



Three More Names Released for 20 Notable People of Avon Award

(November 6, 2015) The Town of Avon is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on November 30, 2015. As part of the celebration, a contest was held to select 20 Notable People of Avon that have made a positive impact on Avon or are from Avon and have made an impact beyond Avon. Residents submitted names and a Selection Committee selected the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The Select Committee was Pam Lyons (Avon Rotary), William Rhodehamel (Hendricks County Community Foundation), Beverley Austin (Avon Town Council), Pat Laughlin (Deputy Township Trustee), Nic Quintana (Avon Kiwanis), Susan Truax (Avon Library) and Rachel Shelton (Avon Tri Kappa)

Over the next few weeks, leading up to November 30, we will be releasing the names of the 20 Notable People of Avon. Today is the second release of three names of the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The fourth Notable Person of Avon is Chet Wright

Chet Wright served in the Indiana Army National Guard starting in 1940 and retired with the rank of Brigadier General in 1978. He received three Sagamore of the Wabash awards for his service to his State and Country. Chet resides in Avon and the Avon World War II Memorial Soldier status is made in his likeness.

Chet was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. In 1940, he enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery, 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard.

In 1944, he served in combat in the Pacific Theater on both Leyte and Luzon, as well as several smaller islands. Serving as the Adjutant of the first battalion size unit to return to the United States from World War II, he set up procedures that were adopted by higher headquarters for future shipments.

Chet was promoted to Brigadier General in 1972 and he was permanently appointed to that grade by the President and received federal recognition in 1973.

Brigadier General Wright's other awards include LEGION OF MERIT, BRONZE STAR MEDAL, INDIANA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL, DISTINGUISHED HOOSIER AWARD and LEGION OF HOOSIER HEROS.

The fifth Notable Person of Avon is William Temple Hornaday

He was born in 1854 on his family's farm in Avon which is located ¼ mile west of present day Washington Township Community Park. He is credited with saving the American Bison and was an advocate of wildlife conservation.

He was chief taxidermist at the Smithsonian's National Museum in Washington, D.C. where, in 1888, he created a display of bison to educate the public about their possible extinction. This led to the establishment of federally protected ranges for the bison. His idea of a zoological park in Washington D.C. led to the creation of the National Zoo. While at the Smithsonian, he became friends with Theodore Roosevelt.

He also developed the Bronx Zoo which would be regarded for generations as the finest zoo in the world.

Through his writing and lobbying, he became the conscience behind the movement in the early Twentieth Century to legislatively enact hunting bag limits and prohibitions on hunting endangered species, or importing materials derived from them.

He wrote over 20 books and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles. Hornaday wrote, Two Years in the Jungle (1885), a work which became one of the more widely read nature travelogues of the Nineteenth Century.

In 1915, he created the Boy Scouts of America's Wildlife Protection Medal which was renamed the William T. Hornaday Award after his death and is still awarded annually.

In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt honored Hornaday by naming a mountain peak in Yellowstone National Park for him. Today, Mount Hornaday stands sentinel over the Pebble Creek and Lamar River valleys at the northeast corner of the Park overlooking the abode of one of those crucial earlier remnant populations of bison.

The sixth Notable Person of Avon is Joyce Huron Trent

Joyce is a descendent of one of the pioneer families of Avon, the Hurons. Her family gave generously to the community. They donated land for the 4-room Avon School that was built along US 36 at approximately the location of Fire Station Number 1.

The family gave their time and money to the Avon United Methodist Church (then Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church) and other organizations in Avon .

Joyce has been instrumental in her support of the Local History Room at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library. Not only through financial help but also through the donation of family treasures including land deeds, photographs, diaries and columns written by her grandfather, Seth Thomas Huron, for the Republican newspaper. The collection has become the cornerstone of the Huron Heritage Room.