



Four More Names Released for 20 Notable People of Avon Award

(November 18, 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 third release of three names of the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The 10th Notable Person of Avon is Chet Francis.

He graduated from Avon High School in 1936. He was a member of the 1940 Indiana University NCAA National Championship basketball team. He was a 3-year letterman in basketball and baseball at Indiana University.

He was a World War II Marine Corps major who saw action in the Pacific. After returning from the War, he played professionally for the Indianapolis Kautskys Basketball team (now the Indiana Pacers) and was drafted by the Boston Red Sox.

He coached Vincennes Lincoln High School to 7 sectional championships and 2 regionals during a 1947-57 coaching career, with his teams making frequent appearances in the top 10.

He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986 and received two Sagamore of the Wabash awards.

The 11th Notable Person of Avon is Patrick Rodgers.

He is a graduate of Avon High School and is a two time State High School Golf Champion.

At Stanford University, he tied Tiger Woods' record with eleven wins and broke Tiger Woods' career stroke-average standard by nearly a shot (70.3 to 71.1). He was ranked as the #1 amateur golfer in the world. He was an American Junior Golf Association All-American and three-time first-team collegiate All-American.

He competed on the United States teams for the Walker and Palmer Cups. He won the Hogan, Nicklaus and Haskins awards, a feat accomplished by only three other players in the past 25 years.

He turned professional in 2014 and has earned his PGA Tour card for the 2015-16 season.

The 12th Notable Person of Avon is husband and wife John & Lydia Gibbs

John and Lydia graduated from Avon and participated in school activities while they attended Avon High School.

John and Lydia raised and milked dairy cattle and raised grain row crops in Washington Township on the same farm John's parents Howard and Gail Gibbs farmed. John also owned and operated a milk route. Both were 10-year 4-Hers as were all their children.

Lydia was on the Avon School Board for 8 years; on the Hendricks County Council for 12 years; and was the Hendricks County Assessor for 8 years. She also was on the Town of Avon Committee in the 1990s which established the Town of Avon. John was a School Bus Driver for 21 years and was a board member of Hendricks Power (Hendricks County REMC) for 31 years.

The Hendricks County Parks Department will be developing their farm located in the southwest part of Washington Township in to a Park known as Gibbs Park.

The 13th Notable Person of Avon is Rex McClain

He is descended from Michael McClain, one of the original settlers of Washington Township, and graduated from Avon High School in 1956.

He assisted his father in the duties of Township Trustee and he served on the Avon-Washington Township Public Library for 32 years. He served as Library Board President for two years.

He has coordinated the Avon Alumni Association and coached youth baseball and softball. He assisted the Avon Band Boosters and served as its' President.

He is a 50 year member of the Avon Optimist Club and founded the Care Bears Ministry at Bartlett Chapel United Methodist Church. He is a recipient of the Key to the Town award from the Town of Avon.