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Who is the Citizen of the Year?

Annual awards announced online all day Thursday



Outgoing Chamber Board President Judy Jones, right, passes the gavel to new Chamber Board President Jess Edwards of Kinston Realty Group as he begins his term. Because of COVID-19 pandemic, Jones — of Judy Jones State Farm Insurance, became the first Chamber president in the organization's 110-year history to serve back-to-back terms. Photo by Bryan Hanks / Special to The Free Press

By Bryan Hanks
Special to The Free Press

The big day is less than 24 hours away — the announcement of the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce's awards is Thursday!

There will be four different awards given tomorrow: the Citizen of the Year, the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award, the Young Professional of the Year and the Ambassador of the Year.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the award ceremony will be virtual and shown on the Chamber's Facebook page (facebook.com/kinstonchamber) and the Chamber's official webpage (kinstonchamber.com) throughout the day; the awards will be unveiled at the following times on the pages:

- 11 a.m.: Ambassador of the Year
- 1 p.m.: Young Professional of the Year
- 4 p.m.: Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award

At 7 p.m., the Ambassador, Duke Energy and Young Professional awards will again be announced, followed by the prestigious Citizen of the Year award.

"We are very excited to unveil these prestigious awards," Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Craig Hill said. "Be sure to visit our Facebook page and our webpage to keep up with the excitement all day long."



Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Craig Hill, right, poses beside the 2020 Kinston-Lenoir County Citizen of the Year (pixelated) last week. The announcement of the winner — the most prestigious award given to a Lenoir County resident — will be made Thursday at 7 p.m. on the Chamber's Facebook page and its webpage (kinstonchamber.com). Photo illustration by Bryan Hanks / Special to The Free Press

Kinston-Lenoir County Citizens of the Year

1963 — Daniel T. Lilley
1964 — Donald L. Henson
1965 — Lynwood C. Turner
1966 — Neale K. Lawson
1967 — E. Linwood Scott
1968 — Simon C. Sitterson Jr.
1969 — Richard S. Whaley
1970 — Benjamin C. Fountain
1971 — Sol Schechter
1972 — Oscar Greene Jr.
1973 — R.B. Patterson Jr.
1974 — C. Felix Harvey III
1975 — Rose Pully
1976 — John R. Hooten
1977 — Sharon C. Larkins
1978 — Leo Brody
1979 — John R. Poole
1980 — Harold W. Hardison
1981 — Harvey E. Beech
1982 — W. Roy Poole
1983 — H. Fleming Fuller
1984 — T.J. Turner
1985 — P.C. Barwick Jr.
1986 — John Sherman Jr.,

Virginia C. Evans
1987 — William L. Peedin Jr.
1988 — George C. Harper
1989 — Roland L. Paylor Jr.
1990 — Jesse P. Wooten
1991 — Robert L. Joyner
1992 — Fred Hunneke
1993 — Vernon H. Rochelle
1994 — Paul W. Wellman
1995 — Jack P. Hankins
1996 — Jack A. Harrell
1997 — Annette T. West
1998 — Junius H. Rose Jr.
1999 — Debbie R. Chused
2000 — Mary Mac Ritch, O.A. "Buddy" Ritch
2001 — Andy Culpepper
2002 — Kay T. Harrell
2003 — Earl Harper
2004 — Michael Moseley
2005 — Donald Boldt
2006 — John Marston
2007 — Bill Ellis
2008 — Cameron McRae
2009 — James Tull Hill Jr.
2010 — Richard A. Holder
2011 — Gary Black
2012 — Danny Rice
2013 — Paul L. Jones

2014 — Stephen B. Hill
2015 — Wilma Robinson Boldt, David Lee Mooring
2016 — William Robert "Rob" Bizzell
2017 — June S. Cummings
2018 — Joe Hargitt
2019 — Adrian King

Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award

2019 — Linda Rouse Sutton

Kinston-Lenoir County Ambassadors of the Year

1999 — Pamela Byrd
2000 — Michelle Lempin
2001 — Edna Potter
2002 — Carol Cobia
2003 — Carolyn I. Hardy
2004 — Amanda Hill
2005 — G. Scott Barwick
2006 — Jay Conner

2007 — Margaret Williams
2008 — Jessica Lail Wilson
2009 — Joan Machamer
2010 — Lyndon Fuller
2011 — Jane Wynne
2012 — Molly Taylor
2013 — Jacques Passailaique
2014 — Jared Edwards, Jeanene McBride
2015 — Carmon Jones
2016 — Danielle Howell, Philippe Wouters
2017 — Christa M. Davis
2018 — Robin M. Jones
2019 — Raine Tyndall

Young Professionals of the Year

2009 — Becky L. Hines
2010 — Tonya Adams
2011 — B.J. Murphy
2012 — Chris Raines
2013 — Ashley Chadwick
2014 — Tony Sears
2015 — Coleman Becton
2018 — Andrea M. Miller
2019 — Jeremy Jones

Welcome to our newest Platinum Level member: Spirit AeroSystems

By Bryan Hanks
Special to The Free Press

The Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome and thank our newest Platinum Level member of the President's Club, Spirit AeroSystems.

Spirit, the world's largest independent supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components, officially opened its doors in Kinston in July 2010. The company has been an ardent supporter of the Chamber since it arrived in Lenoir County.

Members of the Chamber's President's Club choose to make a higher-level financial investment in the Chamber to help the Chamber

realize its vision.

"We are grateful to Spirit AeroSystems and to all our President's Club members for helping us become a stronger organization," Chamber Executive Director Craig Hill said.



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

These members choose to make a higher-level financial investment in the Chamber. The support of these businesses helps the Chamber realize its vision.

PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBER:

Crown
Spirit AeroSystems

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS:

Down East Protection Systems
Duke Energy
Electrolux
The Free Press
UNC Lenoir Health Care

SILVER LEVEL MEMBERS:

Cherry Energy
City of Kinston
CopyPro, Inc.
ElectriCities of N.C., Inc.
First Citizens Bank & Trust Co.
GOECO
Harmony Hall Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Harvey Fertilizer & Gas
Herald Office Solutions
Heritage Elite Estate
Judy O. Jones, State Farm Insurance
Lenoir Community College
Lions Industries for the Blind
Minges Bottling Group, Inc.
Perry Management
Principle Long Term Care
State Employees Credit Union
Union Bank
Wells Fargo
West Pharmaceuticals Services, Inc.