership Gwinnett program...is the co-coordinator of the popular Principal for a Day program... and has been instrumental in the success of the Chamber's Education Committee and Strategic Leadership Visits.

Most importantly, she is the proud mother of three Marine Core Sergeants who collectively served six terms of duty in Iraq.

Her biggest inspiration, Berney says, is her grandmother--Louise, who will turn 104 in July. Berney says she hopes to be like her, someone "who is positive, helpful, resilient, energetic, part of the solution and not the problem, trustworthy, kind, good company, God-fearing, and generous in spirit."

For those of us that know Berney, I believe this is a perfect closing description of our second public service award winner... Ladies and gentlemen...Berney Kirkland.

Public Service Award #3 - Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman

Our third Public Service Award honoree is a true American hero whose accomplishments on the battlefield and in the high-tech classrooms of Georgia Gwinnett College we celebrate this evening.

As the charter president of the first four-year college in Georgia in more than 100 years, Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman and his fine tuned organization have developed, from a near zero base, a vibrant new college to support our community.

Emphasizing the innovative use of technology, Georgia Gwinnett has grown to more than 3,000 students and 40 fields of study in less than three years.

This past year, they set the record for the fastest time to become fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Kaufman also served as a Brigadier General in the U.S. Army, serving as Dean of the Academic Board and Chief Academic Officer at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

He holds a MPA degree from Harvard University and a Doctorate from MIT and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He has been honored by the British government as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism and two Purple Hearts for wounds sustained during combat battle in Vietnam.

He has served as a member of the National Security Council staff in the White House and as a special assistant to three chiefs of staff of the Army. And, is a member of the Board of Directors for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

His efforts are also global in scope as he helped develop the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, which opened in Kabul in 2005.

From West Point to Vietnam to Gwinnett, Dan has left his mark and is the perfect example of what a leader should be.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome a true American hero, Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman...

Public Service Award #4 - Philip R. Wolfe

Our next public service award goes to a leader who began his career in healthcare in the U.S. Army Medical Service and has held several key positions in healthcare across the United States.

He earned a BS-BA degree from Bowling Green University and his MHA degree from George Washington University. And, is a licensed general aviation pilot.

When Phil R. Wolfe, president and CEO of Gwinnett Health System stepped on to the medical campus in 2006, he impacted more than just the community and the businesses at large. He has impacted the workflow, atmosphere and expectations of the organization and the people that work with him.

He is the business leader whose vision marshaled the community that secured the open heart surgery program for Gwinnett.—Saving and increasing our quality of life.

When people come in contact with Phil, whether it be for a brief moment or during a board meeting, they quickly learn that he is a leader filled with knowledge, expertise, enthusiasm and a drive for success.

His commitment on the medical campus is just as strong off campus with the numerous community organizations he serves:

The Gwinnett Chamber's Executive Board, the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation, the Gwinnett Medical Foundation, the Gwinnett Technical College, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, co-chair for this year's Boy Scouts American Values Dinner and the Gwinnett Rotary Club where he currently serves as President.

Phil is about people, Phil is about accountability and Phil is about giving back.

Each organization Phil serves is given an impression of each of these qualities that will forever lead to the transformation of this community's success.

Ladies and gentlemen, help me welcome our next public service award winner...Philip R. Wolfe

Public Service Award #5 - Jock Connell

Our fifth public service award goes to a man who, until recently, probably had the hardest job in all of Gwinnett. Imagine having five bosses that may or may not change every few years, and running a billion dollar plus organization through incredibly difficult economic times. Then imagine having that organization and your product be recognized as the best in the state and nation.

Former County Administrator Jock Connell has been a steady hand working behind the scenes with our commissioners and county staff for more than 21 years of dedicated public service.

In recent years, he transformed the organization internally by implementing a balanced scorecard system throughout the departments that reported to him, ensuring the same level of accountability and efficiency found in the most effective private sector companies.

He was instrumental in the recruitment of the Gwinnett Braves and the construction of the world-class Gwinnett Braves Stadium that was completed in record time, earning accolades from across the country.

He was the key leader of the team that earned and maintained a triple, triple A credit rating for the county –one of a handful of counties in the US to hold such a distinction--saving taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

And on that note- even when Jock wasn't the County Administrator, he was a key player on the teams that brought new initiatives and innovations to Gwinnett since the late 1980s.

He was engaged in the success of our SPLOST programs, our transit system, the civic center, the arena, and more. Most recently, our parks system was named the best in the nation under his leadership. And, the list goes on.

Tonight we recognize one of Gwinnett's most cherished and devoted public servants...ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our final Public Service Award winner, Jock Connell.

Legacy Award - Wayne Shackelford

Our next award is entitled the Legacy Award. This special award is presented by the Gwinnett Chamber to honor the memory and legacy of an individual who has made a significant difference in the history and progress of Gwinnett County.

Tonight we are honoring a true Gwinnett legend, Wayne Shackelford. Please turn your attention to the screens.

Phelps VO:

Anyone who ever met Wayne Shackelford, or 'Shack,' as he was affectionately known, was bound to remember the occasion. They could also be certain he would as well, along with their name and the nature of the conversation.

With a photographic memory, a brilliant mind, and booming voice, Wayne's successful career included serving as Gwinnett County's top administrator in the 1970s as well as in the private sector that shaped Atlanta landmarks like Phipps Plaza. Wayne became Commissioner of the Georgia DOT in 1991 and served in that role until mid-2000. He received global accolades for guiding the department's preparation for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and was instrumental in the creation of the Department's Transportation Management Center and the new I-85/316 interchange here in Gwinnett, both named in his honor.

The son of a sharecropper, he eventually became both a national figure in the world of transportation and a local hero here at home.

Wayne's life touched so many from 4-H clubs and agricultural interests to county and state government to business and the economic development successes we enjoy today. Wayne Shackelford will always be remembered as a vibrant force and advocate for greatness in Gwinnett, Metro Atlanta, and Georgia, and we are honored to celebrate his life and legacy tonight.

Jim Maran:

Before I ask Wayne's wife, Anna, to come forward to the stage and accept tonight's legacy award, let me share some thoughts penned by his long-time assistant, Joy Still, that resonate especially this evening.

She recently wrote...

"I met a man who exuded leadership, knew where he was going, and where he wanted to take Gwinnett County.

I met a man who always encouraged me to take the next step and get out of my comfort zone.

I met a man who people came too for advice and problem solving.

I met a man who had compassion for those less fortunate and he took actions to help them.

I met a man who forgave those who did him wrong.

I met a man who loves his family.

I watched his kids grow up to become fine parents and successful in their own careers.

I met a man who loves his wife, the north star of his life.

This man I met, Wayne Shackelford, that has roads, boulevards and buildings named after him.

Few people get to meet a person along their life's path that has the qualities of Wayne Shackelford and can make an impact on your life.

If you meet a man or woman that can positively influence you, take advantage of the opportunity, hang on and make the most of yourself--pause

You can tell I love this man."

Joy, those are wonderful words and you can tell by those of us here this evening, Gwinnett County will always love this man---Wayne Shackelford---

On my own personal note, Wayne was a true leader and one of the most amazing visionary and courageous men many of us have ever known.

While he blessed us with his many talents, we were the ones that were truly blessed by having known him.

Wayne is one of a few historic individuals that has left a significant legacy for the public and countless memories for us in the private that will be remembered for generations to come.

Therefore, I would like to make a special announcement.

Because Wayne epitomized what the Legacy Award represents and was a man who left his foot print across Gwinnett and all of Georgia, the Gwinnett Chamber's Board of Directors has confirmed that from this night forward, the Legacy Award will be named in his honor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Shack's North Star, Anna Shackelford, to the stage to accept the 2010 "R. Wayne Shackelford" Legacy Award in his honor.

D. Scott Hudgens Humanitarian Award - The IMPACT! Group

We are now honored to present the D. Scott Hudgens Humanitarian Award.

By honoring Scott, as a respected developer and philanthropist, who unselfishly gave of his time and talents to ensure that many others, especially those with limited means, would benefit from his treasure, this award recognizes those that exemplify his commitment to a humanitarian society.

The performance and current work of the 2010 winner of this award is more critical today than at any time since its creation in 1992 by the Gwinnett Coalition of Health and Human Services.

Formed to create and preserve quality affordable housing as well as to provide an emergency shelter program in Gwinnett, The IMPACT! Group focuses on three areas touching the lives of thousands

The first, Transitional Housing, provides housing services for those who have lost their home and are in transition due to job loss, illness, domestic violence, and foreclosure.

Since the program began, some 27, literally homeless families, have moved through the program to eventually become outright homeowners.

The second, its Home Ownership Center, a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling Agency, meets the needs of first-time home buyers and residents in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

In 2009, The IMPACT! Group partnered with the Community Foundation of NE Georgia and Brand Bank to form the Northeast Georgia Down Payment Assistance Program.

This provided First Time Homebuyers with almost \$600,000 in Down Payment Grants resulting in 86 new homebuyers with a total volume of over \$16.5 million in new home sales in Gwinnett County. This adds not only to the tax base but also to the Quality of Life we share.

And finally, they are committed to serving low and moderate income residents by developing affordable housing units through the IMPACT! Real Estate Division.

Two examples, of many, is that during its history, the IMPACT! Group led a successful effort to renovate 92 multi-family units in a 196 unit apartment complex in Norcross and an affordable senior housing complex in Buford.

Their impact-pun intended-has been remarkable. In 2009, they provided housing services to over 5,000 Gwinnett County families. This equates to over 12,300 men, women and children.

Current projections for 2010 call for those numbers to continue to rise with over 6,600 families and 17,000 people expected to receive their services.

As you can see, holding true to its mission – to transform lives and strengthen communities by providing quality housing solutions – The IMPACT! Group is a credible honoree as our 2010 D. Scott Hudgens Humanitarian Award winner.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome to the stage Tom Merkel, President and CEO, of the Impact Group.

Citizen of the Year Award - Dr. Manfred Sandler

And, most importantly, we're now pleased to announce the 2010 Citizen of the Year Award.

Here to help us present this award is Diamond Sponsor, Chamber Board Member, Cisco Systems, Renee Byrd Lewis:

It's been an exciting evening honoring the individuals who have made and continue to make Gwinnett County such a success. On behalf of Cisco, I'd like to thank you each of you for your stellar contributions.

Our final award, the Citizen of the Year, is designed to recognize a person whose contributions exceed well-beyond their professional services and benefit the community as a whole. Although the recipient is expected to be well-known, well-respected and a role model for the next generation, he/she also must have done something extraordinary that makes our community a better place in which to live, work and play.

Indeed, our 2010 Citizen of the Year is all of that and more. He is the first recipient to have come from another country, another continent – in fact, another hemisphere altogether. In 1994, Dr. Manfred Sandler journeyed from Johannesburg, South Africa to Gwinnett County to become a partner at Cardiovascular Group P.C. After establishing a successful cardiology practice, he and his colleagues realized the need for a full service cardiac facility in Gwinnett County. It would provide the opportunity to save countless lives and necessary healthcare for future generations.

It didn't take long for Manfred to embrace the challenge as his own, and he became Gwinnett Medical Center's physician champion for the acquisition of an open heart Certificate of Need. He rallied the entire community behind the effort, filed the necessary papers, and after 18 months, the Department of Community Health ruled in favor of Gwinnett Medical Center. As well, all hospitals opposing the CON approval withdrew their appeals.

While leading this very time consuming open heart campaign, Manfred continued to volunteer and lead in other meaningful initiatives like ...

- Providing annual cardiac physicals for Norcross High School athletes
- Serving as Executive Board member for the GCOC
- Vice-Chair for Gwinnett Medical Center Board and
- Chair of Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation

And as the Foundation Chair, he began a Physician Partner's Organization that inspired more than 130 doctors' to financially support the hospital's philanthropic goals.

Yes – Manfred has made significant and impactful contributions benefitting the entire community. But I'd hate to leave this stage without celebrating the man himself. Listen to what key community leaders had to say about our 2010 Citizen of the Year...

- He has an infectious smile and a tremendous sense of humor that endears him to everyone he meets.
- He is one of those rare individuals you encounter in life who understands you get a lot more done when you don't care who gets the credit! He is selfless and totally sold out to team concepts and team winning.
- He is the quintessential physician of the past. Even if you phone him late at night, he's always on call! His passionate commitment to the care of his patients (and many friends who become patients) is legendary.
- He's totally fun and, hands down, has the sexiest accent in Gwinnett!

I'll close with this last observation shared with me...

"Manfred proved to be the single most important individual in the quest to win approval for the county's open heart program. His leadership style centered on building consensus, and he effectively kept the end goal in sight and in the minds of the county's most influential leaders. His tireless efforts contributed mightily to a successful outcome that required constant and unwavering focus."

And now, please join me in recognizing and thanking Dr. Manfred Sandler of Cardiovascular Group, our distinguished Citizen of the Year.

For more information on the Annual Dinner, contact:

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